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Abstract

In 2001, blood safety was identified by the World Health Organization (WHO) as one of its key priority areas. In the same year, member countries of the South-East Asia Region (SEAR) formulated a Global blood safety strategy at a regional consultation. India and Bhutan, two developing nations in the SEAR formulated their National Blood Policies in the coming years to promote blood safety by improving the availability and quality of blood. This article uses the health policy triangle given by Walt and Gibson and the question four of the ‘What’s the problem represented to be?’ approach given by Carol Bacchi (2009) to analyze and compare the formation and implementation of these policies and to identify the silences in both of them. With both countries addressing the same problem in different contexts, these tools gave us a comprehensive picture of the interests and power distribution of the various stakeholders and their role in various steps of the policy process.

Key words: Bacchi approach, blood transfusion system, health policy analysis, health policy triangle