

The Emancipatory Methodological Approach to the Organizational Problems Management

Authors : Slavica P. Petrovic

Abstract : One of the key dimensions of management problems in organizations refers to the relations between stakeholders. The management problems that are characterized by conflict and coercion, in which participants do not agree on the ends and means, in which different groups, i.e., individuals, strive to - using the power they have - impose on others their favoured strategy and decisions represent the relevant research subject. Creatively managing the coercive problems in organizations, in which the sources of power can be identified, implies the emancipatory paradigm and the use of corresponding systems methodology. The main research aim is to critically reassess the theoretical foundations and methodological and methodical development of Critical Systems Heuristics (CSH) - as a valid representative of the emancipatory paradigm - in order to determine the conditions, ways, and achievements of its application in managing the coercive problems in organizations. The basic hypothesis is that CSH, as the emancipatory methodology, given its own theoretical foundations and methodological-methodical development, can be employed in a scientifically based and practically useful manner in creative addressing the coercive problems. The scientific instrumentarium corresponding to this research aim is critical systems thinking with its three key commitments to: a) Critical awareness of the strengths and weaknesses of each research instrument (theory, methodology, method, technique, model) for structuring the problem situations in organizations, b) Improvement of managing the coercive problems in organizations, and c) Pluralism - respect the different perceptions and interpretations of problem situations, and enable the combined use of research instruments. The relevant research result is that CSH - considering its theoretical foundations, methodological and methodical development - enables to reveal the normative content of the proposed or existing designs of organizational systems. Accordingly, it can be concluded that through the use of critically heuristic categories and dialectical debate between those involved and those affected by the designs, but who are not included in designing organizational systems, CSH endeavours to - in the application - support the process of improving position of all stakeholders.

Keywords : coercion and conflict in organizations, creative management, critical systems heuristics, the emancipatory systems methodology

Conference Title : ICMSE 2015 : International Conference on Management Science and Engineering

Conference Location : Paris, France

Conference Dates : July 20-21, 2015