



## MASTER THESIS REVIEW

<b>Type of review:</b>	opponent's review
<b>Author:</b>	Wang Ren
<b>Title:</b>	Chinese Healthcare System in Welfare State Typology
<b>Author of review:</b>	Ing. Mgr. Olga Angelovská

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The master thesis presented by Wang Ren deals with the **topic** of the Chinese health care system within the welfare state typology. The welfare state typology is the topic being researched for more than the last three decades, but I consider author's topic interesting and fulfilling the gap of typology for non-European countries and the other fields than Esping-Andersen covered in his original work.

The **goal** of the thesis "*to figure out what type of welfare typology works in Chinese health care system through comparative welfare state typology, specifically the decommodification principle proposed by Esping-Andersen (2019) and health care decommodification index put forward by Bambra (2006)*" (p. 8). The author also formulated three research questions. In his thesis, he reached the goal in the case of health decommodification, and he answered all the questions.

Concerning the **theoretical** framework, the author based his thesis on the welfare state typology and the concept of decommodification. He uses proper literature. The lack of the text I see in chapter 2.1 *Definition about Welfare State Typology* (p.10) because the author mixed up terms "welfare state" and "welfare state typology". I appreciate references to different authors. On the other hand, for the definition of the concrete types of Esping-Andersen's typology, he uses just the other sources without mentioning Esping-Andersen. I would understand the approach when discussing the concrete type from other perspectives, but it is not the case. The text offers just a pure description of Esping-Andersen's typology without any added value from the other authors. I recommend moving chapter 2.4 *Operationalization of Welfare Regime Indicators* to the next chapter on methodology. I advise paying more attention to chapter 2.4 because it is crucial information for the later analytical part.

**Methodology** stands on secondary data analysis. I saw this approach as sufficient. However, I miss more information on the sources of data. The author made a good choice of WHO and OECD databases, but he didn't justify why he used them and which indicators chose from the databases.

In the **analytical** part, the author started with the description of the Chinese health care system. He understands the development of the Chinese HC system and works with useful indicators, but he doesn't understand some of the terms he used. For example, how is health status connected with the indicator of birth rate? I suppose the author wanted to use the term "infant mortality". Also when author claims for example that "*China's health system is rated 144<sup>th</sup> globally by WHO in 2000*", it is necessary to include the source, especially when it



follows by the argument that the situation improved. The author didn't write to which position the Chinese HC system moved now or in which source he found the information on improvement. The author should explain better the connection of number of beds with the efficiency (p.39).

The fifth chapter of *Classification of Chinese Welfare State* defines a position of China within the typology. The author excessively repeats some previous information. On the other hand I see the chapter as the most valuable part of the thesis.

The **structure** of the thesis is clear. Concerning the literature, the author uses relevant literature, but he should quote more precisely. Furthermore, he uses sources that are not in the list of references see Esping-Andersen 2019 (p.9) or Bamba 2005 (it should be 2005a or 2005b, p.8).

The formal part of the thesis is weak. Page numbers are missing. Furthermore, the master thesis is relatively short. It fulfils recommended criteria of pages but not of signs. On the other hand, I know the previous version of author's thesis which fulfilled those criteria so I believe this failing happened by oversight.

**For the reasons mentioned above, I recommend the thesis for defence and evaluate it by the grade "E"**

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Signature: