

# Exploring the Innovation Path of Urban Grassroots Social Governance in the New Era

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## Abstract

Grassroots social governance is an important part of the national governance system and is related to the realization of the goal of national governance modernization. Urban social governance should be based on the principle of holistic governance, the difficulty of transformation of social governance based on frequent social conflicts, mobility and demographic changes in the process of urbanization, and the overlapping of traditional and Non-traditional public security, and adopt various innovative paths to promote the development of grassroots social governance. For example, to build the value base of urban grassroots social governance, to promote the deepening development of the "Government-society interaction" model, to improve the basic system construction of urban grassroots governance, and to promote the mechanism and technological innovation of urban grassroots social governance, etc., so as to gradually establish a new type of grassroots social governance order, to gather effective governance synergy, and to form a social governance community in which everyone is responsible, everyone does his or her duty, and everyone enjoys the benefits. The community of social governance in which everyone is responsible, everyone is responsible and everyone enjoys.

## Keywords

Grassroots Social Governance; Municipal Social Governance; Government-society Interaction; Innovation Path.

## 1. Introduction

As the foundation and an important part of the national governance system, urban grassroots social governance is directly related to the personal interests of the people and the process of achieving the goal of national modern governance. The report of the 19th CPC National Congress points out that we should strengthen the construction of community governance system, push the center of gravity of social governance down to the grassroots, give full play to the role of social organizations, and realize the benign interaction between government governance, social regulation and residents' autonomy. At present, China's grassroots social governance model is undergoing a comprehensive transformation from an "administrative monolithic" management system during the planning period to a modern "multi-governance" governance system. [1] This is the inevitable requirement to promote the modernization of the national governance system and governance capacity, and also the rightful meaning to face the reality of grassroots social governance.

## 2. Integrating the City: Municipal Social Governance Transforming Urban Governance

Municipal social governance is an important pillar of national governance and an important part of the national governance system. It should emphasize the role of market subjects, social organizations, and people in the governance of public affairs, in addition to the role of government. And urban grassroots social governance is not a new issue; it is at the intersection of the downward extension of state power and the operation of self-organized social networks, presenting the basic structure of state-society relations. The change of urban governance from municipal social governance needs to be closely focused on the direction of common construction, governance and sharing, guided by the concept of holistic governance, grasp the characteristics of the laws of municipal social governance, highlighting institutional innovation, mechanism improvement and system construction, unite the wisdom of all parties, improve the level of social governance, ensure that people live and work in peace and social stability and order, and strive to turn the grand blueprint into a beautiful reality.

The theory of holistic governance emerged in the post-New Public Management era in the late 1990s. Based on the revision and reflection of the New Public Management model, it takes citizens' governance needs as the guide and information technology as the means of governance, and through the governance mechanism of coordination, integration and responsibility, it continuously moves from fragmentation to centralization and from fragmentation to integration, so as to realize the holistic operation of government.

### 2.1. Public-centered

Publicity is the source of legitimization of modern administrative system, and the governance goal of holistic governance is to obtain public interest and responsibility. With public needs and public services as the center, the government's social management and public service functions are emphasized, and through coordination, cooperation and integration, all public service entities work closely together to provide seamless public services to the public, putting democratic values and public interests in the forefront. The report of the 19th Party Congress points out that efforts should be made to "put the people at the center" and to promote people's livelihood as the fundamental purpose of development. To ensure that all people have a greater sense of access to shared development, so that the fruits of urban development benefit the people.

### 2.2. Orientation to Wholeness

With the advantages of information technology, we can overcome the management dilemma of fragmentation by establishing across-organizational governance structure that unites the entire social governance institutions. The horizontal relationship between society and the market is adjusted, and the government's role as a strategic collaborator and coordinator of services is brought into play to build a governance network in which the government cooperates with the market and society and operates in a coordinated manner.

### 2.3. Integrated Organization as a Carrier

Unlike traditional public service provision, which is government-centered, the concept of holistic governance advocates the construction of a horizontal organizational structure, giving full play to the unique role of group organizations, grassroots self-governance organizations and social organizations in resolving grassroots conflicts, and better expanding the space for participation in public services. It also advocates the transfer of some public service functions to enterprises and NGOs, and the establishment of diversified partnerships to attract and mobilize all parties to participate in the provision of local public services. [2]

### **3. Intrinsic Demands: The Real Challenges of Urban Grassroots Social Governance**

Chinese urban society has experienced rapid changes over the past decades, and along with the leapfrog urbanization process, a series of urban governance issues have been triggered by social classes, power structures, and community interest distribution. These contradictions and conflicts often settle down in grassroots society inducing various kinds of incidents, such as social resistance, interest games, and letters and visits, which cause risks to social stability in local places.

#### **3.1. Interest-based Social Conflicts are Frequent and Social Governance is Difficult to Transform**

Along with the transformation of urbanization and the adjustment of interest structure and interest relations, the pattern of social interests has undergone great changes. On the one hand, the distribution of interests is unfair, wealth is converging to the elite class, and the vital interests of some socially disadvantaged groups have been seriously damaged, leading to public dissatisfaction with inequality and doubts about the credibility of government policies. On the other hand, the rapid growth of multiple interest demands, the position of interest subjects based on the protection of their own rights and different values and expressed differentiated preferences, disputes over interests between social individuals, between individuals and collectives, between groups, and between cadres and groups. Grassroots social governance is the place where interest disputes and social conflicts occur and gather. Urban grassroots governance is confronted with various forms of social conflicts, mainly in two aspects: Firstly, the subjects involved in conflicts of interests are diverse, and the nature of the matters touching the conflicts are complex and diverse. Second, the resolution of conflicts of interest mostly relies on administrative means, while the proportion of disputes resolved by legal means such as administrative reconsideration and arbitration is still very low. If the grassroots governance of urban society cannot be innovative and successfully transformed in debugging grassroots interests and resolving conflict issues, it will be difficult to maintain stability of grassroots society.

#### **3.2. New Problems Arising from Mobility and Demographic Changes in the Urbanization Process**

China's rapid urbanization process over the past decades has seen a massive influx of foreigners into cities, completely changing the original stable demographic structure of cities based on the household registration and unit system. The changes in mobility and urban demographic structure have challenged the government's traditional management approach in three main ways.

First, urban population expansion tests the supply capacity of urban grassroots public services. A significant increase in population means a continuous increase in demand for basic public services, which not only requires grassroots public service providers to gain insight into different service demands, but also to treat foreigners who contribute to the city with fairness and inclusiveness beyond the parochialism of territoriality. Secondly, the demographic changes in cities have brought heavy pressure of population aging, which makes the establishment of grassroots elderly care service system and the introduction of social capital to form a collaborative and cooperative social network for community elderly care an important initiative for urban grassroots social governance. Thirdly, mobility has put forward higher requirements on the basic information collection and dynamic real-time monitoring capability of urban grassroots social governance. The inter-regional migration of foreign-entering population and local population has led to the original way of information collection and control

becoming more difficult, causing obstacles to the research and judgment of urban social problems and public safety guarantee.

### **3.3. The Overlap of Traditional and Non-traditional Public Security Tests Urban Grassroots Social Governance**

Today's urban risks are not only public security issues in the traditional sense such as crime and military attacks, but also some new types of security issues such as financial risks, information risks, and epidemic risks. With the rapid development and transformation of cities, the uneven development of districts, the coexistence of multi-cultural values, the complicated ideological dynamics, and the value disputes among residents on the formulation of community rules, test the advancement of urban grassroots social governance process.

The main body of a complete urban risk management system should be composed of multiple parties, including government, market and society. The prevention and management of urban safety and risk is no longer the sole responsibility of the government, but depends on the formation of a risk management community by business organizations, social organizations, communities and individual residents for cooperative governance. Social forces play an important role in negotiating common order, collecting and transmitting information, and monitoring the government's behavior, becoming partners in grassroots governance, and working with the government to avoid some governance risks.

## **4. The Practice Path: The Innovation Path of Urban Grassroots Social Governance**

The Party and the government have always attached great importance to social governance. Promote the innovation of social governance path in grassroots cities, build a social governance community where everyone is responsible, everyone does their part and everyone enjoys it, and build an innovative path of positive interaction and cooperative governance among multiple subjects of social governance.

### **4.1. Building the Value Base of Urban Grassroots Social Governance**

"Trust is the game of believing in the possible future actions of others" [3] Currently, the value plurality of social governance and its tension will exist for a long time. The construction and smooth operation of the cooperative system of the pluralistic subjects of grassroots urban governance is based on the basic premise of value identity among the pluralistic subjects.

First of all, it plays a leading role in moral governance. Integrate moral resources and cultural traditions, vigorously promote the core values of socialism, play the role of nourishment of traditional culture, play the role of demonstration of nearby role models, play the role of opinion leaders to promote the formation of good social order. In addition, the Party and the government should play a leading role in grass-roots social governance, and work to build a grass-roots governance structure of social coordination and cooperative governance of multiple forces with the construction of the ruling party as the center. A four-level system of "city-district-street-community" party organizations should be formed, so that the party organization can sink in the urban grassroots and promote the dissemination of mainstream values [4]

Second, the key task of the Party and the government in promoting urban grassroots social governance is to realize the basic values of fairness, justice and the rule of law. The legitimacy of social governance by the Party and the government comes from the fairness and justice of the basic social system they provide. The current urban grassroots governance is intricate and complex, with multiple conflicts between the government and society, officials and the public, poorly regulated market organizations and the public, and multiple forces playing games,

making it all the more necessary to build the value base of urban grassroots social governance. Beyond self-interest and the kidnapping of vested interest groups, a fair and just state system should be established, and the special struggle against blackness and evil should be used as an opportunity to promote social justice, so that grassroots social governance can be built on a higher moral level and achieve the political and management goals of social governance.

#### **4.2. Promote the Deepening Development of the "Government-society Interaction" Model**

The "Government-society interaction" refers to the effective interface and benign interaction between government administration and grass-roots mass autonomy, which is an innovative path of urban grass-roots social governance, improving the mechanism of mass autonomy and clarifying the boundary of power and responsibility between grass-roots government and mass autonomous organizations. It is also an inevitable requirement for economic and social transformation and upgrading in the new era, eradicating obstacles and influences, enhancing market dynamics and social vitality, promoting changes in administrative management mode, and fundamentally improving the operational efficiency of government and mass satisfaction.

The "Government-society interaction" is also an inevitable requirement for building a social governance system with multi-participation and harmonious co-management, giving play to the role of grass-roots autonomous organizations and social organizations as a link, and effectively doing better and practical things for the grassroots. The innovative practice of "Government-society interaction" has changed the traditional working method of the grassroots government to issue targets and tasks by administrative orders, which in essence is to use the rule of law thinking and rule of law to promote the modernization of social governance system and governance capacity.

First of all, the government must change the practice of "taking charge" and transfer the matters that should not be managed and not managed well, so as to create space for collaborative governance and autonomous social self-governance, and to release the power and vitality of community organizations and social organizations. As Thomas pointed out, "the appropriateness of citizen participation depends largely on the mutual limitation between the requirements of policy quality and policy acceptability in the final decision" [5]. Secondly, the government can sign "commissioning agreement" and "project agreement" with grassroots self-government organizations, both of which are administrative contracts signed between the government and other organizations and need to be regulated by law and incorporated into the track of rule of law. The government and other organizations need to be regulated by law and brought under the rule of law. Once again, the function of grassroots self-governance organizations and social organizations as social governance "pressure reducer" and social contradiction "diluter", to establish and improve the coordination of public interests, expression of demands, rights and interests protection mechanisms, especially to do a good job in the new period of interest. In particular, we should do a good job of resolving conflicts in areas where there are more conflicts, respond to reasonable demands, strengthen education and guidance, and make efforts to nip conflicts in the bud.

#### **4.3. Improve the Basic System Construction of Urban Grassroots Social Governance**

Political parties and government grassroots organizations are the mission to complete the transformation of urban grassroots social governance system and capacity modernization in urban grassroots social governance. Extensive contact with the people, reform and innovation of their own system, breaking the established interest structure is an effective path to improve the construction of the basic system of urban grassroots social governance.

The first is to adjust the important national laws and regulations involved in responding to the major issues of urban grassroots social governance. The rapid changes in urban planning, space and population have made some legal and regulatory documents related to urban grassroots social governance no longer meet the needs of reality and need to be adjusted and regulated. Urban grassroots social governance urgently needs a clear division of the regulatory behavior of the government and the public, a definition of the power that should be protected and the misbehavior that should be regulated, and the gradual establishment of a clear framework of freedom and order, rights and obligations and reasonable responsibilities.

The second is to enhance the openness of party and government construction and establish a political foundation to lead the transformation of urban grassroots social governance. First, we should establish an open system for political parties and grassroots government organizations, and embed urban grassroots organizations into social networks. Secondly, we should establish a system of "consultation and deliberation", taking decision-making on public affairs as the "grip", forming a structure of consultation and deliberation, mobilizing the participation of multiple subjects, and promoting mutual cooperation. Third, to improve the service system of urban grass-roots party organizations, to clarify the positioning of party organization services and business priorities, and to bring into play the characteristics and advantages of party organization services.

#### **4.4. Promote Urban Grassroots Social Governance Mechanisms and Technological Innovation**

Institutional mechanism is the root of innovation, and the biggest problem that urban grassroots governments need to solve at present is to change the situation of reacting passively in daily management. In recent years, some urban grassroots governments have taken the core concept of promoting fine urban management, reforming and innovating in areas such as peace building, security risk management and public service provision, promoting cross-departmental, cross-level and cross-border coordination and cooperation in governance, and gradually changing and adjusting the structure and power relations of governance.

The first is to shape a cooperative mechanism of urban grassroots multi-governance subjects to form a cooperative governance of joint participation in community planning, facility construction, public resource allocation and other matters. Bring people with different interests, values and ideas together. Adopting political parties and government grassroots organizations to mobilize and attract residents to the process of shared governance, and by setting up issue mechanisms, platform mechanisms and advocacy mechanisms, the innovative and creative ideas of residents or social organizations in their work and practice can be transformed into mechanisms and methods for organic community participation, which can bring great innovative effectiveness.

Secondly, we will use new media and big data to promote the construction of "smart communities" and use their mechanisms to integrate the affairs of government departments to the community, provide infrastructure construction and service supply such as smart parking, smart home, and community risk warning, and improve the utilization rate of equipment in the community, and also adopt a modular living model to It can also improve the quality of community life by adopting a modular living model. The construction of "smart communities" will also become an important trend in urban grassroots social governance innovation.

## **5. Conclusion**

At present, China is in the critical period of achieving the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, and the CPC has put forward a series of social governance strategies under the new historical conditions. The CPC Central Committee has been far-sighted and has taken into

account the current situation, and made correct decisions in the light of China's national conditions, both at the top-level design level and at the grassroots practice level, pointing to the new era of making efforts to adapt to the changes in social structure, innovating the path of urban grassroots social governance, enriching and These social governance models will also contribute Chinese wisdom and provide Chinese solutions to the global governance pat.

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