

## LINKING RESEARCH EVIDENCE TO HEALTH POLICY AND PRACTICE

## INTRODUCTION

• The World Health Organization's, task force report on health system research states "Millennium Development Goals will not be attained without new research addressing health system constraints to delivering effective interventions".<sup>1(2005)</sup>

• The Ministerial Summit On The Health Research in Mexico (2004) also recognizes that "research is an essential component of strong health systems for informed and knowledgeable action to improve people's health and accelerate the rate of global, regional, and national development".<sup>2</sup>(2004)

## INTRODUCTION

- Evidence based policies in public health are receiving increasing attention and importance for organizing, funding and delivering the health services. High quality research has an important part to play in strengthening health interventions and subsequently health systems.
  - Health system would be better able to deal with existing challenges if interventions that adopted are based on sound evidences. High quality research has an important part to play in strengthening these interventions and subsequently health systems

INTRODUCTION

- Evidence-based policy relies on the principle that policy decisions must involve comprehensive analysis of health issues, testing of newer strategies or possible health interventions and mechanism to deliver those health interventions.
- Public health agencies should exercise its responsibilities in the development of comprehensive public health policies by promoting the use of the scientific knowledge in decision-making about public health and to serve the public interest.
- Currently, there is insufficient use of research evidence by decision-makers attempting to improve health systems performances.

# LINKAGES AND EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE RESEARCHER AND POLICY MAKERS

Choi et al (2005) mentioned that "researcher search for truth by using the rationale model..... policy maker search for compromise by using intuitive models".

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### Differences between researcher and policy makers

• operate from the different perspective.

- □ Academic and they don't understand the practical aspect of the issue
- □ hardly ever take into account the complexities of the issue before making decision
- Policy makers has many 'information' to guide them to make policy, including sources from trusted or credible journals
- □ High quality researches economic impact, applicability and utility and generalisability
- Research mainly done as part of routine / acedemic activity not necessarily to anwer Qs that needs answering
- Value evidences that are free from technical jargon, transparent and recommendations ranked in order of effectiveness
- □ Which type of study method suitable for what objective or intention to study

#### HOW do policy makers make us of research findings

- □ As baseline indicators/ targets
- Guide for policy and strategies
- Change in standard procedures or introduce new approach in healthcare/ community intervention
- ??? Budget
- □ ??? Manpower

### How to create linkages between researcher and policy makers

On going engagement and ongoing exchanges between researchers and policy makers – generate evidences that are inline of policy needs and facilitate utilisation of evidence in policy making
Priority setting
National policy dialogue