



Health Policy

Subject 6

Policy triangle , Categories of Health Policy

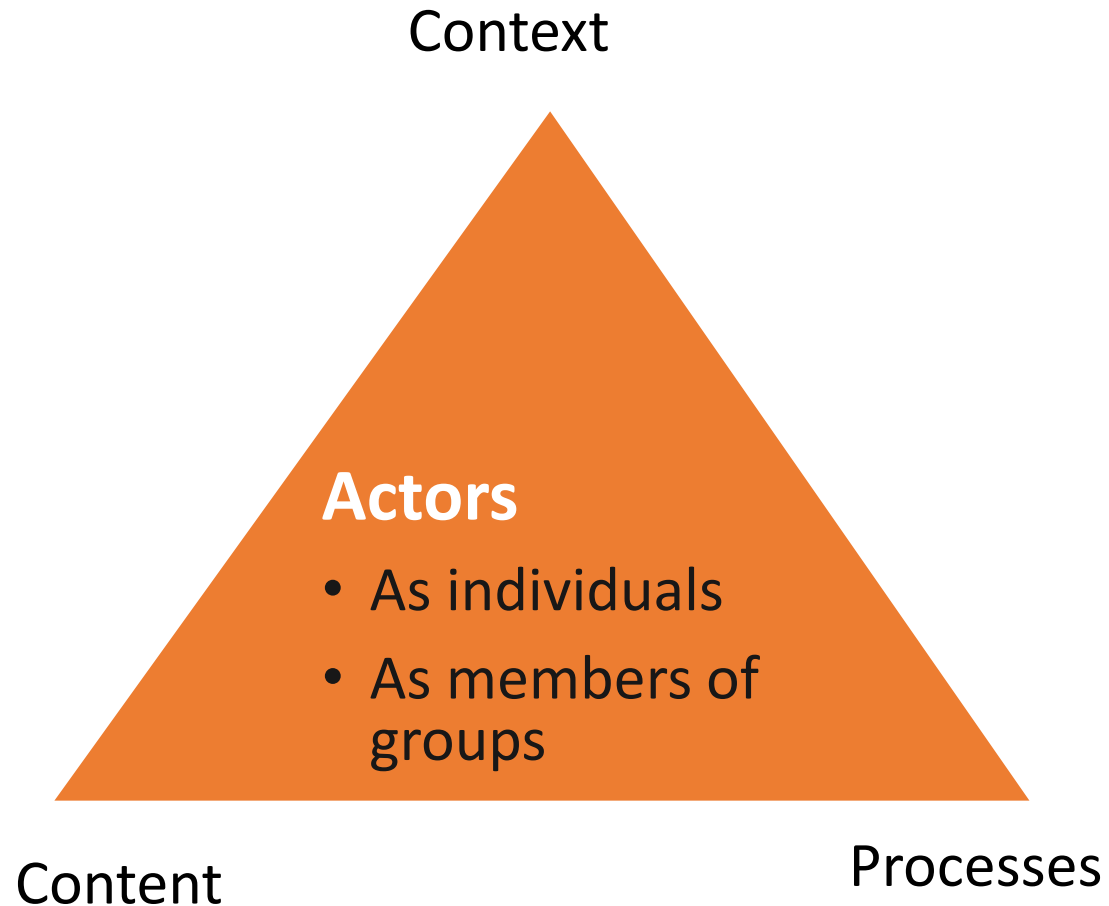
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Intended learning outcomes

1. To describe the components of **policy triangle**.
2. To explain actors, process, context and content of **policy triangle**.
3. To demonstrate by applied examples the **component** of the policy triangle especially context and actors.

Policy triangle (Walt and Gilson, 1994)



Actors: any participant in the policy process.

Content: what is in a policy.

Process: how the policy is initiated, formulated, negotiated, implemented, evaluated .

Context: political, social, cultural factors, national/international

Health policy triangle is a highly simplified representation of a complex set of inter-relationships and may give the impression that the **four factors can be considered separately**. This is not so! In reality:

- **Actors** are influenced (as individuals or members of groups or organizations) by the **context within which they live and work**;
- **Context** is affected by many factors such as political instability or ideology, beliefs, by history and culture;
- The **process** of policy making is affected by actors, their position in power structures, and their own values and expectations.
- the **content** of policy reflects some or all of these factors.

One of many Policy Analysis Frameworks: Policy Triangle

- ❖ Deal with a **political economy perspective**.
- ❖ Considers how **all four of these elements interact** to **shape policy-making**.
- ❖ The framework has been used to **analyze many health issues** depending on **the country's health problems priorities** , including:
 - mental health,
 - health sector improvement, modification
 - Tuberculosis control
 - reproductive health
 - antenatal care
 - Communicable diseases control
 - Non- Communicable diseases control
 - Environmental aspects
 - Nutritional aspects

Health policy includes a variety of activities



Public Health

- **Focus on population**
- Sanitation
- Disease control
- Vaccination
- Infant mortality
- Nutrition
- Occupational health
- Environmental health

Health Care

- **Focus on individual**
- Access to health care
- Service delivery
- Standards for practice and treatment

There are many **categories of health policies**, including :

- ✚ **Personal** health care policy, general hygiene, nutrition, health care utilization.

- ✚ **Pharmaceutical policy**, a branch of health policy that deals with the **development, provision and use of medications** within a health care system.

- ✚ Policies related to **public health** such as:

- ✚ vaccination policy,

- ✚ tobacco control policy or

- ✚ breastfeeding promotion policy.

- ✚ Food safety policy

- ✚ communicable and non-communicable diseases control.

- ✚ They may cover topics of:

- financing and delivery of health care,

- **access to care**,

- quality of care, and **health equity**.

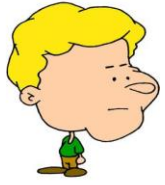
The stages of health policy analysis – analysing the context and the process

- ❖ Restructure the **main actions** and **timelines** for the policy development.
- ❖ **Structural factors** in the way decisions are taken in a country.
- ❖ **Cultural factors** in a society – values, religion.
- ❖ Look at **situational** factors that may have had an **influence**.
- ❖ **International and exogenous factors** – international **economic crises**.

Collins (2015)'s content analysis framework

1. Define the **context**
2. State the **problem**
3. Search for **evidence**
4. Consider different **policy options**
5. Project the **outcomes**
6. Apply **evaluative criteria**
7. Weigh the outcomes
8. Make the **decision**

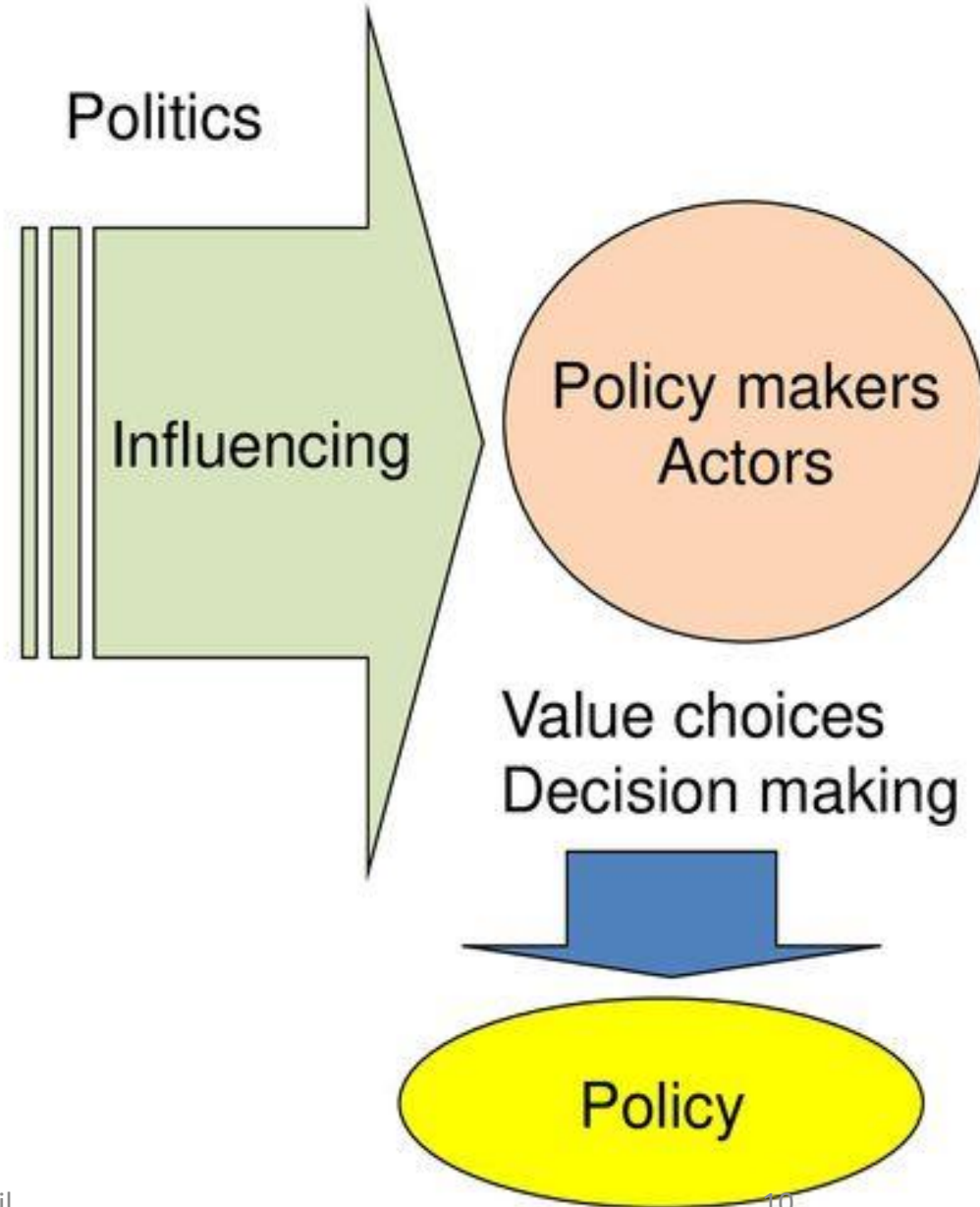
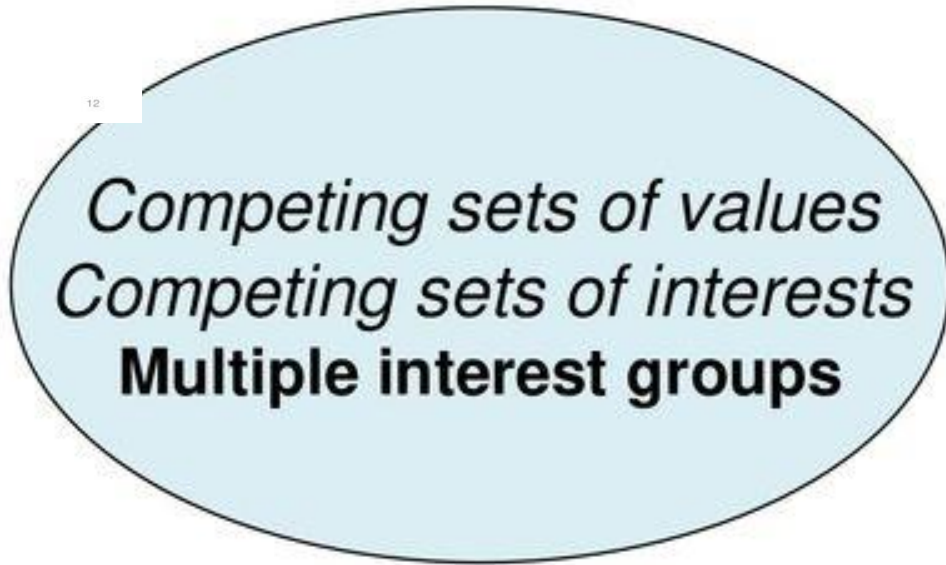
Politics



means

“INFLUENCING”

Policy and politics

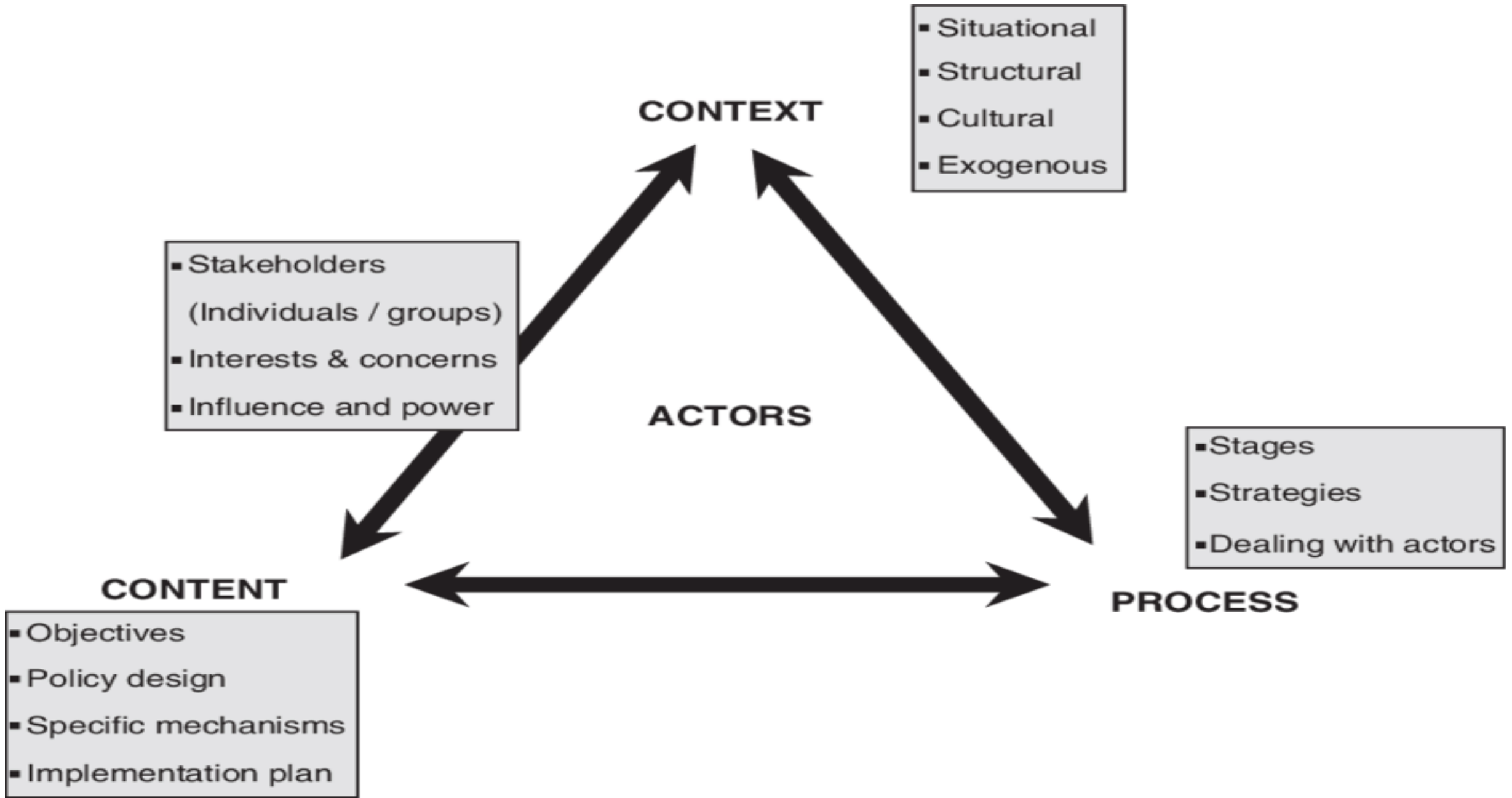


Policy development is **complex**.

- From the perspective of a **citizen or patient**, the health policies can be seen as a **social agreement** to address a health problem or use an opportunity to promote health in a particular way.
- For a **public manager**, health policies are **authorizations to use the public resources** to achieve health goals through specified means.
- The policy process has important **factors** like **who makes the policy, why they make policy, how and when they made the policies** to develop and implement it.

Definition of the health policy triangle:

- It is a simple framework to **systematically think** about and **critically analyze** health policy development and implementation.
- The policy triangle is mainly **used** to:
 1. plan a new policy
 2. change the existing policy.
 3. _By deep assessment of framework, one gets **information about how the policy was adopted** and **why all or part of it was not successful**.



1- Actors

- Policy actors are any individual or groups, directly or indirectly, formally or informally affiliated with or affected by the policy process at any stage.
- It can be the people or group who identify the problem or affected the problem, or who **design, develop, and implement the policy** process.
- And it is necessary to **identify the role of each actor in the policy**.
- Actors can be from **within the government** (politicians,..) and **outside the government** (interest groups,...).

The key actors can be:

- **Communities** / national population - who **benefits** from the policy.
- **National government** and **Government departments** – who **work together to develop the policies** (department of health along with the Ministry of Justice to work on **drugs and substance misuse policy**).
- **Government agencies** – who **implement** national policy.
- National and local **voluntary sector** – organizations and groups with paid or unpaid staff, (Charities, Community groups, Religious and faith-based organizations) .
- **Business organizations** - food and drink **manufacturers** (ex: **tobacco industry**), food distributors, technological companies, etc.

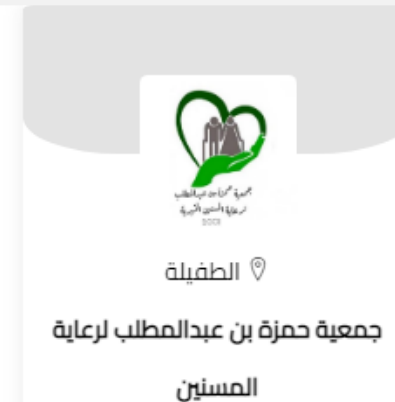


The categories of actors can be:

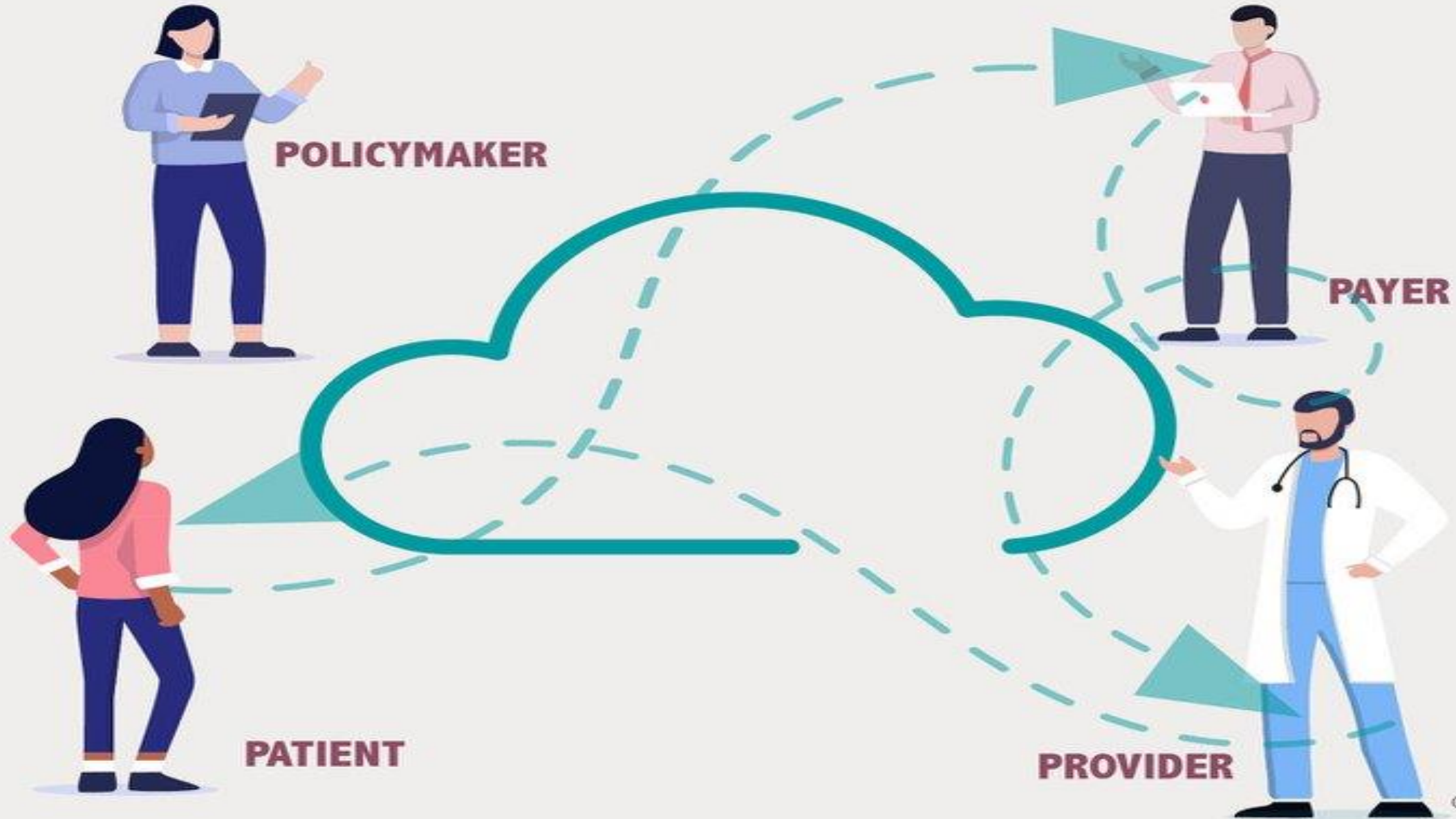
Individuals - politicians, who put their **power** into the policy development.

Groups - collection of individuals which can be a social movement group which come together **without a specific organizational structure**.

Organization - groups with the organizational structure like **National government organizations** green peace, save the children, etc.



Healthcare stakeholders: the 4 P's



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Actors can work **individually** or form **collaboration** and network of influence like geographical, professional, partnerships or interdepartmental .

That is, at the simplest level, **they have the power and influence** at local, regional, national, or international levels.

Power has a greater role in policy development and the implementation process.

Actors' **interests** influence their decision-making behaviors. Some are interested in their **financial gain** while some in **personal power/status**, or it could be **promoting the issues**. Thus, the interests can be categorized as:

- **Political interests.**
- **Self-interest**
- **Group interest**
- **Public interest**

Power is the ability to control and influence other people's actions and behavior.

2- Content.

- Policy content is what the policy is made up of or a set of principles for how actions fit together.
- It is the substance embedded in **legislation, policy documentation, guidelines** that help in the policy process.
- It provides the:
 1. **objectives**,
 2. **vision** of policy.
 3. It also includes the availability **resource**,
 4. **mechanisms** for **developing** and **implementing** policies, and
 5. **indicators** for its **monitoring and evaluating processes**.

3- Context

The context is the **influencing factors of the policy process** which can be:

- **situational**: policy developed due to **changing circumstances**, natural calamities, wars, disease outbreaks, broad political movement.
- **Structural factors**: political system and type of economy. These factors determine or explain **what type of policy is feasible**.
- **Social and cultural**: **social norms and customs**, the policies which respect dominant cultural values are **easy to implement**.
- **national**, or **international**: the role of **international donors** like global initiatives provide **extra funds** to certain policies.

All these factors widely affect the **policy processes**.

4- Policy process.

- ❖ Process is the actions from the **initiation to an evaluation** of policies.
- ❖ **It involves all the processes during :**
 - **initiation,**
 - **development,**
 - **formulation,**
 - **implementation, and**
 - **evaluation.**

