

The Enlightenment of Frederickson's Social Equity Thought to the Practice of Public Administration in China

Xiangyue Sun

Shandong University, Jinan 256400, China.

Abstract: In the 1960s, due to the dramatic changes in social contradictions, the western world launched a critical movement against the "old Public Administration Science" rebuilt after World War II, and a new Public Administration science emerged as the times require. New Public Administration breaks through the Politics-Administration Dichotomy and adds the value pursuit of social equity to the classic Public Administration that only pursues economy and efficiency, which brings fresh air to the administrative circles. This paper focuses on Frederickson's discussion on social equity, aiming to put forward some ideas for the practice of Public Administration in China today.

Keywords: New Public Administration; Frederickson; Social Equity

1. New Public Administration Movement

1.1 Background

In the late 1960s, with the rapid development of the western economy and science, rationality, efficiency and economy became the values that people pursued fanatically. While bringing good news to mankind, it has also caused many adverse effects on the development of human society. The objective attitude of scientific research transforms the original ultimate belief of human beings into the worship of science and instrumental rationality (Liyang & Tuqiang, 2001). Classic Public Administration regards economy and efficiency as the basic goal of value pursuit, thus ignoring the extensive social responsibility that Public Administration should bear. These led to various social crises, distrust of the government and the upsurge of the civil rights movement. A series of social issues, such as the black civil rights movement, the feminist movement and the anti-war movement took place around the world, especially in the United States (Weifeng, 2008). The classic Public Administration theory, which takes economy and efficiency as the principle, "reform" as the call, and Empirical Scientism as the product, is also facing severe challenges.

1.2 New Public Administration Movement

The theoretical defect of classic Public Administration is an important inducement for the birth of New Public Administration.

"Conventional or classic Public Administration seeks to answer either of these questions: (1) How can we offer more or better services with available resources (efficiency)? or (2) How can we maintain our level of services while spending less money (economy)? New Public Administration adds this question: Does this service enhance social equity?"(Frederickson, 1971)

Frederickson pointed out that the theory of rational bureaucracy, the theory of new bureaucracy, the theory of system model, the theory of interpersonal relations and the theory of public choice in the traditional theories of Public Administration are definitely different, but they all have common characteristics. These theories hold that methodology provides the basis for empirical research. The New Public Administration thought is developed based on these theoretical studies, inherited and developed, and formed its unique theoretical system. In 1968, based on analyzing the classic Public Administration theory, the school of New Public Administration put forward the value theory with "social equity" as the core, and advocated the use of normative theory and value care,

which triggered the new Public Administration movement and declared the birth of the new Public Administration science.

1.3 Frederiksen's Views in Toward a New Public Administration

As an important representative scholar of the New Public Administration school, Frederiksen advocates continuous change to adapt to the changing social environment, while further strengthening the operational capacity of the bureaucratic system and improving the executive capacity of public administration. It is believed that the value social equity theory should be put in the first place, and the value judgment should be the starting point of administrative activities, to ensure that the research of Public Administration scholars reflects real life. It opposes the traditional concept of "efficiency first" in classic Public Administration and emphasizes that the government should serve the public more equally. In particular, we should consider the interests of vulnerable groups in society and timely understand and reflect their interests.

Frederiksen Advocated a dynamic and open organisational view. Classic Public Administration studies the administrative organization itself, especially the internal organization and management of the government, while the new Public Administration puts the internal administration of the government in a secondary position. In the process of operation, the new Public Administration should consider the distribution and integration process in the administrative organization, as well as the operation process of marginal exchange and social emotion (Zhoucheng & Jianhua, 2012) .

2. The idea of social equity

2.1 Frederiksen's Exposition of Social Equity

The establishment of the new Public Administration thought represented by George Frederiksen is a great theoretical change and innovation. He denied the "efficiency" principle of the classic Public Administration and criticized Politics-Administration Dichotomy. Frederiksen's view of social equity is developed on the basis of Rawls' idea of "fairness and justice"(Anhong, 2006). In "Toward a New Public Administration", he points out that "The phrase social equity is used here to summarize the following set of value premises."

Social equity emphasizes the equality of services provided by the government and the role of public managers in decision-making. Social equity emphasizes the responsibility and obligation of public managers in the process of decision-making and organization implementation. Social justice emphasizes the reform of Public Administration. Social justice emphasizes the positive response to the public's demands, rather than the satisfaction of the administrative organization itself. Social equity also places more emphasis on the intersection with other disciplines in the teaching and research of Public Administration to realize the expectation of solving related problems.

In short, advocating the social equity of Public Administration is to promote political power and economic welfare to those vulnerable groups who lack the support of political and economic resources in society.

Frederiksen pointed out that if a country wants to realize democracy, it should take political equality as the first principle, and then realize legal equality, factual equality and result equality. In this process, the state should give full attention to the least beneficiaries. Its significance lies in narrowing the social gap and realizing social equity. Therefore, he put forward the theory of social equity in the process of Public Administration, the theory of compound social equity and the idea of intergenerational equality.

2.2 Some Problems in China's Public Administration

Since Economic Reform and opening up, China's economy, politics and society have gradually realized marketization, democratization and legalization, and the structure of social interests has also shown diversification (vieJing, 2014) . Citizens' sense of ownership began to emerge, but we must also see that there are still many inadaptability in our political and economic development. There are many social problems, especially social injustice, which need our great attention. Therefore, social reform to promote social construction is the first problem to be solved by the current government.

In the 21st century, the establishment of market economy has injected vitality into economic life. The process of the market economy has awakened people's awareness of interests. We have seen the emergence of "bureaucratic organizational structure" based on "government standard", including some public organizations, which is no longer an administrative act of political belief and spiritual pursuit. These organizations emphasize efficiency and attach importance to economic development. It even takes the central

goal of economic development as the content of the whole administration and uses the least resources and the fastest way to complete the tasks or achieve its goals (Liyan & Tuqiang, 2001).

At present, social inequity in China is manifested in many aspects, such as the urban-rural imbalance, the low level of regional development, the large gap in social welfare policies, the unbalanced distribution of income, and the lack of protection of citizens' rights. And the existence of social injustice directly leads to the emergence of social instability in China.

2.3 The Enlightenment of Frederikson's Thought of Social Justice to the Practice of Public Administration in China

Frederikson's new Public Administration thought has played an important role in understanding and analyzing the classic Public Administration and the new public management thought profoundly. The social justice and the citizen participation thought that he advocated have played an important role in our country's administrative system reform, and have provided an important clue for the contemporary administration scholar's research. We can make some breakthroughs in the following aspects.

Adhere to the overall goal of common prosperity and firmly establish the social morality of fairness first and the core values of socialism view.

Continue to deepen the equity-oriented social reform, adhere to the supremacy of social public welfare and public interests, and pay attention to improving the efficiency and economic benefits of the allocation and utilization of social public resources(Anhong, 2006).

Safeguard the fundamental interests of the overwhelming majority of the people, accelerate the process of equalization of basic public services, and ensure that the people share the fruits of reform and development.

Expand the channels for citizens to participate in orderly politics at all levels and in all fields, improve the level of citizens' political participation, and truly practice the whole process of democracy.

Strengthen the government's social management and public service functions. Mobilize the participation of the market and social organizations to achieve social equity in the process of pluralistic distribution.

Conclusion

Although the new Public Administration movement has only been active for more than ten years in the history of western Public Administration and has been replaced by the new public management trend of thought, its pursuit of social equity still has some far-reaching impact on our current administrative practice. Especially in the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China just held, the concept of social fairness and justice was mentioned from the political, legal, economic, distribution, international and other perspectives so that we can feel that building a fair government is a long-term goal of China.

References

- [1] Anhong, L. (2006). Modern Interpretation of "Social Equity Values" in *New Public Administration Journal of the Party School of CPC Zhengzhou Municipal Committee*(03), 70-71+74.
- [2] Frederickson, HG. (1971). *Toward a New Public Administration. Toward a New Public Administration: The Minnowbrook Perspective*.
- [3] Liyan, Z., & Tuqiang, L. (2001). *Social and Cultural Environment and Public Administration. Practice and Theory of SEZS*(10), 34-37+45.
- [4] VieJing, Y. (2014). *Frederickson social justice view enlightenment to our country* (a master's degree thesis).
- [5] Weifeng, F. (2008). *An analysis of the academic trend of thought on the value choice of contemporary Western government management reform. New Heights*, 27(6), 85-87.
- [6] Zhoucheng, H., & Jianhua, Z. (2012). *Review of new public administration. Inheritance & Innovation*(11), 90-91+96.