

PUBLIC POLICY AND THEIR IMPACT ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE

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Abstract

During previous periods of time, theories of political elites have played a significant role as a key factor in decision making and policy of the state, where the rule of a minority was widespread due to the authority and had its effects. But today, in our time in the era of democracy, freedom and the protection of human rights, the situation has changed, what had happened earlier, now has become unacceptable by the modern society.

This paper aims directly and clearly to highlight the area of public policy, as a very important socio-political field, by presenting the role of government, its public policy in society, and their impact on the life of an individual, community and even on the future of the state.

To achieve this goal, we have relied primarily on the analytical method, then using explanatory method, as appropriate methods to show and explain the visions and goals of this paper, secondly, the method of correlation, to connect between the elements of this paper and the desired goal.

Also, this paper proves and demonstrates the role of public policy in the light of globalization, the technological revolution and the interdependence between governmental and non-governmental actors in the states, the need to correct and to change ineffective public policies. A great evidence and realistic example of this need, we have the Arab Spring.

The importance of this paper is to give a holistic view and simplified on the concept of public policy, the principles, obstacles and challenges, fundamental actors, its importance and the role in the development of the state, stability and progress.

The public policy as a strategy and tool of the government in managing and treatment of social issues, remains always in need of continuous development in line with theoretical and practical studies, to proceed with development of all aspects of life of community of the state.

Key words: *Politics, Political Elite, Public Policy, Democracy, Government, State.*

1. Politics and public policy areas

The word “Politic” from the Latin sources, is defined as the management of the affairs of the state or city. While at the present time means everything related to state issues, relations between states and plans of individuals and groups, which aims to achieve specific goals¹. By politics in its broadest sense is the activity through which people make, preserve and improve the general rules under which they live².

¹ Sadaka Jahja Fadel, *Parimet e shkencës politike*, Shtëpi botuese Moasasa Al madine për shtyp (Dar Al ilm), Jeddah, third edition, 2003, pg. 19.

² Andrew Heywood, *Politika*, translated by Blendi Kraja, Brezi '81, Prishtinë, 2008, pg. 4.

According to Andrew Heywood, policies can be analyzed as a public phenomenon. Heywood defines politics as a social and collective activity³.

The term "Politics" is the art of governance of the state or can be determined on the basis of political science, as science that rule the states, or the study of the principles on which it can be established governments, and which directs these governments in its relations with citizens and other countries⁴. In general politic may be considered, a binding decision-making process, which determines the distribution of values (material and moral) in the community as it includes measures to ensure the implementation of these decisions. Having regard to public life, are included four main areas:

1. Politics;
2. The military security;
3. Economy, and
4. Social Field (which includes all aspects of public life, besides the political aspects, military and economic).

These key areas represent all the dimensions and aspects related to the public life of the state, where politics play the role of managing of the community, through public policy of the state.

The importance of these aspects is because they show how much is the welfare of the community and it's positive or negative development, and thus is determined the level of strength of the state, regionally and globally, which relies on important key elements, as below:

- Environment and geographical location;
- The number and type of population;
- The natural resources (economy);
- The political leadership (politics);
- The industrial strength;
- The military Force.

The political leadership or politics are assessed as the most important and most prominent of these elements, for the fact that it represents the outcome of all other elements.⁵

Public policies areas can be considered as the most important socio-political field, which have undergone remarkable changes over the past century until nowadays, especially in European countries, where those countries turned from the authoritarian regimes or what is known more as a "rule or democracy of political

³ Jonuz Abdullai, *Politika dhe politikat publike*, Arbëria design , Tetovë , 2010, pg. 175.

⁴ Mohamed Shalaby, *Metodologjia në analizës së politike*, Faculty of Political Science and International Relations, Algjeri, 1997, pg. 11.

⁵ Sadaka Jahja Fadel, *Parimet e shkencës politike*, Publisher Moasasa Al madine për shtyp (Dar Al ilm), Jeddah, Third Edition, 2003, pg. 29

elites"⁶ in other democratic systems, where the state has the authority and power to meet the needs and demands of the people.

This ruling came as a result of difficult democratic political process, wherein finally reached to realize that what is known as the "Welfare State", which included numerous programs of all aspects of life, such as health, social security, education and other. These programs are implemented and enforced in the form of actions and activities under serious, effective, purposeful public policies with clear and concrete results. These actions and activities can be categorized as follows:⁷

The extraction of various resources from national and international environment such as money, goods, persons and services as community values;

- Activities for the distribution of funds and services;
- The regulation of human behavior to impose in response to the process of extraction and distribution of activities;
- Symbolic achievements, such as political speeches, ceremonies and celebrations calling on citizens to follow the desired behavior.

1.1. The public policies, meaning and concept

The researchers on the terrain of the field of public policy analysis have found real difficulties to understand and define the term public politics, in an accurate and practical way. So, there were many thoughts and concepts, but some researchers have discussed the term public politics (public policy), in a broad sense to refer to the actions of some of the participants (actors) or their system, in the form of decision-making system.

For this reason, the public policies can be understood as particular activity, which has to do with decision-making in various government bodies.⁸ It should be noted that the policy does not necessarily mean positive decisions taken by an government official, appointed in any of the areas of public policies such as health, education, transportation or other, but it also means, negative decisions that government to refrain or refuse to perform them. According to Richard Rouse, the public politics implies a whole range of activities closely related to each other or not among themselves, and their consequences⁹ on those to whom the policy is dedicated.

⁶ According to Schumpeter Democracy is the rule of politicians, not the people. Politicians are "trade votes" same as stakes in stock market for more Look at: Hasan Jashari, *Ese të filozofisë politike*, University of Southeast Europe, Tetovë, 2010, pg. 67.

⁷ Gabriel A. Almond, G. Benjham Powell Jr, *Politika krahasuese në kohën e tashme- panje globale "Comparative Politics"*, translated from the arabian from Hisham Abdullah, Dar Al Ahlia for publication and distribution, Aman - Jordani, 1998, pg. 187.

⁸ Jonuz Abdullai, *Politika dhe politikat publike*, Arbëria design, Tetovë, 2010, pg. 175

⁹ Ibidem, pg. 176.

It should be noted here that the concept of public policy may be defined by his treatment in two directions, namely:¹⁰

1. In the policy framework;
2. In technical framework.

1. The political context - According to this trend, the public policies are evaluated as government programs resulting from the political and administrative decisions, overlapping and complex, in this context comes the definition of political scientist David Easton, who sees public policy as an "Authoritarian distribution of values for the whole community".

This is an indisputable reality, which shows that only governments are able to exercise this authoritarian allocation of values. Also, political philosopher Abraham Kaplan has defined public policy as a "program of goals, values and practices."¹¹

Based on these previous definitions we have to understand that the concept of public policies is concentrated on a more focus and more extensive study than just of central government. Here can be studied also local, regional government, associations, the interest groups and the whole society in its entirety.¹²

2. In technical framework - in this context, can be used some other terminologies, mutually with the term public policies, and those are:¹³

- a) The plan;
- b) The program;
- c) The project, and
- d) Activity.

The plan - Need for the implementation of public policies, which are only a few types of policies dealing with the aspects of our lives within the state in which we live, and which are formed in the plans by the administrators who are charged with the designing and their formulation based on the time factor, can be classified as follows:

- Short Term (Short Range),
- Medium Term (Intermediate Range),
- Long Term (Long Range).

Planning is seen as process of deciding ahead of what should be done and how. It includes, determining the overall missions, identification of key areas of success and

¹⁰ Ahmed Mustafa Al-Hussein, *Hyrje në analiza të politikave publike*, Printing Company University of Jordan, Amman, first edition, 2002, pg.7.

¹¹ Ibidem, pg. 11.

¹² Bekim Baliqi, *Analiza e politikave publike*, Unversiteti Iliria, Prishtine, 2011, pg. 10.

¹³ Ahmed Mustafa Al-Hussein, *Hyrje në analiza të politikave publike*, Shtypshkronjë Universiteti i Jordanisë, Aman,

First edition, 2002 , pg. 13-15.

placement of specific objectives, as well as development of policies, programs and procedures to achieve them.¹⁴

Another classification, which also depends on the time factor, can be divided as follows:

- The strategic plan (Strategic Plan),
- The operational plan (Operational Plan).

Or by division:

- Single-Use Plans (Single-Use Plans)
- Plans continuous (Standing Plans).

All these plans are applied at certain levels, in accordance with necessary requirements addressed to specific issues, which are imposed on the quality of public policies needed.

The program - The program is a homogenous activity that always aims to achieve specific goals incorporated in the plan and on public policy. So, with another more clarifying sense, program is one part of the elements of implementation of the plan. Also, the same program can be considered as a secondary plan that consists of several partial programs that move in the same context, in order to achieve the desired goal.

The project - The project is a small part of the program that includes specific purpose and specific tasks (assignments), which is committed to move also in accordance with a specific time.

Activity - As was reviewed earlier, the public policies are based on the plan and the plan is represented in a number of programs; the program consists of a large group and unspecified number of projects, then activities, are related with presentation of the components of the program and project, or more accurately represents the first element of the program or project.

1.2. The basic principles of public policies

All systems of rule are tested, somewhere more and somewhere less by the exercising of power of violence through the military and police institutions.¹⁵ Not only from these, but also by the failure of state institutions in the implementation of better conditions of life through unsuccessful and ineffective public policies.

There is no doubt that the public policies are established and developed, in addition state should work with all the tools to ensure and to develop the necessary foundations, which work to promote the freedom of thought, the freedom of expression, freedom of opinion, etc. and which are the main source of promotion and welfare of a country in the long term, away from random policies, which are as

¹⁴ Abdulla Azizi, *Fjalor*, Vatra, Shkup, 2009, pg. 68-69.

¹⁵ Andrew Heywood, *Politika*, Brezi '81, Prishtinë, 2008, pg. 359.

result of politics and authority of political elites and of their philosophy. Therefore, must be provided the foundations and key principles necessary for the success of public policies, and the most important of them are:¹⁶

1. Realization and protection of democracy and freedom of diversity of opinion as a long term goal to create healthy and effective public policies, with real and concrete results and conclusions;

2. Protection of human rights, including political, economic, social rights and other ; in order to reduce the differences among citizens and to become the redistribution of income and assets of the state. Besides this shall be activated, the real political participation of community members, through a completely democratic system;

3. The speed in achievement of short-term goals is important because it has to do with improving of living conditions of citizens, in order as soon as possible and according to the priorities of targeted public policy areas;

4. Attention and caution for Scientific Researches, an active and main role of public policies analysts to express the needs and everyday issues of citizens through continuous researches and different theoretical efforts.

2. The public policies and their environment

The difficulty to make critical decisions of political power comes when public policy is inefficient and ineffective, and of course this can happen when public policy is far from truth and reality and did not take into account the surrounding circumstances and the environment, and nor has arisen from them.¹⁷ The importance of the environment comes from the fact that it imposes restrictions and puts pressure on decision makers, as well as because public policies derive from the environment and are transferred directly into the political system, and this happens in optimal case. The public policies not consist only of the process of decision making, because it cannot be acted and be solved the social problems, without fully analyzing the political process as a complex of activities of various social actors.¹⁸ This environment can be represented as for example: in geographical and climatic characteristics, sizes and types of natural resources available to the political system, as well as other variables, such as economic, social, cultural variables and civilization, the number and quality, composition of population and other. Considering that, the environment in general around public policy plays a

¹⁶ Ahmed Mustafa Al-Hussein, *Hyrje në analiza të politikave publike*, Shtypshkronjë Universiteti i Jordanisë, Aman,

First edition, 2002 , pg. 278-281.

¹⁷ James Anderson, *Politikëbërja publike*, përkthyes në arabisht nga Amer Al Kubaisi, Dar masira për publikimin,

shpërndarjen, dhe shtypje, Doha - katar, 1998, pg. 45.

¹⁸ Jonuz Abdullai, *Politika dhe politikat publike*, Arbëria design, Tetovë , 2010, pg. 211.

fundamental and vital role not only in politics within the state, but also is reflected in foreign policy of the state. Public policy under its environmental impact can be assessed as a result of conflict and competitiveness between various individuals and groups, formal or informal caste within the same community who have interests, attitudes and desires that are not in compliance or identical.¹⁹

2.1. Barriers of public policies

Policymaking process is not at all an easy process, but it is a complicated and complex process. It starts from the problems that are existing and intrusive, and which require a careful analysis and moral integrity in terms of study and assessment of the dimensions of the problem or obstacle, because it is considered as the main motivation for the government to afford, to work and to find suitable alternatives, and consequently presentation of appropriate public policies based on the availability of accurate and truth information, and in entirely appropriate scientific analysis that derive from proficient analysts of public policies.²⁰

From the policy analysts is required a scientific objectivity and professional ethical approach, a sort of "Hippocratic" oath, as is the practice in medicine.²¹ As for the problem or obstacle, it can be defined as: "Circumstance or attitude that refers to individuals needs and dissatisfaction, which makes them looking for help and asking for assistance to counter those who suffer from it, and this happens by those who are interested in this situation and these attitude, or are affected or are sympathizers with them."²² "These problems may be for example: low income, high prices, inadequate nutrition, environmental pollution and other.

Considering that the obstacles or problems can not be considered as problems, unless victims have not calling for help from others, who are not parties affected by these problems. Furthermore, problems should be public in their features and specifications and no particular problems, in the sense that the impact of the problem should be broad, comprehensive to set up interest and attention.

According to Theodore Lowe, obstacles or problems can be classified into three types as follows:²³

- ❖ **Distributional problems:** These include a limited number of people and their issues can be solved one after another;

¹⁹ James Anderson, *Politikëbërja publike*, përkthyes në arabisht nga Amer Al Kubaisi, Dar masira për publikimin,

shpërndarjen, dhe shtypje, Doha - katar, 1998, pg. 49.

²⁰ Ibidem, pg. 77.

²¹ Bekim Baliqi, *Analiza e politikave publike*, Unversiteti Iliria, Prishtine, 2011, pg. 22

²² James Anderson, *Politikëbërja publike*, përkthyes në arabisht nga Amer Al Kubaisi, Dar masira për publikimin,

shpërndarjen, dhe shtypje, Doha - katar, 1998, pg. 78.

²³ Ibidem, pg. 81.

- ❖ Regulatory problems: These include implementing of the requirements, prohibition or reduction, the interference of others in some areas of public life;
- ❖ Re-distribution problems: Represent the transfer of resources from one area to another and the re-distribution of resources between groups, layers or zones in the community. This classification is based on the number of individuals affected by the policy, and the relationship between each other.

2.2. The reasons for the failure of public policy in achieving its objectives

A most critical moment for every public policy is the moment of evaluation and trial of certain policy when it comes with dissatisfaction of high costs or from the consequences and negative impacts arising from them. This situation can be presented by the political opposition as well as by the climate and the environment around her, which could bring the termination of this policy.²⁴

In general, we can say that most public policy outcomes are negative, do not reach the goals that have been planned and do not result with desired effects, and the reason for this is for the following reasons:²⁵

- Deficit of financial resources needed for implementation, in addressing and solving the problem;

- The wrong way with which policy administers, so that the positive effects and consequences are scarce;

- Some policies treat a limited number of reasons for a given problem and ignore other reasons. As a result, in this situation the policy fails;

Sometimes policy objectives are not identical and can be conflictual, which makes its implementation difficult;

- Sometimes, the solution of a problem may require costs more than problem itself;

- Some problems are not solvable or have difficult and complex nature;

- Some problems may change their nature during the implementation of policy;

- The displaying of a new problem makes difficult the interest and the essence of the problem

3. Conclusions

Public policies have a very broad scope, that affect all spheres of life of citizens and that require a maximum commitment from all to achieve satisfactory results.

²⁴ Jonuz Abdullahi, *Politika dhe politikat publike*, Arbëria design, Tetovë , 2010, pg. 266.

²⁵ James Anderson, *Politikëbërja publike*, përkthyes në arabisht nga Amer Al Kubaisi, Dar masira për publikimin, shpërndarjen, dhe shtypje, Doha - katar,1998, pg. 210-212.

Public policies require investment, both financial as well as academic investment, so that in a long-term plan to have educated and specialized people who can deal and formulate short-term, mid-term and long term strategy for public policy.

We say academic investments, because the drafting or implementation of public policy is quite complex and requires specialized staff, because eventual errors directly affect the life of every citizen.

In drafting of public policies, besides state leaders, shall participate even people of the area, people from non-governmental organizations, local and international experts, because the contribution of many groups reveals a very successful final product.

Finally we can say that public policies are the backbone of a State, or of the functioning of a state, because without successful public policies we do not have strong state, because these policies affect political aspect, military, socio-economic, cultural aspect, etc.

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