**The Basic Food Basket: A critical analysis on the policy paper that promotes nutrition security in Israel.**

**By: Karin Zoref**

The policy paper I will be addressing was formulated by the Committee for the Establishment of a Basic, Healthy and Affordable Food Basket to promote Food Security in Israel. Members of the committee include professionals from the Food Security Information Center in Israel, members of the National Futures Association - dietitians / nutritionists in Israel, members of the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics at Hadassah Ein Kerem Medical Center, members of the Public Health Association, and two other authors – a legal expert and a social anthropologist.

Weimar and Vining’s typology (2004) divides policy analysists into 3 possible types:

1. The Objective Technician – driven mainly by analytical integrity and usually a trained professional in the disciplines with well-established methodologies, such as economics and operations research.
2. The Client’s Advocate – place the emphasis on responsibility to the client and see themselves as deriving their legitimacy as participants in the formation of public policy from the clients who are not necessarily a specific person, but could also be society, as whole or the truth itself.
3. Issue Advocate – analysis is important for making progress toward their conception of the good society. They view clients as a means to achieve the end goal.

The authors of the analyzed document appear to be classified as client representatives, but also as issue advocates. On the one hand, the authors appear to be aiming to achieve a public health promotion goal and to improve the state of Israeli society as a whole, while representing the individual interests of disadvantaged groups in society - and thus will be classified as issue advocates, but at the same time, it is evident that the writers' specific intent is to ensure food security; promoting public health, reducing inequality and poverty, and striving for a better society in Israel. In doing so, it is evident that the writers are also representatives of the subject and express in the document the social values ​​that motivate them.

In this work, I will analyze the policy paper, according to the outline for analyzing policy paper.

**Introduction**: The policy paper opens in the abstract with a concise description of the issue of food insecurity in Israel, while providing numerical data on the extent of the phenomenon in Israel. Further to the numerical data, there is an assertion by the authors of the document that the return of food security to all Israeli residents and the promotion of public health as a whole, constitutes a present need. In part, the purpose of the paper is defined - to offer key ways to reduce the basic and healthy food basket for the residents of the state, and the proposed ways of actually implementing the goal: controlling the prices of products in the basket, subsidizing the products in the basket, and introducing differential VAT. The authors of the document argue about combining these three alternatives. In addition, they recommend the establishment of an appropriate infrastructure that will lead to the problem being solved. They also point out that the existing solution for dealing with the problem, and briefly explain the problems that are inherent in it.

**The Work Plan** suggested in the Abstract discusses four steps: 1) Establishing a basic, healthy food basket, accessible to the broad public. 2) Adopting the moral-ethical principles under the basic assumption that the disadvantaged have the right to be fed with dignity and a socially acceptable manner. 3) Involvement of health professionals, particularly dieticians, as well as families suffering from nutrition insecurity throughout the entire process systematically. 4) Systematic evaluation while using qualitative and quantitative research methods to examine the effectiveness of the plans for reducing costs of a healthy food basket.

The Abstract chapter does not specify the steps by which it was decided to work. Furthermore, the chapter makes no reference to the fact that the document is based on principles of policy analysis, including the stages of problem identification, identification and evaluation of alternatives and policy recommendations, and that the problem identification includes market failures and government failures. In addition, there is no statement in the document that the stage of an alternative assessment will make a combination of a normative and positive analysis. At the beginning of the document, policy objectives must be defined in terms of parameters and criteria - what do you really want to achieve?

**Defining Guiding Principles and Objectives** - What goals are trying to be achieved, should be considered in depth for a normative assessment and applied to the case in question.

The paper's authors note that in recent years, the government has removed regulatory oversight of basic products, seeking to create competition between manufacturers and marketing chains, and to drive down prices, but in practice, non-governmental prices have risen disproportionately. In connection with the 18% increase in VAT, this means increasing the extent of poverty and food insecurity in Israel.

**While the narrowing approach** to policy analysis leaves the analysis as a technical stage only, and the role of the technical analysis expert, respectively, an **expanded approach** is aimed at setting goals in terms of value and professionalism. The expanded approach is reflected in the writing of this document, as the proposed process requires the involvement of professionals from the relevant field, and calls for future use of policy planning processes and their adaptation to reality, people in the health and nutrition fields, as well as representation to the populations targeted by the policy. Therefore, although the plan is expected to reach the government offices for implementation and enforcement, planning experts are involved in setting values ​​and professional goals.

The analyzed policy paper addresses two types of goals - essence goals and process goals:

**Fundamental Objectives** - The result that you want to achieve and what values ​​will be expressed in that result. There are economic material goals, such as efficiency, benefit and effectiveness, and against social material goals, such as justice, fairness, equality and the like.

In the policy paper in question, there are two main essential goals, both social - restoring food security to all of residents of Israel and promoting public health. The document does not address other substantive goals, which could have been an integral part of the proposed program, such as reducing poverty in Israel, more equitable distribution of resources, economic efficiency, reducing existing inequalities in the country, establishing a just society, etc. However, I would like to point out that the document does argue that the fulfillment of the social essence goals presented above does not lead to economic harm that is manifested in increasing the budget. Meaning, the authors' recognition of the importance of economic material goals can be identified, although when they consider the importance of the social essence goals vis-à-vis those economic ones, they appear to have a primacy of social values ​​over economic ones.

**Process Objectives** - Values ​​that we want to be insured in the process - 1) The planning process itself will express values. The primary purpose of this document is sharing, and is expressed in the call for sharing throughout the process by public representatives from families living with food insecurity, as well as from health and nutrition representatives in particular, increasing the social responsibility component of the process proposed by the authors. 2) The plan has elements for which the decision will be made by policy makers but emphasizes the importance of the involvement of the field factors in expressing these goals. Although the proposed plan appears to be "closed" and should in fact be transferred to government offices for execution, it is evident that the writers understand the freedom that policy makers must have, especially in light of past experience that shows that previous plans remained theoretical and failed to mature into actual execution. An expression of the freedom that the document writers leave for their performers can be seen in the call to share representatives of the program's target population, as well as of health officials, with emphasis on dieticians, program implementation and monitoring of their achievements. The call for sharing is basically recognition of the fact that the actual program executives are willing to make independent decisions and is intended to limit the freedom of implementation levels in changing the plan in directions that serve their benefit. The document lacks other process objectives, such as process transparency, process justice, expressions of public accountability stemming from the plan itself, fairness that will increase as a result of the plan, and more.

For the authors, the regulatory alternatives to be expanded on in the document must be based on these ethical-value principles:

* Every resident of Israel has the basic right to food security
* Those suffering from food insecurity are "policy casualties" and are not guilty of their situation
* Food insecure sufferers have the right to feed with dignity, in socially acceptable ways, while prioritizing self-feeding.
* Every resident of Israel has the right to receive healthy nutrition training - budget management tools, low-budget healthy food selection and cooking and healthy food preparation, as part of his or her right to food security.

The ethical principles presented in paper are an indication of the normative assessment made by its authors. Normative analysis takes into account the values of the public interest in which the policy will be conducted, i.e. what is desirable to happen. In the narrow sense, the intention is to look at the actors, without disregarding the general public interest, so criticism of this approach is directed at its incompatibility with reality and is in practice inapplicable. The broad rational approach emphasizes the bureaucratic failures and the compromised values due to failure. Normative policy planning will define the problem given the values affected and then examine what is appropriate.

In the examined paper, the literature and reality are supported in order to establish the core values presented in it. However, in addition to describing the current situation in the economy and presenting opinions of many bodies and personalities, apart from the main title of the four ethical-values principles presented above, the paper lacks normative definitions of its authors themselves, values that they believe should be based in the field, striving for achievements in the form of other norms and the like.

For example, the authors discuss the complexity of food insecurity as an overall social issue, which concerns human dignity, and is not limited only to its food or health. They note that the lack of a constitution in Israel gives rise to a situation where the right to food is not officially enshrined, but that, according to Supreme Court Justice, retired Justice, Aharon Barak, it can nevertheless be assumed that the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty cuts the obligation to maintain a kind of "safety net", per the State Comptroller's Report on the Food Price Control of 2012. The Comptroller refers to this report, recognizing food as a basic need of the human being, and argues that the state be responsible for securing a protection network for the underprivileged, including a network of food security. The protection of hunger is a basic right of every person, and food security is a basic right of every person, as an international core type contributes to the position of the writers that in Israel there is no adequate reference to the subject. Defining the existing problem, dimensions and current policy of distributing food through nutritional associations and kindnesses. Food insecurity was defined at the World Food Summit in Rome in 1996 as "The lack of regular access to nutritious food, in acceptable ways and in sufficient quantities. Acceptable ways mean purchasing the required food and receiving food from philanthropic bodies or collecting donations and begging.” These definitions were adopted in 2008 by the Herzog-Itzkowitz Commission, an inter-ministerial committee to examine the state's responsibility for the food security of its citizens. From these definitions, it is clear that food distribution is not the preferred and acceptable way of dealing with the problem, so this measure should only be kept for emergencies.

**Problem Identification - Market Failure Analysis in the particular case examined**:

The authors describe the penetration of the issue of food insecurity into the Israeli consciousness, starting in the late 1990s. According to them, weakening mechanisms of welfare, globalization and economic recession have created in Israel, as in other developed countries, increase in unemployment, increase in poverty and increase social disparities, toughening eligibility criteria , a decline in the level of wages and employment supply, and a decline in purchasing power. All of these, along with a reduction in the level of public services and their level, the rise of privatized products and services, the increase of the middle-low tax burden and a systematic increase in the cost of living, are described by the authors as reasons for the formation of the food insecurity problem.

The scale of this phenomenon according to a survey conducted by the National Insurance Institute of Israel in 2011 and published in 2012, describes a situation in which 19% of the population in Israel suffered from nutrition insecurity – almost 1 out of 5 Israelis.

The food distribution policy through feed associations and charitable organizations is presented in the document as the main institutionalized answer to the problem of food insecurity in Israel and is implemented through referral of needy families to charitable organizations. These, forcing applicants to publicly declare that they are poor and even unable to provide their children with their basic needs. Requesting help on the one hand, and the need to prove the family's need for assistance, hurt the personal and social image of those in need. Furthermore, the authors note that an international review of the phenomenon shows that in decades of existence, food distribution programs around the world have been unable to reduce the extent of food insecurity and are in fact limited to use as plans for temporary emergencies.

In fact, the paper presents a sort of "state of affairs" of minimal government intervention in the field of food security.

The only market failure that the writers intended to mention in the document, but which was not formally stated, is a distributive justice market failure - the product is divided unequally, so that parties receive more from it and others receive less from it or not at all. Food security in Israel is the property of the high deciles and is almost completely excluded from disadvantaged populations. Those who can afford it increase their chances of being health and nutritionally safe, while those who cannot are very likely to suffer from a lack of health and food security. Increased privatization in health services and the rise in the private sector's pay for health is an example of a market failure stemming from distributive injustice.

Alongside the above description, the document lacks a reference to market failures that characterize Israel's health, welfare and economic sectors. This disadvantage is expressed in the absence of the use of the professional term "market failures", but also in the literal reference to the factors that gave rise to the situation and characterize it. Therefore, I will try to supplement the missing ones in presenting the market failures that I think can be part of the presentation of the phenomenon of food insecurity in Israel.

Public Product Market Failure - The "social choice" theory is based on two fundamental principles in one's character: one of choice rationale and the other of choice-based on personal interests. This theory assumes that public policy is based on four actors: politicians, Officials, interest groups and the general public. Each player has a certain weight, and the chosen policy is the product of a compromise between them. Most often, the need for public policy increases when a lack of public product arises. It is a product that, once it has been delivered, cannot be prevented from being used by the public, and therefore, the real payment cannot be charged for it. Basically, health is a public product, created and provided to residents by the state - any resident can use this product, regardless of its participation in the product's production and without paying the true cost of use. The first step should be in defining food security as a public product, which does not exist in reality. In addition, it is unclear whether food security is part of the overall public health system, or whether it is part of the state's welfare system. For example, if we associate food security with the world of health, then it can be classified as a cumulative public product. I am not aware of a binding agreement in this field. However, it is difficult to define what basic health care the government must provide to its citizens, and specifically whether basic nutrition is indeed part of the same basic public health basket of food products and / or government subsidy. Food products are means by which the state provides the public with a particular diet as a public product, which is universal, and is not contingent upon meeting any standards. For me, the lack of definition of nutrition as part of the health system is an element that helps to "fall between the cracks" of the basic food basket, as opposed to a basic medical basket, which is approved each year.

**Market failure resulting from asymmetrical information:**

Information about certain product characteristics is not shared equally between seller and buyer and creates an ineffective market. In the context of food security, there is a market failure based on asymmetry in information between the customer and the nutrition service provider in general and healthy nutrition providers in particular. The needy are not always aware of all the necessary information about the products contained in the basket under supervision, and certainly not the potential consequences of consuming certain types of products on their future health.

**Market failure as a result of externalities** - a positive (negative or negative) effect that results from any action - productive or consumer, on any person who did not fully agree to this effect through voluntary participation and exchange. A relevant example of market failure as a result of negative externalities is the government's shake-up of responsibility for food security, a situation in which the "market" perceives welfare organizations and welfare organizations and charities, which are trying to fulfil the task at hand. The lack of real food security regulation, and the government's focus on defining regulated food products, impairs the quality of health and welfare services in general and food security services in particular.

**Market failure due to natural monopoly** occurs when the average price falls below the relevant demand range, making the free market worthless. In the case under consideration, only the government has the real power to deal with the phenomenon of poverty in the country, and no free market and competition will be beneficial in alleviating poverty and relief. For example, paper provides evidence of the failure of relief mechanisms such as those operating in Israel long-term and are not a means of dealing with a temporary crisis. Market failure results from distributive injustice.

**Identifying the problem - analyzing government failures**:

**Integrated analysis** begins as a comprehensive normative analysis, which involves compromises and exchanges between the various goals. Then, the constraints and barriers are analyzed, examining the totality of working interests, building a balance of power and locating the key players on the field. The next step involves examining the minimum compromises necessary to obtain key player support - moving from a normative to a positivist level. Finally, a result is achieved which is a planning process and a policy that aims to improve reality and not to optimize reality.

**Positivist analysis** describes what exists and how the existing reality is explained. Policymaking according to a positivist approach, while not optimal, is adapted to the limits of reality and to the understanding that many factors play a role in shaping policy, and it is not always possible to advance all the value goals at stake. The characteristic of positivist analysis is the personal interest and power relations and confrontation. To do this, it is necessary to characterize the actor’s interests that are held in the test ground: 1) The public - characteristics and motivations 2) Interest groups - exert pressure on the policy makers so that their opinions influence policy planning. 3) Politicians - are at the forefront of decision making, as they determine what is actually implemented and what is not. 4) Bureaucrats - specific experts in their field, so collaboration is required to implement a policy plan. 5) Significant key / veto players whose support may lead to adoption of the policy plan.

I will now try to characterize the various actors in the case under consideration:

1. **The Public** - All Israeli residents are identified in the document as beneficiaries of the Basic Food Plan. Promoting the interests of the entire public health promotion is indicated in the policy paper. However, the reference paper lacks the public's responsibility, its ability to influence the situation, the lack of socio-public protest around the issue and the potential ability of the public to create another reality.
2. **Interest groups** - The term "interest group" is not used in paper. However, there is reference to the target population for the proposed plan - the needy themselves. This group can be considered an interest group, but it is important to note that the group does not know who its members are, what defines it as a group, or even exists. In addition, the farmers, mentioned in the document, can be treated as an interest group that may be affected by the adoption of the basic and healthy food basket programs offered there. However, there is no reference to other significant interest groups, such as large Israeli food companies that supply a variety of food, such as Tnuva, Ossem, and the authors of the document itself - the Information Center for the Advancement of Food Security in Israel, Department of Nutrition and Dietetics at Hadassah Ein Kerem Medical Center. All of these, of course, have an interest, whether budgetary, prestigious or otherwise, that the document they have written will mature into a sustainable plan that will be implemented at the end of the process. In addition, to my interest, charities and charities should also be defined as interest groups, which may lose their right to exist if a government plan is adopted as an average, so they are certainly in the best interest to preserve reality as it is today.
3. **Politicians** - The paper is pointing at specific politicians for failing to implement food security plans in the past. It is written that the government did not fulfil its duty as required, and specifically, the finance and finance ministries and heads of government. Moreover, the paper writers even address the Prime Minister and cite him as the chief responsible for implementing the policy proposed by them.
4. **Bureaucrats** - The report mentions government ministries, such as the Treasury, the Ministry of Industry, Agriculture and the Economy, that need to correct the existing deficiencies and take the necessary measures to promote health security programs. However, there is no reference to other bureaucratic factors that may be of importance to the issue. One example is municipalities, local councils and other social service providers - community centers, youth movements, community bodies, which may work to reduce the dimensions of poverty and food insecurity of their residents.
5. **Key players** - Not shown in document at all. At the same time, describing the situation, which, despite the extent and severity of the phenomenon, the Israeli government has recently chosen to ignore the recommendations made in the field, and it raises suspicion that some of the existing situation serves its agenda, and that the same actor is strong enough to state the situation at the present time.

It is important to note that **government failures** are not mentioned in the document at all. Therefore, I will propose the failures of the government that I think need to be addressed in this policy paper.

**Direct Democracy Failure** - All people's preferences are reflected in the decision-making process. This government failure is expressed in the "Arrow’s Law", which has shown mathematically that in every decision-making method there is a contradiction between stability and fairness. The more alternatives to choose and more choices (the more democratic the process), the greater the contradiction. The failure of the government is created because stability is achieved by a violation of fairness and therefore the decisions made can never represent the full priorities of the voters. In health, one can identify that politicians’ prefer stability over fairness as they chose to preserve the existing situation rather than a reform that will be enable fairness; better welfare and social circumstances (The Welfare State, Public Policy and non-governance; the case of the Ashdod hospital N. Cohen 2011).

The decision-making process in the multi-dimensional space, including the set of values ​​according to which a decision-making process is carried out on each subject. A process is one-dimensional when there is only one reference system. Such a process yields a stable but unfair result, as it reflects fewer opinions and alternatives. In Israel, it is still customary to view the security system as the system of values ​​that dictates all decisions and therefore decision-making is defined as multi-dimensional. Let us assume Yokma in this case as well. SIE Shepsle, 1981 () - A set of rules that does not allow one alternative to rise to the agenda or a player who can raise it has no interest in raising it. Since the state also owns the HMOs and half of the hospitals, it is also responsible for determining the laws governing the collection and provision of health services, although it sets the budget framework and is supposed to create supervisory arrangements, because there are such conflicts of interest that enable SIE to exist. According to the theory, (Hirschman, 1970) Exit, Voice and Loyalty, the more democratic a system of players is, the fairer and more stable it is due to the players' difficulty in identifying the relationship between the different rules and achieving change. In accordance with the above case study, if the public had known what constituents constitute the cost of health and welfare services in Israel, he would have worked to reduce them. The inability to identify the lone mechanism whose change will increase social benefit, create consensus with the situation and allow interest groups to increase their influence on policy shaping in the field.

Failure of a representative democracy type of government - The paper argues that in previous programs proposed, health and nutrition professionals were not used, which diminished the quality of their programs. Decision making is not carried out directly by any citizen, but by public representatives who are supposed to make decisions for the voter. "Median voter law" - politicians who refuse to be elected will strive to understand the distribution of positions (demand) of the public and want to present their position as the median voter position. Since politicians are striving to satisfy the demands that will allow them to be elected, we conclude that representative democracy embodies governmental failure, since the interest by which the politician makes decisions is not in voter representation but in the election itself. Welfare issues and livelihoods have been raised more recently, though That the issue is relevant to all of us, you have And for a health and well-being politician, the majority of the public is not seen as a reason to choose it or not.

Interest Group Type Government Failure - The most important economic interest group in this case is the exclusive group makers whose profits are maximizing profits. Being a closed group that does not aspire to add - the drugs to itself are additional participants (with whom they will have to fight for profits) serving its aspirations, at the expense of overall public welfare. The fact that drug manufacturers invest more in drug marketing than drug development and research demonstrates that their private interest is maximizing profits and maintaining health-dependent populations dependent on health, economic interest groups outweigh the social ones, mainly because of the existing gap at the resources available to them. The Virginia school assumes that politicians want to be elected, interest groups want to maximize profits, and there is incomplete information. Politicians will try to assess the power of interest groups and their contribution to their election prospects. The most influential group will gain the privilege of the politician at the expense of social welfare. Competition between interest groups will weaken them and make it difficult for them to receive the maximum interest rates. If there is sufficiently broad competition in basic food products, we will see some reduction in their prices. It is also conceivable that certain food manufacturers, certainly large companies in the Israeli economy, and politicians also have informal interactions. For example, being "Tnuva" is the largest food producer in the economy, and the fact that it dominates almost all existing food sectors can cause it to be favored by finance ministers and health workers for reasons that are not necessarily in the public interest. According to the information approach, an effective decision-making process requires a great deal of information Of the politician as to the distribution of public preferences, for the purpose of formulating a median voter policy and in the absence of public demand, politicians are based on demand raised by the interest group. Financial interest groups such as large food manufacturers are the strongest in the market, therefore the damage to social welfare will be highly intense.

Failure of a government bureaucracy-the budget-maximizing model (Niskanen, 1971) thought that given bureaucrats information by the politicians, their bureaucrats will achieve their goal - the budget-maximization. Hood & Peters, 1994) argues that in a structured conflict, there is interdependence and symmetry between politicians and bureaucrats - the power of the former to change the rules of the game, and of the latter to control information and policy implementation. The prisoner's dilemma shows how each side would prefer the other side to share. Action but will not cooperate on his own Shekel Nash is a deep conflict and the optimum in mutual cooperation. The balance to the dilemma is achieved through direct means of control (political appointments, rewards and salaries) and indirect (privatization, decentralization). In the case under examination, it is evident that the health care system in Israel is budgeted by the Ministry of Finance. This creates a bureaucratic policy bias. An agent-manager model discusses the asymmetry that exists in the information between the politician and the bureaucrat, and the superiority that the bureaucrat has in this respect. This model further proves that the public will always be inferior in terms of information compared to bureaucrats and politicians. In doing so, it shows the relative inferiority of the public in influencing the situation.

**Summary of barriers by balance of power made by the politician - Minister in charge:**

The policy paper in question does not summarize any barriers. When examining which of all the players is most important to a politician in terms of maximizing the chances of being elected, I will state first that the public is weak, in the sense that he will not vote in elections on the basis of health and poverty, so that he is the last player in the ranking. Next, I will examine the relevant bureaucratic, i.e. the various government ministries (health, welfare, economics, agriculture) and local government. While there is a certain conflict of interest between the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Health, in the sense that reducing poverty will also reduce the extent of health problems, there are conflicting interests, for example, between the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Economy and Finance. While the former should also prioritize social goals, the others are almost exclusively focused on economic efficiency. The lack of uniformity of interests between the ministries may impair the introduction of any policy outline. The positivist analysis conducted on the basis of the document and on the basis of my completeness of the deficiency shows that interest groups of large food producers in Israel, who want to preserve public dependence on them and maximize profits as a result of this dependency. If so, it seems that combining bureaucracy with conflicting interests with very strong interest groups produces some key players who dictate together a very difficult reality to implement models that rely on mostly normative values.

Characterization and evaluation of policy strategies for solving problems and failures:

Here are the alternatives offered in the policy paper under review:

1. **Supervision of healthy food products:**

Commodity and Services Price Control Act 1996.

The State Comptroller's report reveals that the government did not fulfill its duty and the government ministries did not use any basket of products to promote food security in Israel. The document's authors point a specific accusation towards the Ministry of Finance and the Treasury, who have not performed their duties properly in supervising food products under their responsibility. To the authors' understanding, they had to work to identify products to be monitored, to follow metrics and predetermined characteristics when reviewing the removal of products, and to monitor the prices of products that were decided to remove them and the results of that decision. Furthermore, the paper's authors claim that these offices failed to address social and health considerations in their decision-making procedures, did not follow standards previously set by the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor, and did not take into account the welfare of consumers. The state emphasizes the responsibility of the government in general and the ministries of finance, industry and agriculture in particular to rectify these deficiencies and to take the necessary measures to sustainably control the prices of essential food products, with the aim of alleviating the overall burden of expenditure and ensuring respect for consumers among the disadvantaged population groups. The auditor argued that the existing market structure dictates the establishment of an essential food product basket, the prices of which will be closely monitored, and that the need for maximum level renewal of basic milk products should be re-examined. In addition, the auditor argued that the interests of the consumer public should also be taken into account, for example through their participation in this process through representatives. Despite the State Comptroller's sharp report, the government ministries did not respond to it and did not implement its recommendations. Prof. Itamar Grotto, head of public health at the Ministry of Health, cited the document, which states that the Ministry of Health initiates conversion of existing control products into healthy supervision products The paper addresses the potential disadvantage of the alternative, and also emphasizes the need for price controls not to create related problems, such as possible harm to the country's population. The need to ascertain the lack of harm to Israeli farmers as a result of the proposed policy.

1. **Subsidizing basic healthy food products:**

A subsidy is a financial government subsidy in the form of a negative tax, passed on to the consumer or manufacturer of a specific product by the government. This government support, which leads to a decrease in product prices, increases its availability and encourages its purchase. Food price subsidy is another means of improving food security and can be done in a number of ways. The authors provide support for the subsidy method as an effective means, which is frequently used in Europe, among other reasons for the preservation of agricultural culture and the environment. The subsidy in the EU is about 40% of the EU budget, lowering the cost of products for the consumer by about 23%.

However, the authors note that in Israel there has been a dramatic reduction in the subsidy for food products, citing the transition from a "subsidy to commodity" policy to a "subsidy to consumer" policy. According to them, the reduction of the subsidy has contributed to the widening of the social gaps and poverty in Israel. There is no mention in the document of the shortcomings that may arise from adopting this alternative, although in my opinion it is appropriate to state the sources of government funding that will allow the provision of large-scale subsidies.

1. **Differential VAT**

The authors present this alternative as a common practice worldwide, as part of an informed tax policy aimed at achieving social goals, including encouraging the consumption of products that have a positive impact and the consumption of products that have a negative impact on the public. They provide examples from around the world of the use of differential taxation, compared to the prevailing situation in Israel, of a relatively broad-based VAT, which by definition defines the weaker strata of the population. The paper presents proposals put in place in recent years on the Knesset table in an attempt to propose amendments to the Value Added Tax Law. And introduce reduced or zero VAT on basic products, including healthy foods. In addition, the authors present the position of Dov Chernichovsky, chair of the Food Security Committee, according to the government to look into the possibility of applying differential VAT on food. Also regarding this alternative, there is no specification for the possible weaknesses inherent in adopting this alternative, such as the need for constant supervision of differentiation, the necessity for frequent adjustments of the tax levy, defining necessary products and luxury products, which in itself gives rise to heavy value issues, and more.

In their analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of the three alternatives, the authors consider one key. According to them, all three promote important goals and have significant advantages. In addition, there is no prioritization of alternatives and their presentation does not indicate their relative importance.

**Advantages of the alternatives presented in the policy paper:**

1. Encouraging the public to consume products of social, health, cultural or environmental importance and taxation on harmful and luxury goods.
2. Reducing the dimension of inequality - The alternatives presented will benefit the disadvantaged populations, even if they are applied to the general population in the same way, because the weight of food products in the consumption basket of the lower deciles is much greater.
3. Respect for the needy, their independence and their freedom of choice - State programs that are granted the right of citizens, universally and untagged, will contribute to maintaining the dignity of those in need. Increasing the disposable income of those in need will allow them greater freedom in allocating their financial resources.
4. Costs - Properly combining the three alternatives does not involve significant budget additions. No additional policy is required.

In spite of the advantages outlined above, in my opinion, the reference lacks other benefits that may result from the realization of the alternatives, such as increasing public welfare, reducing poverty in Israel (this is not the same as reducing the above inequality), promoting the entire public health, as consuming healthy products is beneficial for all of us. For the poor, reducing morbidity and mortality as a result of changing dietary habits as well as a larger disposable income that can be directed toward consuming medicines and other medical treatments.

**Difficulties and barriers in the alternatives presented:**

The authors focus their attention on the possibility of economic harm as a result of striving to fulfill the goals of social essence. They point out that the alternatives can create collection and fraud issues, and in fact open up an interest to interest groups and stakeholders to influence lawmakers to actually introduce their products into a reduced supervised / subsidized / VAT product list. The basket.

In addition, the authors note that there is a possibility that the marketed companies will raise prices despite the alternatives presented above, as well as an option to load costs from one product to another. Moreover, the authors report that differential VAT can lead to inefficiency, increase expenses and complexity in managing the reality - the differential must be examined frequently, and only VAT applied to certain products. Reduced VAT and VAT input will be offset by income tax.

The authors make an attempt to cope with a possible criticism directed at the alternatives offered:

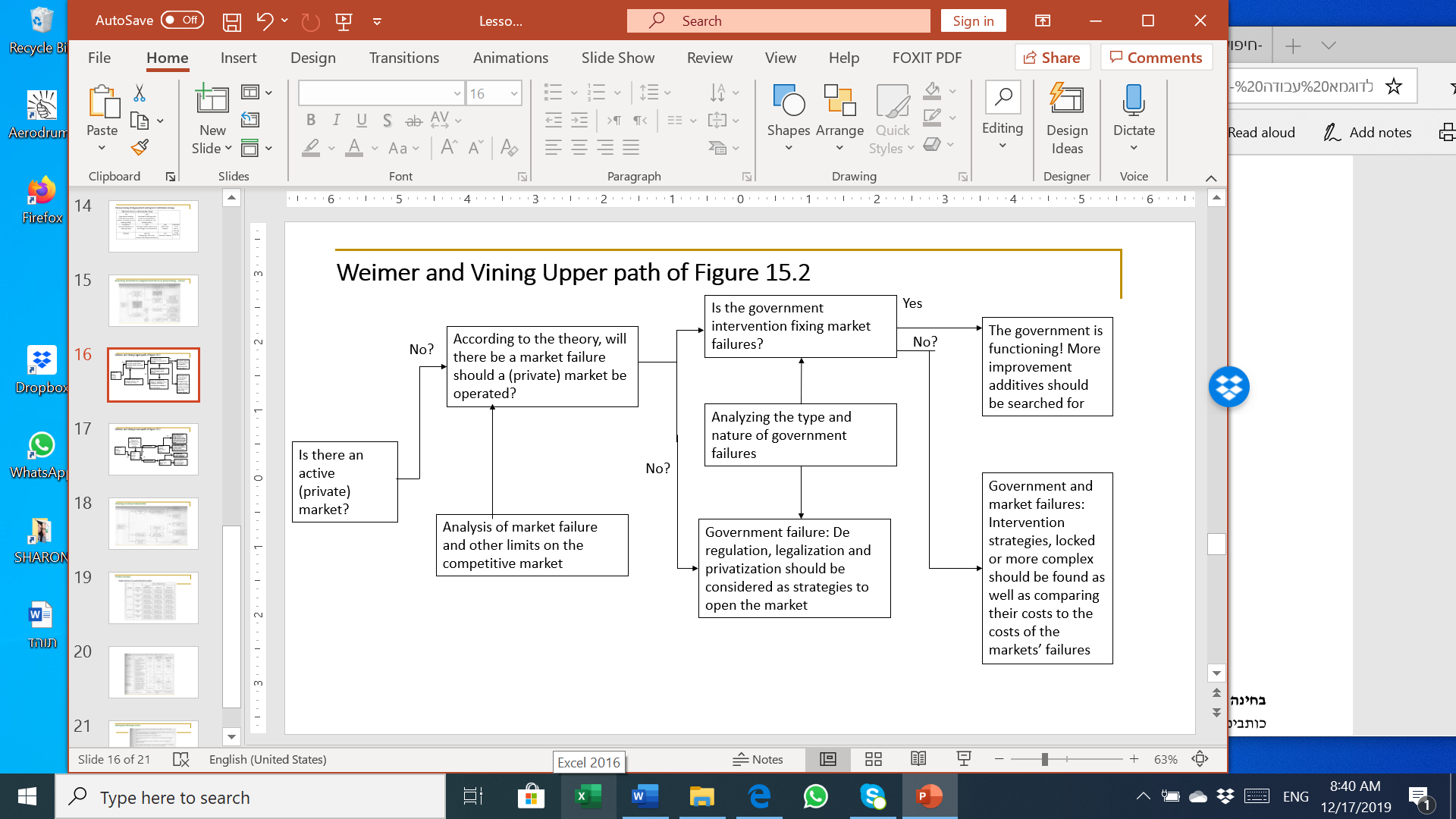
1. Effectiveness - 1) Only some of the benefits really reach those who need them. 2) Differential VAT is less effective in treating inequality relative to progressive taxation (income tax, tax and allowances). The authors of the document support the promotion of various alternatives, including direct tax reform and allowances, but note that these are not of interest to the present document.

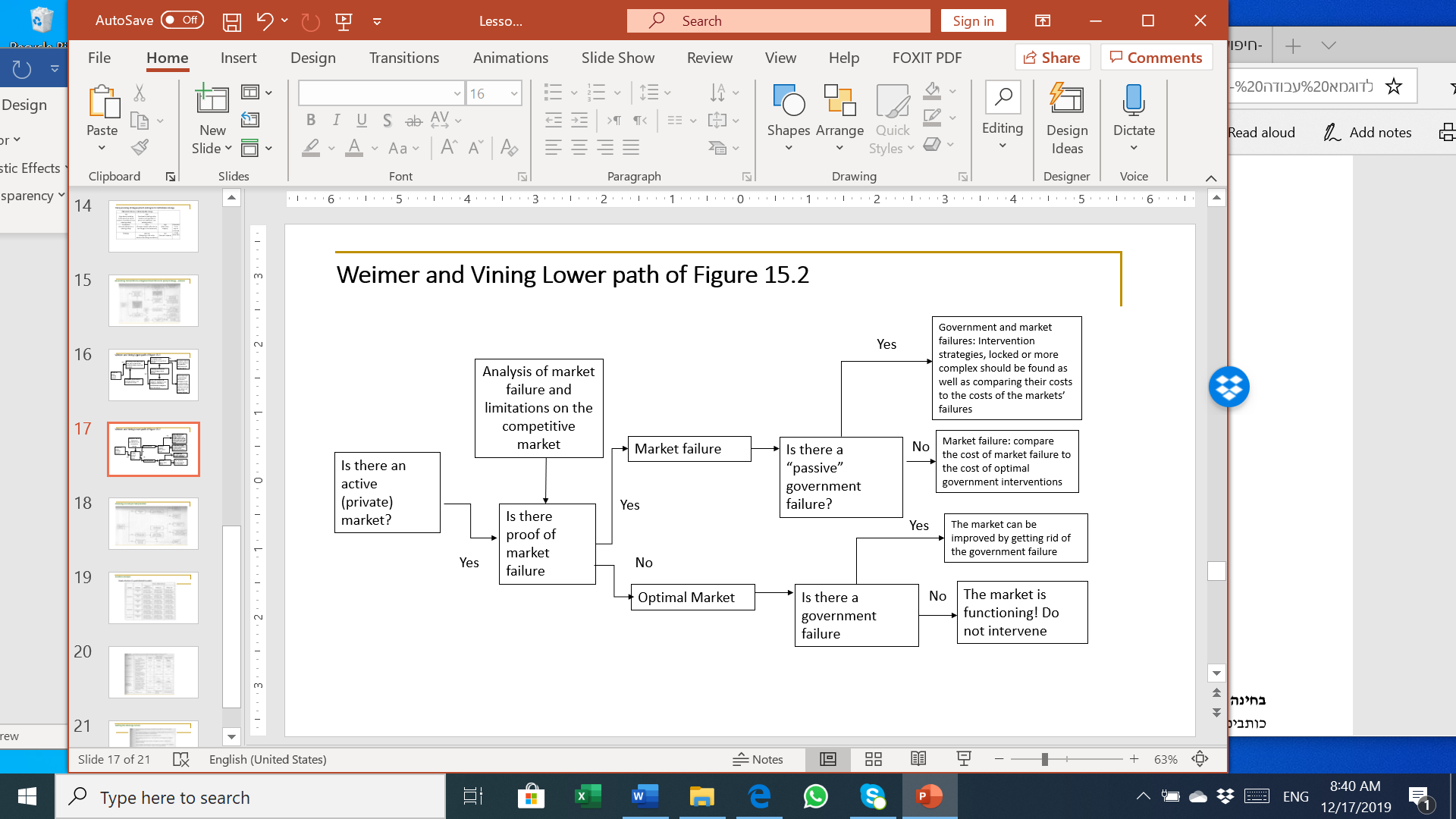
 2. Arguably, encouraging the consumption of certain kinds of products creates dictates for the public as to what to buy and what not to buy. Therefore, there is a possible limit to the individual's freedom of choice and independence. The authors of the document argue that the existing state of the lack of government intervention constitutes a more significant violation of the freedom of choice, by denying the freedom to consume healthy and nutritious products from the unattainable.

In my opinion, the writers do not deal with a major obstacle presented in paper indirectly - the difficulty of bringing this kind of program to fruition. The paper presents many examples of previous proposals for nutritional security promotion programs, which have not been adopted by government ministries and have never been implemented. There is no reference in the document to structural factors that may hamper such plans in moving from the planning stage to the implementation stage. There is no real reason to believe that the fate of this program will be different, without understanding and addressing the barriers that may be causing past failures in the field.

Furthermore, the document states explicitly that relief services today, primarily through charitable and charitable organizations, are the ones that provide for those in need of their nutritional needs. Although the government's responsibility for food security for its citizens is nothing new (see legal quotes on the matter), it is evident that in practice those who worked for the goal were not the government itself, but voluntary organizations of various kinds. So, how is the government expected to adopt an outline of active responsibility for the nutritional security of the citizens of the state, and what is the status of all those welfare organizations that have acted as a blank that created the government's abdication of responsibility?

**Weimer and Vining’s Analysis**





**Practical examination of the alternatives according to key players**

In this part of the policy paper, writers had to address the barriers facing each alternative and explore ways to increase the offerings of the best rated alternatives. New institutional infrastructure and reforms can be used as well as process goals as a way to overcome objections and barriers. The resulting product is a practical plan of action as a policy recommendation.

The reforms proposed in the document can be implemented with gradual incremental tools - each alternative as an independent step leading to the next step, and, on the other hand, possible to implement as a revolutionary change - as a comprehensive reform that completely changes the path of development. There is no explicit statement about the nature of adoption of proposed reform.

The new institutional approach holds that institutions are rules of play that are reflected in formal laws and regulations that have characterized several types of public sector reform: Pollit and Boukart variables and informal norms. Structural-economic-social = political and individual variables. The historical institutional approach emphasizes structural factors as major explanatory variables. It is based on past critical nodes, path-dependent analysis - the results obtained at the critical juncture accelerate negative or positive repetitive feeding, that is, strengthening or weakening the

The pattern of action for the future. Building institutional change at a certain point in time requires trying to understand the institutional changes and developments that have taken place from that point to the present. Since several governments have chosen to ignore the recommendations of various factors regarding the establishment of a basic and healthy food basket, it can be assumed that structural-economic = social and political barriers are the tone around this issue. Past failures of similar programs, directing the document reader to assume that this program offers something else, better, that increases its performance compared to its predecessors.

Policy feedback is a tool for measuring the results of an existing policy and the degree of public satisfaction with these results. Negative policy feedback is a tool for an entrepreneur who wants to promote change in the field. Conversely, the lack of negative policy feedback may serve as a "locking effect", making it difficult to make changes. In this case, there is a strong locking effect, which results in proposed plans not being implemented at all, and the absence of negative policy feedback that creates a status quo in relation to the issue.

**I will use the Hacker's typology to illustrate the types of barriers and possible strategies**:

High internal barriers and high external barriers create erosion - intentional drying in the form of institutional maintenance neglect, generating alternatives.

High internal barriers and low external barriers create layer overlay - designing a new policy without undoing the old policy.

 Low internal barriers and high external barriers create a conversion - an internal adjustment of an existing policy.

Low internal barriers and low external barriers create a redesign - formal reform, replacing or eliminating existing policies.

In this case, there are high internal and external barriers - there is a low level of restraint on existing policies, high support for coalitions in the existing situation, and a plurality of net players. The result: the lack of governmental reference to the field of food security that has created erosion - an alternative market filled by nonprofits and welfare organizations is replacing the government. At the same time, failures of several programs brought to the Knesset table in changing the situation.

The alternatives presented in the document are aimed at achieving redesign - an overall reform, so they must lower the existing barriers to increase the chances of successful implementation of the plan. In my view, failure to address existing barriers and causes of failure so far makes it difficult for document writers to offer a viable solution and makes use of titles and passwords that do not translate into de facto acts.

Process goals such as sharing specific factors - needy families and healthcare professionals as suggested by the document, but also members of other interest groups, including food companies themselves in the design, execution and control processes, can be a way to reduce the barriers of internal, external and external barriers, thereby increasing the offer of the proposed plan. 2) The plan has elements for which the decision will be made by policy makers but emphasizes the importance of the involvement of the field factors in expressing these goals. In addition, leaving open elements in the program will allow the political parties, and the bureaucrats to accept them very easily, as they will feel that they are a "rubber stamp" implementing someone else's plan without affecting it.

**Summary of the document and the link between the problem and the solutions:**

In the concluding section, the authors reiterate their main arguments, which have already been presented in other chapters in the policy paper. These include emphasizing the restoration of food security and the promotion of public health as a temporary order, food insecurity as a relatively new problem and the call for the development and implementation of comprehensive solutions to the problem, while maintaining the value of universality and the right to food security. The paper writers contact the Food Security Council, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Welfare, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Finance and the Prime Minister, to promote the alternatives presented in the document. In addition, they recommend adhering to the following guidelines:

1. Adopting a basic, healthy attainable food basket, as presented in this document.
2. Adopting the moral-ethical principles of making the food basket accessible to the public.
3. Involvement of health professionals, particularly dieticians as well as families suffering from nutrition insecurity throughout the entire process systematically.
4. Systematic evaluation while using qualitive and quantitative research methods to examine the effectiveness of the plans for reducing costs of a healthy food basket.

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