

Public Policy

- Public Policy refers to the policy that is formulated for the benefits of the Public
- Public policy is a course of action adopted and pursued by govt. or an public authority in dealing with a problem or matter of public concern.
- Collective decision making process to solve public problems
- Public policy is the output of political system; through policies intended societal goals are achieved.
- Policy output vs outcome
 - Output- measurable physical result of a policy
 - Outcome- Policy consequences on target group

- The field of public policy has been evolving into a major sub-discipline in political science since the 1970s.
 - *Public Policy is made of two terms- “public” and “policy,”. It originates from the Latin word “publicus” (also “poplicus”). It is related to the English word ‘populus’ or (populace). In general, public denotes some mass population (“the people”).*
- “Public Policy is the sum of government activities, whether acting directly or through agents, as it has an influence on the lives of citizens.”
 - Guy Peters
- “Public Policy is a purposive course of action followed by an actor or set of actors in dealing with a problem or matter of concern.”
 - James E. Anderson
- “Public Policy is the combination of basic decisions, commitments and actions made by those who or affect government positions of authority.”
 - Larry N. Gerston

- The concept of policy is not a precise term.
- it may take the form of
 - A declaration of Goal
 - A declaration of course of actions
 - A declaration of general purpose
 - An authoritative decision
- Therefore, It has a broad dimensions- use in different areas such as Political Science, Economics, Academic literature, Public Administration- interdisciplinary concept.
- *Public policy is different from rules, custom and decision. For E.g- Directive Principle of State policy – its not a decision but course of action.*

Who make Public Policy?

- Legislature – Energy conservation Act, 2001, Reservation quota for disadvantage group, Aadhar Act, 2016 etc.
- Executive- MNAREGA, Ayushman Bharat Mission (2018), Mid Day Meal (1995), DBT (Direct benefit transfer, 1st January, 2013)
- Judiciary- Creamy Layer Policy in Reservation, Collegium system in Judge appointments, Auction of natural Resource-oil, coal etc.