

## Research of Public Policy Decision-Making Based on System Analysis Method

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### Abstract

System analysis method is an important part of Marxist methodology, and the effective technical support tools of public policy decisions. The article illustrates the meaning and basic principle of system analysis, and based on it, this paper discusses the method of system analysis on public policy decision-making.

**Key words:** System analysis method; Public policy decision; Basic principle

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### INTRODUCTION

The word of “system” was firstly appeared in ancient Greek: “syn-histanai”, meaning the common part of the things and the position of these things, namely, the parts constitute the whole. Then the word gradually developed into a systemic analysis of the complex. System analysis is an important part of Marxist methodology. It comes from the need of the practice of social life and the objective requirement of the development of science and technology.

Public policy involves all aspects of social life, including political, economic, cultural, social and other fields. Its complexity makes the system analysis method as the effective technical support tools of public policy decisions.

### 1. THE OVERVIEW

System analysis method, taking things as a whole to study, and an object as a system, refers to from a systems perspective to research organic connection of each component in the internal system and the relationship of the system and external environment. So-called system analysis, is to use the idea, viewpoint and method of system, and the tools of qualitative and quantitative to research the problems of system structure and the states of the system, so as to put forward a variety of solutions and alternatives to solve the problem of system analysis and evaluation. It is a strategic research methods.

In the complex social environment, the public policy decision-making activities as a system to analysis, it is composed of various elements of interconnected. clearing the relationship of direct contact and indirect contact for the elements of decision system, and defining the boundary of the system, are the precondition of public policy decisions. The system analysis makes a particular public policy decision-making system as a whole. It should be isolated from the environment system. The components of system even should be divided into various subsystems (or systems) when necessary. The given system is not only a factor of a higher level of system, but also formed the whole by the lower level subsystem, therefore, it carries out the integrity principle of system theory. Clearing the boundaries of the system Means to define public policy issues, clearing the target of the system is the key to decision, so as to formulate solutions preferred choice.

## 2. THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF SYSTEM ANALYSIS METHOD

### 2.1 The Integrity Principle

The existence and evolution of system as a whole, this means that all parts in the system is not work lonely, but the pursuit of “ $1 + 1 > 2$ ” of the system function, namely the coordination of each individual elements in the operation process reaches the result of “The whole is greater than the sum of parts”. Integrity principle is the core of the system analysis method. In the public policy decision, the integrity principle according to the target specified in the public policy issues, makes the decision elements as an organic system started from the whole of public policy decision-making, and coordinates and unities the functions of all elements, so as to make the system function produced an amplification effect, and to achieve the overall optimization function of public policy decisions. And on this basis, among the factors to improve decision-making system of function as the basis of optimization function of public policy system as a whole. Such as to improve the decision-making ability of problem analysis and decision-making ability, which provide talent guarantee for scientific decision-making.

### 2.2 The Relevance Principle

Whether it is the internal environment of a system or the elements in external environment have correlations, namely, they have a direct or indirect contact with each other, and a relationship between interdependence and restraining with each other, that constitutes a relationship within the cluster system. System analysis must pay attention to the relevance of system, taking a thinking of relevance. The process of public policy decisions require “skilled and magical craftsmanship”, the decomposition according to the strength of the correlation among the parts of system, namely, the system should be decomposed into many interrelated subsystems by decoupling a complex system. These subsystems constitute various elements, including both the vertical correlation among the system levels, and transverse correlation among all the elements. Making an coordination of vertical correlation and transverse correlation are related to result of achieving the function of system overall optimal.

### 2.3 The Structural Principle

Structural principles mainly reveals the relationship between system structure and system function. The structure is a way of interrelation and interaction of components in a system, including a certain proportion and order among elements, a certain way of combination, etc. Structure is a nature contact of the organic link and stable link of each part in the system. System structure is not determined by the elements of he system, but the relationship of these elements. When the system has the same elements, and at the same time with different

structure, the system functions will be different, the external effect would also be different. This means that the function will be changed with the structure changed.

### 2.4 The Dynamic Principle

Dynamic principle reveals the relationship between the system state and the time. Everything is not a static thing, and the progress of creation and development, to decline and dissolution is the constant laws of the universe. The correlation of components within the system and the correlation of the system and the external environment are not static, they are dynamic development, and closely related to time which is constantly changing with time(Li & Yu, 2007). This principle is a reflection of the system change, and also is the together thinking of the past, the present and the future. According to this principle, in the process of public policy decision, we should not only to look for the the present status of system, but also to look for the development changes of system, so as to predict the future of the system, and to master the rules of the development of the system.

### 2.5 The Functional Principle

The goal is to guide the direction of the system development, so the system analysis must pay attention to the system. System activities usually has a specific, manifest purpose. The coordination of various parts of the system is based on the system goal. The output response caused by the integral movement of the system is the system response with purpose. Public policy formulation must be combined with clear goals that meet the needs of social and economic development and people's fundamental interests.

## 3. THE SYSTEM ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC POLICY DECISIONS

The system analysis of public policy decisions refers to building a scientific and reasonable public policy decision system on the basis of defining the problems, clearing the boundaries of the external environment and internal environment, and taking the targets as the leading framework to formulate public policy.

### 3.1 The Internal Environment

The internal environment of public policy decisions refers to the factors of the internal circumstance affected the decision-making directly, mainly including decision-making body, decision-making resource and government decision-making system.

#### 3.1.1 The Decision-Maker

Due to China's unique political system, the decision-makers of public policy includes the ruling party, narrow sense of the government and the legislature, at the same time, the public and social groups is the main democratic participation body of decisions. Due to the commonality

of public policy, the government is the main decision maker of public policy which dominated public power. Thomas-Dey said: "the macro public administrative ability of modern government can be understood as correctly the ability of effective making and implementation of public policy for the government" (Thomas,1975). The government ability runs through the course of decision-making, it involves this ability of policy issues defining, decision-making assessment and adjusting decision. The strength of the government capacity affect the scientific nature and effectiveness of public policy decisions. Therefore, enhancing the effectiveness of the policy issue search system, improving the ability of the government's policy program planning and selection, is beneficial to help the government scientific decision-making. The values of decision-making body at the same time has a direct impact on the identification of public policy issues, the selection of target and the reference standard and evaluation index of plan selection. Therefore, the value orientation of public policy decision-making body in China should uphold the principle of publicity, scientific, democratic and fairness.

### 3.1.2 The Decision Resources

David Easton put forward from the Angle of political system analysis theory "public policy is the process of resource allocation to the whole society by the government with its authority" (Wu, 1989). From this significance level, the government decision-making is the allocation process based on resources and powers the government grasped and controlled. Sticking to effective fiscal system, and giving full play to the power system of human resources of the public sectors, using the scientific and reasonable policy tools, are the resource guarantees of public policy decision. Information is the basis of decision making. With the high-speed development of information network, information system constitutes the main part of the government decision resources today. The government analyzes policy issues in the usage of its information resource system so as to make scientific decision. Therefore, to establish a information network from the central to the villages and towns, is an important task to realize the government information network in our country at present.

### 3.1.3 The Decision System

Public policy decision system is mainly refers to the combined institutional arrangement of a series of activities that the government use the public power with the decision-making goal of social public interests, the decision-making power distribution within the scope of legal, and the standard decision operation procedure. It is the behavior of regulating the main body of decision-making power operation, and it is essential to achieve decision-making activities in the process of organization and system guarantee. Making the scientific decision system needs change government function positively,

separating government functions from enterprise and social management, boosting the enthusiasm of the market and the society, so as to fully implement the government's macroeconomic regulation and control, social management and public service decision-making functions.

## 3.2 The External Environment

The process of the public policy decision-making is the interaction result of internal decision-maker and the external environment. The external environment refers to the mixture of external conditions that the public policy relies for existence and development, namely, the environmental factors outside the system boundary, including the economic environment, political environment, cultural environment, international environment, etc..

### 3.2.1 The Economic Environment

Economic strength is the material basis for the decision-making in a country or a region. the economic base determines the superstructure, so public policy decisions should be conformed to the actual situation of economic development without the great leap forward that led to high investment and low efficiency of the decision making. Public decision-making is in essence to the distribution of the social and economic interests. economic interests are the basic conditions and requirements of people living and development. Due to the constant deepening of the socialist market economy, interest groups towards diversification, different interests makes different decision criteria. Therefore, to maintain social stability, the government decision-making must be deemed its duty to realize the public interests.

### 3.2.2 The Political Environment

Political environment refers to the direct or indirect influence the national political system and the legal system of public policy decision system, including political system, political parties and party system, political groups, the party and state policies and regulations, etc. The political system in our country firstly affects the value orientation of public policy decision. Serving to the people, taking the fundamental interests of the masses as a starting point, requires that all the decisions of the government should start from the public interests. Therefore, we must strengthen citizen participation in decision-making and supervision; Secondly, government decision-making system must be followed the principle of political system. The imperfect of the system determines that the government decision-making system is not perfect, and even affect behaviors and results of public policy decision-making. So continue to deepen reform of political system and strengthen the democratic supervision system, is of great significance for the scientific decision democracy.

### 3.2.3 The Cultural Environment

The cultural environment refers to the lineage in local, and embrace and assimilation of the outside in a country

or a region. It is the scientific and cultural, ideological and ethical for the public policy decision-making. The formation of decision is under the condition of existing cultural, at the same time, the output of policy is also changing the cultural environment reversedly. Everyone lived in a certain cultural environment and be affected by it all the time. The decision subject's values and behavior are also influenced and restricted by the cultural environment, namely, the cultural environment affect the decision-making and implementation by influencing the values of decision makers. China has a group of socialist cultural spirit that has a positive impact on public policy in pursuit of public interests.

### 3.3 The Problem Definition

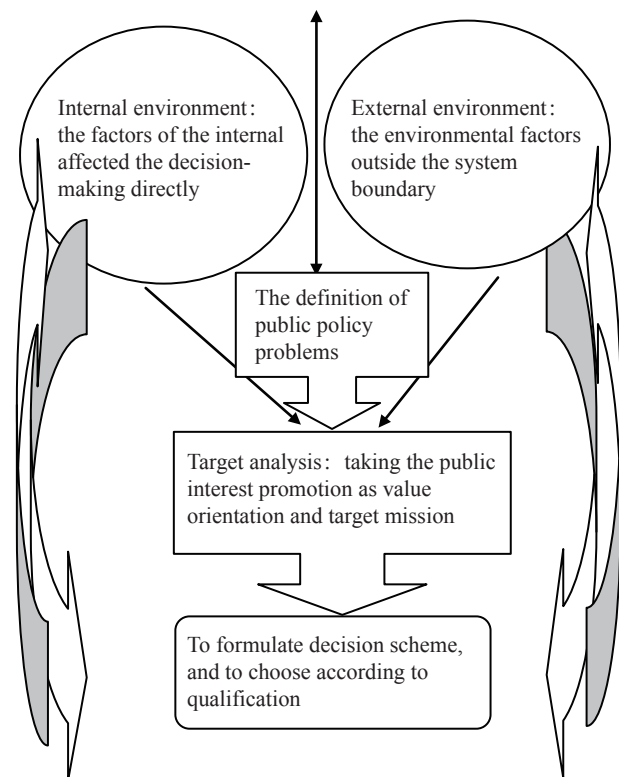
As the problems produced in the gap between ideal and reality, public problems produced from the social problems, but not all the social problems can become a public policy issues. on the basis of analyzing the internal and external environment, the policy system, the social public, or the experts take social problems on the policy agenda through many ways such as public events, so as to become a public issue, to specific problems as a system to analyze the public policy.

### 3.4 The Target Analysis

The problems of public policy originate from Public affairs in the field of the public. the government's powers of decision-making and execution are typical public power. government policy resources mainly comes from the public finance mainly constituted by tax. Therefore, public policy can only take the public interest promotion as value orientation and target mission. For a specific target on a certain public policy decision, in the guidance of the public interest, we should establish the corresponding policy goals with the following principles: one is the overall principle, the goals should be based on the long-term rather than the short-term interests, the comprehensively review rather than unilateral emphasize, coordination of the economic growth pursuit with the environmental indicators, adhering to the principle of decision-making goals overall on the basis of both the efficiency and benefit; The second is structural principle, namely in the premise of the general objective in decision-making, policy makers can analyze the specific issues according to actual situation by decomposition of layers. It also reflects on the continuity and systematicness of decision-making, making every decision efforts to achieve the goal of the highest decision-making.

## CONCLUSION

Public policy decisions based on system analysis method can be essentially thought as a system with boundary to analyze. The method refers to through the mutual dependent and interacting of inside and outside elements of the system to achieve the goal of decision. In the process, it requires the dynamic and holistic point of view. the boundary of the same decision system may different in unique space and time sequence. Therefore, every decision system should to seek development in relatively stable, so as to realize scientific decision. As shown in the figure:



**Figure1**  
**The Structure Analysis of the Public Policy Decision-Making System**

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