

Systematic Review of Outer Setting Domains with Dissemination & Implementation Theories and Models

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INTRODUCTION

Understanding context is a vital part of the investigation of adoption and implementation of evidence-based interventions (EBIs). While measures related to factors internal to the organization and their associations with implementation quality have been studied extensively, research on factors external to the organization is limited. **External factors**, also referred to as the outer setting, identified by several dissemination and implementation (D&I) frameworks and models, may include: policies, partnerships between organizations, community demands or needs, economics and peer pressure. There is limited conceptualization of these factors to date.

PURPOSE

This study is a scoping review of outer setting definitions and domains found in from published studies theories, models, and frameworks.

METHODS

- We reviewed the frameworks in article(s) and books cited in the Tabak et al (2012) article that conducted a systematic review of dissemination and implementation science models or frameworks.
- For each framework, we abstracted the following information in a database: type of article (i.e., conceptual, cross-sectional), outcome of the framework, presence of a context definition, qualitative definition of context, presence of any outer setting definition, the qualitative definition of outer setting, number and domains of outer setting mentioned in the framework, definition of outer setting constructs/concepts, and any measures of outer setting
- Two coders conducted the abstraction

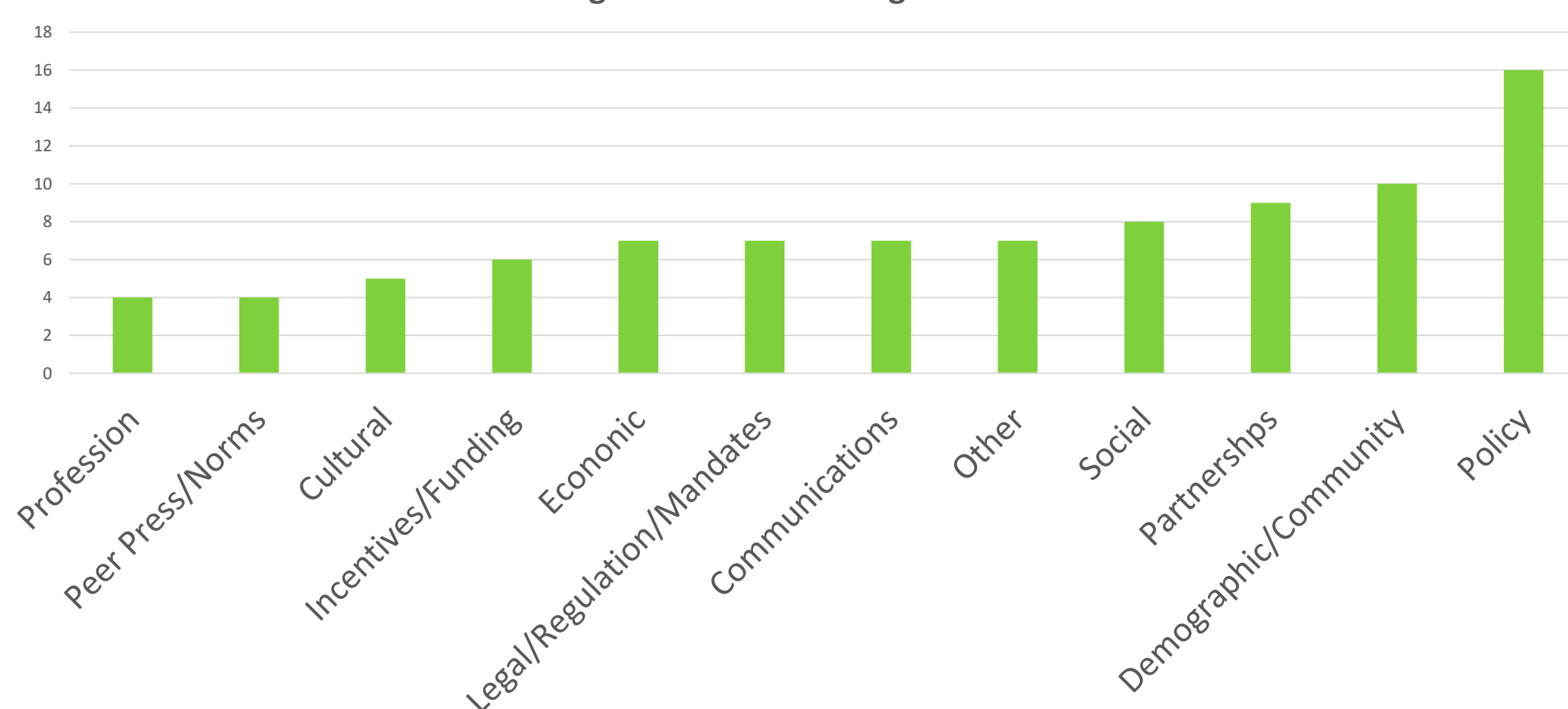
RESULTS

- Among the 60 frameworks we reviewed, 16 had definitions of factors external to the organizations although many definitions were not extensive
- Definitions of outer setting included the following terms: environment, external to the organization, outer context and external factors; 33 (54.1%) sources reported outer setting domains, listing from 1 to 8 domains
- The most common domains included policies or political environment (n=16), community or target audience (n=10), partnerships (n=9), economics (n=7), social environment (n=8), communications (n=7) and legal context/regulations/mandates (n=7) and incentives/funding (n=6)
- Two studies reported outer setting measures (one qualitative and one quantitative)

Table 1. Selected Outer Setting Definitions

Framework	Definition
A Conceptual Model for the Diffusion of Innovations in Service Organizations	"the outer (interorganizational) context, including the impact of environmental variables, policy incentives and mandates, and interorganizational norms and networking"
Pathways to Evidence Informed Policy	"The context is the environment or setting in which the policy is being developed and implemented, incorporating the historic, cultural, health services, system, and resource contexts. The social and political context and the many forces at work in the policy environment provide challenges to integrating evidence into policy and practice"
Ottawa Model of Research Use	"The environment exerts a powerful set of influences on practitioners, researchers, and policymakers.... These factors may be broadly categorized as structural, social, patient, and other situation-specific factors. Within the practice setting, structural factors such as the settings' decision-making structure; rules, regulations, and official policies; physical structure; workload; available resources and supplies; and the system of incentives are all factors that have been shown to influence research use.

Figure 1: Outer Setting Domains



CONCLUSION

- Over half of the frameworks reported having at least one outer setting domain
- We found several common external to the organization constructs that were highlighted across these D&I models and frameworks
- Most common domains were the policy environment, community or audience, and partnership with other organizations
- Very few scales or items were found

What We Learned:

- There are some key external determinants that are commonly discussed as outer setting factors related to EBI use or implementation
- These constructs were not well defined or operationalized in these frameworks
- Understanding salient organizational-level factors internal and external that supports the adoption and use of evidence-based practices is critical to increasing their uptake and may guide the development of outer setting measures

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