

Paving a path from pessimism to confident decision-making

There lacks understanding for the processes ministers involve themselves in to execute/organise incorruptible methods to policy-making in the academic policy community. This paper thereby brings light to the fact that ministers do use evidence in policy making however there is more importance surrounding the who and how which then boils down to trust and connection.

The foul smell drifting on the breeze that there is lack of the importance for, or absence of, evidence in policy making has come from a doubtful corner of external ignorance. This place being an under-researched zone of judgement passed on to a positively complex webbed routine that then finalises important policy-making agendas.

Personally, I believe that there is a gap in communication due to the nature of the lifestyles of both ministers and academics clashing, such that there is no bridge for both parties to agreeably deem the hierarchy of what policy-making interfaces should include. Evidence is usually contested in policy making scenarios. It is evident, ironically, that evidence is in fact used, and even welcomed, by ministers through institutional grounding for evidence-based policy in government. The scene needs to be set for ministers to include good quality evidence in the policy-making: firstly, there needs to be a relationship between the academic and the minister where trust has been properly established; secondly, acknowledging that ministers are missing links in academic research as day-to-day activities have been thoroughly overlooked and undertheorised; lastly, by vicariously understanding the drudgeries that is their work. Considering this, with further research the ministerial basis for policy making may then seem more transparent about how evidence-based policy making is in fact practiced through institutional basis.

Concluding ideas surround the fact that government already uses evidence-based policy making however it may not necessarily be of priority in terms of its weight, though its implementation in the policy making follows government routines. It is because of the lack of attention to these government processes that it has been infamously thought that evidence has been ignored in policy making.

- Evidence free policy making is notoriously unsupported especially due to infamous historic failures.
- Expertise is of top-notch value but needs to be well executed through experience of implementation and delivery as these are attractive and trustworthy skills.
- For evidence to be properly valued there lies a responsibility on the experts in the respective field to determine what is required of them. A little trust and relationship building goes a long way in the ministerial run of things.

It is thus with high spirits I look to the future of shared responsibilities of all parties involved through the formation of professional ties that can thrive off the fitting quote below:

“Trust is the root of all light and human endeavor, man’s survival can only be a result of the shared trust we have in our own humanity and desire to live.” ~ Unknown.

Paper reviewed:

Andrews, L. (2017). How can we demonstrate the public value of evidence-based policy making when government ministers declare that the people “have had enough of experts”? Palgrave Communications.