

Contextual/Problem Analysis in Program Design

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

Why do a contextual/problem analysis

Defining the problem

Describing the problem

Analysing the problem

Prioritizing the problem

Guiding Questions for problem prioritisation

Proceeding to actual planning

Subject proposed plans to a Force Field Analysis

Why a Contextual/Problem Analysis?



- It is central to many forms of planning
- It enables a clearer prioritisation of factors and helps focus objectives;
- It enables more understanding of the problem and its often interconnected and even contradictory causes
- It can help establish who and what the political actors and processes are at each stage;

Why a Contextual/Problem Analysis



- When done as a team, it often helps build a shared sense understanding, purpose of and action
- It helps establish whether further information, evidence or resources are needed to make a strong case, or build a convincing solution;

Defining a Problem

- A problem is a discrepancy between an existing and a desired state of affairs;
- Problem definition begins with awareness that a problem exists or, more specifically, that there is a difference between the actual and desired state of affairs;

Defining the Problem

- To go forward not being clear or not having analysed the problem will send you, the advocate for change, on the wrong solution path.
- Before something can be said to be a problem, you have to;
 - Be aware of the discrepancy
 - To be under pressure to take action
 - Have the resources to take the necessary action

Describing the Problem

- Before attempting to solve a problem, you need to describe it in detail;
- You do this so you can understand how the problem affects the process being examined;
- Use the problem description tool to get an accurate description of the problem

Describing the Problem

- Problem description tool:
 - How frequently does the problem occur?
 - Where does it generally occur?
 - Who is most affected?

Analysing the Problem

- Now that you have described the problem, you can move on to analysing it;
- To act most effectively, you should analyse its causes and prioritize the most important factors;
- Acting on those critical causal factors will solve much of the problem;
- Use the brain-storming tool

Prioritizing the Problem

- Once you have analysed the causes of a problem you can use a **Prioritization Matrix** to prioritize the important causes.
- By using this method of prioritizing problems, you are able to look at the data and determine which problems are most important according to this group of patients and staff.

Prioritizing the Problem – some Guiding Qs



- Does this represent the reality?
- Are the economic, political and socio-cultural dimensions to the problem considered?
- Which causes and consequences are getting better, which are getting worse and which are staying the same?

Prioritizing the Problem – some Guiding Qs



- What are the most serious consequences?
Which are of most concern?
- What criteria are important to us in
thinking about a way forward?

Prioritizing the Problem – some Guiding Qs



- Which causes are easiest / most difficult to address?
- What possible solutions or options might there be?
- Where could a policy change help address a cause or consequence, or create a solution?
- What decisions have we made, and what actions have we agreed?

Proceeding to actual planning

- Following an analysis of the problem, you will be ready to consider the range of solutions available to you.
- You have now described and analysed your problem, and prioritized the causes.
- The next step is to start planning your way forward.

Proceeding to actual planning

- It is useful to assess your strengths and weaknesses and consider where your opportunities and threats are going to come from
- A good internal SWOT analysis will inform your planning

Undertake a Force Field Analysis

- Force field analysis is a method used to get a complete view of all the forces for and against a plan so that a decision can be made which takes into account all interests – political, social, cultural, economic;
- In effect, this is a method of weighing both the pros and cons.
- It is related to the PEA process

Force Field Analysis

- For every proposed action, assess forces for and forces against;
- If the forces “for” outweigh the forces “against” – you can proceed with the plan(s)
- If the forces “against” outweigh the forces “for” – think again you may have to drop the plan(s)

Thank You for Listening

*“Pursuing a Shared Vision of a **Peaceful,**
Prosperous, and **Democratic Uganda**”*