

**Agnihotri, V.K. (Ed.) (1995). *Public Policy Analysis and Design*.**  
Concept Publishing Company, New Delhi.

Forwarded by Prof. A.M. Khusro, Editor, Financial Express, and New Delhi. PP. 482.

Public policy design and analysis deserves immense importance in achieving meaningful results from policy implementation. Scope of public policy covers the area from individual sector-specific to the national economy as a whole. Levels of achievements of future policies are highly affected by scientific analysis of the past policies and plans.

One of the serious causes of backwardness of least-developed countries has been the lack of proper implementation of economic policies. Due to the cause there exists a wide gap between peoples' expectations and ambitions and actual achievements in practice. It has created frustrations and social unrest in many countries of the world. Nepal could not remain exception in this regard. There exists a wide gap between what is publicly talked about and what actions are taken in reality. In order to minimize such talk-action ratio, policies should be designed scientifically such as clearly addressing policy inputs, policy activities and policy outputs so that the achievements are actually realized at the targeted areas. The book under review though published more than one and half decade ago and prepared in the Indian context, may be a good reference to concerned individuals and institutions for policy design, implementation and analysis.

At the outset, Prof. Khusro forwarding the book has raised and analyzed a number of aspects of India's public policies since 1951 with reference to land reform and economic planning, resistance to change, weak agents to change, leadership and policy initiative, designing policies, vested interests and recent changes in economic policy. The editorial note includes general introduction, features and characteristics of policy making process in theory as well as in the Indian context. The policy methodology has been described in brief. Lastly, the editor himself has reviewed all the articles and papers included in the book. From this point of view present review may be regarded as a mere dare. However, it has been felt meaningful from the point of view of publicity of the book in the academic and institutional circles.

The book is a compilation of articles published in the journal *The Administrator* dated January – March, 1994 and papers presented by different scholars at the seminar organized by the *Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (Government of India)* from 23 to 25 August 1993. The main body of the book is divided into two parts: First, the sectoral policies, and second, the methodologies.

In the first part of the book 16 articles representing different sectors of the Indian economy (among which one being the Sri Lankan Health Policy) have been included.

The papers cover the area from agriculture to science and technology policies, i.e. agriculture, forestry, bio diversity conservation, planning and market, population, health, urbanization and demography, education, science and technology, computer hardware, energy and emerging technology including superconductivity. The general features of all the articles have been – general introduction, historical review of the policies, general issues and suggestions and recommendations for future policy making for the concerned sectors. Periodical data and evidences from other countries have also been included in some of the articles. All the articles include references at the end.

The gist of the book rests in the second part which is very important from the methodological point of view. Different policy approaches have been designed and presented with sectoral cases.

The 17<sup>th</sup> paper, which is the first paper of the second part, by S.K. Gaur, D.S. Mishra and P.S. Satsangi entitled *Integrated, Descriptive and Normative Industrial Policy for India*, firstly describes the state of India's industrial sector. Secondly, the concept, methods and process of 'interpretive structural modeling' methodology, i.e. creation of structural self explanation matrix (SSIM), reachability matrix, level of partition and cycles with reference to Indian industrial sector have been included. An annexure of rank ordered list of integrated policy elements of both descriptive and normative have been attached. The 18<sup>th</sup> paper by the same experts as paper 17<sup>th</sup>, *Alternative Integrated Policy Designs for Indian Industries*, has included arrangement of policy options, generating alternative policy options, fuzzy set of policy alternatives and their ranking procedures. Annexure of alternative rank ordered list of integrated policy elements and dimensionwise policy alternative have been attached. The 19<sup>th</sup> paper by Pratap K.J. Mohapatra, *System Dynamics Modeling for Public Policy Analysis* begins with introduction to the system dynamic modeling. Then after the process of Delphic methodology in the context of Indian tea industry has been discussed. The 20<sup>th</sup> paper by K. Vizayakumar, *Environmental Policy Analysis: System Dynamic Approach*, represents the system dynamic methodology which has been analyzed with reference to the environmental sector.

The 21<sup>st</sup> paper by Sushil entitled *Policy Analysis and Design using Flexible System Methodology*, includes general introduction, an overview of the methodology – purpose, philosophy, paradigm, steps etc. Lastly, the methodology has been applied to agricultural waste management and energy policy analysis. The 22<sup>nd</sup> paper by S.K. Batra, *Guidelines for Policy on Vocational Training in Advanced Technology*, has been concentrated on to highlight the features of sample policy guidelines for advanced technology prepared by group of experts in Thailand in August 1991 and amended by the high level seminar in Japan in October 1991. The second part of the paper represents a proposed policy on vocational training for advanced technology in ZYZ country. Various aspects of the policy have been described. The 23<sup>rd</sup> paper by J.P. Saxena

, *Analysis of Options for Energy Conservation Policy in Indian Cement Industry*, starts with general introduction and proceed with methodology - Delphic hierarchy process, fuzzy set methodology, the case of Indian cement industry – identification of energy conservation options and performance indicators, determination of engine vector weight, sensitivity analysis and feedback of policy framework. Overall conclusion is derived at the end.

The 24<sup>th</sup> paper by A.K. Vij , *Role of Models in Public Policy Analysis and Design*, describes different policy models like econometric models, input-output models, system dynamic models, integrating modeling etc. and points out their limitations. The integrated model is applied in the Indian case. The last but not the least paper by V.K. Agnihotri entitled *An integrated Approach to Public Policy Design*, begins with the statement of public policy. Then, it covers different steps of logical processual framework. A new approach to public policy design has been formulated. Appendices of sets of decomposed objectives have been attached.

The book is a complete set of new approaches to the policy methodology. It could be a guide to analyze different sectoral policies and apply methodologies as per the prevailing situation. The book has forwarded flexible alternative methodologies in place of the prevailing rigid ones. It could be felt suitable in the present world of complex policy environment. Index at end of the book would guide to understand the basic terms of policy science.

**Dr. Laxmi Panta (Wagle)**

Associate Professor  
Tribhuvan University  
Patan Multiple Campus  
Patan Dhoka, Lalitpur, Nepal.