

Research on the Problems and Countermeasures of Social Stability Risk Assessment in China

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Abstract. With the public interest and demand has been more and more diversified the traditional model of maintaining social stability has got into great troubles. Social stability risk assessment can reduce the occurrence of group events and maintain social harmony and stability. However, there are many problems in the current social stability risk assessment system, such as lack of independence and scientific evaluation methods. To improve the social stability risk assessment system, this paper has analyzed the problems of social stability risk assessment and put forward the countermeasures and suggestions on how to further improve the social risk assessment mechanism for governments.

Introduction

In social transformation period, social interest demands appear diversification trend. Due to labor disputes, inappropriate law enforcement, land acquisition and demolition, and environmental pollution lead to the occurrence of group events. The occurrence of group events has increased the social risk and is not conducive to the stability and harmony of the society. In the era of promoting the modernization of national governance capacity, social stability risk assessment is becoming an effective way to reduce social risk.

With the rapid development of China's social economic and the rise of people's living standard, it is inevitable to produce some social contradictions and social problems. On October 27, 2004, due to immigration, thousands of people in Sichuan Hanyuan located in Dadu River middle reach where Pubugou Hydropower Station is being built. They stop the dam closure, which led to the group events [1]. In order to effectively respond to group events and maintain social stability and development, social stability risk assessment system became an effective way to reduce social risk in Suining, Sichuan. In 2005, major construction project stability risk assessment must be taken. If the serious risks have not been properly resolved, the new project will not be allowed to start in Suining. Establishing and improving the social stability risk assessment mechanism of major policy and project was very important for governments in 2014. In order to effectively deal with the occurrence of various types of risks, the social stability risk assessment model is explored around China.

The Major Problems of Social Stability Risk Assessment in China

Despite the continuous exploration and innovation of the social stability risk assessment system from the policy to the practical level, the characteristics of the social risks such as the spread of social risks, infectious, and changes have increased the complexity and difficulty of the assessment. There are many deficiencies in the current social stability risk assessment system.

Lack of Independence of the Evaluation Subject

For the evaluation subject of major policy decisions and project decision-making is often both a player and a referee, self-assessment often affect the objectivity and impartiality of the evaluation. At present, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Suining, Ningbo and some other cities have begun to try to introduce a third party evaluation institutions in the social stability risk assessment project. The introduction of the third-party assessment organization is an important progress of the social stability risk assessment in China, which is beneficial to improve the accuracy and objectivity of the evaluation. However, it's a serious question that whether the third-party assessment agency can be truly independent.

Lack of Scientific Evaluation Method

The complexity of the social stability risk assessment leads to the difficulty in the evaluation process, which is difficult to realize democratization and scientific. It is difficult for the qualitative analysis method to put forward the proposal of whether or not to make the decision. The method of quantitative analysis may simplify the complex problem, which can result in partial distortion of the facts, and lead to a comprehensive analysis of the risk of various types of indicators. For example, in the process of using the questionnaire survey method, due to the diversity of the main body of the survey, assessment of the cost of the program as well as the assessment of the time limit and other factors, can only be a sample survey. Whether the sample range is appropriate or not, whether the sample is representative has a direct impact on the effectiveness assessment.

Assessment Standards are Difficult to Unify

Social stability risk assessment needs to focus on the fact-based judgment and the value targets. China covers a large territory and has many nationalities. At the same time, there are many factors to impact the social stability. Therefore, it is difficult to design an index system of a set of effective and standardized impact on social stability risk [2]. Due to the lack of a unified evaluation standard as a reference, it leads to the increase of the randomness of social stability risk assessment.

Inappropriate Assessment

Firstly, inappropriate assessment should induce group events. There has no clear definition of the scope of the risk assessment of social stability, so not all major projects and important decisions need to be assessed. But some public projects directly related to the interests of the people. If you cannot start the evaluation process, it is possible to induce group events, such as the Yuhang event. Secondly, because of the lack of discussion, some assessment is not appropriate. During the social stability risk assessment, only some of the assessment objectives are discussed. The assessment method is difficult to satisfy the different social interest demands.

Analysis on the Causes of the Problems of Social Stability Risk Assessment in China

The reasons for the insufficient of social stability risk assessment can be analyzed from the aspects of legal protection, the democratization of the public participation, the evaluation of the traceability, and the evaluation of the construction of talent team.

Related Laws is Imperfect

At present, China's social stability risk assessments of the national level of the laws and regulations have not been enacted. In 2010, Sichuan Province issued the "Interim Measures for the assessment of social stability in Sichuan province". It is first social stability risk assessment regulations of China. Since then, the local government has developed a number of local laws and regulations. To ensure the effective implementation of social stability risk assessment, it's very important to make more clear regulations in the laws of the high-order steps. And the connections between the relevant laws also need to be dealt with.

Low Level of Public Participation

Social stability risk assessment requires financial support, so the decision must take full account of the cost of risk assessment. The level of participation of the public and administrative costs were positively correlated, the more the number of participants assessed the more the economic costs will be. In order to save the cost of social stability risk assessment, decision-making departments tend to reduce the number of public participants.

Lack of Traceability

At present, the implementation steps of the implementation of social stability risk assessment mechanism in our country have not clearly defined the tracking performance of the evaluation system. Social stability risk assessment is generally taken to assess the needs of the project assessment, the preparation of the assessment report, the corresponding decision-making departments to give some advice. In order to correct the assessment report in time and reduce social risks, traceability mechanism of the assessment should be established.

Lack of Talent Team Construction

Professional staff is a prerequisite for social stability risk assessment. It can help to smooth the implementation of social stability risk assessment. The Social stability risk assessment project involve the vital interests of the masses, and even directly affect the social stability, which requires the assessment of professional personnel with high political consciousness and the spirit of public service. At the same time, the requirements of social stability risk assessment team has economics, statistics, systems engineering, public administration, law, environmental assessment, sociology or ethnology and other aspects of professionals. At present, training and building professionals of social stability risk assessment in our country has lagged far behind the needs of society.

Countermeasures to Improve Social Stability Risk Assessment in China

The purpose of social stability risk assessment is to prevent and find the factors that lead to social instability, so as to effectively realize the social harmony and stability. In order to bridge social differences, reduce the risk of mass incidents, China should improve the institutional mechanisms of social stability risk assessment and effectively coordinate the contradictions between different stakeholders.

Improve the Social Stability Risk Assessment Laws and Regulations

The public interest and demand has been more and more diversified in our country. The factors that affect the social stability are different. It's difficult to make the legislation of social stability risk assessment. But from the perspective of the modernization of national governance capacity, it is necessary to make the relevant laws and regulations of the relevant major decisions and social risk assessment of the whole country. On the basis of social stability risk assessment practice and exploration, local governments have formed Suining model, Ningbo model, Dinghai model and other advanced experience. However, the success of the models can only be learnt from. The models cannot be copied, according to local conditions is preferred. For the social stability risk assessment of major projects and important policies, local governments should create their own models based on the local main factors that affect the public interest and demand and make more clear regulations in the laws of the high-order steps.

Appropriate Expansion of Public Participation in Social Risk Assessment

Social stability risk is not only related to the vital interests of the masses, but also affects the performance of the local government. Whether or not get support from the grass roots evaluate the work of local government officials. In order to gain the recognition and praise from the masses, local government officials should fully guarantee the people's right to speak, the right to know and the right to participate in, give full consideration to the interests of related groups, and pay more attention to the interests of different groups. Social stability risk assessment process must be opened

up through both public hearings in the national legislature and public participation via the media.

Increasing Risk Assessment Subject

At present, we must constantly improve the third party evaluation mechanism. China's first professional institution of social stability risk assessment was established in Huaian. The third party consulting and research institutions are also actively introduced to participate in social stability risk assessment in Shanghai. Of course, the development of independent third party evaluation is very lagging behind and far from meeting the needs of the rapid development of society [3]. Therefore, universities and research institutes should be encouraged to give full play to the advantages of participation in social stability risk assessment. By constantly strengthening the construction of new think tank with Chinese characteristics, and establishing a sound decision-making advisory system, the early warning function of social stability risk assessment would be better than before. The regulations of social stability risk assessment would be well implemented based on independent third party evaluation.

Establishment of Dynamic Monitoring Mechanism of Social Stability Risk Assessment

On the more practical level of social stability risk assessment, it's important to conduct risk assessment at the beginning of the life cycle. However, government departments and agencies have paid more emphasis on pre-assessment of the project. Other section of the assessment is relatively ignored. Social stability risk assessment pay more concentration in the beginning stage of the project and the pre-policy agenda. After the social stability risk assessment, some launched projects have to shut down due to the masses against. This problem affected government's social trust and authority. Therefore, risk assessment should be carried out throughout the whole process of risk management [4]. Since 2012, the local governments of Cheng County which located in northwest China's Gansu province design a complete set of scientific social stability risk assessment system. The assessment system pays more attention on risk assessment, risk control, risk supervision and coordination. Social stability risk assessments reduce the group events and maintain social harmony and stability in the county.

Summary

Social stability risk assessment effectively can regulate relevant departments of the decision-making behavior, improve the scientific and democratic decision-making, effectively coordinate the interests of relevant interest groups, and reduce the occurrence of mass incidents. Improving the social stability risk assessment system is a proper way to improve the level of governance modernization and the modernization of governance mode.

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