

Rational Model of Public Policy

It is also known as **ROOT** model

- ❑ Rationality is considered to be the '**yardstick of wisdom**' in any policy-making.
- ❑ This approach emphasises that policy-making is making a choice among policy alternatives on rational grounds.
- ❑ Rational policymaking is based on "**to choose the one best option**" or '**one best way**'
- ❑ **Robert Haveman** observes that a rational policy is one, which is designed to maximise "net value achievement".
- ❑ **Thomas Daye** equates rationality with efficiency, In his words, "A policy is rational when it is most efficient, therefore policies are made by Govt. Efficiency involves the calculation of all social, political, and economic values sacrificed or achieved by a public policy, not just those that can be measured in monetary terms.
- ❑ This model assumes that the Govt. has infinite capacity to collect, compute and process information and data.
- ❑ Therefore govt. can forecast with best solution.
- ❑ This model is based on the wisdom of the state and is not influenced by other autonomous agencies.

Rational Model of Public Policy

➤ **In order to be rational, it is desirable that there should be:**

- identification and determination of the goals;
- ranking of goals in order of importance;
- identification of possible policy alternatives for achieving those goals; and
- cost-benefit analysis of policy alternatives.

➤ **A policy-maker wedded to rational policy-making must:**

- ✓ know all the society's value preferences and their relative weights;
- ✓ clarify the goals and objectives and rank them;
- ✓ know all the policy alternatives available;
- ✓ compare the consequences of each policy alternative
- ✓ calculate the ratio of achieved to sacrificed societal values for each policy, alternative; and
- ✓ select the efficient policy alternative that matches with the goals.

Rationalist Paradigm

- Theoretical- more on paper
- Effective – functional or output based
- Prescriptive- based on fact, reality
- Normative- based on ideology or idea etc.
- Focus on prescribing better way of making & implementing better policy.
- Dominated by Public Administrators

Rational policy-making, thus, requires making hard choices among policy alternatives. It entails many stages:

- To begin with the policy-maker identifies the underlying problem. He formulated and sets goal priorities, This is necessary because one goal may be more important than another.
- The policy-maker identifies the range of policy alternatives and options that help to achieve the goals. He prepares a complete set of alternative policies and of resources with weights for each alternative.
- It requires the calculation of predictions about the costs and benefits of policy alternatives. Here there is a question of calculation of the "cost-payoff" ratios of each alternative.
- Although simultaneously with calculating net expectation for each alternative, the policy-maker is required to compose the alternatives with the highest benefits. It is possible that by comparing two alternatives, one may derive the benefits at less cost.
- Finally, the policy maker selects the most efficient policy alternative

1. Establishment of complete set of operational goals with weights

2. Establishment of complete inventory of other values and of resources with weights

3. Preparation of complete set of Alternatives policies

4. Preparation of complete set of predictions of benefits and costs for each alternative

5. Calculation of net expectation for each alternative

6. Comparison of net expectation and identification of alternative(s) with highest net expectation

OUTPUT

Pure-rationality policy (policies)