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Interdisciplinary Research in Public Management: Perspective of Economics and Sociology

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ABSTRACT: *At present, the study of public administration embodies the integration of social science disciplines. The main purpose of this study is to explore interdisciplinary research in public management by analyzing the theory and practices of economics and sociology. A qualitative method has been employed to obtain the objectives. This study reveals that the diversification of public administration research is a manifestation of the diversity, complexity and comprehensive development in the field of public management. Economics and sociology provide new perspectives and research methods for public administration in different aspects. With the change of the value orientation of national development, the research of public management should also be re-examined.*

Key words: *Business, Economics, Sociology, Management, Interdisciplinary.*

1. Introduction

Public management is an activity in which social public organizations, especially government departments and other organizations, promote the coordinated development of society as a whole (Arefin et al., 2018), enhance the realization of common interests in society, and make innovations and innovations based on the law to coordinate and control social public affairs in accordance with the law (Van der Waldt, 2014). The development of public management is to meet the needs of social production and development (Jones, 2005). In order to solve the increasingly diversified and complicated social and public affairs issues, it is necessary to integrate the theoretical knowledge and research methods of all social science disciplines (Sarker, 2019a).

Economics is the scientific name for the study of the economic relations and the laws of economic activities and the application of the production, exchange, distribution, and consumption of social material data (Sarker et al., 2018). The acknowledged earliest western economic book is Xenophon's economic theory, and Greek means family management". In Western Europe, the original capital accumulation period, Munch's political economics "Lieqin" dedicated to the king and queen and Stuart's "political economics" principle of "politics" and "economic" together, the definition of economics expanded from home range to society or country. But economics should be a science mainly due to classical economics. Adams. "The wealth of the nations" in western economic circles of the bible. The "marginal revolution" in the 1870s was regarded as the watershed between classical economics and modern economics by economists. Marshall, the economist, first

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used "economics" instead of "political economics", and introduced mathematical analysis tools in the study to carry out the logical deduction of "hypothesis - inference". In 1984, Samuelson defined resource allocation as the definition of economics in economics. Buchanan is a representative of the public choice school and applies economic methods to nonmarket decision making. Institutional economics emphasizes the study of people, institutions and economic activities, and the relationship between them (Raimondo and Newcomer, 2017). Today, the definition of economics is still divided.

Sociology is a comprehensive social science that regards society as a whole and studies the structure, function, occurrence, and change of society through social behavior and social relations (Sarker, 2019b; Sarker, 2019c). The thought of social research has a long history. In the Republic, Platon proposed the class division of social formation, and the social division of labor and social order (Sultana et al., 2017). In the course of positivist philosophy, Comte, the founder of western sociology, puts forward the concept of sociology and establishes the theoretical system and theoretical content of sociology. Carle Marx reveals the law and motive force of social development, which has great influence on sociology.

At the end of the nineteenth Century and the beginning of the Twentieth Century, sociology gradually became an independent discipline. Durkheim established his sociological theory as the core of social order, making sociology an independent subject. Marx Webb defined sociological research object as "social action", and put forward the research perspective of "value relevance". The definition of differences of sociology is mainly aimed at the research object, the scholars mainly have the following several points: sociology is the study of human social science; sociology is a social behavior of people; sociology is the study of social relations; is the form and structure of social combination of sociology; and sociology is the study of social process (Marume et al., 2016). The common point is that, from the social behavior and social relations of people, we can understand society in general. The main purpose of this study is to explore interdisciplinary research in public management by analyzing the theory and practices of economics and sociology.

2. Review of Literature

According to the national standard of classification and code of disciplines in the People's Republic of China, there are 5 categories, 62 first level disciplines, 748 two-level disciplines, and 6000 nearly three disciplines. Economics and sociology belong to the first class discipline of Humanities and social sciences. According to the national standard, including: branch of economics political economics, macroeconomics, microeconomics, comparative economics, comparative economics, geography, development of productivity economics, the history of economic thought, economic history, world economics, national economics, management economics, quantity economics, accounting, auditing, technical economics, ecological economics, labor economics, city economics, resource economics, environmental economics, sustainable development economics, industrial economics, logistics, economics, agricultural economics, rural economics, transportation economics, business economics, price theory, tourism economics, information economics, finance, finance, insurance, economics, economics and other disciplines of national defense (Yoon, 1968). According to this standard, there are 36 branches of economics. Li Yining holds that the branch of economics does not stop here, and the new branch of economics should be subject to other disciplines (Vigoda, 2003 ; Wamsley, 2012).

According to the national standard, a branch of sociology include: the history of sociology, sociological theory, sociology method, experimental mathematical sociology, sociology, sociology, comparative sociology, social geography, political sociology, cultural sociology, historical sociology, sociology of science, sociology, military social economy sociology, social psychology, public relations, social anthropology, sociology of organization development, sociology, sociology, demography, labor welfare science, sociology and other subjects, a total of 23 branches. In recent years, environmental sociology, urban sociology, sociology of education, sports sociology and other fields of research are also very rich (Tahmasebi and Musavi, 2011).

3. Methodology

A qualitative approach comprising desk review and content analysis was followed for this study. The study also used secondary data and various scholars' opinion as a basis for argument. A number of books, journal articles, book chapters, and published documents were followed to substantiate the argument. This study also used data carefully to describe the inter-disciplinary relationship among economics, sociology and public management.

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4. Results and Discussion

4.1. Research Perspectives and Methods of Economics and Sociology

4.1.1. Research Perspectives and Methods of Economics

The research perspective of modern economics is generally considered to be from macroeconomics and microeconomics. The study of macroeconomics includes the integration of global economy, the importance of financial markets, the issue of unified currency, the coordination of economic policies, and the role of macroeconomic policies under the open economy (Spicer, 2005). The research of microeconomics includes social choice theory, property right economic theory, human capital theory and so on.

The commonly used research methods include mathematics, game theory, behavior and experimental economics, etc. Mathematically, in the discipline of Social Sciences, economics is a relatively mature discipline, and it is also one of the most social sciences with the highest degree of mathematics. Take the Nobel prize in economics as an example. The Nobel prize in economics attaches great importance to the scientific and analytical level, and its important tool is mathematics. There are roughly two cases. First, econometrics, from the actual data, the use of mathematical statistics to establish economic model; two is mathematical economics method, extracted from the economic phenomenon of some assumptions, the use of abstract mathematical derivation, mathematical models to reflect the economic phenomenon. The vast majority of Nobel prize winners in economics are using advanced mathematical theories to explain economic problems.

The study of economics and game theory is based on the premise of a rational man, and the study of how the game theory to maximize the utility of the rational economic man under the given constraint conditions is more thorough than the traditional economics (Sowa, 2016). It holds that the utility function of the individual depends not only on individual choice but also on the choice of others. Traditional economics is based on the hypothesis of rational man, ignoring the preference of human beings, and the investigation of behavior and psychology, and the behavior and the experimental economic law just make up for this deficiency.

4.1.2. Sociological Research Perspectives and Methods

The research perspective of sociology can also be considered as two perspectives: macro and micro. Macro-sociology mainly studies the whole society and subsystems, including social organizations, social mobility, social classes and other large social phenomena related to the national economy and the people's livelihood. We can think of it as a skeletal analysis of society". Micro-sociological research focuses on individual social role, socialization, interaction and other small social phenomena, which is a "cell analysis" of society". There are almost no experimental studies on the commonly used research methods, such as investigation, field research, literature research, etc.

Investigation and research. Through a planned and purposeful use of certain means and methods, the relevant social facts of data collection, collation, and analysis of research, and then to describe, explain and explore social practice activities (Schedler and Eicher, 2013). Investigation and research method is the most widely used method in sociological research methods in China, including sampling survey, case investigation, census, and other specific methods (Rahman et al., 2013).

Fieldwork. It was first used by social anthropologists. Researchers investigate the social environment of the objects and collect the social data directly by observation, inquiry, and feeling. They usually describe and explain the problems with qualitative analysis. Specific research methods include observation method, access method, and scale method (Rahman et al., 2018).

Literature research. Literature research in sociology is to collect and analyze the existing documents in the form of words, numbers, symbols, pictures and other information to explore and analyze various social behavior, social relations, and other social phenomena research methods (Prodhan et al., 2017). Specific research methods include content analysis, two analysis, etc.

4.2. The Enlightenment of Economics and Sociology to Public Management Research

Government is the largest owner of public resources. Public management and economics are related to resource allocation. Moreover, the administrative organs of various countries intervene the economic development without exception, which makes the public management have more economic functions. Since the 1970s, the hypothesis of rational economic man and the quantitative analysis of economics have been paid

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more attention to in the field of public administration, providing a series of accurate and efficient theories and methods for the reform of government and the solution of public problems.

The new public management advocates abandoning the traditional bureaucratic system in the supply of public services and promoting the efficiency of the private sector (Nasrin et al., 2019). This further strengthens the economic orientation of public management research and provides a new perspective of marketization, competition, emphasis on investment and results. The most fundamental influence of Economics on new public management is that the hypothesis of rational humanity is replaced by the hypothesis of evil human nature in traditional public administration. The transformation of this assumption makes the traditional public administration process oriented, emphasizes the obedience of people to the rule procedure, and changes to the result orientation of new public management. The government takes incentive as the main management mode.

The traditional public administration emphasizes qualitative management based on human experience. While economics attaches importance to the research methods of mathematics, some of its application results are introduced into the performance quantification of public management, reducing the subjective factors of human, following the method of positivism, emphasizing objectivity (Sarker and Jie, 2017). Whether public problems can be solved or not will be clearer and more intuitive through quantitative measurement and evaluation.

4.3. Sociological Perspectives

Public management arises in order to study the solution of social public problems. Public problems often have the characteristics of sociality, complexity, and comprehensiveness, and the degree is constantly improving. The main body of solving social problems is developed from the government to the pluralistic trend, which makes it necessary for the public management discipline to seek the support of sociology related theories and methods (Sarker et al., 2019a).

Public management researchers have always questioned and criticized the hypothesis of rational man. The most important reason is that the rational man hypothesis of public administration ignores the public spirit of human beings in public administration (Sarker et al., 2017). The sociological hypothesis is that social people, around the social behavior of people and social relations to study, can be concemed about social stability and people's happiness and a series of nonquantitative issues.

The use of sociological research methods, problems of public administration can obtain more effective information, especially information and the lower level of government, to solve the problem of academic research and practice to make use of the information is extremely limited, sociological research methods can help to obtain sufficient information (Sarker et al., 2018; Sarker et al., 2019b). On the other hand, the problems solved by public management must be verified in practice. The sociological method will help researchers to understand the social problems and the implementation effect of public policy more directly and truly.

5. Conclusion

Public management is generated in order to solve social public problems, and its value orientation will certainly be affected by the value orientation of national development. In 1987, the thirteenth report "in the premise of promoting the efficiency of social fairness". This distribution policy has been strengthened since then. In 2002, the sixteen reports of the Communist Party of China reaffirmed "efficiency first and fair consideration". In this case, the research perspective and methods of public management are biased towards economics, which is understandable for quantitative analysis. With the further development of the socialist market economy, the national income has been continuously improved. The gap between the rich and the poor is too large, causing social discontent and national unrest. The distribution and redistribution should deal with the relationship between efficiency and fairness, and redistribution pays more attention to fairness. At this time, the value orientation of public management begins to be fair, and the research methods should be based on qualitative analysis, combined with sociology and other multi-disciplinary knowledge.

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