

● **SYMPOSIUM: Precision Poverty Alleviation and Social Assistance**

Introduction

..... Jinglun Yue

Institutional Coherence and Integration: A Comparative Study of China's Rural Subsistence Allowance and Development Oriented Poverty Reduction Program

..... Ting Zuo & Li He

Abstract Since 2007, the rural minimum subsistence allowances scheme and development oriented poverty reduction program have become the two most important institutional arrangements in China's fight against poverty. Trans – sectoral collaborative governance between the two schemes was therefore critical. From the perspective of institutional comparison, this paper analyzes various aspects of the two schemes, such as macro – level goal setting, micro – level target group identification and targeting, the advantages and disadvantages of each scheme, cost and risks, pairing – off support policies, etc. However, the focus of this study was an empirical analysis of target group coverage, difference and disconnection of the two schemes; furthermore, it analyzed the cause and under – root causes of the differences and disconnections between the schemes. Those include: differences in policy process paths, implementation practice (because the schemes were implemented by two separate departments), identification standards/ methods/procedures, practical coverages in quantity and characteristics of targeted groups. Although the extent of scheme overlap was low, it was found that the overlapping coverage of the two schemes was affected by many factors, including: institutional design, subjective perception of relevant departments and grass – roots staff, as well as practical constraints such as local financial, material and human resources. Finally, from the perspective of collaborative governance, improving the cooperative partnership between administration agencies of development oriented poverty alleviation and rural subsistence allowances would further enhance the overall effects of poverty alleviation.

Key Words Development Oriented Poverty Alleviation Scheme; Rural Subsistence Allowance Scheme; Institutional Coherency; Policy Coverage; Poverty Reduction; Comparative Study

Village Cadres and Practical Power: The Governance Order of Local Politics in Targeted Poverty Alleviation

..... Yulei Wang

Abstract Poverty alleviation targeted to rural areas is a typical example of local governance. It is an important way to equalize public services, and an important path to develop

rural societies and economies. There are three different forms of power: totalitarian power, technological power, and practical power. Totalitarian power needs technological power to achieve elaborate administrative goals, and technological power needs practical power to carry out specific policies. The reproduction of practical power in a rural community can help national policy efforts. Only when the traditions and the relationships between totalitarian power, technological power and the practical power are sorted out in the 21st century can governance problems be solved.

Key Words Targeted Poverty Alleviation; Practical Power; Village Cadres; Local Governance; Countryside Order

Factors Affecting a Project Scheme's Poverty Reduction Performance——An Investigation and Analysis of Poverty Alleviation in Wuling Mountain, the Wumeng Shan and the Yunnan Guangxi Guizhou Rocky Area

..... Yongzhu Jin & Zhaopan Ding

Abstract As the governance logic of poverty alleviation in China, the project scheme provides marginal but diminishing benefits. Given China's precise strategy for poverty alleviation, and based on the scheme's connotation of precise poverty alleviation, we divide the project scheme's poverty reduction performance into four dimensions: precise identification, precise assistance, precise management and accurate appraisal. We then hypothesize that government behavior, the civil servant quality, social participation and administrative environment, affect the four dimensions of poverty reduction performance. To test this, a relation model was built to evaluate poverty reduction performance and to determine influential factors. With data from three impoverished areas—Wuling Mountain, the Wumeng Shan and the Yunnan Guangxi Guizhou Rocky Area—the model was verified by using correlation analysis and regression analysis. Study results show that government behavior, civil servant quality, social participation and administrative environment significantly affected the performance of the poverty reduction scheme. Therefore, government behavior is most influential when it comes to precise identification and accurate appraisal. What's more, social participation is most influential when it comes to precise assistance, while civil servant quality exerts the largest influence on precision management. Finally, the study provides corresponding suggestions or countermeasures for improving the performance of the poverty reduction project scheme.

Key Words Precision Poverty Alleviation; Project Scheme; Poverty Reduction Performance; Affecting Factors

Fiscal Transfer Payments, Accountability, and Dibao Retrenchment in Urban China: A Panel Data Study

..... Zhaiwen Peng

Abstract As a targeted social policy, China's urban *Dibao* policy has been designed to tackle poverty, redistribute income, and then pacify social unrest. Responding to local governments' incentive distortion led by Chinese - style decentralization, the central government has been increasing earmarked transfer payment on urban *Dibao* expenditure since 2000. But this financing centralization resulted in urban *Dibao* policy retrenchment, not expansion. Based on province - level panel data for 2004 - 2014, we estimate the key forces behind the policy change from a political economic perspective. Our findings show that the development of urban pension insurance has a crowd out effect on *Dibao* program; the political participation disparity between heterogeneous socio - economic population groups, the Chinese - style local governance have a negative role in local *Dibao* policy development, and the financing centralization without sound accountability also can't spur local government's incentive to redistribute.

Key Words Urban *Dibao*; Fiscal Transfer Payments; Local Governance; Income Redistribution

Poverty Alleviation and the Effect of Social Assistance Policy on Poverty Caused by Illness: An Analysis of CFPS Data

..... Chaoqun Wang

Abstract Expenditure poverty provides a new perspective to look at poverty from two dimensions: family income and expenditure. As a core element of expenditure poverty, the poverty caused by illness directly affects China's poverty alleviation policy. Using research on illness poverty, expenditure poverty and social assistance policy documents, this study defined four types of poverty caused by illness. Using data from the 2014 China Family Panel Studies, this paper calculated the incidence of poverty caused by illness and family characteristics using different definitions. According to the mainstream definition of poverty, China's incidence of poverty caused by illness was very high. The families experiencing poverty because of illness had lower income, higher medical expenses, less money on deposit, more debts, less family assets and more difficulties, and therefore needed more public policy support. The results of the simulation calculation show the effect of poverty alleviation on life assistance was better than medical assistance, and the poverty alleviation effect of a lower insurance deductible was even better. However, the demand for the assistance funds was very high and beyond the means of the then - current social assistance system. Accordingly, this paper

suggests that social assistance policy should focus on serious illnesses, rely on medical assistance rather than life assistance, and set a reasonable amount for insurance deductibles. Furthermore, the basic medical insurance system should remain the primary means to alleviate poverty caused by illness. To that end, the social security system should collect more funds; and, the minimum living security system should target more efficient and equitable means to alleviate poverty caused by illness.

Key Words Poverty Caused by Illness; Life Assistance; Medical Assistance; Policy Simulation

● SYMPOSIUM: New Perspective of Public Policy Research

Introduction

..... Deyu Zhao

Reconstruction of the Research Model of Policy Implementation: A Re – Synthesis of Comprehensive Models

..... Deyu Zhao

Abstract Is it possible to synthesize the first generation policy implementation research of the top – down paradigm and the second generation policy implementation research of the bottom – up paradigm? If so, how? Although these two question remain open, discovering the answers remain of theoretical and practical significance. Based on a critical discussion of the existing comprehensive models of policy implementation research, a multi – system dynamic model of policy implementation was reconstructed in this paper. The model actually contains the basic characteristics of the existing synthetic policy models, that is, it not only covers the systematization implied by each existing comprehensive model, but also highlights the dynamic characteristic of the changes in policy implementation over time. The advantages of the comprehensive analytic model of policy implementation are that variables influencing policy implementation and their relationships are specified, typed and structured. In this structured relationship, it becomes clear that it is important to identify the logical order of the interactions of various factors of a policy’s functional routine in to order to study the effect of the ultimate policy implementation.

Key Words Policy Implementation; Comprehensive Model; Multiple Dynamic System; Policy Output

Narrative Policy Framework: Exploring the Narrative Impact on the Policy Process

..... Wenzhao Li

Abstract The Narrative Policy Framework (NPF) was proposed by Mark K. McBeth, Michael D. Jones and Elizabeth A. Shanahan as a response to critics of Sabatier's critiques of post - modern public policy analysis. In developing the framework, McBeth, Jones and Shanahan discussed the role of narrative in the policy process by combining the perspective of post - modern policy analysis and positivist research methods. This was meant to enhance the research of policy process theories and promote dialogue between the post - modern policy analysis scholars and policy process scholars. As for its theoretical origins, NPF is a blending of the Advocacy Coalition Framework and the narrative perspective of Policy Studies. As for its philosophical bases, NPF builds its theory on an interpretive foundation by focusing on a subjective ontology and an epistemological objective. But, policy narrative is the core concept of NPF and is measured by the form and content. NPF also emphasizes the micro level, meso level and macro level perspectives. At the micro level, NPF examines the impact of narratives on individual beliefs and behaviors. At the meso level, NPF deals with the impact of narratives on coalitions and their strategies, but also on policy beliefs and public opinions. At the macro level, NPF addresses the impact of institutional and cultural narratives on the public policy.

Key Words Narrative Policy Framework; Positivist; Post - Modern Public Policy; Analysis Policy Narratives

● ARTICLES

Government Functions, Residents' Evaluations and Satisfaction with Township Government—Based on the Empirical Analysis of 1336 Samples in 10 Provinces

..... Jin Jia & Xuefeng Li

Abstract Based on data from the China Rural Township Democracy and Governance Survey (CRDGS), this paper analyzed residents' evaluations of township government functions. The study found that the township government's administrative function efforts brought maximum marginal benefit, but the residents' perceptions of the government's social management function and public service function decreased successively. However, the economic function, which was regarded as the top priority of government work, was not a significant factor in determining residents' satisfaction with township government. Furthermore, male residents paid more attention to township government performance in public service functions, while female residents were more concerned with its social management function. The study also found that as the regional income per capita income increased, residents' evaluations of township government were more objective. Hence, if objective conditions are more mature, it's possible to generalize

about government performance evaluation methods using a resident satisfaction survey of a developed area.

Key Words Town Government; Performance Evaluation; Resident Satisfaction; Function Transformation

● THEORETICAL REVIEWS

A Review on the Research of Gender Welfare Regimes

..... Yunxiang Liu

Abstract Gender welfare is a mainstream issue in many welfare states. This paper reviewed and inspected gender equality studies by analyzing the logical starting point of these studies: conceptual tools, operationalization indicators, and the welfare model of the main three theoretical perspective. The paper also compared policy assumptions and policy objectives, the potential breadwinner model and the gender equality actually achieved in different gender welfare regimes policies. By evaluating gender equality's development and influences, this paper contributes to the development of the study of policy research and family policy in China from the perspective of gender.

Key Words Gender Welfare Regimes; Gender Quality; Family Policy; Defamilialization

● BOOK REVIEWS

Filling in the Blanks or Leaving more Spaces? A Book Review on *China's Early History of Public Administration: The Research on Public Administration in the Republic of China*

..... Tengyuan Yang

● SUMMARY OF DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

Location, Dislocation and Relocation: Research on the Function and Practice of Subsistence Allowance System

..... Siyang Hu