

Krecensia Kim

Dr. Herrera

February 6, 2023

SWK 555

Journal Activity 2

It is essential for social work practitioners to foster the ability to conduct policy research because social work practice is undoubtedly driven by social policies. Policy frameworks provide the analyst with a model that they can guide them during their thorough investigation of whether a policy/program effectively advocates for social welfare values such as social justice and equity. Policy frameworks consist of eight rational and systematic key elements: understanding the history of the issue that the policy attempts to address, understanding that social policy depends on the context, usage of scientific and legitimate data/research, consideration of utilitarian goals, consideration of unintended ramifications, consideration of alternative policies, and consideration of potential impacts.

However, these eight key elements seem rather incompatible with the actual political process through which policies are adopted. Politicians are the ones who ultimately wield the power to enact a policy. However, I do not think such politicians are qualified enough to be creating social welfare policies. Sure, they all outsource the legwork to teams of experts/researchers, but politicians obviously selectively pick and choose what information they will magnify and present in order to push the policy. The policies that they support are heavily influenced by their desire to advance their own political biases. It seems like our elected officials are more concerned about appeasing their audience (liberal vs conservative) than the actual people that are suffering under the issue that the policy is being created for.