



**SKILLS DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP  
FOR RESEARCH ON ROAD TRAFFIC INJURIES**

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# **Understanding Policy Makers**

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## Why policy makers?

- **It is their mandate and ultimate responsibility to design, develop and execute a responsive and functional health (research) system**
- **They are accountable to people, public and parliament**
- **They control most of funds for research**



**War is too serious a matter to entrust to  
military men "only"**



**(Georges Clemenceau)**



## Why Researchers?

- **Research is an essential component of a strong and responsive health system**
- **There are no clear answers for many issues commonly confronted by the policy planners**



## Problem.....?

- **Evidence based (informed) policies-is it desire of both researchers and policy makers ?**
- **Limited evidence to support the argument**
- **Different opinions about the role of science in policy**
- **Differences between researchers and policy makers are genuine, systemic and structural**



# Distinguishing Features

	<b>Researchers</b>	<b>Policy Makers</b>
<b>Overall Goal</b>	To advance science	To gain popular and political support
<b>Specific Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tenure track positions</li><li>• Publications</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Re-election</li><li>• Re-appointment</li></ul>
<b>Output</b>	Detailed reports	Press releases
<b>Desired Outcome</b>	Respect by the peers	Popularity among the supporters
<b>Impact</b>	Real	Perception more important than reality
<b>Time factor</b>	Long	Short
<b>Accountable</b>	Peers and editors	Constituents



## Some Common Features

- **Culture of blame and arrogance**
- **In some cases, even, lack of mutual trust and respect**
- **No real incentives for either to work together**

**"Policy makers and politicians don't see the light but feel the heat" Anonymous**



## Likely Middle Ground.....

- **Shared vision and responsibility**
- **Confidence building measures:**
  - **Joint policy planning exercises**
  - **Mediation by external forces**

**Media**



**Civil Society**



**Opinion Leaders**





**All diseases have two causes, one  
pathological, the other political**

*(Rudolf Virchow)*



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