

Study on the Value Conflict of Citizens' Participation in Shanghai's Garbage Classification Policy

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Abstract

From July 1, 2019, the Regulations on the Administration of Municipal Household Waste have been put into effect, which has quickly attracted the attention and discussion of the whole country. In the process of "garbage classification" policy implementation, the government has faced a series of challenges, including participation difficulties, low self-consciousness, and inadequate follow-up disposal of garbage, which has also been questioned by some people. As a policy that is extremely relevant to the life of citizens, citizens play an important role in policy implementation. From the perspective of citizen participation, this paper explores the value conflict between Private interests and public interests, input and output, freedom and order and other value conflicts, analyze their performance and root causes, and try to propose solutions.

Keywords

Garbage Classification; Value Conflict; Private and Public; Freedom and Order.

1. Introduction

1.1. Background

Statistics show that Shanghai, in 2018, produced more than 9 million tons of garbage (Shanghai Bureau of Statistics, 2018), the number of garbage production ranked second in the country. In the face of this ecological environment, from July 1, 2019, the Shanghai Municipal Government took the lead in the implementation of the mandatory classification system of household waste, "Shanghai Household Waste Management Regulations" officially implemented. It is called "the most stringent garbage classification measures in history", all kinds of garbage need to be separated from wet and dry, all individuals or units do not observe the provisions of the classification of waste, will face severe punishment.

1.2. Scope

From the perspective of value conflict, we will discuss the problems existing in the implementation of garbage classification policy in Shanghai; explore the most fundamental problems in the implementation of garbage classification policy; find countermeasures to balance the value conflict; and put forward some suggestions.

1.3. Significance

At present, the research on the value conflict of garbage classification is very rare, and the author hopes to fill in this kind of gap to a certain extent.

We hope that through this study, we can provide direction and suggestions for the follow-up policy of garbage classification in Shanghai, to make it easier to spread to all parts of the country and speed up the solution of garbage recycling problems. In this way, the utilization rate of resources can be improved, and sustainable development can be advocated.

2. Case Description and Analysis

2.1. Current Situation of Policy Implementation

It is reported that after Shanghai garbage management new regulations landed more than two months, wet garbage removal volume increased significantly, dry garbage significantly reduced. The latest data show that by the end of August, the recyclables in Shanghai had reached 4,500 tons per day, a five-fold increase over the end of 2018 (Shen, Z.J., 2019).

However, when Shanghai promotes the "fixed time and fixed location" delivery of garbage, citizens encounter some practical difficulties, such as not clear knowledge about the type, delay, etc., there will inevitably be some complaints. To stimulate popular participation, various approaches have been taken from social media to local advocacy departments to explain to residents how and why this is needed.

2.2. The Problems of Policy Implementation

Despite the progress made in the classification of waste, there are still some problems. For example, the garbage classification implementation effect in group level is relatively poor, residential area garbage classification is executed roughly, long-term operation mechanism still needs to be perfected, garbage resource utilization facilities supporting not comprehensive and so on.

Most media and the public are optimistic about the prospects for the implementation of the garbage classification policy, but there are a series of problems and contradictions, which need to find a solution urgently.

3. Findings and Discussion

3.1. The Performance of Value Conflict

The theory of value conflict holds that the root cause of social problems is the conflict of value or interest, which is undoubtedly reflected in the process of garbage classification in Shanghai. Some scholars think that the difficulty of garbage classification lies in the continuous growth of garbage production and the difficulty of follow-up treatment (Du, H.Z., 2019); some scholars believe that the difficulty in implementing garbage classification is that citizens' environmental awareness is weak (Cui, H.Y. & Chen, C. & Ma, W.C. & Zhao, P.G., 2019). However, what kind of difficulty lies in the conflict of interest value.

3.1.1. The Conflict between Private and Public Interests

The garbage classification needs the garbage dumper speeds time and effort. First, people need to learn the basics of garbage classification; Second, it takes time to separate garbage, and finally he may face the financial cost of wrong classification. Compared with the original garbage delivery, citizens' private time, energy, money have borne more costs, private interests are relatively lost. The proceeds of garbage classification are not directly reflected in individual citizens, but public areas such as environmental improvement, resource reuse and land space liberation. This is the public interest, but the citizen will not recognize this benefit in the short term, even in the long run, he will not find or agree that such income in himself. Therefore, from the perspective of a single individual citizen, this is at the expense of private interests to protect the interests of the whole public.

Everyone is rational, and any choice people make is to maximize self-interest (Smith, A., 2009). The government at present has no way to require every citizen to have great moral character and self-conscious behavior, but, it is fortunate that many people no matter how well they do, in the ideological recognition of the importance of garbage classification. But the support of ideas needs people to pay a lower cost, or even do not need to cost, but the support of behavior

needs to pay a real cost, which leads to garbage classification results do not meet social expectations.

3.1.2. The Conflict between Waste Recovery Input and Output Value

From the point of view of waste reduction and resource reduction, Shanghai is still in a low stage, the effect of garbage reduction is limited, and the waste production is increasing year by year. In the way of waste disposal, landfill treatment accounts for about 43.4% of the total, incineration power generation accounts for about 36.3%, while in Japan, where garbage classification is more mature, the landfill rate is only 1% (Tang, Y. H., 2019).

The relatively backward waste disposal efficiency is mainly limited by technology and the degree of garbage classification. In the market economy, the garbage classification gets less benefit, the output value is less, the related enterprises have less income, and the improvement of technology, the improvement of the degree of social garbage classification, all need huge input. But the lack of income leads no input, no input makes it more difficult to generate profit. Breaking this cycle and making decisive investments have huge risks, and the power of the market economy alone is likely to be incompetent. In the public domain, there is such a value conflict, is inevitable under the regulation of market economy.

3.1.3. The Conflict between Freedom of Conduct and the Norms of Order

There is no doubt that the casual throwing of garbage is the easiest and lazy behavior, and a few people regard it as an expression of individual freedom, and they believe that how to throw away garbage is their right and should not be restricted.

Although we don't hear much about it in society, many people's behavior is more or less influenced by this idea. Man is not born to abide by the rules, human society was born at the beginning of no definition of order. It was the people who created order and constitute the government to protect private property from infringement (Locke, J., 2007). The same is true of the so-called "freedom", in which human freedom should be limited to the extent that it does not prevent the Government from fulfilling its obligations to promote social progress (Mill, J.S., 2009). But it is undeniable that the value conflict between freedom and order is always there, so no one can guarantee that all citizens will always be able to observe the garbage classification such an order.

3.2. Difficulty in the Solution of Value Conflict

Policy value conflict problem sepsis is fundamentally different from other policy issues such as efficiency, resources, distribution and other substantive issues. The latter can be understood as an external, surface problem, while the former is an internal and deep problem. Therefore, there are differences in the solution between them. In some way, value conflict cannot be completely eliminated. The government only can balance different value subjects through various policy tools instead of destroying it completely.

4. Conclusion and Recommendation

4.1. Conclusion

The garbage classification policy, from the perspective of long-term development of society, is undoubtedly a good policy. But in the process of concrete implementation, there are inevitably various value conflicts, which are most policies will face. It is impossible to do everything under different values. Value conflict cannot be completely eliminated. However, in the process of concrete implementation, the government can balance different value subjects through various policy tools, to achieve a relatively perfect "Pareto best".

The garbage classification policy can be effectively implemented and benefit future generations if it balances the conflict between private and public interests, output value and input value, freedom and order, and we look forward to seeing such results.

4.2. Recommendation

4.2.1. The Balance between the Individual Interests and the Public Interest

The individual interest is the same as the public interest, and in the long run, the two must be consistent (Ye, B. F., 1997). But not all citizens have such a long-term vision, so the government needs to do so. For example, the government needs to step up publicity to explain its interests to the public, and the government needs to encourage science and education, inspire people's wisdom and so on.

The above is what the government is doing, but it is still not enough. The government should make the public can effectively see their own pay is effective. Let the people's personal interests get material and spiritual double compensation, forming a personal interest "pay-reward" balance, to promote the balance between personal interests and the public interest.

4.2.2. Virtuous Circle of Balancing Input and Output

Under the adjustment of the market economy, there is a contradictory cycle between the value of the garbage recovery input and the output. At this time, the government is needed to break the deadlock. Garbage collection in a sense has the nature of public services, unreasonable garbage collection mechanism will harm the public interest. Therefore, garbage collection cannot be fully regulated by the market.

The government should assume the main responsibility, take the lead in investing in the garbage collection market, promote the completion of the complete industrial chain, reduce industrial risks, regulate the classification of civil garbage at the source, develop the technology of efficient garbage recovery on the terminal, and initially form a virtuous circle.

In this process, the government must invest a lot of capital, but when the industry is basically formed, it can attract market capital entry. By building bridges between citizens, markets and governments, governments can form a long-lasting and stable mechanism for garbage classification (Bi, J.Y., 2019).

4.2.3. The Establishment of a Complete System of Codes of Conduct

The freedom of individual behavior shall not impede the progressive development of society, and there is a general belief in the legal profession that freedom and order will produce conflicts, but freedom must obey order (Li, M. H., 2018). Garbage classification is an important initiative for the development of social progress, so the government has full legitimacy to establish a set of garbage classification norms, and individuals have an obligation to limit their own freedom in this regard.

The balance between the value of freedom and order lies in the relative freedom and absolute order. The right to freedom is bound to be violated by excessive freedom, and absolute order guarantees the relative freedom of the individual in the event of non-aggression.

Therefore, the implementation of the garbage classification norms cannot relax sloppy, to be fair and resolute, at the same time to the idea of persuasion, can maintain the balance between freedom and order.

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