# A study of measures taken by think tanks to improve efficiency

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## ABSTRACT

*Think tanks are public policy research institutes involved in public policy research. Think tanks works on various topics and involved many departments & experts. These think tanks work in accord with external entities such as government departments, civil societies and institutions as well as various internal departments. To work in harmony with these entities they find various challenges, these challenges are nothing but various internal as well as external factors, which affect the overall efficiency of think tanks. In this paper, the key measures taken by think tanks to improve efficiency studied and listed.*


**Keyword -** *Think Tanks, Efficiency, Factor, Measures.*

**Objectives of the Paper** - - *to study the measures taken by think tank to improve efficiency.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Think tanks play a major role in building nation, society, acting as a policy knowledge broker, centers of research, and incubators of new ideas. They play an important role of being a link between scholars, policymakers, governments, and civil societies. Think tanks perform extensive research on a wide variety of topics, formulate theories, prepare policies, build insights for a wide variety of stakeholders such as governments, businesses, civil societies, non-government organizations, public and government policy makers, institutions etc. Think tanks' importance has grown in developing countries to the extent that many research & policy-making responsibilities rely on them.

Think tanks classified under various topics such as ideological perspective, topical emphasis, prospective consumer, conservative principles, partisan in purpose (cause/ person), interest groups, policy research think tanks, independent civil societies, government or state sponsored, corporate created, business affiliated, political party, political players, global or regional, based on sheer size of think tank.

Think tanks works on vast number of topics such as Defense, Peace, Security, Education, Environment, Climate Change, Food, Agriculture, Gender, Equality, Governance, Transparency, Health, International Affairs, Development, Law, Justice, Human Rights, Media, Culture, Sports, Natural Resources, Energy, Private Sector Development, Social Policy, Technology, Innovation, Trade, Economics, Finance, Transportation, Infrastructure. Defense/ Peace/ Security, Defense studies, Violence, Peace promotion, Education, Education models, Strengthening the education system, Environment, Climate change, Rain forest, Adaptation and mitigation of climate change, Biodiversity, Forests, Food/ Agriculture, Value chains and agribusiness, Food Safety, Sustainable agriculture, Gender, Women´s rights, Gender Violence, Governance/ Transparency, Citizenship, Democracy, Transparency, Decentralization, Health, Infant nutrition, Drugs, International affairs /Development, International relations, Law/

Justice / Human rights, Discrimination, Trafficking, Media/Culture/ Sport, Religion, Language, Natural resources, Energy, Energy efficiency, Fossil fuels, Private sector development, Business, Entrepreneurship, Social policy, Poverty, Protection of children and adolescents, Social inclusion, Trade/ Economics, Commerce, Macro economy, Fiscal studies, Technology/ Innovation, Information Technology, Sustainable technologies, Transport / Infrastructure, Engineering, Road policy.

For numerous reasons think tanks play a key & vital role in society, think tanks possess vast resources based on affiliation. Several factors affect the overall efficiency of think tanks. The objective of this paper is to list the factors and how these factors affect the overall efficiency of the think tank.

## 2. EFFICIENCY

From the viewpoint of think tanks, there are several key efficiencies, and they need to track, standardize, maintain and improve during the day-to-day activities and during the overall functioning of the think tank.

The key efficiencies from view of think tanks are as below:
*        Allocative efficiency
*        Productive efficiency
*        Dynamic efficiency
*        Utilization efficiency
*        Technical efficiency
*        Economic efficiency
*        Social efficiency
*        Collaborative efficiency
*        Network efficiency
*        Management efficiency
*        Operational efficiency

Analyzing the efficiency of think tanks is a very important means of evaluating the performance of think tanks. It helps to handle and improve over various factors that affect efficiency.

Allocative efficiency
The efficient allocation of resources is a crucial part of the think tanks operation. The majority of resources such as funds, people, technology, time, and network comprises the elements, which need to allocate efficiently and address from time to time so it leads to improving the overall performance of the think tank.

Productive efficiency
The people involved & working with think tanks play a crucial role in making their work as productive as possible. They can learn from the past and create strategy, standardize process & procedures so it can help to improve productivity with available resources.

Dynamic efficiency
It is crucial for the think tanks to be as dynamic as possible. This helps think tanks to absorb changes & make decisions on the go, and adapt & improve with changing time, circumstances and difficulties. When there is a resource crunch, think tanks need to prioritize the most important aspects.

Utilization efficiency
The think tanks utilize time, people resources, technology, network etc. While doing so it is in benefit of the think tank to utilize resources as efficiently as possible. This leads to saving costs, so the right people can work on the right project.

Technical efficiency
The world is witnessing technological advancement with passing days. The think tank adopts the technology for functioning. Various tools & technologies were being used by think tanks. The tools & technologies need to be used efficiently so it can help think tanks to improve their efficiency.

Economic efficiency

Most of the time think tanks are government or public funded. They are oblique to answer the funder, who funds the think tank for specific work, research, and objective. It is a think tank's moral duty to utilize the fund efficiently so it will lead to draw visible results.

Collaborative efficiency
In today's digital world, communication is happening at lightning fast speed but without collaboration, it is of no use. The collaboration between various departments and teams is crucial. This helps departments and teams to work in cohesive fashion, which will lead to improving the overall performance of the think tank.

Network efficiency
In a world of think tanks, network is the most crucial aspect, where think tanks have a wide network between think tanks and external entities such as government (officials, departments, and institutes), public & private institutes, organizations and various departmental bodies, political parties, policymakers, civil societies, businesses etc. It's the most crucial aspect of the think tanks to build a vast network.

Management efficiency
For the success of any organization, the people managing the institute play an important role. Success of organization defines how management runs and utilizes available resources. The more streamline management utilizes the resources better; it affects the overall performance of the organization.

Operational efficiency
Running operations such as day-to-day activities and research projects are crucial parts of the think tanks. These operations were where think tanks and its resources were most occupied and where they paid most attention. The operations running successfully pay off the think tanks in terms of improving utilization.

## 3. MEASURES

Several factors affect the overall efficiency of think tanks. To overcome these challenges think tanks adopt various measures to improve the efficiency. These measures are internal as well as external, which have a direct impact on efficiency of think tanks.

The measures are listed below:

Adaptation of mass collaboration technologies
Think tanks face challenges while collaborating between various departments and collaborating with external entities such as governments bodies, civil societies and institutes.
Many computer-supported collaboration tools adapted such as github, cloud technologies, Microsoft cloud, Google cloud etc., which enabling think tanks to work in collaboration, despite having huge number of people participated in project.
Many open-source tools such as apache foundation tools seen adapted by think tanks to reduce the cost.
This adaptation seems helping think tanks to tackle the issue they are facing while working in large sometimes at global scale.

Adaptation of mass communication mediums
Communication is key while working with large number of people. There are many projects think tanks work on, which required strong communication between various teams.
As think tanks are institutes work on various social, economic, geographic and government challenges, they need to have strong communication mediums in place so research and policies they research reach to right group of people with stipulated budgets.
Think tanks utilizes communication mediums such as radio, television, social networking, billboards, newspapers, magazines, books, film, and the Internet to reach to masses.

Adaptation of collective intelligence technologies
For good research and policy good quality of data and insights is crucial factor. For research and policy purpose data comes from various sources, this data need to be process, and insights need to be drawn.

Think tanks are adapting collective intelligence technologies to process disperse silos of data using technologies which helps think tanks to generate insights.

In this process large group of individuals gather and share their knowledge, data and skills for solving social challenges.

In collective intelligence experts, software and data comes together generate information and knowledge. They are various proprietary as well as open-source tools available in market. Tools and technologies such as big data, data analysis tools, artificial intelligence, Machine learning etc. are adapted by think tanks to overcome this challenge.

New generation channels to appoint experts from field

Expert resource crunch is not new to any organization and think tanks are not exception. There are many ways by which think tanks hire experts.

New generation AI enabled technologies and tools helps to hire right candidates based on job description and matching factors.

Develop collaboration with academia/ Universities/ Institutes to hire experts

Sometimes hiring experts from open market can be challenging for number of reasons such as cost to the organization, experience and complex job descriptions.

Think tanks developing collaborations with academia, universities and with institutes to hire experts with training and on job training to fill the expert crunch.

Methods and procedures to measure effectiveness and efficacy of Think Tanks

The most challenging part of think tanks is to measure effectiveness and efficacy. As think tanks work on variety of topics and over large geographical areas, think tanks faces challenges to measure effectiveness and efficacy.

With advance is data analytics tools and sentiment analysis tools think tanks can able to measure the effectiveness and efficacy.

Implementation sophisticate data security measures

In late 20th century and 21st century data is new oil. Data security is measure concerns for think tanks. Globally there are various compliances regarding data, data privacy and compliances. There are many tools and software's available in market to protect the infrastructure, network and data.

Think tanks adhere to global and country specific compliances where they are working. Think tanks are adapting various measures to protect the sensitive data and data privacy.

Data security directly impacts on the credibility of think tanks and helps them to improve efficiency.

Adaptation of fund management strategy

Think tanks work on public, civil societies and governments funds to run institute. They comply with tax and other monetary regulations as per country and region.

Think tanks are adapting technologies and fund management tools such as ERPs to manage fund and make most use of it to grow.

Develop networking channels

Global and local networks are key factor for the growth of think tanks. Think tanks need to develop network with governments, civil societies and institutes in day-to-day activities. With advancement in internet there are many challenges while adopting such challenges. Challenges such as data security, network security to deal with such challenges think tanks are adapting various measures to develop secure networks. This helps to improve the credibility of think tanks.

These measures directly help to improve the efficiency of think tanks.

Implementation of data collection technology for primary research and for impact analysis

Good and credible research depends on the quality of first-hand data. Acquiring data in time and with high quality is crucial part of think tanks research process.

Data collection tools and technologies are available in market and making choice of it based on usages and requirement need to performed carefully.

Data collection tools such as various forms, data tabulation tools etc. are available and think tanks are implementing these measures. This directly impacts on the quality of research and efficacy of think tanks.

Implementation advance analytical systems
Data analysis and analytics plays a major role in processing huge amount and variety of data. The data is structured and unstructured data, processing and analyzing structured data is relatively easy as compare to the unstructured data. Unstructured data processing is challenging part of think tanks; this unstructured data helps to analyze the sentiments of the public. Policy impact is many a time analyze in terms of thoughts regarding policy and sentiment analysis tools helps to analyze the policy impact.
The tools and software's like business intelligence tools, data warehousing tools, unstructured data storing and processing tools such as mongo db and other data bases are adapted by think tanks.

Adaptation of advance real time/ near real time data analysis system
Some think tanks are working on data, which needs to be process and analyze data in real time or near real time. Task such as anti-money laundering, share market data, power grid data need to be process in real time. There are advance data analysis and parallel data processing systems are available in market.
Think tanks are adapting such tools and technologies to help the data to be process in time.

Adaptation of systematic approach to enable dialogue
Policy to be adopted, think tanks need to enable dialogue with variety of stakeholders. These dialogues help to enable discussion on policies researched by think tanks. As entities involved in discussion such as government, government bodies and institutes, civil societies and institutes are most sensitive stakeholders, bringing them together is challenging at same time its crucial to enable dialogue.
Think tanks build strategies & systematic approach to deal to enable dialogue. These dialogues lead to outcomes such as adaption or improvement; here think tanks can test the policy and point out where improvement needed.

## 4. CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of this systematic review was to examine the range of technical and non-technical measures taken by think tanks. The majority of the study focused on the identifying measures utilize by the think tanks to improve efficiency. It has been observed that various technical and non-technical measures have direct impact on the think tanks overall efficiency. It is crucial for think tanks to implement and adapt these measures to improve efficiency.

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