



Research on Grassroots Governance Issues from the Perspective of Rural Revitalization

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Abstract. Rural revitalization is one of the current strategic priorities in China, and grassroots governance is a key link in achieving rural revitalization. It plays an important role in promoting the sustainable development of rural economy and society in China and achieving a happy life for farmers. With the deepening of the rural revitalization strategy, grassroots governance is facing many challenges and problems. This article aims to explore grassroots governance issues from the perspective of rural revitalization, and provide useful countermeasures and suggestions for strengthening rural revitalization.

Keywords: Rural revitalization; Grassroots governance; Governance philosophy

1 Introduction

With the implementation of the rural revitalization strategy, grassroots governance issues have gradually received widespread attention, and there is considerable research on this in the academic community at home and abroad. Xu Xiaodong believes that there is a dilemma of "fragmentation" in grassroots governance, which limits the ability of governance entities to take action. ^[1] Peng Bo proposed that the "block by block" collaboration based on digital platforms can effectively solve grassroots governance problems. ^[2] Zhang Weida et al believe that the legalization of rural grassroots governance faces many obstacles, such as weak economic foundation, incomplete legal system, weak legal awareness among farmers, and insufficient supply of judicial resources. ^[3] Domestic research on grassroots governance mainly focuses on rural governance, while foreign research on grassroots governance focuses on community governance, which can also provide useful references. Foley Rider et al. believe that innovation and equality are important paths to achieving community governance. ^[4] Rafique used Pakistan as an example to explore the various obstacles faced by citizens in participating in grassroots governance. ^[5] Overall, the issues of grassroots governance in China can be divided into four parts: subjects, concepts, methods, and funds.

2 Problems in grassroots governance

In the context of rural revitalization, the level of grassroots governance capacity directly affects the effectiveness of rural revitalization. Therefore, improving grassroots governance capacity is urgent. Currently, there are still problems in grassroots governance, such as unclear governance subjects, rigid governance concepts, outdated governance methods, and insufficient governance funds, which urgently need to be solved.

2.1 The dilemma of governance subjects

The main bodies of grassroots governance exhibit diversified characteristics, including grassroots governments, grassroots autonomous organizations, and social organizations. Grassroots governments are the leaders of grassroots governance. The current situation of the lack of resources such as human and financial resources in grassroots governments has led to a dilemma where the government's control over the grassroots is beyond reach. Grassroots autonomous organizations are the builders of grassroots governance. Against the backdrop of lagging rural development today, the number of administrative villages has decreased, the relevant population density has declined, and the phenomenon of "hollowing out" has undoubtedly impacted the inherent framework of rural grassroots autonomous organizations and weakened their influence. Social organizations are adjuncts of grassroots governance. However, due to the current small scale, scattered structure, and weak professional level of social organizations, their participation in grassroots governance is limited. To enhance grassroots governance capabilities, the first step is to achieve collaborative cooperation among multiple entities. ^[6]

2.2 Rigid governance concepts

The concept of modern governance is the soul of governance modernization. However, in the process of promoting the modernization of grassroots governance, the main body of grassroots governance has not yet shaken off outdated concepts. Firstly, there is a monopolistic mindset among the grassroots governance entities. The grassroots government and village organizations have never changed their dominant management philosophy, intentionally or unintentionally cracking down on the "new farmers", thereby curbing the pursuit of diverse interests and hindering the independent participation of multiple actors in rural governance. Secondly, there is an administrative mindset among grassroots governance entities. Although administrative measures are an important means of grassroots governance, administrative thinking can to some extent disrupt the balance of work and reduce efficiency. Finally, there is inertia thinking among grassroots governance entities. Some grassroots cadres have serious empirical thinking, overly relying on personal experience and lacking scientific thinking, not fully considering public opinions, and even resorting to any means to complete tasks.

2.3 Backward governance methods

Grassroots governance is one of the important issues in the process of modernization of governance. In recent years, grassroots digital governance has become a hot research direction at the grassroots governance level.^[7] However, in the current process of rural revitalization, the integration of autonomy, rule of law, and moral governance has not been fully achieved in rural governance, and the overall governance model has become singular. Firstly, grassroots governments have continued a pressure based system, typically adopting top-down administrative measures to ensure the achievement of goals, including administrative orders, document implementation, and other forms, which not only ignore the role of moral governance but also increase administrative management costs. Secondly, grassroots governance lacks consultation and autonomy. In practical governance, some regions prefer to adopt monopolistic and administrative approaches rather than collaborative and consultative governance methods. Finally, grassroots governance lacks openness. In the current context of globalization, open, innovative, and inclusive governance ideas have become a new governance model. However, in some grassroots governance, insufficient openness can lead to poor governance effectiveness.

2.4 Insufficient governance funds

Governance funds are an important resource to support the development of grassroots governance. In the current process of rural revitalization, the issue of governance funds has gradually attracted people's attention. Firstly, there is a single source of funding for grassroots governance. Some villages rely on financial subsidies, while others rely on land and collective asset management to generate profits. Secondly, poor management of grassroots governance funds. Due to outdated fund management, situations such as unclear fund flow often exist. Finally, the budget for grassroots governance funds is insufficient. Many villages do not have corresponding funding application plans and often adopt emergency measures, making it difficult to achieve long-term development. In summary, there are some fundamental issues in grassroots governance in the process of rural revitalization. Therefore, it is necessary to improve our governance subjects, governance concepts, governance methods, and governance fund management in various aspects, in order to create a more favorable environment for rural revitalization.

3 Solutions to grassroots governance issues

In response to the difficulties faced by governance entities, rigid governance concepts, outdated governance methods, and insufficient governance funds in grassroots governance, it is necessary to prescribe appropriate "prescriptions" based on the specific situation.

3.1 Measures for Solving the Problems of Governance Subjects

To address the issue of grassroots government governance entities, firstly, it is necessary to improve the reserve mechanism for grassroots cadres, cultivate professional talents, and enhance their professional abilities. Secondly, it is necessary to establish a performance evaluation mechanism and increase the performance evaluation of grassroots cadres. Finally, it is necessary to clarify the positioning of responsibilities of grassroots governments in grassroots governance. Enable grassroots government functional departments to perform their respective duties and solve the problem of vacancies in grassroots governance. To address the issue of governance entities in mass autonomous organizations, firstly, we need to strengthen the standardization construction of autonomous organizations, implement financial disclosure and asset disclosure, and standardize the revenue and expenditure management and decision-making procedures of autonomous organizations. Secondly, establish a dispute resolution mechanism to promptly resolve internal conflicts within autonomous organizations and maintain good social stability. Finally, highlight democratic management, establish village councils and supervisory committees, and strengthen the subject status of village autonomy. To address the issue of the main body of social organization governance, firstly, strengthen the self-management of social organizations and promote the establishment of standardized management systems for social organizations. Secondly, support social organizations to play their roles and encourage and support their participation in grassroots governance. Finally, strengthen social organization training, increase professional skills training, and enhance the abilities of social organization members.

3.2 Measures for Solving the Problem of Governance Concept

Firstly, establish diversified thinking and eliminate monopolistic thinking. Grassroots governments must abandon the concepts of "big government" and "official centeredness", and deeply recognize that in order to achieve a modern level of governance, it is necessary to coordinate multiple subjects, actively listen to the practical demands of farmers, and also expand the participation space of social organizations. The government should allow grassroots autonomous organizations and social organizations to truly participate in the grassroots governance process, rather than excluding them. Secondly, enhance the awareness of the rule of law and abandon administrative thinking. Improve the mechanism of legal governance, enhance the level of legal governance, enhance the awareness of the rule of law and the enforcement of regulations. Promote the construction of grassroots democratic management mechanisms, continuously expand the rights of citizens to participate in politics, strengthen case supervision and evaluation, and promote the full implementation of governance behaviors in accordance with the law. Strengthen administrative economic management, popularize enterprise management experience, and improve the legal construction of enterprises; Promote the construction of integrated inclusive finance and multi-level capital markets. Finally, enhance innovation awareness and break free from habitual thinking. Improving the assessment standards and incentive mechanisms for governance entities forces grassroots governance entities to continuously innovate. Adopting modern management

models and operational mechanisms. Expand opportunities for professional exchanges and talent training, and strengthen the scientific and professional decision-making of grassroots governance entities.

3.3 Measures for addressing governance issues

Firstly, promote consultative governance. Consultative governance can effectively enhance public participation in grassroots governance and promote cooperation among all parties involved in governance. In negotiated governance, principles such as openness and reasonableness, information sharing, equal participation, and result sharing should be followed to make all parties more equal and safeguard everyone's fair rights and interests. Secondly, innovate governance models. Innovating grassroots governance models can effectively solve some difficulties in rural governance. By innovating governance models through digital technology and comprehensively utilizing technologies such as 5G, big data, and cloud computing, refined governance can effectively improve the accuracy and effectiveness of grassroots governance. In addition, innovation and reform of grassroots governance systems and management methods can be promoted through policy innovation, knowledge dissemination, and other means. Thirdly, strengthen the supervision and management mechanism. Establish a sound grassroots governance supervision mechanism, comprehensively use internal supervision, social supervision, and administrative supervision methods to supervise the abuse of power by grassroots governance institutions, make power more easily constrained, and thus combat corrupt behavior at the grassroots level.

3.4 Measures for Solving the Problem of Governance Funds

Firstly, raise governance funds through multiple channels. Establish a multi-channel system for raising funds for grassroots governance, including government investment, social capital, private donations, policy support, and other means, to improve the stability of governance funding sources. Secondly, standardize the management of governance funds. Establish a scientific fund management system, including a series of detailed rules such as financial management, fund circulation, asset evaluation, audit supervision, etc., strictly regulate the use of governance funds, and avoid people from enriching their own pockets. Thirdly, strengthen the disclosure of financial information. Strengthen the transparency of governance funds and enable the public to understand the status and flow of funds in grassroots governance. In addition, online platforms can be established with the help of the Internet and mobile technology to facilitate public inquiries and supervision of the use of governance funds.

4 Conclusion

Grassroots governance is the foundation and important aspect of modern social governance, which directly relates to the governance efficiency of the government and the stable development of society. In grassroots governance, governance entities play a

crucial role and need to gradually improve their governance literacy and service capabilities, enhance organizational management levels, and ensure the stability and effectiveness of grassroots governance. In addition, innovating governance concepts and methods, relying on technological means to promote digital governance, is also an effective way to address current governance issues. Finally, funding for grassroots governance must be guaranteed, and the government should prioritize financial support for grassroots governance, improve the coverage and effectiveness of financial appropriations, and promote the in-depth promotion and implementation of grassroots governance concepts. Grassroots governance is an indispensable and important component of global governance. Only by collaborating with various governance entities, updating governance concepts, innovating governance methods, and ensuring governance funds, can we promote the modernization of grassroots governance and add new vitality to China's modern national governance system.

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