SKILLS DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP FOR RESEARCH ON ROAD TRAFFIC INJURIES

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Understanding Policy Makers

Abdul Ghaffar Health Policy and Systems Specialist Global Forum for Health Research Geneva

Why policy makers?

- It is their mandate and ultimate responsibility to design, develop and execute a responsive and functional health (research) system
- They are accountable to people, public and parliament
- They control most of funds for research

War is too serious a matter to entrust to military men "only"

(Georges Clemenceau)



Why Researchers?

- Research is an essential component of a strong and responsive health system
- There are no clear answers for many issues commonly confronted by the policy planners

Problem....?

- Evidence based (informed) policies-is it desire of both researchers and policy makers ?
- Limited evidence to support the argument
- Different opinions about the role of science in policy
- Differences between researchers and policy makers are genuine, systemic and structural

Distinguishing Features

	Researchers	Policy Makers
Overall Goal	To advance science	To gain popular and political support
Specific	•Tenure track positions	•Re-election
Objectives	•Publications	•Re-appointment
Output	Detailed reports	Press releases
Desired Outcome	Respect by the peers	Popularity among the supporters
Impact	Real	Perception more important than reality
Time factor	Long	Short
Accountable	Peers and editors	Constituents

Some Common Features

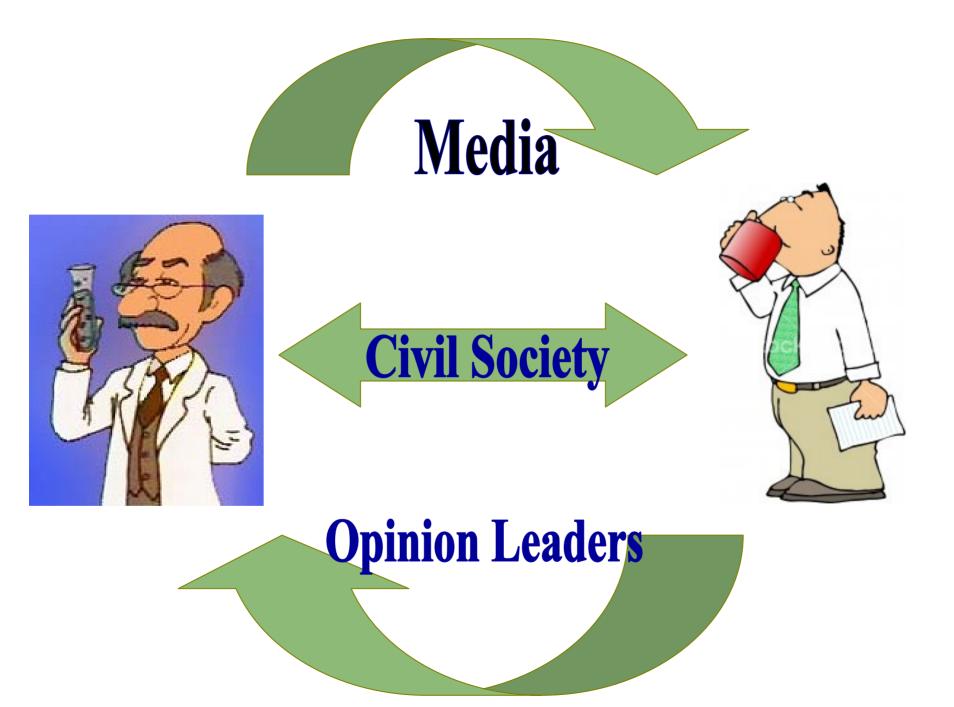
- Culture of blame and arrogance
- In some cases, even, lack of mutual trust and respect
- No real incentives for either to work together

"Policy makers and politicians don't see the light but feel the heat" Anonymous



Likely Middle Ground.....

- Shared vision and responsibility
- Confidence building measures:
 - Joint policy planning exercisesMediation by external forces



All diseases have two causes, one pathological, the other political *(Rudolf Virchow)*

