

INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES IN SOCIAL ECONOMIC LAW: A REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE AND SELECTED CASES

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Abstract

The interdisciplinary approach in social economic law offers a more holistic and in-depth perspective by combining various disciplines such as law, economics, sociology, and others. Through a literature review and analysis of selected cases, this study finds that the integration of understanding from these various disciplines is crucial in identifying and addressing complex issues facing society and the economy. The study results show that this approach is able to reveal the dynamic interactions between various factors and generate more effective and equitable solutions and policies. Thus, the interdisciplinary approach not only broadens theoretical insights but also provides added value in the practical application of social economic law, which can ultimately benefit all parties involved.

Keywords: Interdisciplinary Approach, Social Economic Law.

Introduction

Globalisation has experienced rapid development since the end of the 20th century, characterised by increased international trade, global investment flows, and the integration of financial markets. Technological advances, especially in communications and transportation, have accelerated the process of globalisation by enabling more efficient and rapid exchange of information and goods. Multinational companies have increasingly developed their production networks in various countries, while free trade policies and international agreements have opened up global market access.

Such developments have also played an important role in balancing the interests between economic growth and social welfare. Social economic law serves not only to regulate economic transactions, but also as an instrument to achieve social justice and sustainable development. Through proper regulation, these laws aim to prevent exploitation and inequality, ensure a more equitable distribution of resources, and protect the rights of workers and vulnerable groups (Odello & Seatzu, 2020b). In addition, social economy law also plays a role in regulating markets and encouraging ethical business practices, thereby creating sustainable economic and social stability. With legal certainty and adequate protection, people can enjoy a better quality of life, while businesses can operate more fairly and responsibly (Olumekor, 2024). Nonetheless, challenges arise when social economy law must adapt to changes in the global economy that are highly dynamic and affect society at large.

A key challenge in the implementation of social economy law is achieving a balance between economic interests and social justice in the dynamic context of globalisation. One of the biggest challenges is preventing and addressing economic inequality, which is often exacerbated by uncontrolled free market policies. Effective law enforcement also remains an obstacle, especially in countries with weak judicial systems and rampant corruption. In addition, adapting regulations to keep up with technological developments and changes in the business world is also a challenge. Lack of awareness and education about social and economic rights in society is an additional factor that can hinder the effectiveness of such laws (Odello & Seatzu, 2020a).

Traditional purely law-based approaches are often inadequate to address the complex issues in this area. Therefore, interdisciplinary approaches that combine perspectives from various disciplines such as economics, sociology, politics and law are becoming increasingly important. By using an interdisciplinary approach, policymakers and legal practitioners can gain more holistic and comprehensive insights to address various social economic issues (Korniienko, 2020).

Moreover, the existing literature shows that the application of interdisciplinary approaches in social economy law is still limited and requires further exploration. Relevant case studies have also not been widely explored to show how this approach can be applied in real situations (Udombana, 2023c). Therefore, this research is focussed on bridging this gap by conducting an in-depth literature review and analysis of selected cases that can illustrate the practical application of the interdisciplinary approach.

In this context, this research aims to explore and analyse how the interdisciplinary approach can be applied and integrated in social economic law to face current global challenges. As such, this research is expected to make a meaningful contribution to the development of theory and practice in the field of social economic law.

Research Methods

The study in this research uses the literature method. The literature research method is a systematic and structured approach in collecting, assessing, and synthesising information from various written sources, such as books, journal articles, reports, and other documents, to gain an in-depth understanding of a particular topic. The main purpose is to identify existing thoughts and findings, find gaps in previous research, and formulate a new conceptual framework or theory that can be the basis for further research (Sahar, 2008); (Arikunto, 2000). In this process, researchers must be thorough in selecting relevant, credible and current sources, and be able to critically analyse and link different perspectives. This method not only provides a strong theoretical foundation but also helps avoid duplication of work and strengthens the validity of research by relying on evidence from existing scientific work (Fadli, 2021).

Results and Discussion

Relevant Interdisciplinary Approaches in Social Economic Law

An interdisciplinary approach is a method of tackling a problem or project that involves integration and collaboration between different disciplines or fields of study. The main goal of this approach is to combine perspectives, theories, data, and methodologies from different fields to create more comprehensive and innovative solutions. By transcending the traditional boundaries of a single discipline, this approach enables researchers and professionals to address complexities that cannot be adequately addressed by a single discipline alone. For example, addressing environmental issues requires an understanding of biological sciences, chemistry, geography, as well as social and economic aspects (Udombana, 2023d).

The importance of interdisciplinary approaches is increasingly apparent in today's increasingly complex and interconnected world, where the challenges faced are often multi-dimensional. Through interdisciplinary collaboration, solutions tend to be more effective and sustainable as they take into account multiple perspectives and factors that may be overlooked in a monodisciplinary approach (Popova, 2020). In addition, this approach also encourages innovation and creativity by inspiring new ways of thinking and methods that may not emerge from one discipline alone. The interdisciplinary approach also enhances communication and co-operation skills among scientists and professionals, builds wider networks within the academic and industrial communities, and enriches students' learning and understanding in education by preparing them to face complex real-world challenges (Deng et al., 2022).

The interdisciplinary approach in social economy law integrates various disciplines to analyse and find solutions to issues that cannot be effectively addressed by one field alone. In the context of social economy law, this approach includes collaboration between law, economics, sociology, politics, and sometimes psychology to provide a more holistic understanding of policies and their impact on society. The interaction between these fields is crucial in formulating fair and effective policies and ensuring that their implementation does not only pursue economic gains, but also considers aspects of social justice and people's welfare (Udombana, 2023d).

Social economic law is often involved in issues such as labour, wealth distribution and social protection, which require a deep understanding of economic and social conditions. For example, in designing fair labour laws, it is necessary to consider multiple perspectives: economic analysis to understand the potential impact of a policy on the labour market, and social analysis to assess the policy's effect on social inequality and opportunities for vulnerable groups. By combining these perspectives, policies can be formulated in such a way that they strike a balance between increasing economic productivity and protecting workers' rights (Mak, 2020).

One applicable example of this interdisciplinary approach is the handling of minimum wage issues. Implementing a minimum wage policy requires economics to understand its impact on employment and inflation, while legal aspects ensure that the

regulation is properly enforced. On the other hand, sociology provides insights into how these wage policies impact the social lives of workers and their families. Thus, an interdisciplinary approach enables policymakers to develop more effective and equitable solutions for different groups in Society (OLIYNYK, 2020).

An interdisciplinary approach also facilitates innovation in policymaking. By integrating multiple viewpoints, policymakers can find new ways to address complex and often interrelated problems. Furthermore, in the context of globalisation and fast-changing socio-economic dynamics, an interdisciplinary approach provides the flexibility needed to quickly adapt to new challenges that arise (Schäfer & Ott, 2022). By adhering to this approach, social economic law can play an important role in creating a more just and sustainable society, which is not only concerned with economic progress but also the social well-being of all its members.

An interdisciplinary approach in social economic law is also important in evaluating the effectiveness of policies that have been implemented. By involving various disciplines, the evaluation can be conducted comprehensively, covering various aspects such as economic impact, social impact, and legal compliance. For example, when evaluating a social assistance programme, economic analysis can assess the sustainability of the programme in terms of budget and its impact on economic growth. On the other hand, sociology can provide insights into how the aid affects the lives of beneficiaries, and law ensures that the distribution of aid has been carried out in accordance with applicable regulations (Udombana, 2023b).

An interdisciplinary approach also strengthens transparency and accountability in policy formation and implementation. By involving experts from different disciplines, the decision-making process becomes more inclusive and responsive to different interests and perspectives. This can reduce the risk of bias or monopolisation of certain interests in policies, as well as increase public trust in the resulting policies. In this era of information and openness, transparency and accountability are key to ensuring that policies are truly beneficial to the wider community (Herron & Powell, 2024).

Another benefit of an interdisciplinary approach is the ability to address cross-border challenges, especially in the era of globalisation. National economic policies often impact other countries, especially in terms of trade, investment and labour migration. An interdisciplinary approach allows countries to learn from other countries' experiences and policies, understand the impact of cross-border policies, and collaborate in creating better and more sustainable solutions. Here, international cooperation and knowledge exchange become important elements in addressing complex global challenges (Haque, 2022).

In conclusion, an interdisciplinary approach in social economic law is essential to address the complexity and dynamics of modern socio-economic problems. By bringing together various perspectives from different disciplines, this approach is able to offer more comprehensive, equitable and sustainable solutions. An interdisciplinary approach not only enriches analysis and policymaking, but also enhances transparency, accountability and cooperation across countries. Therefore, in an effort to achieve social welfare and

equitable economic development, interdisciplinary approaches should continue to be developed and implemented in every policy process.

Advantages and disadvantages of each Interdisciplinary approach in Social Economic Law

The interdisciplinary approach in social economic law has many advantages, one of which is the ability to provide more comprehensive solutions. By involving various disciplines such as economics, law, and sociology, this approach can present a more in-depth and thorough analysis of the issue at hand. For example, the impact of fiscal policy is not only seen from an economic perspective, but also from how the policy affects social justice and legal compliance (Perini, 2022).

Another benefit of this approach is increased transparency and accountability in the policy-making process. When multiple perspectives and expertise are integrated, the possibility of bias or monopoly of particular interests is minimised. The process also allows for greater control and oversight, increasing public confidence in the policies implemented. Thus, the participation of multiple disciplines helps to create fairer and more accountable policies (Udombana, 2023a).

In addition, an interdisciplinary approach allows for innovation and creativity in addressing complex socio-economic problems. The combination of different perspectives and research methods from different disciplines can lead to more creative and effective solutions. For example, the integration of information technology with socio-economic policy can open up new opportunities for public service delivery and increased efficiency in the implementation of government programmes (Graham, 2022).

This approach also strengthens cooperation across countries in addressing global issues such as trade, investment and labour migration. In an era of globalisation, national economic policies often have cross-border impacts. Through an interdisciplinary approach, countries can learn from other countries' experiences and work together to create better global solutions. This is particularly important in the face of complex global challenges that require international collaboration to achieve (Thomas, 2022).

Despite its many advantages, the interdisciplinary approach also has some disadvantages. One of the main challenges is the complexity of interdisciplinary coordination. Each discipline usually has different paradigms, methodologies and terminologies. Bringing these different perspectives together takes time and effort, which can sometimes slow down the decision-making process or lead to a lack of consistency in the resulting policies (Boyle, 2020).

Another drawback is the risk of intra-disciplinary conflicts that can affect the effectiveness of this approach. Experts from different disciplines sometimes have conflicting views or interests, which can hinder co-operation and result in compromised but less effective policies. Overcoming this requires strong negotiation and leadership skills to bring different interests together and generate consensus (BONDARCHUK, 2023).

Interdisciplinary approaches also often require greater resources in terms of time, expertise and cost. Interdisciplinary consultation and collaboration processes require

significant investment. This can be a constraint, especially for countries or organisations with limited resources. Furthermore, this approach may not always be practical to implement in situations that require quick responses and immediate decisions (BEZPALENKO, 2021).

Finally, there is the possibility of fragmentation or an overly broad and unfocused search for solutions. Because it involves multiple disciplines, analyses can sometimes become too generalised and lose their sharpness in addressing specific issues. As a result, the solutions may not be targeted or go deep enough to address the core problem. Therefore, it is important to maintain a balance between the breadth of the scope of the analysis and the focus on the main issue to be resolved (Savchyn, 2021).

In conclusion, while the interdisciplinary approach has many advantages in creating comprehensive and equitable policies, these challenges need to be addressed to ensure its effectiveness and efficiency in practice.

Conclusion

The interdisciplinary approach in social economy law suggests that the integration of various disciplines, such as law, economics and sociology, provides a more comprehensive perspective in understanding and addressing complex issues. In the literature review, this approach allows for the identification of interacting factors, which may not be apparent if viewed from a single scientific perspective. This interdisciplinary role is especially important in crafting fair and effective regulations and policies, given the ever-changing social and economic dynamics.

Selected case studies show that the application of an interdisciplinary approach helps in resolving conflicts of interest between the various parties involved. For example, in the case of labour and environmental protection issues, the use of economic analysis to understand the financial impact of regulations, along with sociological studies on their impact on society, provides a more comprehensive and sustainable solution. Therefore, this interdisciplinary approach not only enriches theoretical understanding but also improves the quality of practical decisions in social economic law.

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