

FROM POLITICS TO SOCIAL JUSTICE: A POLITICAL ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL POLICY

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Abstract: Background: Social policy making entails the resolution of conflicts among various stakeholders, such as individuals, groups, governments, and organizations. The main emphasis is on promoting social justice, with a particular focus on ensuring equitable distribution of outcomes and equal access to opportunities. The egalitarian theory aims to identify and prioritize individuals who are disadvantaged in order to achieve social justice. Governments should give priority to addressing disadvantages and promoting beneficial activities in order to reduce the negative effects of clustering, while being careful to avoid worsening stigma and division.

Methods: The systematic review encompassed 32 literatures that specifically examined social policy analysis. Qualitative thematic analysis with deductive codes was used.

Results: This paper examined the political analysis of social policy, with a specific focus on the impact of political factors on its formation and progression. This paper explored contemporary theories regarding social justice and the interrelationship between public policy and social policy. The paper

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also emphasized the utilization of social justice perspectives in public policy, illustrating the interdependence of politics and social policy.

Conclusions: Social policy primarily centers on the pursuit of social justice. The ongoing discussion revolves around whether social justice necessitates equal distribution of outcomes or equal access to opportunities. Governments are required to exercise caution when addressing distributional issues, as their attempts to do so can potentially exacerbate stigma and foster division.

Keywords: Political Analysis, Public Policy, Social Justice and Social Policy

SİYASETTEN SOSYAL ADALETE: BİR SOSYAL POLİTİKA ANALİZİ

Öz: *Arka Plan: Sosyal politika yapımı, bireyler, gruplar, hükümetler ve kuruluşlar gibi çeşitli paydaşlar arasındaki çatışmaların çözümlenmesini sağlamaktadır. Bu yolla ortaya çıkan değerlerin adil dağılımını ve fırsat eşitliği sağlayarak sosyal adaleti tesis etmektir. Dayanışmacı yaklaşım, sosyal adaleti sağlamak için dezavantajlı bireyleri tespit etmeyi ve kollamayı amaçlamaktadır. Hükümetler, kümelenmenin olumsuz etkilerini azaltmak için dezavantajlı kesimi kollamayı ve bu yönde faydalı faaliyetleri teşvik etmelidir. Ayrıca damgalama ve ayrımcılığın oluşmasını önlemelidir.*

Yöntem: *Sistemik inceleme, özellikle sosyal politika analizini inceleyen 32 literatür çalışmasını kapsamaktadır. Çalışmada, tündengelim kodlu nitel tematik analiz kullanılmıştır.*

Bulgular: *Bu makale, sosyal politikanın politik analizini, politik faktörlerin oluşumu ve ilerlemesi üzerindeki etkisine özel olarak odaklanarak incelemektedir. Bu makale, sosyal adalet ve kamu politikası ile sosyal politika arasındaki karşılıklı ilişkiye ilişkin çağdaş teorileri araştırmıştır. Makale ayrıca siyaset ve sosyal politikanın bağımlılığını göstererek, kamu politikasında sosyal adalet perspektiflerinin önemine vurguda bulunmaktadır.*

Sonuç: *Sosyal politika öncelikle sosyal adalet arayışını gerektirir. Araştırmamızda, sosyal adaletin, değerlerin eşit dağılımını mı, yoksa fırsatlara eşit erişimi mi gerektirdiği etrafında dönmektedir. Hükümetlerin dağıtımla ilgili sorunları ele alırken dikkatli olmaları gerekmektedir; zira bu yöndeki girişimleri potansiyel olarak damgalamayı daha da kötüleştirebilir ve bölünmeyi teşvik edebilir.*

Anahtar Kelimeler: *Siyasal Analiz, Kamu Politikası, Sosyal Adalet ve Sosyal Politika*

INTRODUCTION: THE MAIN QUESTION

Social justice is the force behind societal transformation, raising three fundamental inquiries: establishing the concept of equity in historical contexts, assessing the current allocation of resources, and contemplating the future consequences. It is important to consider the historical unfairness, the current fair and unfair distribution of resources, and the significance of future actions for achieving social justice (Coyne and Rescher, 2023:54). Social justice is a term that is frequently ambiguous and serves as a useful tool for individuals who are engaged in activities such as persuasion, manipulation of public opinion, and garnering electoral support. On the other hand, practitioners of social policy frequently view it as a concept that is remote and without concrete application. Attempts have been made by political and economic philosophers to shed light on the idea of social justice; however, there is a lack of universal agreement among these professionals (Midgley, 2020:109). Social work is increasingly acknowledging social justice as a fundamental principle, however, social policy is often overlooked. Social justice is crucial for rectifying social injustices and advocating for equitable social policies. The formulation and implementation of social work impact the expenses associated with incorporating policy matters into daily work and striving towards social justice objectives. The implementation of an inclusive policy can effectively reduce these expenses (Barozet et al., 2022:143). Public policy refers to a set of interrelated decisions made by political entities or groups with the aim of achieving specific goals in a particular context. The formulation and implementation of it can be carried out by individuals, private entities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and civil society organizations. It is frequently examined in connection with foreign, educational, economic, and defense policy. Public policy is a deliberate and goal-oriented procedure that encompasses the process of making decisions and carrying them out, which may involve the exercise of authority or logical reasoning. It incorporates knowledge from diverse academic disciplines, including economics, law, sociology, ethics, public health, education, and climatology. Social policy is concerned with addressing fundamental human needs, such as security, education, employment, health, and overall well-being, on a worldwide level (Craig and Burchardt, 2008:102). Governmental decision-making is heavily influenced by a crucial component that is shaped by a range of choices and conflicting interests. The concept of social justice is widely recognized, however, its definition, priority, and implementation through public policies exhibit considerable variation. The global conversation on social justice and the integration of economic progress with the well-being of marginalized individuals has made substantial advancements. The main aim of this paper is to promote engagement and cooperation between theories of social justice and practical policy matters (Mooney and Scott, 2012:87). The emergence of public

policy is inherently intertwined with politics. Politics and the quest for social justice are the main driving forces behind the development of social policy. It is sufficient to pose the inquiry at hand: *“How social policy can be analyzed from political perspective?”*

This paper aimed to address this research question by conducting a comprehensive analysis of pertinent academic literatures. An analysis of social policy from a political perspective involves examining the ways in which political factors influence and shape social policies. This paper primarily focuses on the field of politics and its associated theories. Subsequently, it provided a comprehensive analysis of the current theories pertaining to social justice. Afterwards, it examined the correlation between public policy and social policy. This paper demonstrates the application of social justice and public policy insights. Prior to the concluding remarks, a thorough examination of the political analysis of social policy is conducted.

I.METHODOLOGY

The discourse surrounding social justice and the harmonization of economic development with the welfare of disadvantaged individuals has made significant progress. There is a pressing requirement for a more explicit political discourse regarding various interpretations of social justice, pinpointing conflicts, and offering a more precise analysis of the demands for justice. The primary objective of this article is to foster interaction and collaboration between social justice theories and practical policy issues within the framework of political analysis. To attain this objective, a systematic review of 32 literatures has been conducted that specifically examined social policy analysis. Qualitative thematic analysis with deductive codes was used in this paper. A rigorous investigation to literary works published from the same year onwards, up until December 2023 was conducted. A comprehensive search across three academic databases and search engines, namely the ISI Web of Science and EBSCO interdisciplinary databases, CiteNetExplorer software, and the Google Scholar database was conducted. Upon gathering all of search findings, 261 results was proceeded to input into a reference management software known as RefWorks. The literature were reviewed and selected only those that met the following criteria: (i) they were not duplicates, (ii) they were published between 1994 and 2023, (iii) they were published in English, (iv) they were published through an international peer-reviewed process, and (v) they included the specific term ‘Political analysis*’ ‘Social justice*’ ‘Social policy analysis*’. Using this search strategy resulted in finding 68 literatures. Subsequently, 68 literatures were evaluated based on predetermined criteria for inclusion. The systematic review encompassed 32 literatures that specifically examined social policy analysis.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Gaus, and Kukathas (2004:15) explains that politics is commonly depicted as the exertion of power or authority, a procedure of making decisions collectively, the distribution of limited resources, a domain of deceit or manipulation, and other similar perspectives. Heywood (2017:89) discusses that a political actor refers to any individual involved in political activities, whereas politicians specifically pertain to individuals who are either running for elective office or currently serving in such positions. According to Wolff (2006: 23), in order to comprehend political activity and its results, it is advantageous to concentrate on the regulations that dictate the actions that individuals involved in politics can or cannot undertake, the actual conditions of the political setting, and the decisions made by these political participants. Heywood (2017: 120) also discusses that Politics encompasses the actions of individuals who collaborate or contend with others in order to address conflicts arising from limited resources or divergent preferences. Politics is the process through which societies determine the allocation of resources, including who receives what, when, and in what manner. Politics is the systematic process by which groups of people make decisions together, exercise authority, and distribute resources. It entails individuals working together or competing to resolve conflicts that arise due to limited resources or differing preferences. Political identity refers to the amalgamation of values, principles, memories, and symbols that a political group recognizes as their own. It serves as the central and most significant aspect of identity, representing the shared beliefs and aspirations within a group. Political identities encompass the voluntary adherence to specific norms and necessitate the use of symbols to establish consistency and enable collective expression (Rom et al., 2022: 78). Politics can be examined using four perspectives: the exertion of authority, adept administration of governance, handling of public affairs, and the facilitation of consensus through negotiation. Power is utilized to achieve desired outcomes, whereas politics centers around the exertion of control and the formal institutions of the government (Swift, 2013:55). Public policy is the result of political and governance processes that involve both political and non-political actors in order to accomplish the goals of the state. Politics and governance are distinct entities, with politics concerned with the pursuit of the good life and the ideal society, while governance focuses on addressing public needs (Barry, 1989: 43).

Rom et al., (2022: 141) mentions that political identity refers to the collection of values, principles, memories, and symbols that a political group, such as a movement, party, nation state, alliance, or federation, acknowledges as its own. It is essentially what enables them to identify themselves as a cohesive unit. The primary identity of importance is the political identity, rather than the cultural or social identities. Moreover, political identities are not simply a reflection of the

beliefs held by individuals within a group (such as a political entity, party, or movement) based on past events, but also a representation of the aspirations or obligations that the group desires to achieve - especially in the context of political parties. Swift (2013: 82) adds that political identities involve a self-imposed adherence to certain norms. Furthermore, it is crucial to note that identities are not solely based on argumentative or logical constructs, but rather require symbols to establish coherence and facilitate collective expression. Barry (2000: 61) describes that symbols encompass more than just flags and national anthems; they also include influential documents (such as the Constitution, if it is indeed inspiring) and images that often evoke personal history. Rawls (2020: 112) analyzes that politics is the competition for authority in order to attain societal objectives, specifically control over the government. It encompasses the distribution of resources and the decision-making process that governs the state. Politics can be analyzed through four distinct lenses: politics as the exercise of authority, politics as the skillful management of governance, politics as the management of public matters, and politics as the process of reaching agreements through negotiation. Power is wielded in order to attain desired results, whereas politics, as the craft of governance, centers on the exercise of authority and the official establishments of the state. Politics, when viewed as public affairs, involves the distinction between the public and private domains. Additionally, politics, when seen as compromise and consensus, pertains to the methods and strategies used to resolve conflicts through compromise, conciliation, and negotiation. Public policy is the outcome of political and governance procedures, which engage both political and non-political participants to achieve the state's objectives of ensuring security, peace, order, and social services. Swift (2013: 88) highlights that politics and governance are separate entities, where politics relates to the notion of the good life and the ideal society, while governance pertains to the process by which the government and civil society make decisions to address public needs.

Heywood (2017: 71) mentions that political theory examines political concepts and texts, encompassing various topics including democracy, freedom, constitutionalism, and political obligation. The study of politics is a complex subject with various approaches offering systematic knowledge. The arena definition captures an important insight into politics, which is broader than government activities and includes political processes in the public domain. While most political scientists focus on collective and public elements of power struggles, it is crucial to retain a sense of the collective or public arena. John Rawls's 'A theory of justice', published in 1971, is a philosophical treatise exploring the concept of social justice. The framework comprises two fundamental principles: the liberty principle, which gives precedence to safeguarding fundamental freedoms over economic concerns, and the fair opportunity principle, which centers on ensuring equitable treatment for the

most disadvantaged individuals. According to Mooney and Scott (2012: 18), Rawls contends that justice necessitates an equitable distribution of resources, although this approach may result in inefficiency. Ronald Dworkin and other critics have expressed disapproval of Rawls' theory, contending that it provides financial support to individuals who exploit the system and fails to acknowledge the varying levels of costly necessities among individuals. According to Midgley (2020: 138), Dworkin contends that the principle of egalitarianism in terms of well-being necessitates a redistribution of resources from individuals with average preferences to those with extravagant preferences, a notion that goes against common intuition. The theory proposed by Rawls has been a topic of discussion and scrutiny. Barozet et al. (2022: 144) analyzes that Dworkin's theory of equality centers around the notion of accountability and the differentiation between aspirations and inherent qualities. He contends that while achieving equality necessitates government intervention to address inadequate resources, it does not necessitate compensation for unfavorable circumstances resulting from freely made choices. According to Coyne and Rescher (2023: 176), Dworkin employs the concept of insurance to exemplify this notion, contending that insurance has the ability to transform random chance occurrences into opportunities for choice. Nevertheless, life is not devoid of complexities, and certain individuals are inherently born with disabilities that can significantly impact their decision-making capabilities. According to Brown (2009: 66), Dworkin dismisses the concept of equal welfare, using Louis' extravagant preferences as an illustration. Richard Arneson contends that Dworkin's argument is muddled, as he equated the notion of equal welfare outcomes with the concept of equal opportunity for resources.

In his 1989 work, G. A. Cohen asserts that a comprehensive theory of equality necessitates the utilization of the concept of 'advantage', which encompasses both welfare and resources (Cohen, 2008). He endorses Dworkin's contention opposing pure welfarism, asserting that it would necessitate redistributions from the exceedingly content impoverished individuals to the affluent yet profoundly unhappy ones. According to Robeyns (2017: 119), Cohen also opposes a solely resource-oriented measure that fails to provide compensation for individuals' pain and distress. The unresolved matters among Dworkin, Cohen, and Arneson pertain to the need for modifying Rawls' theory to include a concept of responsibility. According to Brown (2009: 98), some scholars differentiate among various theories that vary in their strength and level of commitment. This distinction helps theorists gain a clearer understanding of their intuitions and theoretical obligations. Barozet et al. (2022: 167) mentions that the incorporation of Sen's theory into political philosophy is challenging due to its absence of a definitive enumeration of human functionings and its complexity in comprehending equality. Nevertheless, the ideas put forth by Frankfurt and

Parfit have resulted in the development of a perspective known as the sufficiency view of capabilities. This perspective seeks to ensure that every individual reaches a minimum level of sufficiency in each capability. According to Chepp, (2021: 142), critics contend that luck egalitarianism, a philosophy that seeks to mitigate the impact of luck on individuals' lives, can result in policies and practices that are inhumane and discriminatory. The shift towards achieving 'relational' or 'social' equality centers on establishing circumstances characterized by mutual respect and self-respect, rather than simply distributing justice.

The work of John Rawls' A theory of justice centers on the principles of liberty and fair opportunity, prioritizing the safeguarding of fundamental freedoms over economic considerations. Critics contend that Rawls' theory offers financial backing to those who exploit others and neglects to recognize the differing degrees of essential needs among individuals. Dworkin's theory of equality highlights the importance of responsibility and the distinction between ambitions and innate attributes, asserting that achieving equal well-being does not necessarily require government interference (Rawls, 2020: 137). G. A. Cohen (2008: 79) endorses Dworkin's argument against pure welfarism, asserting that it necessitates the redistribution of resource from the affluent to the impoverished. Theorists Harry Frankfurt and Derek Parfit distinguish between different theories, with a particular emphasis on the "sufficiency view" of capabilities. Critics argue that luck egalitarianism, a philosophical approach that seeks to reduce the influence of luck on individuals' lives, may lead to policies that are perceived as lacking compassion and promoting unfair treatment. The transition towards 'relational' or 'social' equality emphasizes the importance of mutual respect and self-respect, rather than solely focusing on the distribution of justice (Reisch and Garvin, 2016: 104).

According to Van Horn et al. (2001: 33), public policy refers to a collection of interconnected choices made by a political entity or a group of entities in order to accomplish objectives within a specific context. It is a purpose-driven process that entails a sequence of choices made over a prolonged duration, involving the exertion of power or rational thinking. Public policy can be formulated and implemented by individuals, private entities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and civil society organizations. According to Knoepfel et al. (2011: 44), it is commonly analyzed in relation to foreign, educational, economic, and defense policy. Public policy possesses essential attributes such as being formulated as a response to a specific issue, involving the process of decision-making and implementation, being directed towards a specific objective, operating within a framework of prescribed organizational roles, encompassing the exchange of information and resources, aiming to enhance the likelihood of achieving desired outcomes in the future, and being formulated on behalf of the general public. Dunn (2015: 53) mentions that policy formation

is an ongoing procedure that occurs through the collaboration and interaction of elected and unelected individuals who do not hold formal positions. Public policy encompasses governmental actions aimed at altering the economy and society. It draws upon a range of academic fields, such as economics, law, sociology, ethics, public health, education, and climatology. Sen and Walker (2012: 70) discuss that comprehending public policy necessitates a diverse array of information and specialized knowledge centered on evolving economic and societal circumstances. Political science provides multiple methodologies for comprehending policy, such as the policymaking cycle, bounded rationality, public agenda determination, and policy characteristics. In order to establish a connection between these viewpoints, it is necessary to incorporate a design perspective. Effective policy analysis entails integrating various components and processes into a purposefully designed intervention, which can be particularly difficult due to political dynamics and intricate objectives (Fischer and Miller, 2017: 78).

Baldock et al. (2011: 30) highlight that Social policy is concerned with addressing universal human needs, including security, education, employment, health, and overall well-being, on a global scale. The text examines the functions of national governments, families, civil society, and international organizations in delivering services and assistance. According to Craig and Burchardt (2008: 56), the objective is to diminish disparities and enhance human well-being by tackling concerns such as alleviating poverty, ensuring social protection, and promoting urban advancement. Like public policy, social policy is a pivotal component of governmental decision-making, encompassing the choices made by individuals in positions of authority to act on behalf of the general public. Midgley et al. (2000: 12) mention that the process is both political and administrative, and it is shaped by various choices and conflicting interests. The concept of social justice is widely acknowledged, however, its definition, priority, and implementation through public policies exhibit significant variations. The Social Justice Policy Group of the Conservative Party in the UK prioritized strengthening the welfare society rather than the welfare state. According to Hill and Irving (2020: 108), their objective was to tackle the existence of a disadvantaged social group through the provision of charitable assistance and support from families. The Commission on Social Justice (CSJ) of the Labour Party presented an alternative strategy centered around the principle of equal value for all individuals, the entitlement to fulfill basic necessities, the imperative to distribute opportunities and prospects equitably, and the obligation to diminish and eradicate unwarranted disparities. New Labour has adopted a distinct approach, prioritizing policies that target poverty rather than directly addressing inequality (Livingstone, 2011: 33).

III. DISCUSSION: POLITICAL ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL POLICY

This section examines the ongoing discussions surrounding equality and disability, and proposes a potential solution by temporarily setting aside philosophical disagreements and enhancing our understanding through the use of more advanced terminology.

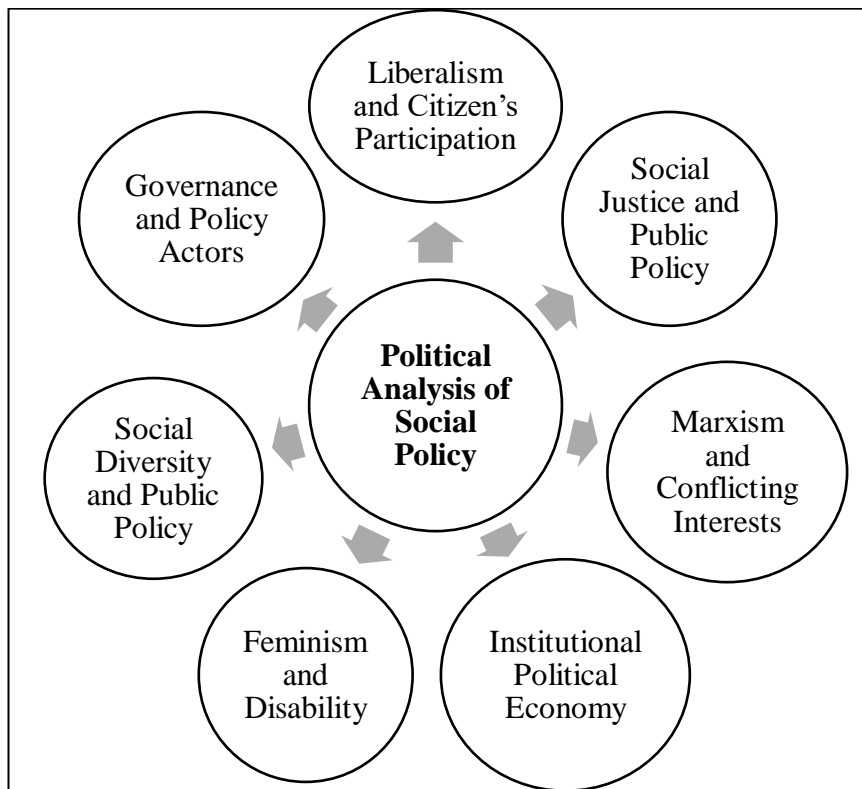


Figure 1: Political Elements for Analyzing Social Policy

III.A. LIBERALISM AND CITIZEN'S PARTICIPATION

Liberalism is a political and moral ideology that centers on the principles of individual rights, freedom, popular consent, political equality, private property rights, and equal treatment under the law. From a liberal perspective, upholding the distinction between the public and private spheres is crucial for safeguarding individual freedom, which is commonly perceived as a type of privacy or absence of interference. Politics, being primarily concerned with the state and its activities, inherently possesses a coercive nature. This is because the state possesses the authority to enforce compliance from its citizens. Conversely, the

‘private’ sphere is a domain characterized by the exercise of personal agency, autonomy, and individual accountability (Heywood, 2017: 89). Liberals exhibit a distinct inclination towards prioritizing society over the state, favoring ‘the private’ over ‘the public’. Consequently, they harbor concerns about politics infringing upon the rights and freedoms of individuals. Politics is frequently associated with unwanted and unjustified intervention, with its sole legitimate objective being the creation of a structured setting in which individuals can pursue their own preferred way of life (Swift, 2013: 44). The process of social policy making entails the involvement of government institutions, including the legislature, executive, and judiciary, which are guided by the principles of competitive capitalism and free market mechanisms. The objective is to safeguard individual interests, advance economic well-being, and encourage the generation of wealth. Liberal scholars contend that individuals ought to fulfill their tax obligations in order to bolster government funds, promote economic vitality, and mitigate excessive savings (Baldock et al., 2011: 28). Their stance is in favor of implementing low tax rates and substantial corporate exemptions as a means to prevent economic instability. Their main areas of focus include conducting cost-benefit analysis, streamlining taxation procedures for the middle class, and fostering economic growth by implementing tax incentives (Livingstone, 2011: 19). Citizen participation entails the active engagement of the public in administrative decision-making processes, encompassing various forms of political involvement. Transparent governance is essential for the functioning of a democracy, ensuring social cohesion, and fostering economic progress. Transparency, accessibility, and responsiveness are necessary. Public participation strategies entail the integration of public concerns, needs, and values into the decision-making process, with the goal of achieving improved outcomes. Public participation guarantees that policies are responsive to the needs of citizens and receive greater public support. It is a deliberate procedure in a system of government where representatives connect society and the governing body. It fosters trust, enhances decision-making quality, encourages transparency, and promotes equity. Engaging the public enhances the quality of evidence, decreases the expenses associated with implementation, and harnesses the expertise and innovation of individuals. It fosters social cohesion, mitigates disputes, and enlightens the general population (Midgley et al., 2000: 43).

III. B. MARXISM AND CONFLICTING INTERESTS

According to the Marxist perspective, politics, along with law and culture, is considered as part of the ‘superstructure’, separate from the economic ‘base’ which serves as the fundamental basis of social existence. Marx, however, did not view the economic base and the political and legal superstructure as separate entities. Instead, he believed that the superstructure emerged from and mirrored the economic base (Jessop and Malcolm-Brown, 1999: 25). According

to the Lenin, political power is rooted in the class system. Lenin put politics as the most concentrated expression of economics (Harding, 2009). Contrary to the belief that politics is confined to the state and a narrow public sphere, Marxists argue that the economic realm is inherently political. Undoubtedly, civil society, rooted in a structure of class conflict, constitutes the core of politics (Barry, 2000: 42). Nevertheless, Marx did not perceive politics as an inherent aspect of social existence, and he aspired for a future where politics would cease to exist. He expected that this would happen when a society without social classes and based on communism was established, eliminating any possibility of class conflict and, consequently, politics (Jessop and Malcolm-Brown, 1999: 28). The Marxist perspective posits that social policy is shaped by political dynamics driven by class conflicts and struggles. In this view, the socialist state, working class, and subordinate classes form an alliance to safeguard and advance social justice (Hill and Irving, 2020: 125). Class analysis is a study that looks at how society categorizes different social classes, with a specific focus on understanding the role and influence of each class in the processes of production, distribution, and control of the state apparatus. The objective is to ascertain the individuals responsible for generating wealth and those who reap the benefits of wealth distribution. The Marxist analysis of tax policies examines the impact of social class, the fairness of tax policies, and the distribution of the tax burden among different social classes (Baldock et al., 2011: 11). The public policy making process is characterized by contention arising from the conflicting interests of stakeholders, which encompass individuals, groups, governments, and organizations. The policy community consists of a hierarchical arrangement of government departments, engaged citizens, and informal collectives, forming a series of concentric circles. The process entails the establishment of a political resolution through the use of negotiation, concession, and deliberation among influential political figures and societal factions (Livingstone, 2011: 30). The primary focus is on conflicts within the elite class, conflicts between the elite and non-elite groups, conflicts between different groups, and conflicts between those in power and society as a whole. Each stage of the policy making process is inherently political, influenced by factors such as political ideology, special interests, mass media, and public opinion (Baldock et al., 2011: 77).

III.C. INSTITUTIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

Institutionalism is a theoretical approach that examines the rules, norms, and values that regulate political interactions. It primarily analyzes the institutional structures within the mainstream political sphere. Science is the systematic generation of structured knowledge. Optimal political science is based on empirical evidence, guided by theoretical knowledge, and characterized by introspection. It strives to establish links between empirical analysis and

normative theory. Furthermore, it actively seeks to establish connections and perceives itself as collaborating with political practitioners (Swift, 2013: 19). Institutional political economy studies center their attention on individuals or groups who control access, individuals or groups with the power to block decisions, individuals or groups with authority, and individuals or groups who act on behalf of others. Gatekeepers selectively screen requests before they enter the political decision-making process, while veto players, who can be either aligned with a political party or bound by constitutional powers, have the authority to influence policy changes. The principal and agent have distinct roles in the decision-making process, where the principal's interests are of utmost importance. The principal-agent problem occurs when agents prioritize their own self-interests, resulting in the creation and execution of public policies that primarily serve the agents' interests. This can potentially lead to the agents gaining control over the social policy-making process (Livingstone, 2011: 40). Institutional analysis focuses on the study of institutions and their function in facilitating the implementation of social policies while also serving as a deterrent against their failure. It promotes the idea of tax payment by all adults, asserting that it plays a role in advancing the collective welfare. Students researching tax policies should analyze regulations that either facilitate or impede tax payment, as well as legislation that incentivizes free-riding and bolsters public tax collection agencies (Midgley et al., 2000: 51).

III.D. FEMINISM AND DISABILITY

Feminist political thought has focused on two primary concerns. Firstly, it examines the institutions, processes, and practices that have led to the subordination of women to men. Secondly, it investigates the most suitable and efficient methods to challenge this subordination. The initial phase of feminism was intimately linked to the women's suffrage movement, which originated during the 1840s and 1850s (Bryson, 1992: 33). The emergence of feminism's 'second wave' occurred in the 1960s and represented the more radical and occasionally revolutionary aspirations of the expanding Women's Liberation Movement. Despite experiencing fragmentation and de-radicalization since the early 1970s, feminist politics has gained increasing respectability as a distinct school of political theory (Heywood, 2017: 115). Feminists advocate for increased representation of women in policy making processes to ensure equitable access to resources. They suggest incentives like empowerment programs, income redistribution, and affirmative action. This would promote inclusive development and counteract the dominance of global organizations for profits and capitalist states. Gender analysis investigates the allocation of gender roles in the domains of production, exchange, and public spaces. It specifically emphasizes the advantages of gender equality in tax policies and the impact of imposing multiple taxes on women. Social policies have distinct

effects on men and women as a result of disparities in economics and society, leading to policy outcomes that frequently differ based on gender (Hill and Irving, 2020: 109). Dworkin's research on disability is notable for its emphasis on quantifying justifiable recompense for individuals with disabilities (Craig and Burchardt, 2008: 115). Nevertheless, he adopts a medical perspective on disability, perceiving it as a deficiency in inherent capabilities and endorsing the notion that financial restitution is fitting. The enhancement of disabled individuals' quality of life through social policy necessitates intricate measures, encompassing alterations in building regulations, public environments, and societal mindsets (Midgley et al., 2000: 129). Disabled individuals are granted access to resources that enable them to lead autonomous lives and receive necessary medical care. Nevertheless, only a fraction of resources is conveyed through cash transfers. Opportunities in life are influenced by various factors, including internal resources (such as strength and skill), external resources (such as wealth and income), and social and material structure. In order to enhance an individual's quality of life, society can offer medical remedies, additional provisions, specialized resource augmentations, and restructuring the physical environment to ensure equitable accessibility for individuals with disabilities. Nevertheless, establishing a connection between these social policies and theories of social justice proves difficult due to the intricate nature of well-being (Hill and Irving, 2020: 142).

III.E. SOCIAL DIVERSITY AND PUBLIC POLICY

Diversity encompasses the variations in traits that distinguish one individual or group from another. The concept of discrimination has expanded beyond race, gender, and sexual orientation to encompass physical appearance, belief systems, thoughts, styles, socio-economic status, rural/urban geographical locations, and disability. Social diversity, also referred to as plurality, multiculturalism, and social differentiation, denotes the presence of various social groups coexisting within a specific geographic and political context. Nevertheless, it can pose a threat when exploited for personal gain. Socioeconomic and racial disparities can result in social differentiation, inequality, and fragmentation. Facilitating the acceptance and integration of various social groups while maintaining a strong sense of identity is essential for coexistence in diverse societies (Craig and Burchardt, 2008: 27). Social division encompasses the separation of individuals based on characteristics such as religion, race, caste, and language, whereas social inequality pertains to the uneven distribution of opportunities and rewards among various social positions. Age, gender, ethnicity, and race can exert an influence on these inequalities. Urbanization, while enhancing accessibility to education, health, and housing, can also influence policy. Behaviorism primarily examines the operational aspects of conventional politics and governance. The

comprehension of a scientific assertion involves the creation of universal principles and, at the very minimum, the development of theoretical statements that can be disproven. The attitude towards normative political theory involves a strong desire to validate claims by directly observing them using empirical methods. In the beginning, it is crucial to emphasize the difference between the developing scientific approach and the conventional practice of speculative thinking. Now recognizes the significance of political theory. Behaviorism claims to have objectivity, impartiality, and detachment (Swift, 2013: 83). Nevertheless, the swift increase in urban population poses difficulties for urban planning and governance. Migration and displacement, caused by economic inequalities, political instability, and natural calamities, can also impact population dynamics. Social exclusion, also known as alienation, refers to the systematic denial of individuals or communities from accessing their rights, opportunities, and resources, thereby hindering their full participation in society (Hill and Irving, 2020: 122).

III.F. GOVERNANCE AND POLICY ACTORS

Governance encompasses the act of directing or managing a collective of individuals or a nation, in contrast to the conventional hierarchical method. It encompasses the processes of electing, overseeing, and changing governments, the government's ability to efficiently enforce effective policies, and the adherence of citizens and the state to the institutions that regulate economic and social transactions. Governance encompasses both formal and informal aspects, with the government serving as the primary formal entity. Additional stakeholders in the policy-making process encompass civil society, labor unions, news media, multinational corporations, non-governmental organizations, and business associations (Dunn, 2015: 81). There are six criteria that contribute to the success of social policy interventions: effectiveness, efficiency, responsiveness, innovation, political feasibility, and administrative feasibility. Additional factors to consider are sufficiency, effectiveness, clarity, responsibility, ethnic diversity, corruption, and long-term viability. The substitution of the Millennium Development Goals with the Sustainable Development Goals has raised apprehensions regarding environmental preservation and fairness, underscoring the necessity of incorporating equity into policy formulation and assessment (Van Horn et al., 2001: 29). Conservatism is a comprehensive ideology that aims to uphold and safeguard established institutions, customs, and values in culture, society, and politics. Conservatives, like Michael Oakeshott (1991: 35), have emphasized the importance of viewing politics as a narrowly defined endeavor, centered on preserving social order and governing public affairs. In 'Rationalism in Politics', he substantiated this claim by presenting a fundamentally a political perspective on human nature, highlighting that the majority of individuals are

inclined towards seeking security, exercising caution, and relying on others rather than embodying Aristotle’s notion of ‘political animals’. From this standpoint, the fundamental essence of human existence resides in a secluded realm encompassing family, home, domestic life, and personal connections. Oakeshott regarded the tumultuous nature of political life as unwelcoming and even daunting (Isaacs, 2006: 29). Policy instruments refer to the various measures implemented by the government to intervene in society with the aim of achieving specific goals or resolving issues. These can be classified into three groups: regulatory instruments, financial resources, and communicative tools. Procedural instruments alter the methods used to make decisions, whereas substantive instruments directly impact behavior. Institutional instruments establish specialized organizations to formulate, execute, and assess policies. These instruments can be categorized as either voluntary, compulsory, or a combination of both. The advent of the digital age has greatly increased the utilization of these devices (Knoepfel et al., 2011: 48).

Table 1: Role of Policy Actors in Social Policy

Policy Actors	Role of Policy Actors in Social Policy
State Actors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The executive possesses supreme jurisdiction to formulate and execute social policies, yet encounters limitations such as coordination, intricacy, and voter endorsement. 2. The legislative branch wields less influence than the executive branch in the process of formulating social policies, although it does possess certain powers. 3. The judiciary plays a less prominent role in shaping social policy, but it is of utmost importance in resolving conflicts and conducting judicial review.
Societal Actors	Civil society endeavors to exert influence on social policy, offer alternative analysis, and enlighten policymakers
International Actors	International institutions like United Nations, World Bank play a crucial role in democratizing societies and processing social policy.

III.F.1. State Actors

The government is the primary entity responsible for governing a state, comprising the executive, legislature, and judiciary. The executive’s primary responsibilities include implementing policies and offering guidance on policy

matters. The group comprises ministers, civil servants, and decision-makers. The legislature, also known as parliament, is the governing body responsible for creating laws and representing the collective body of citizens. Several nations possess either bicameral or unicameral legislatures, which mirror the distribution of authority within their respective societies. The bicameral parliament ensures that laws are passed with the consent of the majority of the people and states, while the unicameral parliament serves as a check on any potential abuses of power by the legislature. Parliamentary committees collect evidence from expert groups or individuals in order to reach logical conclusions (Dunn, 2015: 83). The judiciary is the branch of government responsible for adjudicating the law, by interpreting constitutions and statutes. The executive possesses supreme jurisdiction to formulate and execute policies, yet encounters limitations such as coordination, intricacy, and voter endorsement. The legislative branch wields less influence than the executive branch in the process of formulating policies, although it does possess certain powers (Fischer and Miller, 2017: 105). The judiciary plays a less prominent role in shaping social policy, but it is of utmost importance in resolving conflicts and conducting judicial review. Government officials are chosen through either elections or appointments, and their decision-making and conduct are influenced by the type of government system and the policies outlined in party manifestos (Thissen and Walker, 2012: 59).

III.F.2. Societal Actors

Civil society actors, such as non-governmental organizations and institutions, constitute the third sector of society, representing the interests and desires of citizens. The entities encompass voluntary associations, interest groups, universities, research institutes, think tanks, NGOs, social movements, and media. Civil society endeavors to exert influence on social policy, offer alternative analysis, and enlighten policymakers (Thissen and Walker, 2012: 67). Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), research institutes, and mass media have substantial influence in the process of policymaking, shaping public discourse, and impacting the responsibilities of the state. Nevertheless, their decision-making process can also be swayed by the ideology and interests of their owners or financiers (Knoepfel et al., 2011: 44).

III.F.3 International Actors

Global policy issues like climate change, health epidemics, and security are addressed by international organizations like the United Nations, regional organizations like the European Union, and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs). Multinational corporations, which own or control a quarter of the world's productive assets, play a crucial role in democratizing

societies and processing social policy (Van Horn et al., 2001: 32). Social policy within a country involves government mechanisms to alter economic outcomes, including redistribution, regulation, and the promulgation of social rights. It also includes supranational mechanisms across borders, such as in the EU. International organizations like the IMF, World Bank, WTO, and UN agencies have become more involved in prescribing country policy, leading to a global discourse on desirable national social policy. This has generated debates about redistribution, regulation, and rights, raising questions about the need for reformed global social governance mechanisms. Increased free trade has created a global private market in social provision, affecting cross-class solidarities within countries. Migration challenges territorial borders of solidarities, presenting both opportunities and challenges for global solidarity and citizenship.

III.G. SOCIAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC POLICY

The notion of natural justice has served as a prominent argument in the conservative advocacy for free-market capitalism. Conservative intellectuals, such as Edmund Burke, perceive the market system as a manifestation of natural law or divine intervention, contending that the unequal allocation of wealth is morally justified. Herbert Spencer's theory of distributive justice is based on natural factors, asserting that individuals should receive the rewards and consequences that align with their inherent qualities. Detractors contend that this perspective is severe and unyielding, as it implies that material conditions are influenced by factors outside of human agency. Contemporary societies have a higher ability to address issues such as poverty, unemployment, and famine, which are regarded as inherent. Social justice is a contentious notion, as some contend that it is associated with egalitarianism and serves as a symbol for equality. Social-democratic and modern liberal thinkers view it more positively, as they believe it entails the reconstruction of the social order based on moral principles. Nevertheless, there is no inherent connection between social justice and equality, and all theories have the potential to rationalize inequality. David Miller delineated divergent tenets of social justice (Craig and Burchardt, 2008: 26). John posited that justice entails the allocation of fundamental rights and responsibilities by significant social institutions, and it determines the distribution of benefits resulting from social collaboration. He formulated three principles of justice: firstly, every individual is entitled to the broadest range of fundamental freedoms that can coexist with the same freedoms for everyone else; secondly, positions of public authority or private benefit should be accessible to all based on fair and equal opportunities; and thirdly, any disparity in the allocation of 'primary goods' is only acceptable if it benefits the most disadvantaged group in society (Rawls, 2020: 187). The efficacy of the difference principle is contingent upon the extent of justifications

for inequality and their acceptability as per Rawls' criteria. Social policy theorists and practitioners frequently align themselves with the social justice movement as a result of their recognition of social injustices. Nevertheless, the specific criteria for achieving social justice are subject to debate, and conflicts within the field of political philosophy impede the formulation of a definitive theory (Craig and Burchardt, 2008: 20).

CONCLUSION

Social policy, often seen as inferior to other social sciences like economics, sociology, and political science, combines economic, sociological, and political insights to address social wellbeing and human needs. It is increasingly applied to developing countries, focusing on utilities and informal ways to ensure population wellbeing. Separating social policy from development studies can damage understanding and equity. The process of social policy making entails the clash of interests among various stakeholders, such as individuals, groups, governments, and organizations. The policy community comprises government departments, citizens, and informal collectives, arranged in concentric circles. The process centers on conflicts that arise among the privileged class, between the privileged and non-privileged groups, various groups, and the dynamics of power within society. Political ideology, special interests, mass media, and public opinion exert influence on every stage. Policy also encompasses significant elements such as social diversity, social division, and social inequality. Population dynamics can be influenced by urbanization, migration, and social exclusion, while full participation in society can be impeded by social division and exclusion.

The assumption that rulers make policy choices within institutionalized polities is based on the assumption that formal political institutions, such as the constitution, state structure, and electoral rules, influence policy outcomes. However, many modern institutions, such as the bureaucracy, have been eroded after independence, leading to the rise of informal relations such as kinship, ethnic ties, nepotism, and corruption. Some scholars argue that formal state institutions have been displaced by informal institutions, which are largely fueled by human nature and pre-existing connections. This phenomenon is referred to as neo-patrimonial, where elements of patrimonialism and legal rational bureaucracy are combined. However, an alternative view of institutions, which encompass both formal and informal elements, suggests that neo-patrimonial systems can be harnessed for developmental ends, achieving a "virtuous circle" of strong economic performance when clientelism is organized, rents are used centrally to finance politics, anti-corruption is entrenched, and key social services are provided.

Social policy primarily centers on the pursuit of social justice. The ongoing discussion revolves around whether social justice necessitates equal distribution of outcomes or equal access to opportunities. The lack of clarity in the term can impede its implementation in practical policies. The synergy between political philosophy and social policy lies in the cultivation of a comprehensive theoretical lexicon, which aids social policy theorists and practitioners in discerning policy concerns and establishing precedence. Various model facilitates mutual advantage, fostering enhanced collaboration and decision-making across diverse social policy domains. The egalitarian theory aims to identify and prioritize individuals who are in the most disadvantaged positions when it comes to social policy. The discussion regarding equality, sufficiency, or priority holds less significance in policy-making, as it primarily revolves around the broader concept of overall well-being. Nevertheless, the identification of the most disadvantaged individuals is essential in order to attain social justice. In order to accomplish this, society must ascertain the paramount social functions and examine how individuals fare in these domains. If disadvantages are concentrated in specific groups, there is no requirement to develop a distinct weighting function for each individual disadvantage. If there is no concentration of disadvantages, society is not in an unfavorable position in terms of inequality. Governments should prioritize addressing detrimental drawbacks and promoting advantageous operations to mitigate the clustering of disadvantages. Governments must exercise caution when addressing distributional issues, as their attempts to do so can potentially exacerbate stigma and foster division.

Genetic inheritance is determined by factors outside of our influence, whereas wealth inheritance is contingent upon societal and economic structures. The policies pertaining to property ownership, inheritance, bequest and gift distribution, as well as the taxation of inheritances and gifts, play a pivotal role in determining levels of inequality and promoting social justice. Differentiating between inequality and inequity is crucial, as each instance of inequality is rationalized by someone. Directing attention towards potential advantages and abilities can result in the development of fairer social policies. It is important to consider the future implications of social policy while maintaining a fair distribution of resources and opportunities between the present and future generations. This requires careful consideration of both immediate and long-term concerns. By emphasizing the options between current and future social justice, we can gain a clearer comprehension of the obstacles and possibilities in attaining social justice. Finally, the categorization of social work tasks into micro, mezzo, and macro levels undermines the effectiveness of addressing social injustice. Academics tackled the expenses associated with social justice efforts by integrating distinct tiers within an organizational framework and promoting collaborations with a range of concerns.

Further Research: This paper aimed to address a comprehensive analysis of social policy from a political perspective involves examining the ways in which political factors influence and shape social policies. This paper also examined the correlation between public policy and social policy by demonstrating the application of social justice and public policy insights. Although, a thorough examination of the political analysis of social policy is conducted, justification of political analysis as the best form of analysis for social policy has not covered in this paper. Potential researcher can conduct further research on the following research question:

“Why the political perspective is the best way to analyze social policy?”

Furthermore, additional research is required to explore effective approaches for social workers and the promotion of self-determination within the framework of social justice.

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