



Assessment of Relationship Among Regional Economic Development Policy, Urban Development Policy and Public Policy

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Abstract

This study mainly investigates the problems of public management from the two interdisciplinary approaches of regional economic development policy and urban development policy. A qualitative desk review approach has been adopted to contribute the debate and reach the objectives of the study. This study reveals that there is an integral relationship among regional economic development policy, urban development policy and public policy. It also introduces the main essence of regional economic development policy, the analysis of the research difficulties and causes, expounds the relationship and enlightenment between regional economic development policy research perspectives, approach and research methods of public management. It also highlights the relationship and enlightenment between the way and research method and the theory and practice of public management. This paper also analyzes the main similarity and differences between regional economic development policy and urban development policy and forward recommendations based on the findings.

Keywords: Diplomacy; Regional development; Sustainable development; International relations; Urban management; Economic development; Education development.

1. Introduction

Regional economic development policy, also known as regional development policy. It is the public rules formulated by the government on how to effectively allocation resources in a certain spatial area (Adcock, 2009). It promotes the sustained and coordinated development of regional economy (White, 2013) and even social harmony and stability (Sarker *et al.*, 2020c). The regional economic policy system is a collection of these rules or series of rules (Sarker *et al.*, 2020a). The regional economic policy is formulated and implemented by the central and local governments, as well as the relevant government departments, the fundamental attribute of people (Sarker *et al.*, 2020d). To prevent the economic development gap between regions from being too large or large, to achieve balanced overall economic development (Sarker *et al.*, 2020b), and to maintain multi-dimensional functions such as social stability (Waldt, 2015) and national unity, and from a hierarchical perspective, its types can be divided into regional policies of the central government and regional policies of local governments at all levels (Shafi *et al.*, 2020). It includes regional investment policies, regional fiscal policies, regional financial policies, regional industrial policies, regional layout policies and regional opening policies (Islam *et al.*, 2020). Regional economic policy is different from other public policies because it restricts the scope of policy to a certain spatial area and has a certain spatial exodivity (Sarker, 2019b).

In the current development of China's cities and regions (Sarker *et al.*, 2018c), the regional coordinated development is the biggest problem facing the regional economic development policy (Sarker *et al.*, 2018d) because of the increasing differences between urban and rural areas (Taylor, 2013) and the interregional differences caused by the unbalanced development of the economy (Sarker *et al.*, 2018b). The main reason lies in the concentration of economic activities to strengthen the development of spatial uneven distribution (Kamruzzaman *et al.*, 2019), resulting in differences in production levels and living standards between regions (Thornhill and Dijk, 2010). The solution to the problem of coordinated regional development depended on the development of regional cooperation, but there were irreconcilable internal tensions between adaptation and coordination (Sarker *et al.*, 2018a). On the one hand, each region needs to adapt to the actual situation on the ground in order to reduce the cost of adaptation in the process of economic development (Chen *et al.*, 2020b). On the other hand, there is a need for some coordination between different regions to reduce the cost of coordination in the process of economic development (Hossin *et al.*, 2018). Coupled with the political game problems related to the promotion of officials,

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the interweaving and interaction of economic games and political games make the coordinated development of regional economy become a prisoner's dilemma (Sarker and Rahman, 2019). The problem of unbalanced development of the region is still outstanding, which is one of the key points and difficulties to be solved in the regional economic development policy (Wang *et al.*, 2013).

Many studies have been published in different scholarships focusing management related policies, business policies, economic policies, urban development policies, regional development policies but almost no focus given on the relationship among them. Therefore, this study investigates the problems of public management from the two interdisciplinary approaches of regional economic development policy and urban development policy.

2. Methodology

A qualitative desk review approach has been adopted to contribute the debate and reach the objectives of the study. Regional economic development policy mainly has macro and micro research perspectives (Whetsell, 2013). The macro-regional economic development policy is formulated by the central government and is formulated for the "problem space" or specific projects in the national socio-economic development, and its results and objectives may have cross-regional or overall impact (Spicer, 2005). The main body of micro-regional economic development policy is local government, the policy objectives and scope of influence are mainly local, the policy function is mainly to promote local socio-economic development, of course, it will also involve some regional social equity issues.

As an integral part of public policy, regional economic development policy follows the research approach of public policy (Wright *et al.*, 2004). First, the research approach of economics, regional development imbalance itself is an important manifestation of market failure, and regional economic development policy is regarded as the government's intervention in regional development. Many economists put forward the theory of growth pole, "core area - marginal area" theory, inverted U theory constitute the theoretical basis of regional development policy. Second, from the research approach of political science, the source of regional economic development policy is the damage of regional development to social equity (Snider, 2000), therefore, economic development policy often involves the discussion of efficiency and equity (Sindane, 2004).

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Policy Analysis

A regional development policy commonly implemented by central governments in most countries of the world. Its core content is financial transfer payments. According to the situation of regional development, the central government transfers the taxes paid by some developed regions to backward areas to support the development of backward areas. A regional development policy that is also widely adopted by the central government in most countries of the world. At its core is the introduction of a range of tax breaks in certain regions to provide more favorable development opportunities for the region. Since national regional tax policies do not directly burden the governments concerned, they are mostly used in countries and regions with low levels of economic development and weak central government capacity. The sum of a series of ways and means for the government to regulate or control regional industrial structure and industrial geographical allocation according to the requirements of regional economic development. The goal is to determine the leading industrial sector according to regional economic differences and regional economic advantages, to form different regional industrial characteristics and reasonable regional industrial division of labor, and to promote the rationalization of regional industrial structure. Regional investment policy is the central government that uses the investment decision-making power of infrastructure and productive projects to select some areas as the key investment areas for infrastructure and productive project construction, and to promote the economic development of these specific areas by guiding investment.

3.2. Relationship between Regional Economic Development Policy and Public Policy

Theoretically, Fredericksen argues, "Efficiency and the economy are necessary as guidelines for public administration, but that alone is not enough, and social equity must be added as the third theoretical pillar of public administration". The two most important policy contents of regional economic development policy are regional economic growth and regional coordination, and the function of regional coordination is the embodiment of social equity theory in public management. The regional economic development policy should not only promote the rapid development of developed regions, but also safeguard the interests of backward regions, regional harmony and coordinated development (Chen *et al.*, 2019), so that the residents of the whole society can enjoy the fruits of reform and development fairly. In practice, the main body of regional economic policy formulation and implementation is the government, and the government exists as the public sector, and the process of public administration is also the process of export of public products (Sarker, 2019d). Public policy also belongs to the category of public products, as one of the public policies of regional economic development policy, its policy implementation process is the process of public management practice (Shields, 2005). For example, regional fiscal policy in regional economic development policy is the process by which the government uses its fiscal power to allocate resources through fiscal transfer payment. The aim is to make up for the regional development can be caused by market failure through macro-control (fiscal policy) in order to promote the development of backward areas (Sarker and Wu, 2019).

From the point of view of value rationality, since social equity is the guiding principle of public management and regional economic development policy, we must give full consideration to the issue of efficiency and equity when formulating regional economic development policies. Combined with China's specific national conditions, the government should pay attention to the combination of the two in formulating policies, to fully consider the

relationship between the east and the central and western regions, backward areas and developed regions, not only to ensure the overall efficiency, but also not to widen the gap between regions too much, the gap should be controlled in the best combination interval, neither loss of efficiency, but also take care of fairness. From the perspective of tool rationality, we should innovate regional economic policy tools based on the actual needs of regional economic development and the specific conditions of policy practice (Rosenbaum, 2014). Regional planning and integration of policy tools (policy tools for special economic zones and policy tools for regional economic cooperation) should be integrated not only using traditional regional economic policy tools, including tax instruments, subsidy instruments, lending instruments, regional infrastructure investments, etc (Stoffregen *et al.*, 2016). From the point of view of policy practice, whether it is a single policy tool or an integrated policy tool, the importance of institutional innovation tools is becoming more and more prominent over time (Shafi *et al.*, 2019).

Urban Development Policy refers to the monograph Gu Rong: Research on Public Policy on Urbanization in China, Nanjing: Southeastern University Press, 2007 edition. This book focuses on urbanization public policy in urban development, correspondingly narrows the scope of urban development policy research, but it also has some discussion on urban development policy, especially in the basic theory, which has a certain reference value to this paper.

Urban development policy is a kind of code of conduct or code of conduct formulated and implemented by the city government, political party or other social public authority, under certain historical conditions, in order to solve a series of social problems faced by the city in the process of development and meet the needs of the society at that time. Including explicit urban development policies and implicit urban development policies. The former refers to policies formulated and implemented by the government specifically for urban development, while the latter refers to policies that are not explicitly targeted at urban development but have an impact on urban development (Koo, 2017). Generally speaking, the current urban development policy mainly refers to explicit policies (Chen *et al.*, 2020a). It differs from non-urban policies, such as rural policies, regional policies or national policies, which simply indicate their respective regional dimensions and ignore their own content. Urban development policies are also different from those that indicate their specific content, health policies (Lane *et al.*, 2020), environmental policies, etc., because they are specific but do not indicate the limits of responsibility of authorities at all levels (e.g., national, regional or local authorities) (Mandic *et al.*, 2020). Urban development policies, on the other than possible, clearly state their content and the scope of the authorities, involving cities and authorities at all levels, and are therefore measures taken by the entire government agency (Bai *et al.*, 2010).

One of the most important policy orientations of modern urban development policy is urbanization. Practice has proved that speeding up the process of urbanization is conducive to changing the dual structure of urban and rural areas, speeding up the circulation and integration of resources, and improving China's long-term urbanization backward industrialization situation. But in the process of urbanization has produced a lot of dilemmas, for example, on the one hand, to transfer a large number of rural surplus labor force to the city, on the other hand, facing the problem of migrant workers brought about by the influx of a large number of migrant workers, urban employment problems, environmental carrying capacity problems, etc. The main reasons are the internal contradictions of China's transition society (the non-equilibrium of the transformation of a structure of institutional transformation) and the diversification of policy objectives. The institutional transformation with marketization as the core makes the rural surplus labor force move between urban and rural areas unprecedentedly because of the pursuit of the benefits of urbanization, and the relative lag of the dual structure transformation has not effectively led to the corresponding transformation of the employment structure and population structure of the rural labor force, coupled with the economic orientation of the policy, which has created a dilemma in the process of urbanization.

3.3. Perspectives, Approaches and Approaches to Urban Development Policy

Urban development policy can be divided into macro and micro perspectives, which refer to the urban system policies that affect the interaction of multiple urban development. A micro perspective refers to a single urban development policy. As an integral part of public policy, urban development policy follows the research approach of public policy. First, the sociological research approach, the city is a highly congregation of human communities, because the high degree of aggregation destroys the balance of natural ecology and cultural ecology, resulting in a variety of social problems, such as urban transportation, and housing (Sarker *et al.*, 2018e). Environmental issues, etc. Second, the political-economic research approach, taking full account of the political and economic factors in urban development. What really affects urban planning in China is the political and economic issues, not the urban architecture that the architects want.

The tools and methods of urban development policy research mainly include administrative division policy, urban land policy, urban planning policy, urban construction investment and financing policy and urban environmental policy (Sarker *et al.*, 2018f).

Urban land use system is the basis and starting point of urban land use, under different land use system, there will be different forms of land use, but also the formation of different urban spatial models. The urban land system mainly includes the distribution system of urban land, the property right system and the land market system (Cao *et al.*, 2019). Planning, as an important means for the government to intervene in the market, has been paid more and more attention by all levels of government from the central to the local level. In the process of urban development, planning has always been emphasized as a "leader" by local governments at all levels. Urban construction refers to the general term for the construction of all facilities that form the structure and function of the city, which generally includes the construction of the main urban facilities, the construction of urban social facilities and the construction of urban infrastructure. With the acceleration of urban development process, urban consumption of water resources, energy and raw materials increased rapidly. The effective use of string is very low, these put a lot of pressure on the

urban environment. Since the 1980s, governments at all levels have strengthened the management of the urban environment.

3.4. Relationship between Urban Development Policy and Public Policy

In theory, the theory of public management provides a solid theoretical support for the formulation and implementation of urban development policy (Sarker, 2019c). The famous economist Chang Xiuze puts forward that marketization and social justice are the basic orientation of public policy on urban development. From a market-oriented perspective, reforms have been made in the basic and public utilities sectors, allowing private capital to enter infrastructure, utilities and other areas. This trend of privatization is based on and referenced by the new theory of public management, which advocates the widespread adoption of successful management methods and competition mechanisms in the public sector, such as government. From the point of view of social equity, the consideration of urban development policy to social equity comes from the new public administration and the theory of new public service, in addition to solving the problems of urban development, we should pay attention to the employment, housing, old-age care, children's education and other problems of migrant workers, and take social equity as one of the value orientations of urban development policy (Sultana *et al.*, 2017).

In practice, the PPP (public-private partnership) model that has emerged in urban infrastructure construction is the best embodiment of public management practice. Based on the concession agreement, it is an effective way to promote the transformation of government functions and play the decisive role of the market in the allocation of resources to form a community relationship of "benefit sharing and risk sharing" between the government and the social subjects. Especially in the area of urban infrastructure, where the public welfare is strong, because the government cannot afford to bear the cost of infrastructure construction alone, the introduction of social capital can reduce the financial pressure on the government and provide high-quality services to the public at the most effective cost.

Urban development policies are different from public policies with a single objective and a single policy objective, such as national defense policy, health policy, etc (Sarker and Jie, 2017). In federal countries, urban development policies are similar to national public policies, and state governments have greater autonomy and the right to manage all public affairs within their jurisdiction (Sarker *et al.*, 2017). In centrally controlled countries, local governments have limited autonomy, but the situation is more complex when it comes to developing urban development policies. This determines that urban development policy is a comprehensive policy with considerable complexity (Xu and Liu, 2016). From the point of view of value rationality, urban development policy should consider not only the problem of efficiency and fairness, but also the multiple value objectives (Wang K. *et al.*, 2008). For example, in the process of urban development, there is always an inherent contradiction between economic development and environmental protection, which requires a balance and trade-off between economic development and environmental protection (Sarker, 2019a). From the point of view of tool rationality, the role of urban development policy is complex urban affairs, a single policy cannot achieve the effect of governance (Grădinaru *et al.*, 2020), and from time to time also need the support and cooperation of other relevant national policies (Torre and Wallet, 2016). These policies themselves are not aimed at urban development, but the policy effect has a relatively large impact on urban development, such as household registration policy, social security policy, etc., is conducive to solving the problem of migrant workers in urban development.

4. Conclusion

Regional economic development policy and urban development policy are formulated and implemented by public power organs, which belong to the scope of public policy. They are all specific to a particular space, with a certain amount of spatial exodus, the ultimate goal of the policy is to solve the current problems in the region (city) to achieve regional (city) development. The scope of policy role is different, as can be seen from their respective languages, the policy scope of regional economic development policies is mainly regional, while the policy scope of urban development policies is mainly concentrated in individual cities. Region is composed of individual cities, from this point of view, regional economic development policy and urban development policy is the macro-micro relationship. Of course, the macro and micro are relative here, and the concept of region itself belongs to the medium category. The focus of the policy is different, although the regional economic development policy also pays attention to regional development, but pay more attention to the overall development of the region, pay special attention to the coordination between regions, to achieve balanced development of the overall economy. The focus of urban development policy is on urban development, such as urban master planning policy in urban development policy, that is, the urban people's government in accordance with the national economic and social development planning and local natural environment, resource conditions, historical conditions, the characteristics of the status quo, overall consideration, comprehensive deployment, determine the size and development direction of the city, to achieve urban economic and social development.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interests any matter related to this paper.

Data and Materials Availability

All related data have been presented in this paper.

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