

Science and Art for Epidemiologists to  
Develop Health Policies:  
Communication with Policy Makers

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# Rationale

- 1. Epidemiologists produce knowledge on:**
  - 1. Occurrence of illnesses**
  - 2. Etiology of the illnesses**
  - 3. Prevention and control measures**
  - 4. Effectiveness of control measures**
  - 5. Progress and achievement of disease prevention and control**
- 2. Epidemiologists design surveillance of diseases and health risks.**
- 3. Epidemiologists produce epidemiological research products.**
- 4. Epidemiologists can be strong health advocates.**

**To conclude: Epidemiologists are capable of developing good health policies because development of majority of health policies needs inputs from epidemiologists.**

# How can an epidemiologist develop health policies?

1. **Becomes a policy maker;**
2. **Recommends proper policies through technical reports including publications in scientific journal;**
3. **Presents the proposed policies in public health meetings and conferences;**
4. **Advocates through various forms of social medias;**
5. **Takes part in appropriate methods of policy development (e.g. national health assembly);**
6. **Communicates with policy makers**

# **Principles of Communication with policy makers**

- 1. Understand the rationale and the need for developing a specific policy.**
- 2. Understand the process and contents of policy development.**
- 3. Making available the evidences on the policy issues to convince policy makers.**
- 4. Seek opportunity to communicate with policy makers.**
- 5. Capable to prepare policy messages for policy makers.**

# Principles of Communication with policy makers

## **1. Understand the rationale and the need for developing a specific policy.**

- **To promote health**
- **To prevent disease**
- **To control disease outbreak**
- **To strengthen disease control system including preparedness**
- **To provide specific services**
- **To implement the current government policies**
- **Etc.**

# Principles of Communication with policy makers

1. Understand the rationale and the need for developing a specific policy.
- 2. Understand the process and contents of policy development.**

## *Who formulates health policy?*

- *Government: announcement of the policies when forming the government; cabinet's policies.*
- *At ministry level: Minister's policies; Permanent Secretary's policies.*
- *At department level: policies of the Director General*
- *At any office: policies of the director*
- *Policy development by civil society: the national health assembly mechanism*

## *Directions or contents for policy development*

- *Policy-makers' interest*
- *Severity of a health problem*
- *Performing the roles and responsibility*
- *International or global health initiatives*
- *Social responses*
- *Others*

# Principles of Communication with policy makers

1. Understand the rationale and the need for developing a specific policy.
2. Understand the process of policy development.
- 3. Making available the evidences on the policy issues to convince policy makers.**

*Policy development requires (solid) epidemiological evidences to convince policy makers*

- *Surveillance report*
- *Outbreak investigation report*
- *Epidemiological research outcomes including pilot studies*
- *Technical report including research articles*
- *Experiences from other countries*
- *Others*

# Principles of Communication with policy makers

1. Understand the rationale and the need for developing a specific policy.
2. Understand the process of policy development.
3. Making available the evidences on the policy issues to convince policy makers.
4. **Seek opportunity to communicate with policy makers.**

# Opportunities to communicate with policy makers

- *Submission of technical documents to policy makers through the regular line of command.*
- *Courtesy technical visits to the policy maker.*
- *Reports in a technical conference or meeting attended by policy makers.*
- *Seek advice from high level administrators (who can influence “the policy maker”).*
- *Submission of the proposed policy through the national assembly mechanism*
- *Others*

# Principles of Communication with policy makers

1. Understand the rationale and the need for developing a specific policy.
2. Understand the process of policy development.
3. Making available the evidences on the policy issues to convince policy makers.
4. Seek opportunity to communicate with policy makes.
5. **Capable to prepare policy messages for policy makers.**

## *How to prepare policy messages*

- *Study and practice from existing and previous policy messages in similar field.*
- *Policy training.*
- *Consultation with experts.*
- *Others.*

# Thank You

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