

PROMOTING RESEARCH TO POLICY

MALAYSIA EXPERIENCE

Dr. Kulanthayan K. C. Mani

Department of Community Health, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences

University Putra Malaysia

Need to understand how the system works - Organization chart

Cabinet Committee on Road Safety



Ministry of Transport



Road Safety Department

Two main groups to be convinced:

High rank officers

Politicians

HOW?

Identify Partners

- Identify partners in the field
- What they do and what they have
(Police, Hospital, Public Works Department etc)
(they might have something we do not have)
(they might have something we think no one has)
- This will help us to position ourselves

Complement Authorities

- Built a good rapport
- Offer assistance (*complimentary*)
- Analyzing available data (*police data*)
- Develop a better surveillance system (*police form*)
- Evaluation of existing intervention (*other programs*)
- Provide information on available opportunities (*postgraduate studies, courses, training, conferences, websites*)

Research Based Interventions Towards Policy

(Initially – without any grant)

- Data / evidence
- Undergraduate dissertation
- Postgraduate dissertation
- Published in local and international journal
- Communicating risk *(language to be understood)*

The Outcome

- They should be convinced with us.
- We should be seen as their partner.
- They can count on us for assistance.

Next

Examples of Research Based Policy

- Helmet Initiatives Program
- Road Safety Education For School Children

Preparation Before Submission

- Gather enough data to show the problem
- Suggest intervention
- Provide evidence the intervention can work
- Outline the benefits of the intervention
- Provide the estimated cost benefit ratio (CBA)
- Put ourselves in their shoes – think and react

Process

- Discussion within researchers
- Discussion with the Road Safety Department
- Present a proposal to the Ministry of Transport
- Help the RSD in defending the proposal
(Treasury, Media etc)
- Promise only what can be delivered

Next Stage

- Give the credits to the authorities (MOT)
- Create a belonging of the program to all stakeholders.
- Must be seen and accepted as OUR/THEIR program and not my program.

Program Implementation

- Identify relevant agencies
- Have regular working committee meetings
- Do visit the field regularly
- Do invite the stakeholders to visit the field
- Do reviews regularly on each component of the program to close the gap
- Present the final outcome as soon as possible
- Deliver the report on time

Example of Components of A Program – *Helmet Initiatives*

- Data collection (baseline)
- Multi-media campaigns (TV, Radio, Print Media)
- Talks and exhibition with targeted group:
factories, secondary school
- Religious approach – sermons during Friday prayers in mosques
- Enforcement approach – advice/warning
- Enforcement action – fine
- Data collection (post intervention)

Program Evaluation

- Do a proper evaluation
- Researchers have to be convinced first with the methodology and findings.
- Present the final outcome as soon as possible.
- Highlight the strength of the program
- Acknowledge the weakness of the program
- Propose what next to be done and how best can it be done.

Researchers

Believe

Committed

Patient

Competent

Diplomatic

Thank you

kulan@medic.upm.edu.my

5th January 2006, Road Traffic Injury Research Network, Kandy, Sri Lanka