Improving Linkages between Research and Policy making:

MOST Comparative Policy Research Tool

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The MOST Programme

Background and mission

• Established in 1994, an Intergovernmental Programme dedicated to:
  • “Promote the development and use of social science knowledge that contributes to better understanding and management of social transformations”

Main activities

• International Forum on the Social Science - Policy Nexus
• Regional research-policy networks around select priority themes
• Regional Fora of Ministers of Social Development
• UNESCO Chairs/UNITWIN Networks; Summer schools

Knowledge dissemination

• Online Comparative Policy Research Tool
• Policy Papers Series
Knowledge and Policy

Why and how does policy failure occur?

- Relevant knowledge may not be produced,
- Even if produced it may not be available to policy-makers,
- Even if available it may not be used,
- Even if used it may not be monitored and evaluated,
- …and of course “events” may intervene.

Challenges for knowledge transfer

- Identify the specific obstacles that operate at each stage of the knowledge production and utilization process
- Design innovative solutions along with the practical mechanisms to make them viable
Elements of a Research-Policy Interface

Evidence-based policies

Designed in reference to prior practical experience, they require:

- A strong comparative knowledge base as well as
- Effective and transferable implementation models that can be calibrated based on the characteristics of particular cases

Knowledge for policy

Obstacles are not epistemological but institutional

- Format, language, timeframe
- Specific weaknesses of the knowledge base -- especially international, interdisciplinary, comparative
Knowledge Transfer Strategy

A comprehensive approach for enhanced dissemination and usability of policy-relevant research results

Contents
• Cross-cutting, international, interdisciplinary, comparative

Methodology
• Innovative networking principles for systematizing knowledge access and comparability for optimal policy information
• Systematic format (TOC) to produce different types of documents based on same original content to serve different types of needs

Results
• Various types of documents (full, condensed, custom)
• Various dissemination formats (print, electronic)
• Various consultation modes (static, interactive, dynamic)
MOST Comparative Policy Research Tool

An online, free and multilingual knowledge management system to:

• Evidence contexts and issues, frameworks, initiatives on the ground, recommendations, implications, operational aspects

• Produce customized reports with select content from original documents – *without compromising integrity of individual research*

• Compare cases with similar characteristics and assess relevance of policy options available – *without precluding conclusions*

• Access related indicators’ databases and specialized online libraries – *at local, national, regional and international levels*
Expected Impact on the Policy Cycle

Research-Policy

• Knowledge base updates and enriches as it is used on the ground and feedback on the experiences is made available (follow-up, evaluation)
• Alternative approaches are assessed over time (tracking, mapping)

Local-Global

• Policies link gradually to one another since initiatives are based on shared experience (lessons learned, mutual benefits)
• T=0: Options are contextual and comparable
• T=1+: Options are comparative, contextualized and ‘refreshed’

Policy-Community

• Responsiveness is made accountable, traceable and adjustable
ILLUSTRATION

“Strengthening women’s participation in urban environmental management”
### Case Characteristics

#### Themes and Issues
- Governance
  - Democracy and participation
- Urban Development
- Environment
- Migration and Mobility
- Multicultural Societies
- Education
  - Basic education
- Labour and Employment
- Health
  - Food security

#### International Frameworks
- Human Rights Issues
  - Economic, social and cultural rights
- Millennium Development Issues
  - Poverty and hunger

#### Additional Keywords
- women

### Geographical Location

#### Countries
- Brazil

#### Sub-regions
- Africa and Arab States
- Asia and the Pacific
- Europe and North America
- Latin America and the Caribbean

#### Regions
- The World
  - Africa and Arab States
- Small Island States
  - Antigua and Barbuda
Your search: { themes = city, environment, women; location = brazil }

Returned: 2 Results

Back to search criteria
Sort by: relevance | newest | oldest

Right to housing: The women movement in Brazil and the experience in the Gamboa favela in Santo André

Urban ecology, a tool for citizen environmental education in the Brazilian favelas
The present report was produced with the following Papers:
- Right to Housing: The women movement in Brazil, Gamboa Favela in Santo André
- Urban ecology, a tool for citizen environmental education in the Brazilian favelas

Using the following Sections:
- 1.1 Summary
- 4.1 Change initiative(s)
- 4.2 Plans for action
"Strengthening women's participation in urban environmental management: Recommendations (Brazil)"

The present report was produced with the following Papers:
- Right to Housing. The women movement in Brazil, Gamboa Favela in Santo Andre
- Urban ecology, a tool for citizen environmental education in the Brazilian favelas

Using the following Sections:
1.1 Summary
4.1 Change initiative(s)
4.2 Plans for action
Popular education, gender and social transformations: Thoughts from study-cases in Cuba and the Dominican Republic

Gender perspective in social science research: A case study in San Cayetano, Argentina
Popular education, gender and social transformations: Thoughts from study-cases in Cuba and the Dominican Republic

Gender perspective in social science research: A case study in San Cayetano, Argentina

Female societies and private companies in the waste management field in Ouagadougou: A drown-out empowerment

Urban transformations and gender power relationships: The Santhiaba example in Tiaraye sur mer, Senegal
- Skim through Briefs/Papers...
- Add select Papers to collection...
- Add/remove Sections...
- Modify/refine search criteria...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3</th>
<th>Popular education, gender and social transformations: Thoughts from study-cases in Cuba and the Dominican Republic</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Gender perspective in social science research: A case study in San Cayetano, Argentina</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Gender and citizenship: State Exit and Access to Electricity and Tenure in Bucharest, Romania</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>How to get organized for a better environment in a district of excluded inhabitants in Bucharest, Romania</td>
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<td>The emergence of civil society in Eastern Europe: The role of women in building an urban movement in Sofia, Bulgaria</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Reporting with MOST Tool

Results
- A compilation of focused experiences (options) from around the globe
- Containing only the very information relevant since selected by the user
- Integrating context-specific dynamics and pointing to the relevant data

How much it takes
- 3 clicks
  - Full Papers and Briefs; Briefs linking to full sections in original Papers
- 4-5 clicks
  - Custom documents with select contents from 1 or all Paper(s)
- 5+ clicks
  - Custom reports with select contents from personal collection of Papers
  - Explore as needed…
Initial Content Base / Policy Papers Series
(2007)

Cross-cutting, interdisciplinary, international and comparative themes:

• Human Rights and Poverty Eradication [100+ docs]
• Higher Education, Research and Knowledge [50+]
• Prevention, Treatment and Care in HIV/AIDS [50+]
• People, Biodiversity and Ecology
• Evaluations of Social Policies and Programmes [Brazil, South Africa]
• Science – Policy Nexus
  + Standalone studies from MOST, UNESCO, networks and partners…

Continuous content development – Open call for contributions
Management of Social Transformations Programme

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http://www.unesco.org/most/
Special Features / Next Steps

Search shortcuts
• Match and compile issues and available options ("How To's")
• Point to options available based on case specificity ("Advisory")
• "Profiles" to be saved and loaded on logon to the system
• Natural language question answering (English)

Knowledge delivery and dynamics
• Profile-based email alerts when matching new Papers are posted
• R-P Communities of practice to exchange on experiences
• Over time history of experiences to be reflected within documents

Interpretation support
• Applications to synthesize and make sense of huge masses of content
“Strengthening women's participation in urban environmental management: Recommendations (Brazil)”

(a) ARRANGED BY PAPER:

Right to Housing: The women movement in Brazil, Gamboa Favela in Santo André
  1.1 Summary
  4.1 Change initiative(s)
  4.2 Plans for action

Urban ecology, a tool for citizen environmental education in the Brazilian favelas
  1.1 Summary
  4.1 Change initiative(s)
  4.2 Plans for action

(b) ARRANGED BY SECTION:

1.1 Summary
  • Right to Housing: The women movement in Brazil, Gamboa Favela in Santo André
  • Urban ecology, a tool for citizen environmental education in the Brazilian favelas

4.1 Change initiative(s)
  • Right to Housing: The women movement in Brazil, Gamboa Favela in Santo André
  • Urban ecology, a tool for citizen environmental education in the Brazilian favelas

4.2 Plans for action
  • Right to Housing: The women movement in Brazil, Gamboa Favela in Santo André
  • Urban ecology, a tool for citizen environmental education in the Brazilian favelas
System Considerations

Each element of the format is an individual ‘Knowledge item’
- Each knowledge item is unique (domains/dimensions/locations)
- Knowledge items are complementary (margin contributions)
- Each item can be extracted from any document / collected across all documents (comparability)

Tool’s operational base is the network of knowledge items
- Utility multiplies with each new submission (exponential value)
- Self-sustainable -- but requires critical mass(es) of content to be ‘knowledgeable’ (tipping point)

Database analysis and content development
- Identify trends and causalities (how specific problems arise in particular contexts; how different policies may impact each other…)
- Identify gaps and redundancies (strategy)