

Part 2 – Presentation

Research - Environmental Policy Integration in The United Arab Emirates

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Introduction

- EPI = Environmental Policy Integration
- While developed nations such as Canada and the USA are highly incentivised to ensure EPI, this is not often the case in developing nations like the UAE
- UAE -----> rapid pace in population growth and GDP growth
- The research proposed therefore seeks to propose a checklist of practices to reliably carry out evaluation of EPI in city development based on past research and data obtained from semi-structured interviews with experts in the field of city development.
- It also seeks to propose a model for governmental institutions in facilitating EPI in city development.

Literature Review

- Policies on economic development in a number of nations **conflict with policies on local climate at a regional level** (Bulkeley & Betsill, 2005).
- Multi governance aspect of the issue of EPI:
 - This entails authority reallocation sideways, downward, and upward from central states. (Hooghe & Marks, 2003)
 - (Turnpenny, Nilsson, Russel, Jordan, Hertin & Nykvist 2008) - horizontal and vertical integration.
 - This vertical dimension doesn't include the multiple tiers of government explicitly. (Steurer, 2008)
- Research gap - No RESOURCE found yet on EPI implementation in UAE or Abu Dhabi or Dubai

Research Approach – Philosophy

- a “pragmatic truth” rather than an “objective truth” (as per pragmatist philosophy).
- Therefore requires **pragmatism** (Biesta and Burbules, 2003).
- The research utilises a **constructivist epistemology** (Creswell, 2017) that holds that “each individual will interpret and construct knowledge differently based on their predispositions, prior knowledge and social influences” (Creswell, 2017).
- The research utilises an interpretivist ontology (Crotty, 1998).

Research Approach - Methodology

- DATA COLLECTION: Semi-structured interviews
 - Experts in the Department of Urban Planning, located in Abu Dhabi
 - 5 experts - pilot study, 30 experts - final study
- DATA ANALYSIS: Grounded Analysis Theory
 - **Open Coding**
 - **Axial Coding**
 - **Selective Coding**
- DATA VALIDITY:
 - **Trustworthiness**
 - **Credibility**
 - **Conformability**
 - **Dependability**
 - **Transferability**

Preliminary Findings

- Following themes were identified based on the initial 5 interviews.
- Two interviews proved unhelpful owing to lack of detail/relevance of responses and discarded.
- The remaining three led to following themes being identified:

General

Codes obtained from Open Coding	Governance in UAE is....	Illustrative Quote
OC1: Internally determined	Internally determined - less influenced by external pressures EPI performance not tracked currently	“UAE is very particular on not allowing external pressures dictate policy. It seeks to determine for itself how best to achieve objectives that it holds common with other nations on the global stage”

Preliminary Findings - continued

Processes and Incentives

Codes obtained from Open Coding	Processes and Incentives that would improve EPI in UAE include....	Illustrative Quote
OC1: Long-term assessments	Long term assessments, every 5 year period	"I would suggest assessments as to the efficacy of EPI be carried out over a long enough time span, say 5 years."
OC2: Local government	Providing local government autonomy and authority to accomplish EPI objectives	"The issue lies in bureaucracy. For successful EPI, it must be at the local government level"
OC3: Technological Innovation	Focusing environmental policy on establishing UAE as leader in environmental technological innovation in 10 years	"To address competing goals of economic and environmental development of UAE, it is thought best to accomplish this by supporting private sector in technological innovation insofar as clean technology, electric vehicles etc."
OC4: Incentives for Industry	Incentives for industry, not for government including subsidies and investments for private sector	"I believe incentivising the government is not of much benefit, it is rather the private sector that must be incentivised to minimise their effects on the environment. Policy should be focused on that"
OC5: Carbon Footprint	Key metrics include Carbon footprint, ROI on environmental technology	"You could measure progress based on estimated carbon footprint, return on investment into environmental technology, reduction in number of fossil fuel based vehicles on the road etc."

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