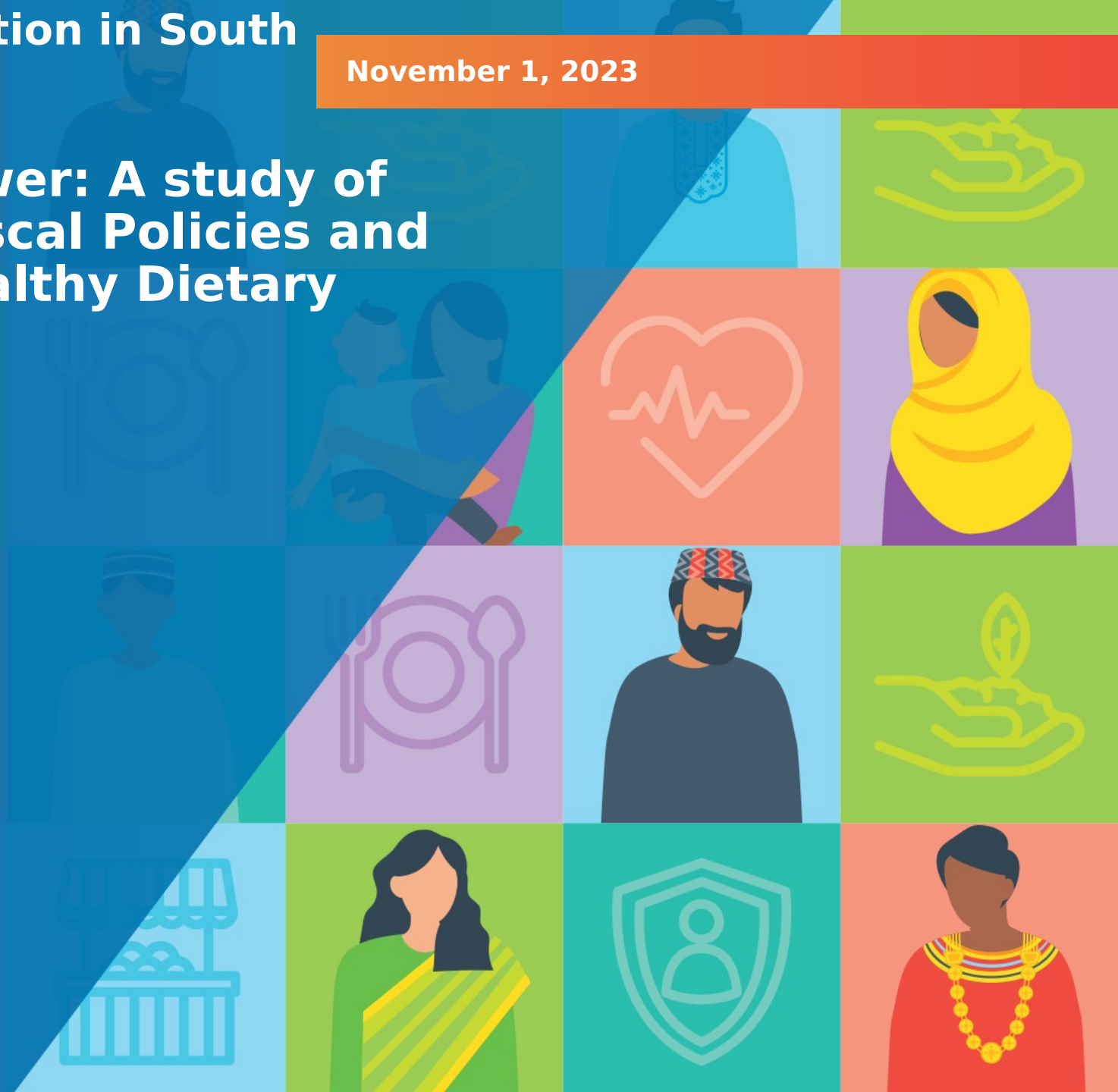


Ideas, Institutions, and Power: A study of the Political Economy of Fiscal Policies and Regulations to Improve Healthy Dietary Patterns in Sri Lanka.

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Rationale & Objectives

- Unhealthy diets fuel the rise of non-communicable diseases in Sri Lanka.
- Key policies to promote healthier eating habits:
 - Traffic light labeling for sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) introduced in 2016.
 - SSB taxation implemented in 2017.
- This study conducts a political economy analysis of Sri Lanka's food environment, focusing on these two policies.
- Our goal is to uncover stakeholder power dynamics and provide insights for enhanced policy strategies to benefit public health actors.

Methods & Analysis

- Theoretical Framework: *Kingdon's Theory of Agenda-Setting* and *Campbell's Institutional Approach*.
- Analyzed Ideas, Institutions, Power, and Evidence at policy development and implementation stages.
- Qualitative approach with a deductive framework for data collection and analysis.
- Data Sources: Documents and Key Informants.
- Deductive reasoning to identify themes aligned with the theoretical framework.

Results & Findings

Policy Framing and Content

- NCDs and nutrition are well-framed in health sector policies
- Lack comprehensive attention in key areas:
 - Funding sources
 - Commitment to fiscal measures
 - Governance
 - Gender sensitivity
 - Stakeholder identification

Ideas

- Main concerns in the food environment are affordability, availability, and accessibility.
- Lack of public concern and awareness on nutrition presents a significant challenge
- High level political commitment is important.

Results & Findings

Institutions, Power, and Influence

- Ministry of Health plays a pivotal role, but other sectors show inadequate integration.
 - Active involvement in case study policies stems from designated responsibilities.
 - Civil society involvement remains minimal.
- Government exerts significant power, but industry lobbying impacts policy formulation, potentially undermining effectiveness and desired outcomes.
- Various forms of industry response
- Coordination and communication gaps among stakeholders.
- Implementation gaps were mainly due to resource constraints.
- Unaddressed issues during the policy development stage led to concerns during policy implementation, ultimately hindering policy effectiveness

Implications

Policy Development

•Policy Framing and Content

- Continue to prioritize NCDs and Nutrition in policy framing
- Ensure coverage of crucial policy elements

•Stakeholder Engagement

- Promote active and continuous participation of all stakeholders throughout the policy development stage and the policy cycle

•Addressing Technical and Legal Issues

- Proactively address technical and legal considerations during the policy development stage

Implications

Policy Implementation

- **Create Awareness**
 - Public Awareness
- **Manage Industry Interferences and Responses**
 - Encourage positive industry actions
 - Expose and minimize unethical interferences
 - Promote industry participation and address concerns
- **Increase Government Involvement and Political Commitment**
- **Close Implementation Gaps**

Team

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Thank you !