

Capacity Building in Social Policy Research and Training

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Departing Points

- **Current social policy thinking is instrumental in promoting a notion of progress remedial in its approach.**
- **Social policy perspectives do not fully focus on capacity building and development sustainability as central concerns.**
- **There is a need to refocus current approaches on improving social policy systems by:**
 - **Re-building social policy analysis capacities based on assessments of past experiences.**
 - **Creating social management capacities to monitor and assess progress.**
 - **Developing appropriate training methodologies and tools to respond to demands from the ground.**

A New Capacity Building Perspective

A better understanding of systemic factors influencing social policy performance

A focus on institutional and technical capacities to articulate demands, measure progress, and identify lessons learned

A culture of accountability and sustainability

Capacity Building through Training and Research

Equity Oriented Policy Inclusive Integrated Across Sectors Responsive Low Cost Based on ICTs

Key Questions

- **How relevant to the poor are the assumptions guiding the region's development and the role play by social policy?**
- **What kind of institutional and human resources capacities need to be built and what are the mechanisms to reach such goal for sustainable change to occur?**
- **What kind of appropriate training, research, methods and tools are available or need to be built to develop systemic capacities to implement and assess policy practices?**
- **How to strengthen national capacities to identify lessons learned and create feedback mechanisms to create a culture of accountability?**

Implications for Capacity Building

- **Shifting from crisis management and remedial approaches to long-term problems prevention based on lessons learned.**
- **Addressing systemic factors which hamper monitoring and accountability.**
- **Focusing on institutional and technical management capacities at all levels.**
- **Creating monitoring and follow-up systems to assess performance and identify cases of success.**
- **Developing appropriate and relevant methods, tools, and delivery mechanisms.**

Research & Training

A capacity building research and training agenda must focus on four inter-related social policy areas:

- **The political economy of social policy.** The intersection of political, cultural and economic factors affecting social policy choices.
- **The social management practices.** The lessons to identify and advance social demands, analyze, manage, monitor, and evaluate social policy responses.
- **The social policy innovations.** The strategies to identify, target and maximize social service provision.
- **The effectiveness of social policy regimes.** The approaches promoting sustainable and accountable means to build public, private, and civic institutions responsive to social needs.