

Study on Construction of Strategic Relationship between the Government and Social Organizations

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ABSTRACT: Social organizations are playing more and more important role in the public service sector. However, as the provider of public products and services, the relationship between government and social organizations not be straightened out, and social resources are not fully reasonable allocated between them. In this article, based on the study on relationship pattern between government and society and foundation of their strategic relationship, we propose some mechanisms to reduce and eliminate the various adverse factors affecting cooperation.

Relationship Pattern between Government and Society

The relationship between government and society produce a direct impact on the social situation of governance. Over years and years, academics and politicians are looking for ideal relationship pattern between the government and the society, to achieve good governance. There are four relationship patterns between government and society as follow:

In this relationship, functional differentiation of social organization within nation is limited, with low productivity and immature social division of labor. The government and social organization are isolated from each other, lack of communication. The government has to employ high degree of centralization to safeguard national unification decree, and use the administrative compulsion to carry on the comprehensive and strict control on the social member and social organizations.

Characteristic of this relationship mode is that, the government is in a very weak state, but faced with much stronger society. The state lacks effective government agencies, so government power is fragmented. In such country, race, tribe, kinship, closed protection network other traditional powers occupy a dominant position.

In this mode, the government is in a very prominent position in economic development; meanwhile, social forces and their autonomy is also very strong, and there are many powerful, highly organized social group. That is to say, on the one hand, government agencies have obvious autonomy; on the other hand, social forces and the degree of organization are also very high, which are capable of a strong position in dialogue with the government within the institutional framework.

Such relationship mode would bring premature civil society, in which both powerful central government and social integration mechanism are absent. In such country, developed bureaucratic system has not been formed, and even lack of social basis for the modern nation. Members of the community are still loyal to the object of their own tribe or family, thus leading to civil strife and frequent changes of regime.

Foundation of Strategic Relationship Construction

Government builds a cooperative relationship with social organizations through the purchase of public services. The construction process of this relationship is called strategic relationship, rather than institutional construction. Foundation of strategic relationship construction between government and social organizations is interests, including public interest and own interest. The strategic relationship is totally different under different interest relationships.

If the government is consistent with social organization in public interest, they would protect people's basic interests together, especially social security and social services. According to the resource dependence theory, resources must be exchanged between organizations. As different organizational forms, government and social organization have their own advantages and disadvantages in resources. There are two prerequisites for cooperation between government and social organization: one is consistent target; another is complementary resources. On the basis of consistent interests and complementary advantages, the cooperation of government purchasing services comes into being. By this cooperation relationship, government's public service capacity is improved, and meanwhile the social organizations are authorized to enter into areas which are entirely controlled by the state previously.

However, the government is the only provider of social organizational legitimacy and many resources, but the service capabilities of social organizations are not enough to make themselves the sole object of the government's choice. Therefore, government and social organization are unequal in position, and uneven in power. We can regard such dependency relation as asymmetrical one.

From the perspective of government and social organization' own interests, they have a lot in common, but conflicts of interest often exist. Government' interest is to maintain the stability of the state, the government and the right; social organization' interest is organization's survival and development. Social organizations are replacing the government's work in certain areas of function. In terms of function or power, development of social organization will pose a threat to the government to some extent. The government will put forward the requirement of political stability to the social organizations. Many leaders of social organization are seeking to agree with the government's vision, since only in this way can social organizations have more influence. That is why in environmental protection, social development, public health and some other areas, government and social organization' cooperation is more effective.

The co-existence of consistence and conflict in interests has led to the generation of multiple system logic. Under the collision of the double action logic, both sides make rational strategic choices and construct bilateral dynamic relationship.

Mechanism Construction of Strategic Relationship

The difficulty of the cooperation management between government and social organization will increase because of diversified participation. Therefore, it requires the construction of corresponding mechanisms to reduce and eliminate the various adverse factors affecting cooperation.

In social and economic life, large amount of statistical data and information provide strong support for us to make the right decisions. Government has a great advantage in the acquisition and possession of information, but information cannot play the true value it is not used effectively.

First of all, by establishing information disclosure mechanism, government should take the initiative to provide information that is helpful to the social organization. Second, improve information sharing mechanism, communication and information transmission between government and social organization can be realized by establishing the information sharing platform.

To maintain the stable cooperation, both sides need to get more benefits from cooperation than that from separate action, thus bilateral cooperation will be further deepened. Therefore, reasonable interest allocation mechanism is very necessary.

Firstly, the allocation scheme should ensure that every member participating in the cooperation governance can benefit from the cooperation; secondly, establish a perfect evaluation index system, to adjust the interests of all parties; finally, establish a risk management system, to carry out assessment and forecast on possible risks in cooperation, so as to minimize the risk as far as possible.

Construction of interest allocation mechanism allows the public to have more autonomy in the choice of public goods and services, and social organizations are able to gain more social resources by virtue of their own advantages. If the local government attach much importance to control rights over social resources, then it would be difficult to achieve the effective allocation of resources. For example, establish a collaborative forum, to create a fair environment and encourage government and social organization to participate in regular communication and discussion.

The complete social organization supervision mechanism should be composed of internal supervision mechanism and external supervision mechanism. The internal supervision mechanism includes the moral self-discipline mechanism and the internal system control, and meanwhile only complemented by strong external oversight mechanisms and external environmental constraints can ensure perfect and effective operation of the whole supervision system.

First, construct credit culture and ethics of social organization. Social organizations as provider of social public goods and services, their product quality are closely related to the public health and social welfare. Therefore, ethics, values, culture and other non-credit system is significant factors for social organizations.

Second, construct effective internal supervision system of social organization. Through statutes and internal norms in social organization, make clear of the powers, relationship and positioning of each internal mechanism. Give full play to the supervision function of council, supervisory board and the staff of the organization, and then form a complete system operation mechanism of clear responsibilities.

Third, construct comprehensive external oversight mechanisms. On the one hand, the government has better to shift the focus to the supervision and guidance of social organizations, but let go of business management, personnel assignment and other common affairs in social organization; on the other hand, the government ought to lift restrictions on the competition between social organizations, but determine the survival of the organization according to organizational performance and evaluation results.

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