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Public Policy and its Role in Public Administration

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Abstract

This study aims to elucidate and recognize the concept of public policy, the kinds of public policy and its role in public administration. The study adopts a qualitative research approach, both in terms of its fundamental research objective and its descriptive-analytical nature and methodology. Data collection follows a library-based method, utilizing books, articles, and reputable online sources and extracting information through qualitative analysis and refinement. The primary research question addressed in this study is the definition, the kinds and role of public policy in public administration. The findings indicate that public policy is an integral part of the framework of a public administration/organization, closely tied to the philosophy and existence of such entities. Public policy plays constructive and essential roles, including clarifying the spirit of laws and regulations, evaluating and controlling administrative programs and activities, ensuring the interests and public welfare, guiding administrative affairs, and ultimately coordinating the actions and performance of public administration. Also, research results show that public policy is divided from different points of view, the most famous of which are legislative, judicial and executive policies. It is recommended that public administrations, to establish a healthy organization and fulfil their mission, necessarily adopt various policies based on their specific needs.

Keywords: Public Policy, Types of Public Policy, Role of Public Policy, Public Administration.

Introduction

Social life necessitates the formation of institutions and organizations to address matters beyond individual and private sector capabilities. These entities, engaged in public services, are referred to as public administration. Public administration encompasses organizations implementing government policies and development plans, serving as the executive arm responsible for delivering public services.¹ Public administrations are compelled to formulate and develop policies to fulfil their responsibilities effectively. Policy, representing the decision-making process to address issues, shapes our daily lives and is crucial for the functioning of governments.² Hence, the discussion about policy formulation and public policies is essential, as a government without policy is akin to a lifeless body without a soul. Effective policies empower governments to

¹ Rahmani, Abdul Latif, and Naseri, Heshmatullah, *Human Resource Management*. (Kabul: Saeed Publications, 2018), 12.

² Wahid, Majid, *Public Policy*, (Tehran: Neshremizan, 2015), 65

achieve their objectives, and the failure of a policy signifies a failure of governance. The broad scope of government activities emphasizes the significant role of policies in the success or failure of governments. Public policy, as a burgeoning branch of political science, has experienced continuous growth and ascendance since the mid-20th century, initially emerging in the United States and later influencing public organizations in European countries. It has now become institutionalized in most countries worldwide.

In the contemporary era, governments, driven by mission and ideology, acknowledge the need for policy development to uphold the rule of law. Through systematic policy-making, governments can attain their goals and objectives. In Afghanistan, after the fall of the first Islamic Emirate, public institutions began formulating public policies to address societal challenges shortly after the establishment of the Islamic Republic in 2002.³ Considering those mentioned above, this research aims to answer the following questions: What is public policy, and what role do public policies play in public administrations? The study employs a compatible qualitative research approach, focusing on the fundamental research objective, using a descriptive and analytical methodology.

2. Literature Review

It is worth noting that public diplomacy and its importance in public administration have not been systematically explored at the national level by researchers located in Afghanistan. However, some young researchers have focused their Master's degree theses in the field of law at Kabul University on the subject of policy writing. These researchers have conducted library and field research on public policy, with some of them being mentioned as background for this study. For instance, Khaled Asadi focused on the role and importance of law in legitimizing national police policies and the process of formulating police policies in the Ministry of Interior.⁴ Similarly, Mohammad Milad Barikzai primarily focused on general concepts of public policy, theories of public policy, methods of public policy design, and methods of policy design in Afghan public administration⁵.

It should be noted that Rida Azimi conducted his thesis in 2019, concentrating primarily on the principles of policy formulation in public administration. However, his research findings indicate that he did not specifically focus on a particular department, leading to a lack of specificity in his study population, which comprises various administrative staff.⁶ Furthermore, Rahmatullah Safiri conducted his Master's thesis in 2014, highlighting the need for structured policies in judicial and legal entities.⁷ Another researcher, Ahmadullah Hamid, completed his thesis in 2018, examining how pressure groups and political parties influence policy formulation.⁸ Other Persian-language studies conducted by foreign researchers include a research study in the Islamic

³ Mohammadi, Sakhi, *Public Administration*, (Kabul: Irfan Publishing, 2015), 169

⁴ Asadi, khaled, *The Role of Law in Formulating National Police Policies*, (Kabul: Kabul university, 2018).

⁵ Barikzai, Mohammad Milad, *An Examination of Public Policy Making Methods in Afghanistan* (Kabul: Weigel press, 2018)

⁶ Azimi, Rida, *Principles of Policy Making in Public Administration*, (Kabul: Sayeed Publisher, 2019).

⁷ Safiri, Rahmatullah, *The Necessity of Formulating Policies in Afghan Judicial and Legal Institutions*, (Kabul: Kabul university, 2014).

⁸ Hamid, Ahmadullah, *The Role of Pressure Groups and Political Parties in Policymaking in Afghanistan*, (Kabul: Kabul university, 2018).

Republic of Iran conducted by Wayne Parsons and translated by Hassan Nazhdad in 2015. This research focused on public policy concepts, policy analysis, decision-making analysis, policy implementation analysis, and policy formulation processes⁹.

Majid Wahid focuses on the policy formulation process.¹⁰ Another study was conducted by Iranian scholars Ali Taqi Amiri, Hassan Danaie-Fard, and their colleagues, emphasizing replicability in public policy. The researchers in this study specifically focused on the replicability of public policies.¹¹ Additionally, Jahangir Moeini Alamdari conducted a study in 2015 with a primary focus on philosophical aspects of public policy.¹² In 2017, Mohammad Reza Yazdani Zazrani emphasized theory, concepts, and public policy governance.

On the other hand, Sahar Babaie and Gholamreza Tawakali conducted a research study in 2016 focusing more on conceptual modelling and policy recommendations.¹³ The optimal utilization of these research findings is incorporated into this study. Thus, the extensive research conducted by foreign authors in the English language has contributed to a comprehensive understanding of the policy-making subject.

In this research, efforts are made, to the best of our ability, to delve into the nature of public policy and its role in public administration. The distinction of this study lies in elucidating the essence and types of public policy, emphasizing the application of public policy and evaluating its effectiveness in advancing the responsibilities of public administration. The general concepts of public policy are explored from various perspectives in this discussion. While the notion of public policy may initially seem familiar and obvious, providing a comprehensive, definitive, and clear definition is challenging. Public policy can be easily recognized, but presenting an acceptable definition is difficult due to its broad and flexible nature, manifesting itself in various forms. Various interpretations of public policy can be well understood from its definitions.

3. General Concepts of Public Policy

In this discussion, an attempt is made to examine the concept of public policy from various perspectives. While the concept of public policy might seem familiar and self-evident initially, providing a clear, precise, and comprehensive definition proves challenging. Although public policy can be easily recognized, offering an acceptable definition is not straightforward due to its broad and flexible nature, which manifests in diverse ways. Explaining it in a fixed format becomes extremely difficult. A nuanced understanding of policy can be derived from its various definitions.¹⁴

3.1 Concept of Public Policy

In the Persian language, the term "سیاست" (*siyasat*) is equivalent to the English words "politics" and "policy." The first word conveys the meaning of the science of politics,

⁹ Parsons, Wayne, *An Overview of Public Policy*, translator: Hassan Nazhdad, (Tehran: 2015).

¹⁰ Wahid, Majid, *An Introduction to Public Policy*, (Tehran: Nashre Nay, 2016).

¹¹ Amiri, Ali Taqi and others, *Understanding the Essence of Public Policies*, (Tehran: Tehran university, 2011).

¹² Moeini Alamdari, Jahangir, *Reflections on the Philosophy of Public Policy*, (Tehran: 2015).

¹³ Babaie, Sahar, & Tawakali, Gholamreza, "Rationalizing Basic Assumptions in the Public Policy Process", *Journal of Scientific Research in Public Policy*, 3, Issue 1, 2017. 16

¹⁴ Alwani, Seyed Mehdi, and Sharifzadeh, Fattah, *Public Policy Process*, (Tehran: Allameh Tabatabai University Press, 2017), 2.

dealing with the acquisition, preservation, increase, and use of power, discussing how power is obtained. On the other hand "پالیسی" or "سیاست" is defined, particularly by Oxford culture, as an operational and executive plan, especially by the government. It is understood as policies set by the government or public institutions that affect all or a large population. The opposite of public policies is private policies or private politics, which can be set by a small group of individuals, an institution, a business, or an organization, impacting only their specific individuals¹⁵.

In terms of the Constitution "پالیسی" also means the charter, manifesto, method, and procedure, and policy-making is equivalent to decision-making. It can be considered a form of decision-making since when a policy is determined, a decision has been made in that regard. The difference is that policy decisions are more fundamental and essential than specific and secondary decisions. Therefore, policy is outlined, and decisions are made while adhering to the predefined criteria in the policy.¹⁶ In Persian literature, "پالیسی" means a plan or policy and, in this context, signifies a general outline and main points for political action, opinion, and activity.¹⁷

3.2 Definition of Public Policy

The term "public policy" has been defined differently by various scholars. According to Frederic, it is "the decisions that instruct us on what to do and what not to do in current conditions"¹⁸ From Demock's perspective, it is "the conscious understanding of rules and principles governing interaction in administrative decision"¹⁹ Public policy, or general guidelines, guides the choice of direction and decision-making.²⁰ It is the set of purposeful activities individuals or groups undertake to solve a problem or issue.²¹ In essence, it provides principles and guidance for directing the activities of an organization's employees.²² Public policy is an instrument for allocating resources to achieve government goals and objectives.²³

Public policy is a general rule that must align with laws and regulations; for example, the Constitution serves as a policy guide, and no law should contradict it. The crucial question is where policy-making or policy formulation originates. In response, it can be said that public policy reflects the thoughts and tendencies of members within a social structure. It represents the collective thoughts of a group, forming an ideological stream that determines its policies.²⁴

Policy is a framework and a way for humans to move towards a goal. Public policy is a valuable and significant document that conveys a more specific meaning and is

¹⁵ Stephen, DeTennessee, *Basics of Political Science*, Trans: Malek Mohammadi, Hamid Reza, (Tehran: Nashremizan, 2011), 16

¹⁶ Shahidzadeh, Seyyed Farhad, *Basics of Public Administration*, (Herat: Quds Publishing House, 2013), 83.

¹⁷ Dehkhoda, Ali Akbar, *Dehkhoda Dictionary*, (Tehran: University of Tehran Press, 1993). 116

¹⁸ Mohammadi, "Public Administration", 269.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Alwani, "Public Policy Process", 13.

²¹ Shahidzadeh, "Basics of Public Administration", 85.

²² Intezar, Abu Rihan, *Basics of Human Resource Management*, (Balkh: Saqafat Press Publications, 2016), 35.

²³ Oni, Ebenzer Oluwole, *Public Policy Analysis*, (New York: Concept Publication Ltd, 2001), 325.

²⁴ Taslimi, Mohammad Saeed, *Analysis of the Policy-Making and Decision-Making Process*, (Tehran: Samit Publications, 2017), 5.

established by the government. Scholars in this field provide various definitions of public policy. Public policy consists of decisions and policies adopted by various public sector authorities, such as the parliament, government, and the judiciary, representing the guardians of societal interests. The government, as a general legal and policy-making institution, establishes policies through various means, such as laws, regulations, and guidelines.²⁵

In the scientific research of Milad Barikzai, a number of public administration scholars have defined public policy as follows, including *Clark Cochrane*, who "defines public policy as the activities of the government and the purposes that drive these activities. It encompasses what the government does or leaves undone".²⁶ *Gay Peters* emphasizes that "public policy is a collection of government activities directly or indirectly affecting citizens' lives". *Barror* and *Delone* consider public policy not as a result of gradual changes in a classical academic field but as a creator of a new ground where fundamental changes can be observed through research methods²⁷.

Public policy is a broad and general guideline for decision-making that links the stages of formulation and implementation of strategies.²⁸ Scholars like *Pryor* and *Ovila* view public policy as a stable decision that promotes coordination in public functions. Public policy, with its continuity and repetition among sectors and organizations, fosters coordination, strengthening national unity.²⁹

Essentially, public policy is constructed based on a specific goal and introduces government plans.³⁰ From the above definitions, it can be inferred that public policy is elucidated in the context of establishing connections between governmental organizations and around them. Public policies are principled guidelines that direct the decisions, actions, and activities of public organizations and guide them towards achieving goals. Public policy reflects the desires and expectations of the public sector, manifested in regulations, laws, executive regulations, and legislative and judicial processes. In essence, public policies are formulated to address and overcome issues and obstacles, proposed by individuals, groups, or the government in a specific geographic area and later developed and articulated by government institutions.

Furthermore, from the above definitions, it can be inferred that public policies reflect the decisions and outcomes of government functioning and indicate the desires and expectations of various organizational sectors. In the decision-making process, it is reflected through regulations, laws, executive regulations, and legislative and judicial processes. Common concepts found in the definitions of public policy suggest that it is a document that governments create to address and overcome their issues and obstacles. Public policies consider government actions and future goals, reflecting public demands within them. Laws, guidelines, decisions of judicial powers, statutes, and executive orders can be reflected in this framework. Public policy emerges from the process of policy-making, contributing to efficiency and effectiveness in public administration. It serves as decisions made by government institutions to address and overcome

²⁵ Alwani, Alwani, "Public Policy Process", 12.

²⁶ Barakzai, Mohammad Milad, *Methods of Public Policy Making*, (Kabul: Weigel Press, 2018), 4.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Rahmani, "Human Resource Management", 12.

²⁹ Barakzai, "Methods of Public Policy Making", 5.

³⁰ Mohammadi, "Public Administration", 269.

problems, challenges, and obstacles. In this document, do's and don'ts are described in society, depicting the actions, desires, and expectations of the public sector.

In a nutshell, public policy refers to those decisions and sustainable patterns that respond to various expectations and desires, promoting coordination and order in public administration. Public administration policies can have a positive impact when government actions are purposefully shaped, public support is enjoyed, and all societal values are considered during their formulation.³¹

3.3 Brief Historical Background of Public Policy

Some scholars believe that the origin of the field of public policy is closely tied to the formation and existence of governments. However, this discipline clearly took shape after World War II in North America and Europe. The primary and fundamental purpose of public policy has been the study of relations between the government and the people. Formal study of this discipline has taken place in recent centuries. The first scientific work by an American scholar (Harold D. Lasswell) between the 1940s and 1950s indicates his belief in academic knowledge of public policy as a political or policy science. The emphasis of this field was more on ensuring a good life for citizens and strengthening people's governance. However, the foundation and expansion of the study of public policy in American and European universities gained momentum in the 1960s³². In the 1970s and 1980s, public policy gained acceptance as an independent scientific discipline in universities and several countries worldwide. Now, this field is recognized as an independent science in most universities globally, particularly in some universities in Afghanistan, and is taught by professors.³³

Public policy is the government's action plan in practice. A government institution formulates its decisions and puts them into action. Public policy has distinct characteristics outlined as follows:

3.3.1 Dynamism

Public policy is dynamic and interconnected with the external world and societal realities. It establishes that the activities of public administration and society must be adaptable to changing conditions and respond to the desires and needs of the community. Thus, it should evolve in tandem with societal development to achieve efficiency and effectiveness in public administration.³⁴

3.3.2 Foresightedness

Public policy, considering existing realities, addresses problem-solving and, as a result, defines the general outlines and fundamental directions of society. Determining public policy requires a correct understanding of temporal and spatial conditions, and the ability to predict the outcome of its implementation is crucial. Government institutions are obligated to avoid shortsightedness, have a realistic view of policy, and anticipate the costs and benefits of its implementation.³⁵

³¹ Alwani, Alwani, "Public Policy Process", 12.

³² Barakzai, "Methods of Public Policy Making", 5.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Taslimi, "Analysis of the Policy-Making and Decision-Making Process", 8.

³⁵ Alwani, "Public Policy Process", 18.

3.3.3 *Purposefulness*

For public policy to succeed in achieving its goals, it must have specific and clear objectives. Therefore, public policy must be purposeful, avoiding vague and random considerations. Its formulation should be based on clear intentions and a specific program, as its implementation relies on these factors.³⁶

3.3.4 *Sustainability*

In essence, public policy is an ongoing and continuous process that finds solutions to public issues. Although the implementation of a policy is considered for a specific period, public policy always exists and continues to have its effects sustainably.

3.3.5 *Universality*

The purpose of formulating and developing public policy is not to address individual problems. The creation and establishment of public policy are aimed at addressing societal challenges. In public policy, the interests of individuals or specific groups are not considered; instead, the interests of the entire community are taken into account. Thus, public policy must be crafted in a way that all members of society recognize themselves as its audience and adhere to its provisions.

3.3.6 *Realism*

Public policy is based on realities and societal conditions. Policymakers are obligated to consider the temporal and spatial realities of society realistically when formulating policies. Policymakers must have a precise analysis of public administration and society; otherwise, the resulting policies will yield adverse outcomes.

3.3.7 *Flexibility*

Public policy is tailored to the conditions and circumstances of society; therefore, it must have the capability to be flexible. Public policies should be adaptable to societal changes to ensure their implementation sustains and survives. If public policy lacks flexibility, the public administration will undoubtedly lose its efficiency and face setbacks³⁷.

3.3.8 *Comprehensive Scope*

Public policy encompasses broad and overarching goals and objectives, as its philosophical existence is to address a public issue. Thus, public policy is not formulated for small matters or solving specific, isolated problems lacking a general aspect.³⁸ Public policy has been acknowledged to involve operational flow, focus, resource allocation, adaptability, and instigation of change as general characteristics. The comprehensiveness of public policy necessitates attention not only to a specific aspect of people's lives but encompasses all angles and dimensions of social life. In this regard, public policy concurrently addresses complex phenomena and encompasses various sectors. The contextual nature of public policy implies that it should not be crafted as a mere copy but must be formulated and evaluated according to the criteria and conditions of society, with acceptance by the people. Otherwise, it will not yield the desired results. The multidimensionality of public policy means it is not solely dedicated

³⁶ Mohammadi, "Public Administration", 294.

³⁷ Ibid, 274.

³⁸ Barakzai, "Methods of Public Policy Making", 76.

to the requirements of a specific economic, social, or cultural domain but considers all aspects of social life.

The susceptibility of public policy implies that attention must be paid to the reactions and opinions of individuals in society during its implementation so that the policy aligns its evolutionary process with the realities of society.³⁹ The fundamental goal of being analytical in public policy is to analyze all aspects of the public issue during its construction. Creativity in public policy involves innovation in policy formulation. The operability of public policy means that its evolution during implementation must be observed, as adapting and executing the policy according to the prevailing conditions gives it legitimacy and completeness.

The focus of public policy is to concentrate on specific positions and target specific points. The characteristic of resource allocation in public policy implies considering the necessary budget and costs for adaptation and evaluation to ensure effectiveness in public administration.⁴⁰ Therefore, policy-making institutions are obligated to consider the characteristics mentioned above and their features during the formulation of public policy and develop it accordingly.

4. Types of Public Policy

The policy serves as a sustainable, practical model for society, addressing expectations and desires while addressing public issues. Essentially, policy provides a practical model for conducting affairs in organizations, institutions, and entities within a specific geographic area. Public policy is classified based on the nature of the system, social, economic, political domains, etc. In this discussion, a general overview of policy classifications is provided. One of the most common classifications applied to public policies is based on the tripartite powers, which are elaborated below.

4.1 Classification of Public Policy from the Perspective of the Tripartite Powers

A. Legislative Policies: Legislative policies refer to those policies established by legislative representatives, such as enacted laws. These policies often come into play at the legislative level to achieve broad national objectives. Legislative policies typically focus on long-term goals and are guided and led by higher management⁴¹

B. Judicial Policies: Judicial policies encompass policies formulated by the judicial branch and courts, such as guidelines issued by the judiciary. They also refer to policies established through the rulings of the Supreme Court, and judges follow them as judicial procedures during legal proceedings.⁴²

C. Executive Policies: Executive policies are policies developed and regulated by executive branches and organizations, such as regulations, statutes, and resolutions. It is noteworthy that these policies are created to fulfil the objectives of legislative policies.⁴³

4.2 Classification of Public Policy Based on Function

³⁹ Mohammadi, "Public Administration", 275.

⁴⁰ Taslimi, "Analysis of the Policy-Making and Decision-Making Process", 9.

⁴¹ Shahidzadeh, "Basics of Public Administration", 89.

⁴² Alwani, "Public Policy Process", 78.

⁴³ Ibid, 8.

A. Legislative Policy: This policy originates from the beliefs and legitimate traditions of the people, encompassing norms, rights, and duties, addressing the entire society.

B. Analytical Policy: Refers to policies where established principles are clearly analyzed, providing a clear basis for all commands, prohibitions, rights, and duties of the people.

C. Strategic and Executive Policy: This policy refers to those directed policies that derive legitimacy in setting their goals from legislative and analytical policies. It organizes, plans, and directs tasks to guide societal affairs and address public issues systematically.⁴⁴

4.3. Classification of Public Policy from the Perspective of Separating Politics from Administration

A. Political-Legislative Policy: Refers to policies exclusively within the competence of legal authorities and competent officials, established to advance societal affairs and address public issues by authorities at the macro level, such as ordinary laws, regulations, and national policies⁴⁵

B. Administrative-Executive Policy: This policy is formulated to execute the provisions of political-legislative policies. It primarily emerges to fulfil the goals of political-legislative policies and pursues smaller-scale objectives. Thus, its main focus is on operational aspects.⁴⁶

4.4. Classification of Public Policy in Terms of Detail

From this perspective, political scientists categorize public policies into three main types: comprehensive policies, guiding policies, and general policies. The description of each is as follows.

A. Comprehensive policies and their features: Comprehensive policies are more general and inclusive compared to other policies. They encompass patterns, criteria, and guidelines. It is essential to highlight that general policies align with these comprehensive policies in their implementation, distinguishing them from partial policies. Comprehensive policies function as a panoramic mirror, reflecting all economic, social, political, cultural, ideological, and value conditions of society. These policies possess inherent characteristics, and the features of comprehensive policies are outlined below:

1. From the Perspective of Holding Comprehensive Goals: Inclusive Policies Encompassing Grand and Comprehensive Objectives. When officials and policymakers decide to formulate and select public policies, they must pay attention to the goals and objectives inherent in these policies. Public policies are then established based on principles and criteria.⁴⁷ The comprehensive goals encompass independence and freedom, economic development, safeguarding national borders, strengthening national unity, ensuring equality, protecting citizenship rights, maintaining the territorial integrity of the country, fair employment practices, and more.

⁴⁴ Ibid, 79.

⁴⁵ Shahidzadeh, "Basics of Public Administration", 88.

⁴⁶ Ibid, 89.

⁴⁷ Alwani, "Public Policy Process", 91.

2. Scope of Public Policy: Comprehensive policies set the boundaries for public policies. The scientific domains of public policy are delineated by a comprehensive policy, which determines the extent to which a policy can exert influence and power. Consequently, inclusive policies are referred to as those that delineate work boundaries for other policies, elucidating their methodologies, rights, and duties.

3. From the perspective of determining the temporal priority in public policy: Inclusive policies determine the timing of the goals in public policies. These policies establish which policy takes priority for immediate and rapid implementation in the initial steps and which policy is not time-critical and is implemented gradually. Comprehensive policies need to examine the correlation between the time required and the conceptual aspects of the policy. This time-priority policy determines the continuity. Simultaneously, comprehensive policies prioritize the implementation of public policy in terms of time.

4. From the perspective of determining the scope or limitations of policies: This feature indicates that comprehensive policies define the extent and constraints of policies across various issues. For instance, a policy addressing general education issues may be more comprehensive than a policy focusing specifically on educational literacy. It is important to note that both policies hold equal importance, and one should not be prioritized over the other.

5. From the perspective of determining the level of risk in policies: This feature enables comprehensive policies to assess the extent of risks and uncertainties associated with general policies. This characteristic aids decision-makers in gauging the risk levels of their desired policies. Policies that involve significant changes are perceived to carry higher risks compared to those with incremental changes.

6. From the perspective of determining the partial or general limits of changes in policies: When assessing the partial or general limits of changes in policies, decision-makers gain insights into the extent of changes that occur during policy implementation. The greater the degree of change and transformation in policies, the higher the associated risk.

7. Access to facilities and resources: The resources and facilities provided by public policy are definitively defined and determined by comprehensive policy. The allocation of resources for public policy assists decision-makers in utilizing them during the implementation of public policy.

8. From the perspective of the accelerated and gradual performance of policies: Considering the feature mentioned above, the question arises: How quickly can public policies act to achieve their goals, and to what extent can they act in a balanced and gradual manner? The answer needs clarification: Fundamental changes, in conjunction with a comprehensive policy, can be achieved through a balanced and gradual approach. In contrast, limited policies may prioritize a more effective and swift course of action. Essentially, a comprehensive policy advocates a gradual and balanced approach for public policy to attain its objectives, while the speed of action is a consideration for limited policies.⁴⁸

⁴⁸ Alwani, "Public Policy Process", 82-85.

B. Guiding Policies: Guiding policies form the foundation for planning and implementing public policies. Essentially, these policies represent the fundamental principles and bedrock of policy-making, providing essential knowledge for policymakers and decision-makers to navigate the policy-making process. The guiding policy within policy-making institutions specifies how to determine and formulate policies. Through these policies, the regular methods and mechanisms of the policy-making process are established, facilitating the identification of optimal policies. This systematic approach ensures that other policies can be determined.

Furthermore, the policy-making process is carried out scientifically.⁴⁹

C. Public Policies: Public policies direct the actions and activities of the public sector. These policies specify how public sector institutions should perform their tasks and actions to achieve their expected goals and results.

4.5. Compilation of Public Policies in Terms of Clarity and Lack Thereof

Public policies are categorized into explicit and implicit policies based on their clarity or lack thereof, as follows:

A. Explicit Policies: Explicit policies are those with specific goals and objectives, compiled and officially announced in written form by competent authorities. Examples include laws and regulations created to address public issues or problems, explicitly outlining the solutions within their text.

B. Implied Policies: Implied policies are those not documented in written form but have been officially issued and published by the competent authorities of government institutions. Despite lacking explicit documentation, these policies can be put into practice. For instance, when the spirit of laws and regulations is silent about solving a problem, implicit policies can be employed to address the issue accordingly.⁵⁰

4.6. Compilation of Public Policies in Terms of Complexity

Public policies are categorized into Normal, Technical, and Basic Policies based on their complexity, as follows:

A. Basic Policies: Basic policies pertain to the establishment of fundamental issues within a system, such as the government's policies on the country's foreign relations with neighbouring countries.

B. Normal Policies: Normal policies address routine and repetitive issues within society. These policies focus solely on the ordinary matters of society, requiring careful implementation by public administration.

C. Tactical Policies: Tactical policies are extensive and complex, addressing tactical and professional issues. An example is the public policy related to the reconstruction and modernization of cities.⁵¹

4.7. Compilation of Policies Based on Nature

According to the classification by the renowned American scientist Theodore, public policies are divided into four categories, as follows:

⁴⁹ Ibid, 15.

⁵⁰ Mohammadi, "Public Administration", 276

⁵¹ Alwani, "Public Policy Process", 19.

A. Basic Policies: Basic policies are established and implemented for government policies. In essence, these policies discuss the ways in which public administration activities and laws are implemented.

B. Disciplinary Policies: Disciplinary policies are established and implemented by the government to maintain order, prevent crimes, and address public problems. These policies exert an inhibitory effect on the behaviour of individuals and organizations, limiting their actions. Successful implementation of these policies defines the actions and functions of individuals and organizations in society rationally and logically, such as policies on driving regulations.

C. Distributional Policies: Distributional policies are formulated to determine how advantages are distributed in society. These policies focus solely on the distribution of products and services for public welfare, public education, and public safety. Effective implementation of these policies contributes significantly to realizing the goals, as mentioned earlier. An example includes subsidy policies.

D. Redistributive Policies: Redistributive policies are established with the aim of redistributing benefits among society members. These policies are formulated and implemented through mechanisms like progressive taxation. The government collects taxes from individuals and groups and redistributes them to other individuals and groups. The primary goal of redistributive policies is to enhance citizens' lives and public welfare.⁵²

5. The Main Roles and Effects of Public Policy

Public policy plays significant and diverse roles with various effects at different levels of society. The main roles and effects can be outlined as follows:

5.1. Synchronization

One of the roles, duties, and functions of public policy is coordinating the operations and actions of organizations in society. The policy comprises specific rules and mechanisms directing the duties and activities of public administrations based on those rules. Additionally, similar and related activities are coordinated in light of policy rulings. Public policy can create coordination and alignment between the operations and activities of public administration, preventing the repetition of activities and the waste of resources.⁵³

5.2. Guiding perspective

Public policy directs and guides the activities and actions of the government, determining their performance. The policy guides and directs the activities of organizations, institutions, and entities in society. In this case, it becomes clear which departments should perform specific tasks and activities to avoid.⁵⁴

5.3. Securing Interests and Public Welfare

⁵² Shahidzadeh, "Basics of Public Administration", 86.

⁵³ Qolipour, Rahmatullah, *Organizational Decision Making and Public Policy* (Tehran: Samit Publications, 2017), 19.

⁵⁴ Shahidzadeh, "Basics of Public Administration", 88.

In public policy, rules and regulations are considered, and the implementation of these can provide interests and public welfare in the sectors of security, freedom, property, education, health, and various other issues. The existential philosophy of the policy is to support public interests, accelerate implementation, and enhance efficiency in public offices for society.

5.4. *Evaluating and Controlling Programs and Activities*

An essential indicator and criterion for evaluating and controlling the programs and activities of organizations, institutions, and entities in society are public policies. With their help, the government and public organizations can prepare and compile the best programs. Public policy can evaluate and control all the activities and functions of governmental and non-governmental departments, prepare a legal report on their success and failure, and propose effective policies to change the existing situation.⁵⁵

5.5. *Clarifying the Spirit of Laws and Regulations*

Public policy draws inspiration from the accepted values of society in its creation and formulation. According to the nature of the policy, the outlines of programs and decisions of the government and society are designed. Clarifying the spirit of laws and regulations means that public policy, as an essential criterion, can provide a correct understanding and interpretation of legal rules and regulations. For example, if the law is ambiguous, with the help of policy, it can be interpreted and finally amended.⁵⁶ Therefore, public policy is essential, and through public policies, the decisions of government institutions are transparently implemented, yielding desirable results.

Conclusion

Public policy is a complex and diverse field within political science, originating in the United States and subsequently spreading to other countries. Today, most nations globally have transitioned from the mobility stage to the institutional stage in the realm of public policy. Understanding the nature of public policy and its role in public administrations and organizations has become crucial. The research, which focused on the nature of public policy, the kinds of public policy, and its role in public administrations, has been concluded. Public policy is synonymous with general political policy, serving as a fundamental guideline that elucidates the relationship between government organizations and their surroundings. In this context, government results and performance are reflected alongside the desires and expectations of various departments. The rules governing decision-making manifest in the form of by-laws, executive laws, judicial legislation, and executive and operational plans.

Moreover, it is discerned that public policy is crafted at various levels of public organizations, tailored to specific issues and concerns, ultimately serving the public. The essential role of public policy in addressing public problems or issues is undeniable. It plays a crucial part in the evaluation and control of government programs and activities, offering added value through index plans and evaluation criteria. Also, the findings regarding the types of public policy show that this phenomenon has been categorized into different types based on the nature of the system's social, economic, and political contexts. These types are as follows:

⁵⁵ Behgam Amin, Sejieh, *Basics of Public Policy Making* (Kabul: Saeed Publications, 2018), 95.

⁵⁶ Barakzai, "Methods of Public Policy Making", 38.

- A. From the perspective of the three powers, public policy is divided into legislative, judicial, and executive policies. These three types of policies operate at high levels of government as proposals, approvals, and guiding rules and measures for lower levels. Legislative policies are usually created by the government's House of Representatives (National Assembly/ Afghanistan parliament). Executive policies are arranged by the Cabinet, ministries, and higher levels of the executive branch and are implemented vertically on lower levels of government organizations or ministries. Such judicial policies are adopted for guidance and problem-solving in the field of justice and judiciary by the highest judicial body of government, which in Afghanistan is the Supreme Court, and are implemented comprehensively when necessary.
- B. In terms of function, it is further classified as legislative, analytical, and strategic-executive policies. Legislative policy originates from people's beliefs and mainly acts like an ideology, including orders, forbids, and instructions. By Analytical policy, the rights, duties, limits and competence of people and departments are definitively determined. Executive policy is established to guide society's affairs and solve its problems. The basis of this policy is the above two policies (legislative and analytical).
- C. When it comes to the separation of politics from administration, it is divided into executive, administrative and legislative political policies.
- D. In terms of the level of detail, public policy is classified into comprehensive, guiding, and general policies. Additionally, based on clarity or lack thereof, it is further divided into explicit and implicit policies. Comprehensive policies are policies that are more general and comprehensive in accordance with other policies and act like the Constitution for customary laws in other policies. By guiding policy, the best form and mechanism of making the policy is guided so that an office or organization adopts and implements the policy aimed at solving the problem with the help of its guidance.
- E. General policy targets the operations of public institutions. With this policy, the desired results of an administration and public organization are determined so that the administration's activities and actions are coordinated in line with it. In terms of complexity, it is separated into everyday, tactical, and basic policies. Furthermore, based on the nature of the policies, they are divided into primary, disciplinary, distribution, and redistribution policies.
- F. In addition to the above division, policies can also be divided in terms of transparency and lack of transparency. The explanation that explicit policy refers to a type of policy that is in written form and is officially issued by public institutions is the opposite of implicit policies that are not written and exist in practice. For example, when the spirit of the laws is not clear, implicit policies deal with it, or what is used in the behaviour of the government and the government and the government's behaviour of the people and non-governmental institutions is called implicit policy.

Policy Suggestions

- Organizing conferences and conducting extensive research on public policy knowledge and the process of public policy-making.
- Ensuring coherence and coordination between preparatory movements and activities for policy-making and its institutionalization at the level of public administration.

- Formulating specific policies in the political, economic, social, and cultural sectors, as well as national policies at the macro level by the government, and guiding subordinate officials and departments to adhere to them.
- Developing micro-policies at the departmental level that are in alignment with national and macro policies.
- Encouraging private departments and units to devise policies to address their issues.
- Engaging experts and specialists in the establishment of public policies.

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