

Research on the Various Types of "Three Governance Integration" Models in China's Rural Areas

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ABSTRACT

"Three governance integration" is a unique governance model in China's rural social governance. It is composed of three governance mechanisms: autonomy, rule of law, and rule of morality. It is known as the "Fengqiao Experience" in the new era. During the development of "Three governance integration", two governance mechanisms, political governance and intellectual governance, were gradually added, and finally a new governance model of "integration of multiple governances" was formed, but people still used to call it "Three governance integration". The academic community adopts two theoretical perspectives to study the types of "three governance integration", including the systemic perspective and the functionalist perspective. To sum up, there are eight types: "one body and two wings" type, two-two combination type, mutual combination type, mutual integration type, situation-oriented type, optimized structure type, problem-oriented type, and value-enhancing type. These studies help to optimize the rural governance model, enhance the vitality of rural society, and maintain the stability of rural society.

Keywords: *Three governance integration, rural governance, modernization of Governance capability.*

1. INTRODUCTION

"Three governance integration" is a new trend in China's rural governance and a rural governance system with Chinese characteristics. The report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in 2017 clearly pointed out that "strengthen the basic work in rural areas and improve the rural governance system that combines autonomy, rule of law and rule of morality", which is called the "integration of three governance". This is also the first time the "Three governance integration" has been mentioned at the party's top meeting.

However, the exploration of "Three governance integration" has a long history. It first came from the exploration of cadres and masses in Fengqiao Town, Zhuji City, Zhejiang Province. As early as the early 1960s, local cadres and the masses proposed in the socialist education movement that "rural governance should mobilize and rely on the masses, solve problems in the village, and continue to promote the improvement of public security", which was later known as "Fengqiao Experience". In 1963, Comrade Mao Zedong issued an important instruction to "study and promote the

experience of Fengqiao". Since then, villages across the country have begun to form a governance model based on "autonomy". Beginning in 2013, the cadres and masses of Tongxiang City, Jiaying City, Zhejiang Province carried forward the "Red Boat Spirit" and took the lead in exploring the "three governance integration" grassroots social governance model in the country, forming a governance model combining autonomy, rule of law and rule of morality. After years of exploration and practice, this model has been highly recognized by the general public. In 2017, it was written into the report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. The rural governance model of "integration of three governance" has risen from practice to top-level design of the country.

2. THE CONCEPT EXPANSION OF "THREE GOVERNANCE INTEGRATION"

There are many types of practice forms of three governance integration, such as four governance integration, five governance integration, etc., which are collectively referred to as "multi governance integration". From "three" to "multi" is not a simple increase in number, but a new governance system is formed through the

organic integration of different governance mechanisms. In practice, multi-governance integration usually refers to autonomy, rule of law, rule of morality, political governance, and intellectual governance. On the one hand, the Fourth Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China put forward specific requirements for building a new pattern of grass-roots social governance. In improving the social governance system of joint construction, joint governance and sharing, it is necessary to improve the "leadership of the party organization". In rural governance, it is also necessary to combine the leadership improving of the party organization with the "Three governance integration". This further highlights the important position of political governance in the rural governance system.

On the other hand, on January 2, 2018, the "Opinions of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council on the Implementation of the Rural Revitalization Strategy" clearly stated that it is necessary to implement the digital rural strategy, do a good job in overall planning and design, and speed up the broadband network and the fourth-generation mobile communication network in rural areas. At the same time, the whole society is required to develop information technology, products, applications and services that adapt to the characteristics of "agriculture, rural areas and farmers", promote the popularization of applications such as telemedicine and distance education, and bridge the digital divide between urban and rural areas. In January 2022, the Central Internet Information Office, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, the Ministry of Commerce, the State Administration for Market Regulation, the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television, and the National Rural Revitalization Bureau jointly issued "Digital Village Development Action Plan (2022-2025)". Among them, the "Digital Governance Capability Improvement Action" is clearly put forward, which is helpful for improving rural smart party building, promoting the extension of "Internet + government services" to rural areas, improving the intelligence level of village-level affairs management, promoting the refinement of comprehensive social governance, and strengthening rural smart emergency management. All these clearly require improving the level of digital governance of village-level affairs and promoting the development of the "integration of three governance" model to "intellectual governance".

3.PRACTICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF "THREE GOVERNANCE INTEGRATION"

The modernization of rural governance capacity is an

important part of the modernization of national governance capacity. The "integration of three governance" governance model is an important means to realize the modernization of rural governance capacity, and it has also become a hot topic in the research of rural governance in academic circles. Its main goal is to realize the rural norm of "doing big things together, judging good and bad together, and helping everyone in everything together" (Wang Wenbin, 2019).

In addition, "three governance integration" also has three practical characteristics. First of all, the participation of multiple governance subjects, "its governance subjects and governance methods are multiple, and it is a kind of active participation, not passive acceptance" (Zuo Stop, 2019 Building a New Pattern of Rural Governance). Secondly, the relationship between autonomy, rule of law, and rule of morality is mainly based on "integration". Compared with the study of independent individuals, it pays more attention to the research of the whole (Zhong Hai, 2020 Review of the Integration of Three Governances). Thirdly, good governance is the core value pursuit. "This kind of good governance includes four elements: order, participation, low cost and stability" (Deng Dikai, 2018).

4.TYPES FROM A SYSTEMIC PERSPECTIVE

The systemic perspective is based on the viewpoint of system theory, and regards the rural governance model as an overall system in operation. The research objects include relevant subjects, structural relationships, operating rules, and operating mechanisms in the process of system operation. There are significant differences in the main structure between different types. Based on this standard, the "three governance integration" can be divided into the following four types:

The first one is the "one body with two wings" type. This type believes that "autonomy" in rural governance is at the core of the system, and other specific governance behaviors function around "autonomy" and influence each other. For example, He Yang and Sun Ping (2018) proposed that the relationship between autonomy, rule of law, and rule of morality should be understood as one body and two wings. Autonomy is the main content, rule of law is the bottom line of guarantee, and rule of morality is an auxiliary tool[1]. Li Bo (2020) also proposed that autonomy is the foundation, the rule of law is the prohibition, and the rule of morality is the encouragement, this "one body and two wings" structure can promote the modernization of rural governance and the formation of a good governance pattern[2].

The second is the "mutual combination" type. This type regards various specific governance behaviors in rural governance as modules of the system, and believes that the functioning of the governance system is the result

of the interaction between different modules. Ding Wen and Feng Yiqiang (2019), through case studies, proposed that in practice, autonomy, rule of law, and rule of morality should be regarded as three different work modules[3]. Through the interaction between different modules, the integration of governance subjects, governance platforms, and governance approaches can be realized, thereby improving the integration of the entire system and promoting the efficient operation of the rural governance system.

The third is the "mutual integration" type. This view advocates simplifying the complex situation of rural governance, and proposes that there should not be obvious differences between different governance behaviors, but should be integrated into the original rural governance system. Zuo Ting and Li Zhuo (2019) proposed that rural governance needs to represent the state to provide an organizational foundation and institutional guarantee for rural society, and the final "three governance integration" model should be based on autonomy, take law as a principle, and take morality as a feature [4]. This helps to achieve the transition from traditional single management to multiple collaborative governance.

The fourth is the "two-two combination" type. This view holds that rural governance models in different regions have their own emphasis, and different governance behaviors need to be organically combined to adapt to different governance scenarios and solve different specific problems. Yu Jianxing (2018) proposed the need to pay attention to the "multiplier effect" among autonomy, rule of law, and rule of morality, and proposed that there are tensions between autonomy and rule of law, and between rule of morality and rule of law[5]. Therefore, it is necessary to adopt three types of governance according to the different governance contents in rural governance: "autonomy × rule of morality", "autonomy × rule of law", and "autonomy × rule of law × rule of morality".

5. TYPES FROM A FUNCTIONALIST PERSPECTIVE

From the perspective of functionalism, the research on the "integration of three governance" model focuses on how to achieve the goal and what kind of goal needs to be achieved. It advocates to divide different governance modes by types of rural governance public affairs, and the research object mainly focuses on the interaction between rural governance system and specific governance situations. Based on the different goals of the "three governance integration" model, it can be divided into the following four types:

The first is a situation-oriented type. Han Pengyun (2021) believes that the configuration and rules of the internal rural governance system need to adapt to the

external needs of modern national transformation, and through research on the theory of state power, he proposes that the rural governance system presents external system embedding, professionalization of village cadres, governance technology, these characteristics have effectively strengthened the construction of state power in rural society[6].

The second is the optimized structure type. For example, Ouyang Jing (2018) found in his research on the "integration of three governance" governance subjects that this model will transform the market-oriented public affairs governance into the autonomous governance of villages[7]. This transformation actually optimizes the governance structure within the village, and can inspire more villagers to participate in public governance.

The third is the problem-oriented type. The third is the problem-oriented type. It is believed that the "integration of three governance" model is a governance model used to solve practical problems. For example, Xiong Wansheng and Fang Yao (2019) pointed out that the goal of improving the model and mechanism of rural governance is to form a complete structure of "leadership by party building" and "Three governance integration". The main body of the governance system is built in rural society, and it gradually develops and improves in solving complex rural social problems, and then in turn affects the evolution of the governance structure itself[8].

The fourth is the value-enhancing type. Li Qingzhao and Ma Hua (2017), through a study of the governance reform experience of a village in Guangdong Province, proposed that the core of the reform of the rural governance model is to explore and utilize the endogenous resources of the village[9]. This means that the "three governance integration" model should combine government promotion with the creation of the masses, establish a diversified and multi-level interaction and cooperation mechanism, and finally realize the "people-centered" value pursuit in the rural governance system and improve the villagers' degree of organization.

6. CONCLUSION

From the above research, we can summarize three characteristics of the "three governance integration" governance model. First of all, the governance system of China's rural areas regards grass-roots party organizations as the core, and various villagers' social organizations actively participate in it, which together constitute the diversified subjects of rural governance. Secondly, in China's rural governance, cultural traditions and moral concepts have exerted a high influence, even more than the influence of legal concepts on rural society. Thirdly, the autonomy of villagers has always been the basic political system of rural governance in China, which fully reflects the "people-centered" governance concept.

At present, the exploration of the "integration of three governance" model in the field of practice is significantly faster than theoretical research. The Central Leading Group for Rural Work and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs have released typical cases of rural governance across the country for two consecutive years. The practice of the "integration of three governance" model in typical cases has brought new research propositions, such as how to strengthen the organization of the grass-roots party, innovate the form of discussion and negotiation, innovate the method of grass-roots governance, strengthen the three-level linkage between county, town and village, and encourage multiple subjects to participate in governance, etc. This has prompted the academic community to actively explore the construction of a new rural governance system, and to form more model results to enhance the vitality of rural society and stabilize rural social order.

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