Policy Forum

How does research influence policy?

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Outline:

➢ *Some insights from experience*

➢ *Which research and how it impacts policy?*
  o *Four Preliminary Observations*
  o *Four Main Messages*

➢ *Conclusion: What should researchers do to maximize likelihood of impact on policy?*

Some insights from experience

- *Experience 1:* Pension reform in Tunisia

- *Experience 2:* Macroeconomic policy in a revolutionary environment

- *Experience 3:* Writing policy briefs to communicate research findings

Which research and how it impacts policy?
Four Preliminary Observations

- *Observation 1:* Policy research vs other research

- *Observation 2:* Policy Research and Theory of Change

- *Observation 3:* who are the policymakers to influence?

- *Observation 4:* Influencing inaction may be as important as influencing action

Which research and how it impacts policy?
Four Main Messages

- *Message 1: Research which is only technique driven is the least valuable research*

- *Message 2: Policy research should be forward looking*

- *Message 3: Recognize there are many types of research which may impact policy*

- *Message 4: Recognize there are many ways research influences policy*

Examples of policy conclusions

Example 1: Paper on determinants of education cognitive scores (Translog Stochastic Parametric Distance Functions)

"To sum up, we consider our results may have implications for XXXX Countries educations systems, whose guideline should be focus on enhancing students' efforts and reducing inequalities of opportunities between schools. Our paper reveals also that the country of origin and the geographical localization act on the efficiency of the education policies."

Example 2: PEP paper on effects of migration on poverty (score matching)

"Results show that remittances, and thus indirectly migration, could be a short term solution to help reduce poverty in XXXXX".

Conclusion: *What should researchers do to maximize likelihood of impact on policy?*

1. Be forward looking

2. Ask clear policy questions and provide clear policy messages

3. Do not oversell your policy message, recognize the limitations and contextualize your findings and recommendations.

4. Avoid research which is driven by the implementation of techniques and technical capabilities.

5. Share widely findings of research in a simple and understandable terms.

6. Keep in mind the general public and policymakers are not interested in methods and techniques but in issues and solutions.

7. Use a broad understanding of who policymakers are, going beyond current government officials.

8. Adapt policy messages and arguments to your audience, not all stakeholders are interested in the same dimensions of a policy problem.