

Realizing Sustainability in Public Policy: Building a Balance between Economy, Social, and Environment

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ABSTRACT

Sustainability in public policy is an aspect that is increasingly becoming a concern in various countries, especially in addressing increasingly complex environmental, economic and social issues. This article discusses how public policies can be designed and implemented to achieve balanced sustainability between the three dimensions. Emphasis is placed on the need for policies that are inclusive, data-driven and involve all stakeholders in their design. Policies that prioritize sustainability must be implemented with rigorous monitoring and evaluation to ensure positive impacts on society. In this regard, the government, private and society sectors need to work together to effectively achieve sustainability goals. Sustainability in public policy involves protecting the environment and needs to consider social and economic aspects to create equitable welfare for all parties. Cross-sector collaboration and evidence-based long-term policy planning are needed to ensure sustainability.

INTRODUCTION

Sustainability has become a key issue in global public policy, with many countries adopting various approaches to mitigate environmental, social and economic challenges. Many countries are beginning to realize that development can no longer be carried out with disregard for the long-term impacts on the environment and society's well-being (Frugoli et al., 2015). Public policy plays an important role in creating the basis on which societies can develop sustainably. Sustainability is linked to environmental protection, and to social and economic justice, requiring policies that integrate these aspects holistically. Such integration is crucial to ensure that no group of society is left behind in the development process and that the benefits of development are shared equitably. Governments from various countries are now increasingly aware that sustainability must be incorporated into their development policies, both at the local and global levels, with the aim of creating a more balanced future for all societies (Sachs, 2015).

Many countries and international organizations have begun to design public policies that prioritize sustainability. These policies cover a wide range of sectors, like energy, education, agriculture and health,

with a primary focus on reducing negative environmental impacts and improving social and economic well-being. For example, the United Nation's 2030 Agenda, with its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), has become a guideline for countries to design policies that support sustainability in all aspects. The main challenge in implementing these policies is to ensure that they can be effectively implemented and have a positive impact on the society at large (UN, 2015).

While many sustainability policies have been designed in various countries, their implementation is often plagued by complex issues. One of the main problems is the imbalance between long-term goals and short-term needs that policy makers often face. Policies that focus too much on short-term outcomes often ignore the principle of sustainability, which should consider the balance between the needs of the present and the ability of future generations to meet their needs (Meadowcroft, 2007). Another problem is the lack of integration between environmental policies and economic and social policies, which makes these policies poorly coordinated and ineffective in achieving comprehensive sustainability goals. Policies that are supposed to support each other are instead running independently, leading to overlap and inefficiency.

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Implementation problems often arise due to a lack of resource support, both in terms of finance, infrastructure, and technical capacity from the government and related parties. Many countries face difficulties in allocating sufficient funds to support effective sustainability policies, while on the other hand, political and social uncertainty can hinder the successful implementation of such policies (Schmidt, 2014). Even in countries with a strong commitment to sustainability, the inequality between policies designed on paper and practices on the ground is often very large, which ultimately reduces the effectiveness of these policies in creating positive impacts on the society. This creates a huge challenge for achieving tangible and impactful results for the society.

Considering the urgency of the sustainability challenges confronting the world today, an understanding of public policies that support sustainability is crucial. While many countries have attempted to integrate sustainability into their policies, there are still many barriers that must be overcome for these policies to be implemented effectively. The success of these policies largely depends on how they address the inequality between the goals and the capacities and resources available. By analyzing and understanding the challenges and their impacts, we can find ways to improve the effectiveness of sustainability policies in the future.

The purpose of this study is to understand how public policies that support sustainability can be effectively designed and implemented, taking into account the balance between economic, social and environmental needs. This study aims to analyze the impact of such policies on the society, as well as identify ways to improve the effectiveness of policies in supporting long-term sustainability.

RESEARCH METHOD

The literature study approach is an effective method of studying concepts, theories and previous findings related to the topic under discussion. In the analysis of public policies that support sustainability, this approach allows researchers to explore relevant scholarly works, government reports and policy documents to understand how the policies designed can affect society and the environment. The literature study provides an opportunity to evaluate different perspectives in the relevant literature, compare findings, and identify inequalities or needs for further research. For example, research conducted by Sachs (2015) addresses the importance of sustainability in global policy by analyzing its impact on economic, social and environmental development and how public policies should be designed to achieve it.

The literature study approach also makes it possible to explore best practices applied in various countries or regions in supporting sustainability policies. Research such as that conducted by Schmidt (2014) in the context of European policy provides an overview of how various European Union member countries are working to integrate sustainability principles in their policies. By reviewing the existing literature, it is possible to gain an understanding of the challenges faced in implementing sustainability policies and what can be learned from the experiences of other countries. This method allows the researcher to develop a theoretical framework and provide evidence-based advice on policies that are more effective in supporting sustainability.

The literature study is also very useful for evaluating the social, economic and environmental impacts of sustainability policies that have been implemented. Research by Meadowcroft (2007) highlights key challenges in implementing sustainability-focused policies, including the mismatch between long-term goals and short-term needs that often makes policies less effective. This approach can be used to identify factors that influence the success or failure of existing policies and to deepen understanding of the relationship between policy design and impact on society. By understanding the existing literature, researchers can provide more targeted recommendations on how sustainability policies can be implemented more effectively.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Sustainability-focused public policies are crucial in the face of today's global challenges. The balance between environmental, economic, and social aspects must take center stage in designing policies that aim for short-term progress, and for the well-being of future generations. In the midst of environmental crisis, social inequality, and economic instability, sustainability has become a concept that leads many countries and organizations to formulate policies that are more inclusive and pro-future. The formulation of public policies capable of maintaining sustainability in all fields requires careful planning and the involvement of various parties, including the government, the society, and the private sector (Stillwell, 2015).

In designing such policies, it is important to pay attention to three main dimensions, namely environmental, economic and social sustainability. Any policy implemented should consider how it impacts all three, creating synergies rather than exacerbating inequality or damaging the environment. The implementation of such policies requires an effective monitoring and evaluation system,

which assesses both short-term results and long-term impacts. In this sense, achieving sustainability is not an instantaneous process, but rather the result of ongoing policies that adapt to ongoing changes (Errington et al., 2016).

While the challenge of achieving sustainability in public policy is enormous, with the right approach, a positive impact on society can be achieved. This requires policies that can harmonize social, economic and environmental well-being, and ensure that every policy implemented provides tangible benefits to all levels of the society. When policies are developed inclusively and based on real needs on the ground, the chances of achieving effective and sustainable results are greater (Boarini et al., 2018). Through a comprehensive approach, balanced sustainability between the three dimensions can be achieved, creating a better environment, a more stable economy, and a more just society (Hempel, 2012). This includes cross-sector collaboration, synergy between central and local governments, and active engagement of civil society and the private sector. Policies designed and implemented through strong coordination and continuous evaluation will be better able to address the challenges. Sustainability is a long-term goal and part of the solution to the social and economic problems faced today (Tomislav, 2018).

In order to design and implement public policies that achieve balanced environmental, economic and social sustainability, it is first needed to understand these three dimensions of sustainability. Sustainability involves protecting the environment, and includes inclusive economic growth and equitable social development. Public policies should be able to integrate all three simultaneously, rather than in isolation, to create more holistic outcomes. A balanced integration will result in a more holistic and sustainable solution. For example, green development policies implemented by some governments have shown that environmental protection and economic growth can coexist, provided there are technological innovations and appropriate policy strategies. According to Holden et al. (2014), achieving sustainability depends on the integration of policies that support all three dimensions. Without strong integration, policies tend to be partial and do not produce the expected long-term impact. It is important at every stage of the policy to consider cross-sectoral impacts and involve various actors from civil society, private sector, to local societies (Christopoulos et al., 2012). It is only with this cross-sectoral and collaborative approach that true sustainability can be effectively realized.

Sustainability-focused policy design requires an inclusive approach, involving various stakeholders in the decision-making process. This is because sustainability is not only about government interests, but also involves the private sector, civil society and individuals. The government needs to work with the private sector, civil community organizations, and even individuals to create policies that are widely accepted and implemented (Stafford-smith et al., 2017). Society involvement in policy design and implementation is important to ensure that policies are relevant to local needs and able to address existing social challenges (Seller, 2011). It also creates a sense of ownership of the policy, which encourages active participation in policy implementation and monitoring. According to Schreurs (2017), policies that fail to involve all parties tend to be ineffective because they do not consider the diverse perspectives and priorities of all stakeholders. Without broad engagement, policies can get stuck in one-dimensional solutions that may not meet the needs of all parties or even ignore more vulnerable groups. Creating a space for inclusive dialogue and ensuring that the voices of all stakeholders are heard is an important step towards creating more effective sustainability policies that are acceptable to all levels of society (Mansell & Tremblay, 2013).

On the environmental aspect, policies that support sustainability should focus on protecting and conserving natural resources and reducing the negative impacts of industrial and development activities. The use of environmentally friendly technologies, such as renewable energy and more efficient waste management, are examples of the implementation of environmental policies that support sustainability. Policies must be supported by strict monitoring and law enforcement to prevent violations that can damage the environment. According to Stern (2007), market-based policies such as carbon taxes and carbon emissions trading systems have proven effective in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and encouraging clean technology innovation.

Meanwhile, the economic dimension of sustainability also requires policies that promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth. Job creation, poverty reduction and income equality must be an integral part of development policy. Economic sustainability is about rapid economic growth, and about how that growth can be equitably enjoyed by all levels of the society. According to Stiglitz (2012), economic policies that focus on income inequality and a fairer distribution of resources can create a more stable and inclusive economy.

On the social side, sustainability demands policies that ensure equal access to education, health services, decent housing and social welfare for all levels of society. One of the main goals of social sustainability is to reduce the existing gaps between groups of people, especially between the rich and the poor, and address inequalities that are often overlooked in the development process. Public policies must ensure that no group is left behind or marginalized in development. For example, policies that reduce social inequality such as providing subsidies or social security for the poor will contribute to the creation of a more just and prosperous society. According to Rawls (1999), the principle of social justice is very important in the design of policies that aim to achieve sustainability, especially in ensuring that the benefits of development can be enjoyed by all parties equally. Justice must ensure that inequalities in society are only allowed if they benefit the most disadvantaged. Policies that prioritize the principle of social justice can create a more prosperous society and no group is marginalized, so that the contribution of development can be enjoyed by all parties equally and sustainably.

In implementing policies for sustainability, effective mechanisms are needed to monitor and evaluate the impact of policies on these three dimensions. Transparent monitoring and evaluation can provide valuable feedback to adjust policies if needed. Efficient information systems and accurate data are also needed to measure the environmental, economic and social impacts of policies. Without a system capable of regularly monitoring implementation and evaluating the results achieved, the policy risks running without clear direction and is difficult to measure its success. According to Sukhdev et al. (2010), the integration of data-driven information systems can help the government and society to monitor the achievement of sustainability goals more systematically. The public can also utilize the data to monitor, provide input, and actively participate in efforts to achieve sustainable development goals.

Public policies for sustainability must also consider aspects of adaptation to changing global conditions, such as climate change and globalization (Smit & Pilifosova, 2003). For example, related to climate change, public policies must be able to anticipate and mitigate the negative impacts caused. This can involve policies that support the use of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and protection of biodiversity. According to Adger et al. (2007), climate change resilience should be an integral part of any sustainable development policy, especially in countries that are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

It is also important to recognize that sustainability depends on government policies, and on the role of the private sector and society. The government does have a central role in formulating policies and creating a supportive regulatory framework, but implementation on the ground often requires active support from businesses and civil society. The success of sustainability policies depends on the extent to which all actors can work synergistically in carrying out their respective roles, whether through innovation, behavior change, or support for government programs. The private sector, through innovation and corporate social responsibility, can contribute to achieving sustainability goals by adopting environmentally friendly business practices and focusing on social welfare. According to Porter and Kramer (2011), the concept of "shared value" that integrates economic and social goals can create synergies between the public and private sectors to achieve sustainability goals. This opens up opportunities for stronger partnerships between the public and private sectors, where each party brings its strengths and advantages to achieve common goals.

While many public policies have been designed to achieve sustainability, policy implementation is often constrained by resource shortages, institution coordination issues, and lack of political commitment. Public policies for sustainability must be complemented by policies and mechanisms to strengthen the capacity of government institutions, including training and education for public officials, to ensure that the policies can be implemented effectively. By equipping policy implementers with the required knowledge, skills and tools, the implementation process can run more smoothly and effectively. Strong internal evaluation mechanisms also need to be developed so that each agency can objectively measure their performance and make improvements where necessary. According to Grindle (2007), strengthening institutional capacity is important to support successful policy implementation.

Society involvement in policy implementation is also important. When societies are actively involved, they are not only the beneficiaries, but also the main actors in the policy implementation process. In many cases, policies supported by active society participation tend to be more successful. This can include society empowerment in decision-making or natural resource management. According to Ostrom (1990), co-management of natural resources can increase the success of sustainability-focused policies as societies have a better understanding of the local context and their own interests. Creating a space for collaboration between government and communities can make policy implementation more adaptive, inclusive and sustainable.

Public policies that support sustainability should adopt a long-term approach. Many policies are designed with a focus on short-term results, which are often not sustainable or even risk damaging the environment and social in the long-term. It is important to design policies that consider long-term impacts and involve careful long-term planning. This approach requires careful planning, in-depth risk analysis, and integration between different sectors and actors. According to Meadows et al. (2004), dynamic systems in policies that support sustainability need to take into account the interaction between various elements in the long-term to produce sustainable policies. This dynamic systems approach helps policymakers understand the indirect consequences and cascading effects of their decisions. Without an understanding of system dynamics and long-term impacts, policies are prone to creating false solutions that only fix the symptoms, not the root of the problem.

The success of sustainability policies also depends on the sustainability of financing. Sufficient and sustainable financing is important to ensure that policies can be implemented effectively and sustainably. Without sufficient financial support, sustainability policies run the risk of becoming stagnant or unable to reach all desired targets. Financing of sustainability policies must come from various sources, both from the public sector, private sector, and international cooperation. According to Sachs (2015), the achievement of global sustainability goals relies heavily on the mobilization of sufficient and targeted financial resources. This means that the allocation of funds should be directed to programs that have a large and long-term impact, and managed in a transparent and accountable manner. Financial sustainability not only maintains the continuity of the program, but is also the main foundation for the achievement of overall and sustainable sustainability goals.

With the various challenges faced in the design and implementation of policies for sustainability, it is important for governments and all stakeholders to continuously improve existing policies, adapt to changes, and ensure that sustainability goals are achieved in an equitable and inclusive manner. In this way, policy is not just an administrative tool, but a means of social and environmental transformation for the better. Adaptation, continuous evaluation, and cross-sector collaboration will be key to ensuring that sustainability policies truly address the challenges of the present without compromising the rights and welfare of future generations.

Sustainability in public policy requires commitment and joint efforts from various parties to be realized effectively. The government as the main policy maker must be able to drive environmental and social changes at the same time as sustainable economic growth. One of the keys to achieving this is by building an inclusive policy framework, involving all stakeholders, and encouraging policies that are based on data and transparent evaluation. This ensures that the policies implemented can address existing problems and adapt to the changing world.

Successful implementation of sustainability policies also depends on effective coordination between institutions and strong support from the private sector and societies. Optimizing existing resources and designing policies that can touch all levels of the society is an integral part of creating a better future. Strengthening institutional capacity and continuous education and training for policymakers are important. With this, existing policies can be translated into real action and have a positive impact.

Finally, to achieve balanced environmental, economic and social sustainability, policy planning and implementation must have a long-term vision. Public policies must be more proactive in responding to changes and challenges that arise, and be able to create holistic solutions. That way, in the future, public policies can ensure the achievement of sustainable sustainability and provide positive benefits for future generations.

CONCLUSION

Public policies designed with sustainability in mind can have a positive impact on societies if they are formulated with attention to the balance between environmental, economic and social dimensions. Sustainability in public policy includes aspects of environmental protection, and includes equitable economic development and improved social quality of life for the society. To achieve optimal results, the policy needs to be designed with a more comprehensive approach and involve various stakeholders. Continuous evaluation and close monitoring of policy implementation are key to effectively achieving sustainability goals.

For this reason, the government needs to build strong institutional capacity and improve collaboration between sectors. The involvement of the private sector and society is crucial for achieving sustainability, making such policies easier to implement and widely understood. Optimizing policies based on existing data and evidence will also support long-term sustainability. Public policies should be oriented towards achieving sustainability that is balanced between economic, social and environmental, and designed to provide broad and sustainable benefits for all levels of the society.

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