

ABSTRACT

This is a study of the system of health care delivery in Jamaica between the years immediately following the emancipation of slavery(1838) and the end of the first sixteen years of the nation's political independence(1978). While this enquiry is by no means exhaustive, it has attempted to examine in historical perspective some of the dynamics of the public policy-making processes with particular reference to the area of health care delivery.

Throughout the research an attempt was made to describe, analyse and explain some of the causes and effects of government's activities in this particular area of public administration. The investigations sought to identify centres of decision-making within the system and to establish the nature of the relationships between the environmental forces, - national and international - and the actors in the political system in the formulation and implementation of public policy.

A fundamental aspect of this paper is its focus on the effects of political 'development' on the process of change in the system of social policy. This should provide a basis

on which to question some of the theoretical assumptions about how public policy 'is' or 'ought to be' made, as well as assist students of public administration to draw some conclusions on the applicability of theoretical 'models' of decision-making to the policy-making processes in a developing country, such as Jamaica.