



ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

Elements and Functions of a National Drug Observatory

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EVIDENCE BASED STRATEGIES

DECISION THEORY

Policy Formulation



Decision Making

Decision theory can be defined as the logical and quantitative analysis of all of the factors that affect the results of a decision in a world of uncertainty.

DIAGNOSTIC-INTERVENTION

Intervention



Decision Making

DECISION THEORY

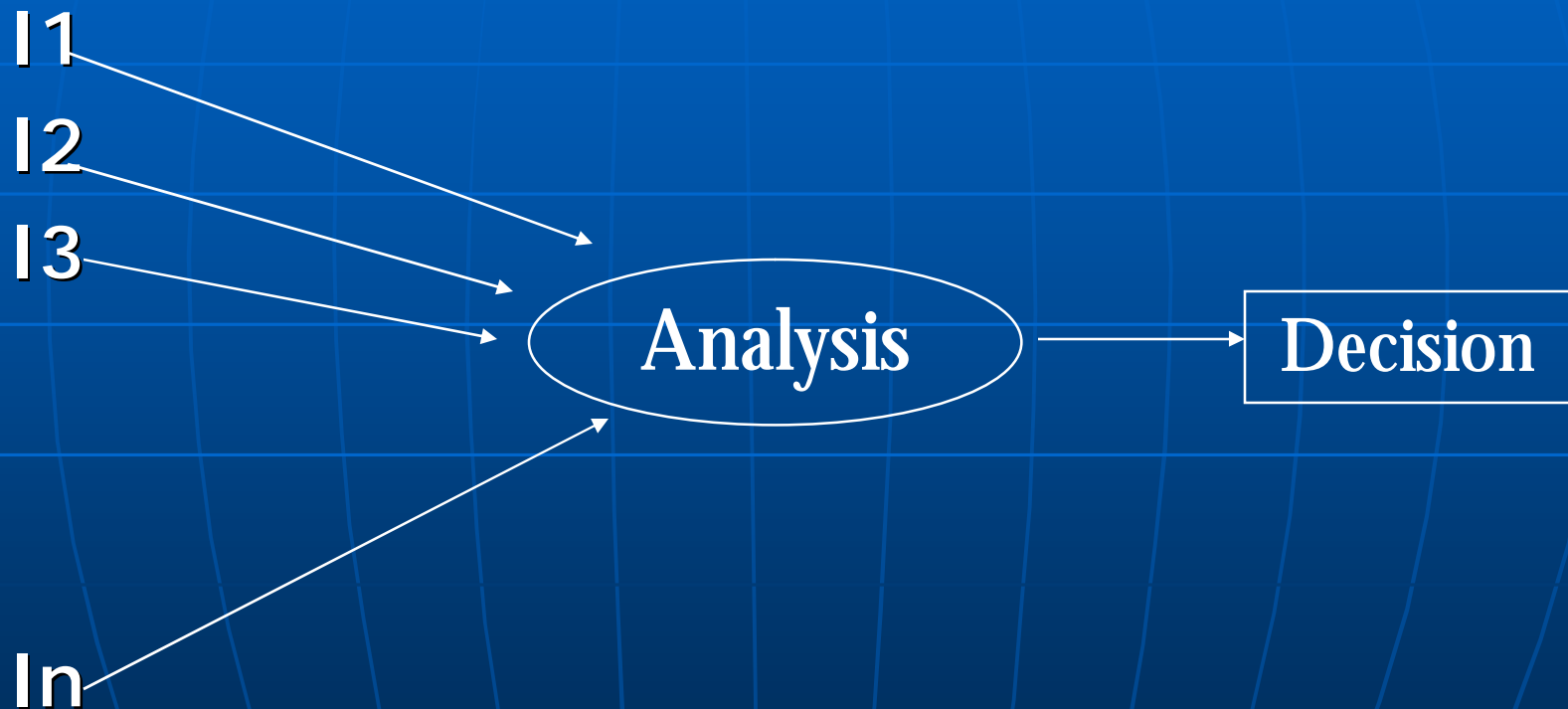
According to the previous definition we have:

- FACTORS
- ANALYSIS
- DECISION.

Or Stated in another way:

- GATHERING INFORMATION
- FIGURING OUT WHAT IT MEANS
- DECIDING WHAT TO DO (POLICY, PROGRAMS etc..)

DECISION THEORY



QUALITY OF THE DECISION

Did we do the right thing?

- ∅ A problem can have more than one solution, nevertheless, the best solution is one that is based on the best information, utilizing the best analytical capacity available (human resources).

QUALITY OF DECISION

INFORMATION

National Drug Observatory: Capacity to generate and/or gather

ANALYSIS

NDO: Capacity to combine information of different origins, analyze and disseminate it.

DECISION

Authority: To utilize the results of the analysis.

RESPONSIBILITIES

∅ In the decision making process, this is a **SHARED RESPONSIBILITY:**

∅ National Drug Observatory

∅ Authority. However, the authority is also responsible for deciding what type of Observatory to have.

QUALITY OF DECISION

- n PERFECT INFORMATION: Making decisions in conditions of certainty. Data are known.

- n IMPERFECT OR PARTIAL INFORMATION:
Two situations:
 - Decisions with Risk:
 - n Partial availability of data

 - Decisions with Uncertainty:
 - n Data are not available

WHAT IS A NATIONAL DRUG OBSERVATORY?

WHAT IS A NATIONAL DRUG OBSERVATORY?

The purpose of a National Observatory should be to **GENERATE** information, **GATHER** existing data from different institutions or sources, **SYSTEMITIZE** and **ANALYZE** the information, and **DISSEMINATE** it.

NATIONAL DRUG OBSERVATORIES

- n Should work with the many program areas represented on the Drug Commission (i.e., prevention, health, education, law enforcement)
- n Should generate strategic alliances with other institutions in order to gain access to information and data (law enforcement, coronors offices, health ministry, local government), and to collaborate with researchers who can contribute to the body of knowledge on drug use (academia).

CONDITIONS FOR EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING

1. Institutional “buy-in” of the need to have an observatory.
2. The “sine qua non” for an Observatory
 - Must be part of the structure of the Drug Commission
 - Budget

CONDITIONS FOR EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING

3. Clear Goals and Objectives

- Clearly defined indicators
- Research program to fill information gaps
- A close relationship with those who provide information to the MEM process
- A close relationship with the Demand Reduction area(s)
- Should really exist (not just on paper)

4. Adequately trained personnel (Probably the most important condition)

CONDITIONS FOR EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING

5. Strategic alliances

- universities, other research institutions

6. Relationship with the Inter- American Observatory on Drugs of CICAD.

**GOAL: Should be the official
source of information on drugs.**

INTER-INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

n M.E.M

- The National Drug Observatory should maintain a close relationship with those who are responsible for the MEM in the country.
- Should supply reliable information to the MEM on both supply and demand indicators
- And should also **VALIDATE** information that comes from other sources to the MEM

INTER-INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

n Demand Reduction

- A NDO should also work closely those responsible for Demand Reduction programs.
- Should provide support to the diagnostic process which a necessary step to developing and implementing prevention programs.

INTER-INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

n Demand Reduction

- Support the EVALUATION of prevention programs (e.g. School prevention, workplace prevention)
- Act as a point of reference for information, i.e.,
 - n Treatment centers (inventory of available treatment programs)
 - n People in treatment (profile of people in treatment)
 - n Drug use in prison population

INTER-INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

n External Institutions:

- Police
- Customs
- Judicial System
- Ministries (Health, Education)
- Forensic Medicine
- Prison system
- Universities

RESEARCH INDICATORS AND PROJECTS

INDICATORS (1)

- Prevalence of drug use:
 - Alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, cocaine and others
- Incidence of drug use
- Age of initiation
- Perception of risk associated with drug use
- Use among peer groups: close relatives and friends
- Ease of access
- Morbidity and co-morbidity
- Mortality
- Costs of drug use

INDICATORS (2)

- Assets forfeited
- Laboratories seized
- Persons indicted and convicted
- Number of accredited treatment centers, number of patients treated,
- Etc...

CURRENT OI D PROJECTS

- General Population 12 to 65 years
- School Population 13 to 17 years
- Population in Treatment
- Emergency Room Patients
- University Student Population
- Population in Prisons
 - n Population of Juvenile Offenders
 - n Recently arrested persons

What We Need to Do

- ∅ Evaluate the present condition of the National Drug Observatories, and whether and where they exist,
- ∅ Evaluate the need to develop local Observatories in member states.

FUTURE PROJECTS: OBSERVATORIES

∅ *Promote the role of the National Drug Observatories:*

q *Should be the official source of information on drugs in the county. In order to accomplish this it must:*

- q *Generate, process, and analyze timely, reliable, and current information on a regular basis that is pertinent*
- q *Provides the decision maker key information and the appropriate interpretation of that data*
- q *Have access to other information sources*

FUTURE PROJECTS: OBSERVATORIES

- ∅ *Work with member states to develop human resources:*
 - q *Profile corresponding to the functions of the National Drug Observatory*
 - q *Training in specific areas of need*
 - q *Strategic alliances with universities (essential to accessing key human resources)*

Thank You!!!

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CICAD Observatory on Drugs

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