EVIDENCE FOR POLICY INFLUENCE AND LEGISLATION IN KENYA: WHAT LESSONS FOR RESEARCHERS, POLICY-MAKERS AND LEGISLATORS IN THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY PARTNER STATES?

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ABSTRACT

There is collaboration between legislators and researchers; although the extent to which policy is informed by research is contested. Development actors pay increasing attention to how research can fulfill its potential to improve policy and practice. Legislators respect data generated scientifically. This study set to illuminate how evidence has informed policy in Kenya and how this can be replicated. Using a cross section of available literature on good practices and intensive engagement with researchers and policy makers, the study found out that while all sectors of the economy require real-time evidence-based research, this has faced challenges in the Kenyan context. Using three case examples of good practice, however, the study reveals that if pursued aggressively through lobbying and advocacy, evidence greatly influences policy and legislation. The study concludes that there is a need for building the capacity of legislators and enhancing the mediating role between the think tanks and the legislature.

Keywords: Evidence, Public Policy, Legislation Kenya.