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# On the Innovative Management System of Democratic Autonomy on Chinese Community

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**Abstract.** This paper mainly discusses and studies the innovation of urban community and its democratic autonomy system in China. The system of innovative community and democratic autonomy can be realized by the following ways: firstly, the setting up of a new type self-governing community organization; secondly, the innovation of autonomous system of democratic community on grass-roots level; thirdly, the improvement of relevant institutional policy, law and regulation system; fourthly, the creation of a financial support mechanism for self-governing community organization.

After the reform and opening up policy and the rapid development of market economy, great changes have taken place in the form of production organization, ownership structure and interest pattern of urban society. In this situation, the interests of urban community residents are increasingly diversified and complex. With the rapid development of urban transportation and communication tools, an intricate interest structure and interest exchange relationship have been formed in every corner of the city and the daily life of urban residents. At the same time, people's rights awareness is also increasing correspondingly. Therefore, in order to better coordinate the interests, meet the various needs of community residents and maintain stability and harmony of urban society, democratic community autonomy must be developed vigorously to promote the reform and innovation of the system of community democracy and autonomy. So, how can the innovation of democratic community autonomy system be promoted? This paper describes the following possible ways to realize it:

## To Build a New Self-governing Community Organization

The new autonomous community organization is composed of community residents' plenary meeting or community residents' Congress, community consultation committee and community residents' committee. The plenary meeting of the community consists of all qualified residents, which is the highest form of the residents' meeting and has the biggest power to determine in the autonomous community. The functions and responsibilities of plenary meeting or the congress of all community residents: to hold election and by-election of the community committee, to discuss and decide the more important affairs on the interests of all members of the community, to formulate and revise the relevant articles of the autonomous community, to strengthen the democratic supervision on implementation of the work of the committee, to change or revoke the improper decisions of community committees and so on. The Committee of community consultative proceedings is a permanent consultative institution whose major functions and responsibilities are: being responsible for consulting and solving all the major problems in the community, presenting the opinions and suggestions to the community residents' meetings and the neighborhood committees, putting forward opinions and suggestions for the community development, and carrying out democratic evaluation and supervision. Community neighborhood committee is a permanent working facility dealing with daily affairs of the community, which has various special committees and residents' groups, then it also has the ban long, thus forming a complete organization system. Its main functions and responsibilities are: to publicize and carry out the laws



and policies of the party and the state, to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of the community residents, to deal with all the affairs in the community and carry out the autonomous regulations of the community and so on.

Community residents' plenary meetings or congress, community consultative committees and neighborhood committees are working, interacting with each other and they have mutual suppression and encouragement. The plenary meetings or the congress of the community residents is the authority, entitling to the power of democratic procedure, democratic management, democratic decision-making, democratic supervision. They have the power to elect and supervise community committees and community consultation committees, and the community committees and community consultation committees, as the permanent institution, are to exercise some authority on behalf of the plenary meeting or the congress of community residents, consulting to cope with the significant issues, supervising and helping community committees with their work. As a permanent organization dealing with daily affairs, the neighborhood committee is responsible for handling and executing the daily affairs of the community. Major matters must be discussed through the plenary session of the community or the community consultation committee.

## Innovation of Democratic Self-governing System at the Grass-roots Level of the Community

One of the important objectives of community construction is to promote the autonomy of urban community residents and to expand the rights of residents in the urban social management. Hence, we must change the situation of community autonomy and establish a grass-roots level of democratic autonomy system for the residents to participate in community governance. In accordance with the provisions of the residents "Committee Organization Law", city community autonomy is community through democratic elections, democratic decision-making, democratic management and democratic supervision of the autonomous activities, realizing self -management, self-education, self-service and self-supervision for public affairs of the community. Therefore, innovating democratic autonomy system at the grass-roots level can be achieved mainly through the following aspects:

Perfecting the Democratic Electoral Mechanism. The right to vote is an inherent requirement of the sovereignty of the people. The city community election in our country has some obstacles, such as the unbalanced age structure (older residents, party members of the Communist Party of China in this community, community members and the needy people are more enthusiastic, whereas those young people who have a certain concept of democracy and management basis show little interest in community election); and it is difficult to identity the voters (nowadays, the outsiders are not entitled to take part in the election which lowers the popularity of elections, and the original residents have exclusiveness and closure which make them have little acceptance for the outsiders, leading to the little transparency as well as the "black case" situation during the process of election); and it is common to write and vote randomly. In view of the above problems, the following reforms can be carried out to the direct community election mechanism: to promote a scientific and impartial direct election; to cultivate the sense of election and democracy of the residents; to establish a compound and based governance network, and to improve the supervision mechanism of the election of the neighborhood committees.

The Innovation of Democratic Decision-making Mechanism. Democratic decision making is a fundamental requirement for residents' autonomy, and any autonomy without decision-making right is not real. Democratic decision-making is a matter of the residents' participation in decision-making and have their own decisions for a major business related to the interests of the residents in the community. But currently, there are prominent problems in democratic decision-making of city community governance in China, such as blind decision, experience type decision, subjective type decision, shilly-shally type decision and so forth. However, these decision ways can not solve the problem in time and can also lose the best opportunity in coping with the problems which may deteriorate the problem then, causing irreparable situation and tremendous losses; and moreover, the inferior quality of decision makers is having influence on the



appropriateness and quality of the decision. Therefore, in the process of democratic decision-making, we must avoid only one person saying and deciding to prevent being dictatorial. Meanwhile, we should draw upon all useful opinions, leaving the decision-making process and results scientific and democratic. We can innovate the democratic decision-making mechanism from the following aspects: one is to improve the comprehensive quality of the decision-makers. The second is to improve the democratic consultative council mechanism to make the decision more scientific and democratic. The third is to establish the decision-making hearing mechanism and demonstration mechanism. The fourth is to build the publicity and audit system of decisions. The fifth is to establish the decision responsibility system. The sixth is to create a scientific decision-making process and a favorable decision-making atmosphere.

Perfecting the Democratic Supervision Mechanism. Power without any supervision is bound to lead to corruption. Consequently, the right of supervision is an important part of the community autonomy rights, and it is also the right to derive the principle of "governing right are in the people's hands". The democratic supervision right of the residents is an effective way for the neighborhood committee not to corrupt. Residents' supervision right includes residents' supervision over community self-governing organizations and their members, mutual supervision between community self-governing organizations and mutual supervision among community residents. There are also some drawbacks about democratic supervision in the cities of China. Therefore, in the innovation of community democratic supervision mechanism, we need to achieve the following two points: first, we must enhance community participation rates in democratic supervision through building a platform for common interests. For example, having more communication with the residents, solving their problems timely, protecting their autonomy, maintaining their individual interests and other ways are to enhance community cohesion, creativity and recognition of the residents fundamentally, which can arouse the enthusiasm of residents to participate in supervision, implement democratic supervision of the community, and attain effective governance. Or by increasing the autonomous capacity and strengthening the construction of autonomous organization can the participation rates and democratic supervision ability of the residents be enhanced. The second is to improve the multi-level rights relief system. Take an example, we may call for the social media or aiding agencies and other social forces to help the residents to safeguard their legitimate right. Through the legal aid and necessary financial support, we may help the residents violated to protect their democratic supervision rights. And by necessary education of the community autonomy, we may have their democratic supervision consciousness and ability elevated.

## Perfecting the Relevant Policy, Law and Regulation System

The construction of community autonomy cannot be separated from the perfect policy, law and regulation system. The supply of community democratic autonomy system in our country comes from the dual subject of the state and the community, thus producing two institutional levels of the state and the community. The system of state level includes three levels of state, province, and city community autonomy system. First of all, from the perspective of nation, we should strengthen the rules establishment to create excellent laws, systems, policies and public opinion environment for community residents' autonomy. As the main subject of legislative establishment at the highest level, the state has the duty to regulate, guide and constrain the national urban community autonomy. Nowadays, the applicable laws, regulations, policies in city community autonomy in our country are the "constitution", "residents committee organization law" and the administrative regulations formulated by the government and forwarded by the State Council forwarded which includes the "the announcement approved by State Council of the Ministry of Civil Affairs on strengthening the city streets, residents committee work report" and "Notice of the Ministry of Civil Affairs on the country to promote the city community construction forwarded by 'the general office of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council Office Department' ". However, these laws and regulations still have many shortcomings and need to be modified and perfected by the national legislature. Specifically, the country needs to carry on the innovation of community



governance system in the form of law, defining the working domain and main duties clearly, clarifying the legal boundaries of government participation and community autonomy. Improving the institution supply system of residents' participation in the institution design and social organizations' participation in community management, including building an institution letting the residents participate, a legal definition of allowing social organizations to participate in the community management, clarifying the status and property of the social organizations, perfecting the laws and regulations on social organizations and so on. To reform the existing access system, to lower down the admission threshold, to strengthen supervision and management of social organizations, to improve the supervision system, and to perfect the standard system of internal management in community organization and others all count. The above measures can provide the necessary institutional and politic environment for the innovation of community governance system. In the end, from the community's point of view, we should improve the community subjects' ability to make regulations and establish systems, improve the autonomous system at the community level, and establish the standard system of community self-governing organizations. The establishment of regulation contains comprehensive regulations (i.e., overall norms of community residents' autonomy activities, such as "community autonomous rules", "community autonomy organization constitution" etc.) and one-way regulations (the special system of community autonomy in some aspect or an activity, such as community financial system, community electoral system etc.). Now, the main problems of making rules and laws for community subjects are the low efficiency, poor integrity and limited guarantee and so on. The concrete measures are as follows: first, to enhance the feasibility and effectiveness of the rules and regulations of the community. The second is to ensure the advancement and legality of the rules and regulations of the community. The third is to establish the authority of the rules and regulations of the community.

## To Establish the Financial Support Mechanism of Community Self-governing Organizations

In community construction, if there is not enough financial support, the autonomy and management of community organizations will be unsustainable. Therefore, the community self-government organizations must build financial support mechanism. Specific measures are: first, we must enhance the profitability of community assets, and make the proceeds from community assets as the accumulation funds of community self-governing organizations to meet the needs of the operation of community autonomy, so as to improve the independent financial capacity of community self-governing organizations. But in reality, many streets now return the community's assets and earnings to the streets, hosted in the name of the street. In accordance with the provisions of the organization law of the residents' committee, community residents' neighborhood committees as an autonomous organization should enjoy the ownership and use of community assets. But the practice of street office is obviously violating the regulations and is an infringement of the rights and interests of the self-governing organizations. This practice has seriously hindered the cultivation of self-governing ability of community organizations, such as too much trusteeship procedure and insufficient funds in time, thus affecting the development of activities. Thus, the reform must be carried out to clarify the ownership of the community for its own assets. Secondly, the government's financial subsidies to community self-governing organizations should be increased. Finally, we may carry out the institution that the fee is with the matter. When government departments need to work with the community, with the approval of governmental community stuff consultation department, after consultation with community committees, tasks can be delegated to the subordinate organization of community committees, with the responsibility and work expenses allocated to the community simultaneously. Briefly speaking, who conducts, who is to blame and who spends the money.

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