

The Performance of the Functions of Government: The Selection of Models and Instruments: Based on Practice Analysis of Chinese Service-oriented Government Construction

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Abstract

With the development of reforming administrative system and requirements of building service-oriented government in China. Theories refer to the transformation of government functions and how can they carry out functions have become controversial topics among academic circles. In this paper, based on the practice of building service-oriented government, the analysis and research about models and instruments of government function will be provided in the following paper.

Keywords: Government, Government Function, Model, Function

1. Introduction

The functions of the government is the responsibility that government should take, the specific content of the functions of the government is the premise and foundation for a government to manage a whole society. The 16th CPC National Congress proposed that the functions of the Chinese government economic regulation, market regulation, social management and public service. This exposition is considered as the accurate and objective description for functions of the government of our country at current stage. According to the different criteria or different angles of the government functions, the specific details of government function are classified and defined by scholars around the world.

Adam Smith once said that the government should fulfill three functions: first, to protect the security of their societies; second, to protect the people from the bullying and oppression; third, establish and maintain public works and public facilities.

The world development report in 1997 "Change Of Government In The World" from the world bank pointed out that if we summarize lessons we have learned in the paste few centuries, the government can use a variety of ways to improve the achievement of development: first, to provide a macro-economic

and micro-economic environment, such an environment is able to set correct motivate mechanism for effective economic activities; secondly, provided institutional infrastructure to promote long-term investment-property, peace, law and order as well as the rules; Thirdly, to ensure the infrastructures are provided such as basic education, health care and physical infrastructure for economic activities, and protect the natural environment. World Bank summarizes the functions of the government from the economic perspective.

Chinese scholars generally discusses the functions of the government from the three aspects, the political functions of the government, economic functions and social management. Taiwan scholar Zhang JinJian summarized the administrative functions can be divided into six areas in a general sense: maintenance, security, assistance, management, and development. Shen Ronghua classified the government functions into three areas from the perspective of building material civilization, political civilization and spiritual civilization. government functions: (1) The function of material civilization management such as local finance, urban and rural construction and urban planning; (2) the function of political civilization management, for example, civil affairs, public security, nationalities affairs, judicial, monitoring, and management of the administrative affairs staff

within the government system, etc.; (3) the function of spiritual civilization management such as education, science, culture, health, sports, and so on. If we make the classification from the direction of adjust the changes in government, the main functions of government are: planning and development, economic coordination, market regulation, social management, public services and its own management. (1) Planning and Development is planning local economic and social development. (2) economic coordination: to coordinate the relationship between the economic development from different forms of ownership, to coordinate the development relationship between places in different regions, to coordinate the development between the local and surrounding areas, and to coordinate and promote the comprehensive and sustainable development from different aspects such as economic, political, cultural. (3) market regulation, in accordance with the laws and regulations, the rules and requirements of the development of market economy, ongoing supervision and management will be executed. (4) social management is the management of political and cultural activities of the local social order, the ecological environment, traffic running order. (5) public services means that infrastructure, utilities, social security and other aspects of the service will be provided for all types of market entities and local residents. (6) self-management, administrative management within the government such as the appoint and remove administrative staff or examine administrative staff.

2. Process of Performing the Functions of Government

The functions of the government is the unification of administrative responsibilities and social role. The first performance of the government to fulfill function is that the government perform their duties in accordance with the law as a state administrative organ. The American scholar V Denhardt, Janet and Robert B Denhardt once pointed out that “the only purpose of public institutions is the implementation of policies and programs” implementation is the only element of public administration,”. Government as public administration, the process of government functioning is the Administrative Process and the Administrative enforcement process.

2.1 Theoretical Analysis of Performing the Government Functions in Different Stages

Wilson, initiator of the Administration, the greatest contribution is that he found the

administration dichotomy, in his book “The Study Of Administration” we can find the complete representation of the relationship between administration and political. Wilson pointed out that the government administration is a running government, it is the most conspicuous part. Goodnow had a unique thought about administrative and political dichotomy in a classics book "political and administrative". He believes that there are always two basic government function will be existed in all types of government systems---the expressive function of the state will and the executive function of the state will. He believes that polity is the expression of public opinion and the policy decision, the administration is the execution of public opinion, but also the implementation of the policy, the difference between polity and administration is functional but not structural.

2.2 Mode for Government to Perform Function

Government plays a very important role in the management of public affairs, in order to achieve organized goals with better results, some adjustments have to be made by improving methods of performing functions, in this process, the thought of natural sciences methodology and mathematics are combined. As a result, the new thought of management will be expressed practically during the process of improving the quality of government management and government service.

System theory was founded in the late 1940s to the early 1950s by the Austrian-American biologist Von Bertalanffy. The word "system", derived from the ancient Greek, which means the whole picture is made up of parts. System theory takes the subject as a system, then take analysis of structure and function. The relationship and regularity of changes among systems, elements and environment will be researched. Meanwhile, based on the understanding of characteristics and regular pattern, use these information to manage, transfer or event create systems in order to make them more appropriate for human need.

Coordination theory is evolved from the study of the theory of dissipative structures. Dissipation structure is a concept which is founded in 1969 by a well-known statistical physicist Prigogine from the School of Brussels, Belgium. Based on the theory of dissipative structures, research the transformation rules of system from disorder to order. German physics professor Hermann Haken first proposed "synergy" concept in 1976, emphasizing collaborative behavior of each subsystem will produce a lot more than the single behavior of

subsystem itself, therefore, build up unified role and combined effects is the purpose.

2.3 Mode Selection and Function

Performance of Chinese Service-Oriented Government

Government functions have to adjust constantly because of environment changes, Chinese government always have to confront serious external environment changes, which means the transition of the government function has higher requirements. Define the transformation of government functions, selection and innovation of performing government function have become significant issues for Chinese government.

Goals of building actual service-oriented government, we must improve the ability of basic service supply of our government. In recent years, China has implemented the reform of the administrative system and build a service-oriented government, "An important aspect is innovations of government management and services. The 18th CPC National Congress proposed that we have to accelerate social restructuring in order to strengthen social construction, must accelerate social restructuring. We should focus on building socialism with Chinese characteristics and social management system, accelerate the formation of the leadership of party committees, the government is responsible for social coordination, public participation, Legal safeguard social management system, foundational sustainable public service system has to be built more efficient under the leadership of government, social management of dynamic management, emergency response mechanism are need to be combined as fast as we can.

3. The Tool Selection of Performing Government Functions

According to the method of polity and administration identity, it is necessary to carefully analyze the theme of the service-oriented government, service is the major concept service-oriented government, the analysis of major elements of the government services will benefit for the transformation of government functions, and build a service-oriented government.

Components of service-oriented government are from different aspects, basically in the following four components: a limited government; Responsible Government; law government; effective government.

3.1 Principles of Tool Selection

Methods for Government to perform their functions are very important. tool of the government, the common definition is that something is able to be used by a actor in order to achieve one or multiple purposes, in another word, the "tool of the government is a method to achieve policy objectives.

There are four standard for tool selection of performing government functions: (1) mandatory, mandatory extent is the most obvious and frequent used measure for the public actions of the government tools, it is the basic aspect to divide and select the most of government tools, it is used to determine the extent of the government tool to restrict the behavior of individuals and groups. (2) substantivity, The extent of substantivity reflects in the complexity of action authorized, fouds supply and real subjects in a group action, or the extent of government directly manipulate its stated objectives. (3) autonomy., the extent of autonomy means the extent of tools provide service by using government agencies which is already exist or create its own special agency to provide services. (4) visibility. The extent of visibility refers whether if the resources required bu government tools required can be reflected on the government budget and if it is able to get involve in the policy debate process, in other words, the extent of public know about the tool. Select a tool to solve public issues, "it is not a simple technical training, but the complex balance of the intrinsic value in the political process.

3.2 Tool Selection of Performing Government Functions

The new public management is a new mode appears from the government reform of Contemporary Western Government, advocating the use of the mechanism of market competition and the management of private sector to improve government management performance.

Chinese scholars Jen-Ming Chen concluded the new public management into eight areas: (1) "let the managers manage" (emphasis the professional management); (2) measure outstanding achievement (clear performance standards and performance evaluation); (3) output control (project budget and strategic management); (4) the customer first (providing responsive service); (5) decentralize (miniaturization of public service agencies); (6) competition mechanism; (7) private sector management; (8) change relationship among managers, politicians and public.

As the important issue of reforming our government in the future. The improvements of government management are required to bring in

new management tools or techniques. The scholars classified government tools into different types like the market mechanisms, business administration technologies and socialization methods.

Market-oriented tool is the method of public management that use the market as a efficient allocation of resources mean to achieve the purpose of providing public goods and public services. Business Administration technology means to bring in the advanced management ideas and methods to each public sector in order to reach the goal of public management. Strategic management, performance management, customer orientation, management by objectives, total quality management, benchmarking management and process reengineering technology are specific methods of Business Administration technology. Socialization method refers to public administration by using more of social resources, to achieve public management objectives based on this kind of interaction.

3.3 Method for Service-Oriented Government to Provide Public Services

Building service-oriented government and innovate social management can start from action and technology, at the same time, the way of community service and work style should be included as well.

Service-oriented government claims service diversification. advocating a change in the original point of view which is government is the only governance subject, encourage that the the public sector, the private sector and the third sector, for example, voluntary organizations, non-governmental organizations, non-profit organizations to take charge of public service. Thus, we are able to use the new public management methods to provide public services.

However, the public service diversification can cause the re-division of government functions and government responsibilities, the more center of power exist, the larger complexity of re-division. service does not mean to abandon management. Theoretically, management is a combination of power and law, in the market allocation of resource, it is important to ensure the free flow of factors of production, it is essential to maintain social fairness, justice and order, therefore, foreign scholars have pointed out that it is not difficult to find service and management are depend on each other in the government's planning of several governments.

4. Conclusion

According to the above discussion, we can come to the following conclusions: The orientation of government functions can cause direct effect on the efficiency and effectiveness of the political running, the only thing ensures government actions have heigh validity is that the orientation fo government functions and requirements of social development are in the same picture. Therefore, there is a mutual reinforcement relationship between the transformation of government functions and the construction of service-oriented government.

The process of performing government functions can be complicated, it has a close relationship with the structure, responsibilities, and obligations of the government, witch can not be separated for research. From the functional point of view, there are different ways to perform functions among economic management, market management, social management and public service, it asks the connection between different territories as well as different levels.

The innovations of performing Government functions is an important measure to solve incompatible between the administrative management and the requirements of social development. The important point of innovating the ways to perform government functions is how to select compatible way to perform economic regulation, market management, social management and public service.

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