

**PILOT PROJECTS : A PATH TO EFFECTIVE POLICY  
DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION**

A Thesis

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## Abstract

### **Pilot Projects: A Path to Effective Policy Development and Implementation**

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This paper explores the possibility that pilots could be a valuable tool to assisting the policy process in Jamaica given the resource constraints and the benefits of reducing risks while containing costs. In order to explore the efficacy of pilots in assisting the development of new policy, we seek to answer two basic questions. Does the inclusion of a pilot component in the process of developing or revising policy result in more effective policy outputs and outcomes in Jamaica; and what basic elements support or hinder the effective use of the pilot methodology in developing effective policies. Three (3) policies which were first introduced in a pilot form are explored and assessed to determine the contribution of the pilot to the final policy output. The exploration of the pilot approach enabled the identification of certain strengths and weaknesses for the pilot process in the Jamaican context.

Common themes extracted include an emphasis on the political cycle which constrains the time for the pilot to generate feedback and provide reliable evidence for the evaluation process. In addition sufficient attention is not given to determining

and initiating implementation of the appropriate institutional framework and consolidation of required resources to progress the pilot to effective implementation at the national level. On the other hand pilots have had a substantial positive effect on processes for delivery of service to the public.

In concluding , we found that pilots have and can continue to contribute positively to the policy process in Jamaica . Recommendations have therefore been made which may facilitate the more effective use of a pilot component in the process of developing significant new policies. These include promoting to political sponsors , pilots as an effective policy tool which will improve efficacy while reducing political risks . The political directorate should be involved from early stages as support at that level is critical, but it should be accepted, that to gain optimum benefits from the pilot process certain basic principles and guidelines for using pilots must be a part of the fabric of the policy framework. Policy makers and policy advisors would then be in a position of strength in advancing new policy initiatives while minimizing associated risk and economic costs.

**Key Words**

project/s , pilot project, policy development, implementation, policy evaluation, Jowell, interactive model.