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KİTAP İNCELEMESİ*

Bandy, Gary (2023). *Financial Management and Accounting in the Public Sector* (Routledge, 3rd Ed.).

Gary Bandy's "Financial Management and Accounting in the Public Sector" provides a thorough analysis of public finance and accounting, outlining the most effective approaches to manage financial resources for public administration as well as the instruments available for efficient budgeting, revenue collection, and spending supervision. Specifically, the book provides theoretical and practical perspectives on public spending, taxation, regulation, and budgeting, which makes it a precious resource both for researchers and practitioners. This analysis examines both its practical contributions to the field of public financial management as well as its theoretical implications. Bandy's book views public finance not just as a technical domain, but also as a strategic practice of public-interest management. The book is intended to be a basic introduction for managers who are unfamiliar with public financial management. Bandy distinguishes the financial management procedures of the public and private sectors and explores them in the context of democratic accountability, transparency, and moral requirements. The book's framework is organised around the four cyclical stages of public financial management: budgeting, income generation, expenditure, and auditing. Bandy supplements the theoretical foundation with practical examples in each chapter, allowing the reader to understand the challenges in a real-world setting. The book also includes up-to-date information on the growing pressures on public finance and long-term fiscal management in the post-pandemic period. Because public finance decision-making has been described as a 'art' (Bandy, 2023), as Bandy puts it, the book also provides innovative concepts on how to use financial resources effectively and profitably.

The book's first chapter introduces the concepts and principles that underpin public financial management, as well as the distinction between the public and private

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sectors. Bandy provides an extensive framework for structuring public financial management to benefit society. The necessity for public sector principles like transparency and accountability is one way that this framework clarifies how public finance management is different from the private sector. The chapter makes the case that public financial management is more complicated than in the private sector because the public sector must be motivated by its primary objectives of serving the general public and producing social value in addition to financial achievement. At this point, Bandy discusses the idea of "market failure," highlighting scenarios in which the delivery of public services may be inadequately handled by the market mechanisms. This is where public financial management comes into play, particularly when markets fail to deliver essential services like security, health, and education. The public finance cycle is another significant topic covered in this chapter. It is stated therein that there are several steps in public financial management, including budget development, approval, performance, and audit. In this cycle, Bandy highlights how crucial it is for public administrators to maintain accountability in the public interest while also making effective use of resources. Such management cycle provides a comprehensive approach to public financial management and allows for the effective distribution of public resources while adhering to the accountability principle.

The second chapter examines the public budgeting process as a mechanism for reflecting the government's budgetary and political strategies. Bandy defines budgeting as the process of distributing resources in accordance with the strategic objectives in public financial management. In this chapter, Bandy discusses all aspects of public budgeting, from planning to approval and execution. He underlines that budgeting serves the critical purpose of ensuring the fair and effective distribution of public resources, as well as improving accountability in the public sector. Bandy further discusses the key role of the public budgets in rectifying social and economic inequities in society. The use of concepts such as performance-based budgeting and zero-based budgeting in the public budgeting process is addressed in a comprehensive manner, as is how these approaches might improve the efficiency of public services. The section additionally points out that the budgeting process should be transparent and public. The principles of transparency and accountability not only maintain public trust in public institutions, but also ensure that public resources are used for what they were meant to serve. The third chapter goes into detail on the role and function of taxes, one of the state's most important income streams, in public finance. Bandy examines the roles of taxes, including assuring the sustainability of public services, maintaining the order of the economy, and promoting equitable social conditions. This section focuses on the challenges witnessed in the development of the taxation system, arguing for tax policies that are structured in accordance with the principles of efficiency and equality. Bandy additionally underscores the impact of taxation on income distribution as well as its economic and social implications. This chapter delves deeply into issues such as fair taxation and the construction of a tax policy that promotes economic progress. The studies, strengthened by examples from the United Kingdom and other countries, allow the reader to acquire a comparative perspective on various tax regimes. Bandy provides guidance for effective

handling of taxes, focusing on topics such as tax evasion, compliance, and costs for collection.

The fourth chapter is on financial controls during the public budget execution process. Bandy argues that financial control mechanisms must be in place to ensure that public expenditures are made in conformity with the intended objectives. He highlights the significance of a robust internal control system in public financial management for making sure that expenditures are in the public interest and do not exceed the budget. This section scrutinizes the corruption risks encountered throughout the budget implementation process, as well as the steps that must be taken in order to mitigate such risks. Comprehensive information is provided on how internal control systems might be employed to improve accountability and transparency in the public sector. The theoretical foundations and practical suggestions for controlling governmental spending for the benefit of society are also covered. In this sense, it provides a thorough analysis of how financial management and internal audits have an impact on public administration. In the fifth chapter, Bandy examines how financial metrics might be used in public administration decision-making processes. The ability of public administrators to make strategic decisions based on financial facts is critical to the efficient use of public resources. Bandy highlights the need for accurate financial data analysis and interpretation in decision-making processes. From this perspective, it describes how financial analysis methodologies such as cost analysis, cost-benefit evaluation, and net present value estimates may be applied in the public sector. The chapter addresses the hurdles and ambiguities in financial decision-making process by focusing on strategic analytical methods to assist public managers to arrive at more knowledgeable and effective decisions. It goes into depth on how such methods may be used to allocate resources while managing costs in the public sector.

The sixth chapter focuses on public procurement and the ethical issues that arise during the process. Bandy underlines that public procurement procedures should be carried out not just cost-effectively, but also in compliance with ethical norms and transparency principles. Maintaining ethical standards in the public procurement process is crucial to reducing the risk of corruption. The chapter highlights the importance of maintaining a balance between value for money and transparency while discussing the role of public procurement in public financial management. Given the surge in public spending during the pandemic and the challenging nature of procurement systems, Bandy's recommendations for ethics and transparency provide an important perspective for contemporary public administration. Additionally, the chapter provides practical remedies to the problems associated with managing public procurement. Bandy examines public value theory, performance assessment, and strategies designed to improve the effectiveness of public services in chapter seven. He contends that public managers should strive to provide social benefits in addition to fiscal objectives within the context of public value theory. Bandy emphasizes the significance of public services being outcome-oriented and laid out in line with societal demands in this chapter. The benefits of performance management tools for managers in the public sector are also highlighted in this chapter. The chapter, which expands upon Moore's public value

theory, is backed up with practical suggestions for enhancing the effectiveness and impact of services in public administration. This background explains the management and societal significance of performance measurement in the public sector. This particular chapter also covers the benefits of performance management tools for public-sector managers. The chapter is based on Moore's public value theory and includes practical recommendations for increasing the efficiency and impact of public administration services. In this context, the significance of performance assessment in the public sector, both managerial and social, is discussed.

The eighth chapter underlines the significance of accountability and financial reporting in the public sector. Bandy highlights the importance of transparency in public financial management to maintain public trust. Financial reporting and accountability measures make sure that public institutions perform their societal responsibilities while also enhancing their standing in the community. The chapter addresses how financial reporting requirements and good governance practices may be used to improve accountability in public administration. Bandy goes into detail on the principles of transparency and accountability and provides solutions for how to maintain these values in public administration. This chapter highlights the necessity of open and transparent financial management procedures in the public sector for establishing the trust of the public. The last chapter focuses on audit and transparency in public financial management. Bandy emphasises the requirement for independent auditing methods to ensure the proper use of public resources. Public auditing plays an important role in ensuring accountability to society while also monitoring the effective use of public resources. This section discusses internal and external audit processes, as well as the use of internationally accepted audit standards in public administration. According to Bandy, increasing control mechanisms can help to develop a more transparent and accountable public administration system. The use of transparency principles in public auditing improves the trustworthiness of public financial management and its societal acceptability.

Bandy's Financial Management and Accounting in the Public Sector provides a practical as well as theoretical overview of public financial management and thoroughly addresses many present-day issues. However, additional details on the integration of technologies that include digital transformation (Mergel et al., 2019), artificial intelligence (AI) (Zuiderwijk et al., 2021), and data analytics (Scholta et al., 2019), which are becoming ever more important in public financial management, could have made contributions for ensuring that the book accurately reflects the latest developments. Nowadays, AI technologies provide new prospects for public administration, particularly in budget planning, data analytics, forecasting, and the allocation of public resources. In this context, expanding the book to include themes such as the use of AI in the public sector, financial process automation, and decision-making process strengthening might give readers a broader view on advancements in public financial management. Given Bandy's comprehensive approach, which represents a wide viewpoint, including such a technical update into future editions of the work might add value to the book. Such an addition might help the book better represent the changing dynamics of public

administration and provide public managers with the guidance they need during the digitalisation process. In general, by approaching public finance management holistically, Bandy's work contributes significantly to academic and applied circles through providing practical instances backed by theoretical understanding. While providing answers to the mounting budgetary difficulties in the post-pandemic period and including current studies of public finance issues, the book illuminates today's public administration issues. Bandy's straightforward and clear language allows even public managers with less financial experience to understand the subject, and his approach to public finance within the context of social responsibility and value generation makes the book a useful resource for academicians. Financial Management and Accounting in the Public Sector is a rich and comprehensive resource for students and professionals who wish to specialise in public financial management. The book makes significant contributions to public financial management, both academically and practically, owing to Bandy's methodology, which combines theory and practice, provides solutions to contemporary public finance issues, and addresses moral responsibility and the public benefits.

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