
Phenomenological Analysis of Political Science Students' Attitudes Toward Factors Influencing Decision-Making by Officials in Public Crises in the Islamic Republic of Iran

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 10.27834/CSIW.2411.1470.1.36.1Mohammad Lal Alizadeh¹
Ali Akbarpour Almeh Joghi² **Extended Abstract****1. Introduction**

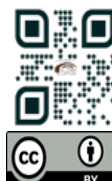
In this era of change, the ability to prevent and control public crises has gradually become an important indicator for measuring the level of desirable governance. What is important is a precise understanding of the factors affecting decision-making in public crises. In order to fill the existing gaps, this research examines the factors affecting decision-making of political officials in public crises with an emphasis on the Islamic Republic of Iran. Through a phenomenological analysis of this issue, it can help improve the rationality and sustainability of decision-making in public crises. Identifying different perspectives, especially the specialized view of political science students, on public crises and the factors affecting government decision-making through understanding their perspectives is useful, because different perceptions of an issue are very necessary to provide useful insights. To fill this gap and given the great importance of public crisis management, examining it can help the country's political officials and managers to improve the situation. The purpose of this research is to phenomenologically examine the perceptions, beliefs, and attitudes of political science students. This research is innovative in several aspects. First, it focuses on understanding the factors affecting the decision-making of political managers and officials from the perspective of political science students.

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Second, it is conducted in an interdisciplinary manner. This research is also conducted in a qualitative and phenomenological manner to help accurately analyze the results of the research by examining the lived experience of political science students.

2. Research Method

The design of this research is interpretive phenomenological and qualitative approach. Interpretive phenomenological analysis requires a high level of interviewer skill, including empathy and listening skills. The research steps included selecting participants, preparing an interview guide with semi-structured interview questions, and implementing the sampling method and data analysis method. Participants were categorized based on age, gender, level and educational orientation, and place of study. Purposive sampling was used in this research. With the diversity of experiences presented, data saturation was met by 18 people. In order to comply with ethical considerations; by planning, formulating research questions, and selecting appropriate data collection methods, an impartial position was adopted without personal or professional connections with the participants. Informed consent was obtained from participants and confidentiality and privacy were ensured throughout the research process. Coding was used to generate codes based on patterns, themes, and concepts in the data. The aim was to identify recurring ideas, feelings, or experiences of participants. The data obtained were analyzed based on grounded theory and using Strauss and Corbin's (1990) three-stage coding method in three stages of primary, secondary, and final coding. To validate the findings, four criteria were used including validity, transferability, reliability, and confirmability.

3. Research Findings and Analysis

First, the data from each interview were analyzed and categories and subcategories were formed. The main categories and data sources are reported in Table (1) below:

Table (1). Categories and subcategories extracted from interviews

Main Categories	Data Sources (Informants)
Strategy (11)	1-2-3-6-7-9-11-11-13-14-18
Ethical and social issues (7)	1-4-11-13-15-17-18
Public opinion (9)	1-2-4-6-8-10-13-14-16
Resources and facilities (5)	2-5-10-14-15
Organizational issues (10)	2-2-3-6-7-9-10-12-16-17
Personality traits (11)	2-2-3-4-5-7-8-11-14-16-18
Decision-making system (16)	2-3-4-5-6-6-7-8-9-11-15-15-16-17-18-18
Political issues (8)	3-9-10-12-13-13-14-16
Dominant culture (8)	4-4-5-8-9-12-17-18
Ethnicism (5)	5-7-12-13-15
Economic issues (4)	10-11-17-18

The category of “decision-making procedure and environment” has the highest frequency, indicating its main role and was selected as the central category. Other categories were placed around it in the framework of a systematic plan.

4. Conclusion

By analyzing the interviews conducted, key points, components and dimensions resulting from the identification of factors affecting government decision-making in public crises were presented. The components obtained were identified in 11 main categories (strategy; ethical and social issues; public opinion; resources and facilities; organizational issues; personality traits; decision-making system; political issues; ruling culture; ethnography; economic issues), 5 dimensions (political, social, economic, cultural and psychological) and 94 open codes. Research has pointed to the subject of public crises and their shaping conditions according to different methods. One of the issues that can affect the decision-making of political officials in public crises is the consideration of political, social and cultural priorities. Mechanisms such as lobbying, inequality in political participation, incorrect perception of people's preferences, and inequality in people's representation, not considering cultural priorities can be recognized as priorities for not making optimal decisions in public crises. When political officials have high political experiences and skills and positive psychological characteristics, they can better consider citizens' preferences and manage issues in public crises. This study has a positive role in improving the rationality and feasibility of decision-making performance, promoting the development of crisis decision-making research, and improving the theoretical system of

public crisis management and crisis decision-making. Considering the perspective of students can help the decision-making process in important political, social, and economic crises, and lead to eliminating pathologies in this field and creating mechanisms for transparency, responsibility, and accountability.

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