

# GETTING RESEARCH INTO POLICY & PRACTICE (GRIPP)

*FROM A RESEARCHER'S LENS AND FOR MEDIA SCRUTINY*

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# Introduction

- Attention to evidence-based medicine in the early 1990s
- Emphasizes a greater use of research evidence in clinical practice decision
- Later in the 1990s, evidence-based policy emerged to give research evidence greater weight above other considerations

# GRIPP

- The process of ensuring that research results or evidence are used for policy making or improving practice.
- Collapsing the thick wall between **researchers** and **policy makers & implementers**

# How does research influence policy or practice? I

- **The engineering or problem-solving model**

- holds that a problem could be identified by the policy makers and solved by researchers or new knowledge leads to policy change

- The engineering model has been critiqued for adopting the linear approach

- **The enlightenment model**

- that concepts and ideas derived from research may have indirect effect on policy process rather than an immediate, direct effect

# How does research influence policy or practice? II

## ▪ Elective affinity model

- emphasizes the role of policy community in accepting research findings if :
  - members have participated in the research process
  - **the findings are disseminated at the right time**
  - the implication of the findings agrees with the values and belief of policy audience
    - *Overall, the model is concerned with the extent of contact between policy makers and researchers / compatibility of ideas*

## ▪ Two communities model

- emphasizes that researchers and policy makers have different cultures with different assumptions about how the world works

# Two communities model of researchers and policymakers

## The two communities model of researchers and policy makers

	University researchers	Government officials
Attitude to research	Justified by its contribution to knowledge; research findings lead to further investigation	Only one of many inputs to their work, justified in its relevance and practical utility e.g. in decision making; some skepticism ....
Accountability	To scientific peers primarily, but also to funders	To politicians primarily but also to public indirectly
Priorities	Expansion of research opportunities and influence of experts in the world	Maintaining a system of good governance and satisfying politicians

# Barriers to the use of research

- **Political and ideological factors**
  - Research funders can also be influenced by ideology in the use of research e.g. the pharmaceutical industry
- **Policy and scientific uncertainties**
  - How relevant is the research findings to a particular policy context?
- **Different conception of risk**
- **Perceived utility of research**
- **Timing**
- **Communication and reputation**
  - Dissemination of research findings remains an indispensable part of any research process
- **Environment without research culture**
  - lacks motivation to appraise research findings

# GRIPP Processes

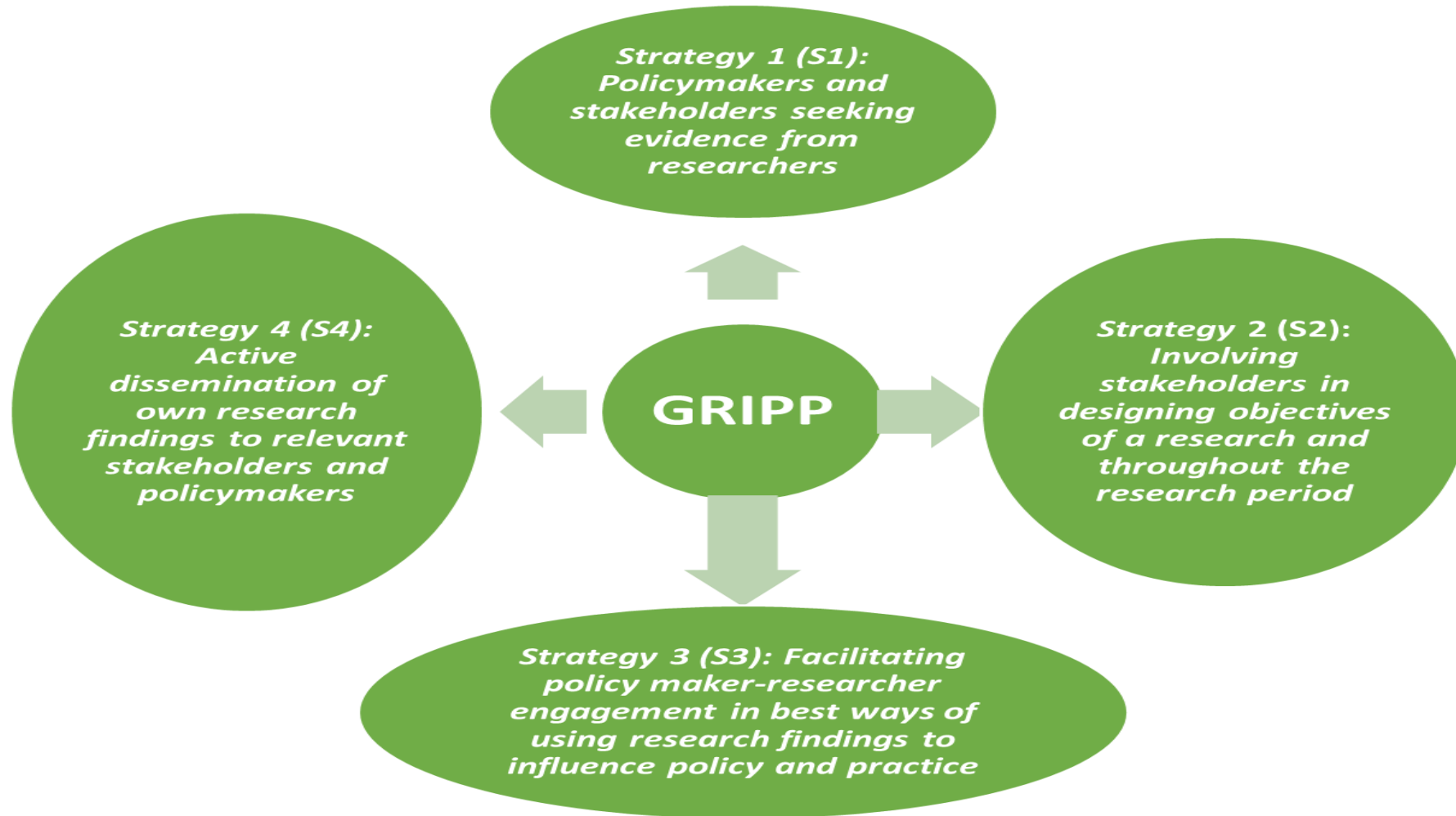
- The process of GRIPP involves four main actors that can be reached through different networks:
  - Researchers
  - Policymakers
  - Implementers (street level bureaucrats)
  - Policy Beneficiaries
- Researchers in GRIPP need to:
  - form core working groups with all relevant stakeholders at all stages and levels to get an effective engagement of stakeholders.
  - Establish and enhance linkages between researchers, policy makers and other stakeholders to build an environment supportive of evidence-informed health policy making.
- ..With the realisation that optimal communication is essential to engage these stakeholders, using the most appropriate means of communication



# Main GRIPP Strategies

- Research Quality Assurance
- Stakeholder involvement
- Presentation and communication
- Information management systems

# HPRG GRIPP STRATEGIES OVER THE YEARS



# Enablers

- Willingness of Policy makers to use research findings.. **easier when policy maker-initiated**
- Credibility of HPRG researchers & research findings (**Trust**)
- Close and long relationship between HPRG researchers and policy makers (**Relationship & Trust**)
- HPRG web and social media presence
- In-built capacity development plan in the research process to access and apply evidence – workshops, certificate courses etc.
- Engagement of stakeholders throughout research process
- Organizational networks:
  - HPRG linkages to policy makers helped promote policy influences.
  - HPRG Linkages with international consortia in terms of south-south and south-North collaboration helped in generating evidence.

# Challenges (Mitigation)

- Capacity to use HPSR – in terms of decision-makers demand for and uptake of HPSR (**Build capacity within the research process to access & apply evidence**)
- **Communication gap between researchers, donors and policymakers (Policy dialogue)**
- Managing the political process of GRIPP: The challenge of researchers making themselves available to participate in policy processes on top of all other work (**Build interest of researchers**)
- Lack of willingness of some policy makers to use research (**Engage closely with policy briefs**).

# Improving the relationship b/w research and policy

## What researchers must do...

- Form a core working group with all relevant stakeholders from the beginning to the end of the study
- Design studies to maximize their policy relevance and utility
- Identify opinion leaders and innovators and make them to understand the implication of the research findings
- Call for seminars, conferences, briefings, and workshops to disseminate research findings and educate policy makers about research
- Provide a range of different type of research reports- newsletters, short policy briefs, Executive summaries, etc.

## What policymakers must do...

- Ensure that all major policies and programmes have evaluation built into their budgets and implementation plans Rather than seeing evaluation as optional extra
- Set up formal communication channels and advisory mechanisms involving researchers and policy makers to identify researchable questions , develop research designs and plan dissemination and use of findings jointly
- Publish the findings of all public programme evaluations and view evaluation as an opportunity for policy learning
- Commission research and evaluation directly and consider having additional in-house research capacity

# Where is the Media?

- Television
- Radio
- News Print
- Social Media
- Blogs

# The Media and Researchers.....

In Small groups or World Café, can we look at the following questions?

- 1. What is the role of media in GRIPP?
- 2. How best can this role be achieved?
- 3. How best can HPRG harness Media influence to improve GRIPP?

# Comments



THANK YOU!!!