



האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
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Policy Advocacy of Nonprofit Human Service Organizations: Lessons from Israel

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GOAL

- ✖ To present and discuss the state of policy advocacy of nonprofit human service organizations in Israel and the lessons learned from it.

MAIN FINDINGS

1. The scope and level of advocacy activity initiated by NPHSOs are limited.
2. Organizations allocate very few resources for advocacy activity.
3. A significant positive relationship was found between the number of volunteers and policy advocacy: The larger the number of volunteers, the more the organizations engaged in policy advocacy.
4. The larger the organization's budget, the more access it has to policy and decision makers.

MAIN FINDINGS

5. Age of organization did not correlate with policy advocacy activity.
6. A negative and significant correlation was found between funding from local authorities and policy advocacy: The more dependent the organizations were on funding from local authorities, the lower the scope and intensity of their policy advocacy activity.
7. A significant correlation was found between “pressuring” policy makers and the scope and intensity of policy advocacy.
8. The more the organizations were engaged in policy advocacy, the greater their perceived influence on policy makers.

INSIGHTS AND LESSONS

1. Lack of resources restrict the organizations' ability to initiate policy advocacy activity.
2. Directors of social services reported discomfort and suspicion about units that are in charge in promoting advocacy activity. "They are working on issues which have nothing to do with us".
3. Organizations that are dependent on external resources do not bite the hand that feeds them (other studies point to different directions).
4. Tax deduction benefits-the desire to ensure them inhibits the policy advocacy activity.
5. Lack of appropriate personal and political skills of directors to initiate and promote advocacy activity.

INSIGHTS AND LESSONS

6. Lack of awareness and understanding of the importance of policy activity to ensure citizens' rights and fulfill the goals of the organization as a civil society organization.
7. Lack of tolerance for ambiguity by executive directors to the long processes involved in attaining the goals of policy advocacy, including legislation.
8. Volunteers that are not trapped in the institutional "iron cage" can be efficient in promoting policy advocacy.
9. Exerting pressure on policy makers is found to be more effective than lobbying, negotiating, bargaining and persuasion.
10. Methodological difficulties in measuring the effectiveness of policy advocacy activity.

CONCLUSION

- ✦ NPHSOs that their core activity is provision of services should be more involved in policy advocacy activity in order to preserve the well-being of their clients and their human rights.