RUNNING HEAD: Psychology

Assessment

 Author

[Name of the Institution]

Corporate manslaughter

# Introduction

The policy consists of a wide range of government actions such as laws, programs, processes, statement of principles, and policy statements. It pays close attention to practices and principles of pursuit by the government of economic, political and social outcomes. Policy analysis usually focuses on the action of the government trying to differentiate between the different relationship between politics and knowledge (Birkland, 2015). There are 3 different perspectives: positivism, the critique of positivism and post-positivism. In positivism, knowledge aims to replace politics. In critique to positivism, policy purports to replace knowledge and in post-positivism, both politics and knowledge attain reconciliation measures (Du, 2016).

*WPR Approach*

Despite the increasing appeal to understand policy as disclosure, there is no single method to analyse the policy as disclosure. In this case, Bacchi developed a very important and useful framework for analysing policy aspects and claimed that problems of policy are constructed socially and arise at a specific time and also in specific policy space (Bacchi, 2009). It is stated in her book “Analysing Policy” that “what the problem represented to be? (WPR). The WPR policy analysis approach is a tool or resource that is intended to enhance the critical interrogation of government policies. The WPR is based on 4 intellectual traditions such as post structuralisms, governmental studies, construction theory and feminism body theory. Bacchi has also provided a conceptual checklist that helps in the analytical process. This approach provides a conceptual checklist that helps in the analytical process by using a set of 6 questions (Bacchi, 2009)

1. What’s the ‘problem’ represented to be in a specific policy or policy proposal?
2. What assumptions or presuppositions underpin this representation of the ‘problem’?
3. How has this representation of the ‘problem’ come about?
4. What is left unproblematic in this problem representation? Where are the silences? Can the ‘problem’ be thought about differently?
5. What effects are produced by this representation of the ‘problem’? How/where has this representation of the ‘problem’ been produced, disseminated and defended?
6. How has it been (or could it be) questioned, disrupted and replaced?

 Bacchi approach not only analyses policy from a problem-solving perspective but also a perspective of problem questioning (Bacchi, 2009). According to its presumption, some of the problem representation benefit some group’s members at the expense of others. This approach also takes the side of those people who are harmed. The main aim of the WPR analysis is not to find the real problem and the right solution but to interrogate how the problem representation has come and how this helps to shape subjectivities and solution. The WPR approach recommends backward working from concrete programs and policies to reveal what is presented in a problem. The analyst work begins with texts such as verbal, written, and nonverbal communication. Textual analysis is not only applied to documents such as interview transcripts, speeches, judicial decisions, organization records, files, media statements, legislation, organizational charts, programs, contract, budget and research report but it also uses objects and textual information such as organizational culture and ceremonies.

*Policy selected for this analysis: Two child policy in China*

In China, the one-child policy was implemented on a national level until 2013. After that, government of China has erased a few restrictions and allowed the couples to have 2 children. Then in October 2015, this decades-old one-child policy was ended by the communist party leadership and two-child policy was implemented by allowing all the married couples to have two children (Yi, 1989). Then in December 2015, the revised law on Family planning and the population was passed. It was the first time since its promulgation that this law was revised. In this amendment, implementation of the two-child policy, change of certain leave entitlement, paternity and maternity leave, cancellation of forced contraception, marriage leave and one child encouragement benefits were covered. In the law that was passed in 2015, restriction on the late marriages and late childbearing were removed and the couples were given freedom to have more than one child (Zeng and Hesketh, 2016). According to the article number ‘25’ of the new policy, it was mentioned that all those couples who bear children in compliance with regulation and laws will be granted benefits and extended leaves. In this policy analysis report, I aim to see the two-child policy from a perspective of feminist theory. How the problem was represented after China changed the one-child policy to two-child policy.

***What's the 'problem' represented to be in two-child policy?***

The problem statement relates to its cause, how far can the government go to address the problem and what part of the government is responsible. The first question is very simple and straightforward. If a government of China proposes to do anything, then what they are hoping to change? Secondly what problem does it solve? In the 5th Plenum of the CPC central committee, China has released communique stating that all couples can have 2 children by removing the restriction of having only one child (Du, 2016). According to this amendment, people of all ethnicities and entire party in China need to persist in producing and developing basic government policies on birth planning, stimulate the balanced development of the whole population, implement the two-child policy comprehensively and to launch activities vigorously to respond to population aging problem. This policy statement of two children was mentioned nationwide for the first time. In 2016, the 13th 5-year development plan also mentioned this state population policy plan. This adhered to the state policy of family planning, the total population of the country planned to be approximately 1 billion and 420 million people. Treatment of high sex ratio of population birth, improve the development strategies of population, development of integrated decision-making mechanism and comprehensive response to the decline in the working-age population (Zeng and Hesketh, 2016)

***What presuppositions or assumptions underpin this representation of the ‘problem’?***

 Bacchi’s 2nd question asks which assumption and presupposition underpin identified the representation of the problem. The term “assumption/ presupposition refers to the knowledge or background that is taken for granted. It includes ontological and epistemological assumptions. Therefore, through the proper examination of assumptions and presuppositions, one can identify the conceptual logics which underlie this problem statement. Question 2 of Bacchi questions about what is in the mind of the people to consider the form of knowledge that is important for the statements to be accorded properly and the shape of arguments on which the arguments rely and form (Merli and Raftery, 2000). There are different types of themes which underlying the above-mentioned problem representation. In this, I will focus on two assumptions/ presuppositions which underpin this problem which the 2 child policy claims. The one is that reproductive bodies of women are not of interest to women and her family but it is also of interest to the economy of the state. The other is that one-child policy is a major reason for the sex ratio imbalance in China (Tsai, 2019).

*Women and state*

 The first assumption that underlies this problem representation is that whole policy of birth control is based on the thinking that women’s reproductive bodies are not only the interest of the women and her family but also of the economy of the state. In this, people are transformed by the state into “biological citizen” to attain the modernization and wellbeing of the nation. The focus on fertility in public and government discourse has linked to the issue of economic development and national survival in China since the era of Mao. This means that the social roles of women have already been defined according to the interest and need of the state. In the process of formulation of government policies, women are marginalized. Similar to one-child policy, the two-child policy is also linked to the authoritarian regime in the name of development and modernization where women’s reproductive right was in the hand of the state (Merli and Raftery, 2000). Different laws on the family planning and population argued that the two-child policy is important to achieve the population development with society, resources and economy. On the other side, it is also believed by some people that the main problem for China is not its large population but the aging population and government should focus on the welfare of the aging population.

*Sex ratio*

 From the above analysis of problem representation, it is determined that one of the main aims of the two-child policy is to promote balanced development of the population and to solve the issue of sex ratio imbalance. This assumption underpins that one-child policy brings imbalance in sex ratio and it can be fixed after the two-child policy implementation.

***How has this representation of the ‘problem’ come about?***

 The Bacchi 3rd question goes beyond the texts to explore how a particular problem representation has come about. To explore this China cultural and political condition are traced to analyse the power relations that are involved in this problem representation. The two-child policy was released in 2015 and in that year the growth rate of China was approximately 6.9% and it helps the government to hit the target of about 7%. Some researchers have identified that the annual growth of China was about 4-6%. According to the National Bureau of Statistics serious downfall was seen in the economy of China after 2012. This can be due to the 30 years population control policy of China as most of the China working-age population passed away in 2012 (Merli and Raftery, 2000). There is a need for China to find an appropriate way to keep economic growth. One of the main solutions of this is increasing the birth rate to ensure more labour force in future.

***What is left unproblematic in this problem representation?******Where are the silences? Can the ‘problem’ be thought about differently?***

 In the following, questions can be asked such as where are the silences? And can the problem be thought differently? It is very important to highlight those conditions that allow problem representation to assume dominance and shape. This question focuses on the particular limitations and gaps in the problem representation. By implementing the two-child policy the government of china intended to reduce the adverse demographic effect that occurs because of the one-child policy. However, this two-child policy does not have a great impact on the worker retire ratio. The retirement system of China is still under stress. To solve the problem of population aging China government has implemented the two-child policy as an excuse. At the time of implementing the one-child policy government of China has promised to solve the aging problem of the population by suggesting some solutions such as social insurance, increase the living standard of people and pension scheme for elderly people (Zeng and Hesketh, 2016). However, after 40 years, the national security system still not established. In rural areas old age support is mostly provided by the family members. The government of China is still silenced on the insurance system for old age and the issue of population aging has been linked to the one-child policy rather than inefficient social security system in China.

 There are many issues which still needs to be addressed and are not answered. The two-child policy focuses on the current issue of sex ratio and population aging effectively but ignores the deleterious effect that it has on the environment as a result of an increased population. During the time of the one-child policy, the government of China has argued about the implementation of this policy on an urgent basis to protect the environment. According to the policymaker, the implementation of this policy can slow the destruction of the environment such as according to negotiator of China by implementing this policy release of about 1.8 billion tons of CO2 and other harmful gases can be reduced.

***What effects are produced by this representation of the ‘problem’?***

 According to family planning and population amendment law that was passed in 2015, maternity leave was extended from 98 days to 128 days. Whereas men can only get 10 to 15 leaves. Amendment law discourse exacerbates the dilemma that women are expected to fulfil both roles ‘caregiver’ as well as the ‘worker’. After the implementation of two-child policy more power was given to the patriarchal family to control the reproductive right of women. After this, women faced a new problem that they were forced to have another child under the pressure of patriarchal family. After this policy, those families who were satisfied with one child have to reconsider their decision especially those families who have girls. They will force to get another due to the traditional preference for the son. The implementation of two-child policy brings the women to a fight with both state and patriarchal family. Under this policy, both the state and patriarchal family joined their hands together in oppressing women. Both the one child and two-child policy deprive the women of their reproductive right (Zeng and Hesketh, 2016).

 The implementation of the two-child policy created some risks for the employment and career development of women. The two-child policy increases the responsibility of women and also undermines her social roles. This policy was also associated with gender inequality. The two-child policy of China can also be seen in different perspectives. Here are some positive things which are associated with this policy. The children can learn sharing and cooperation. The financial security is another advantage that the implementation of this policy gives. Another benefit of this policy was that by the implementation of this policy a huge reduction in the abortion of unplanned pregnancies was seen. Secondly, the decrease in the problem of unregistered children was also seen (Zeng and Hesketh, 2016). According to the policy analyst, the effect of two-child policy on the rapid population aging and shrinking workforce will not be seen in the next few decades. There is a need for some sound policies to meet the health and social needs of the aging population (Feng et al., 2016). In conclusion, the WPR analysis approach starts from the assumption of some problem representation to the understanding of the issue. Although the two-child policy of China is a national-level policy still it attributed the responsibility of the problem to the women (Scharping, 2019). The discourse in this policy does not address the main issue of labour division between men and women. It further deepens the stereotype associated with gender. After the implementation of this policy women faced serious discrimination in the labour market.

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