Perfect Rural Governance System Combining Autonomy, Rule of Law and Rule of Virtue

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ABSTRACT

The rural governance system that combines autonomous, rule of law, and rule of virtue is the basic requirement for achieving effective governance in the rural revitalization strategy. To improve the rural governance system with self-government as the core, the rule of law as the guarantee, and the rule of virtue as the emotional support, we still need to further recognize and improve the three single rural governance model. Only by clarifying the advantages and disadvantages of each governance model, making up for the shortcomings, can we better realize the close complementarity of the "three governance" model.\(^1\)

INTRODUCTION

When it comes to rural governance, China's practice in rural areas can be regarded as a model. The strategy of "revitalization of the countryside" was put forward in the report of the 19th National Congress of China. At the meeting, it further put forward the specific requirements of "strengthening rural grassroots basic work and improving the rural governance system combining self-government, rule of law and rule of virtue". The major strategic deployment is not only an important part of the rural revitalization strategy, but also an inherent requirement for the successful implementation of the rural revitalization strategy.

Academia have demonstrated the importance and objective inevitability of rural governance which combines autonomy, rule of law and rule of virtue from various angles. Tangbo Xiao (2014) pointed out that there is a "complex crisis" hidden under the image of rural prosperity. Multiple crises are not only universal, but also unique

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to China. If China wants to overcome the crisis, it urgently needs the in-depth reform and improvement of the rural governance system [1]. Hongli Xia (2018) analyzed the dilemma of rural governance and the new changes of rural governance environment in the new era. In view of the complexity of rural governance, she proposed the "three-in-one" rural governance model [2]. Dacai Deng (2018) according to the different combination of "autonomy", "rule of law" and "rule of virtue", the quality and level of rural governance are different. He proposed that different governance combinations should be selected according to local conditions in order to achieve the best rural governance effect [3]. Generally speaking, the research on rural governance system in academia generally combines "autonomy, rule of law, rule of virtue" and regards them as a whole [4-6]. In order to promote the rural governance system, this paper argues that it is still necessary to further improve three single rural governance modes. It is of great practical significance to deeply understand the rural governance methods of autonomy, the rule of law, and the rule of virtue, to clarify the advantages and disadvantages of each governance model, to fill in the shortcomings, and to achieve the close complementarity of "three governances" model.

PERFECT THE RURAL AUTONOMY GOVERNANCE SYSTEM

The implementation of villagers' autonomy in rural governance is the realization form of socialist democratic politics with Chinese characteristics in the field of rural governance, and is the core content of improving the rural governance system. In the past decades, the practice of rural autonomy in China has proved that it can save the cost of governance and improve the performance of governance. But there are still many problems in villager autonomy in village governance. First of all, the division of power in township politics, village Party branches and village committees is not clear in rural politics. Secondly, the villagers' autonomy consciousness and ability are not enough, and their enthusiasm is not strong enough. Thirdly, the content of villagers' autonomy is not clear enough, and the supervision system needs to be improved.

In view of the problems arising in rural autonomy and based on profound practical experience, we believe that further effort can be made in the following aspects to perfect the rural autonomy system. Firstly, in the rural autonomy, we must uphold the leadership of the Communist Party of China and give full play to the core role of the grass-roots party organizations. The government must make clear the definition of dimensional power in township politics, village Party branches and village committees. Besides, the government should further formulate regulations for the management of various villagers' organizations in accordance with the law to guarantee their right to participate in village autonomy. In addition, we should establish and improve the village affairs supervision committee in an all-round way and implement the sunshine project of village affairs.
IMPROVE THE RULE OF LAW SYSTEM IN RURAL AREAS

Whether the rural governance system can run smoothly depends on the progress level of the rule of law in rural social governance. At present, China's rural governance is basically law-abiding, but many problems still need to be solved. First, the rural legal system is not comprehensive enough, and the total amount of agriculture-related legislation is insufficient. Second, the ability of the villager to learn the law, understand the law, and use it is very limited. In addition, the law enforcement in rural areas is not strict, and judicial injustice is also common.

To realize the modernization of governance system and governance capability, the rule of law is an important cornerstone. It is imperative to further promote the rule of law in rural areas. Primarily, the government should speed up and improve the rural legal system, especially to formulate laws and regulations for the management of rural collective assets as soon as possible. At the same time, we need to improve the public legal service system in rural areas and strengthen legal aid to farmers. Besides, it is necessary to supervise the grass-roots government to regulate the law enforcement. The government should actively listen to the feedback from the villagers. What is more, the government may disseminate legal knowledge to the rural areas by organizing law popularization activities. Specifically, the government can regularly train and disseminate legal knowledge to villagers with high influence, such as villagers’ council or village affairs supervision committees, so as to improve the legal level of the whole village.

PERFECT RURAL RULE OF VIRTUE SYSTEM IN RURAL AREAS

China's villages are human society and acquaintance society, and human feelings are closely linked with morality and customs. Since the reform and opening up, great achievements have been made in China's economic construction. The material living standards of urban and rural residents have been greatly improved. However, the construction of spiritual civilization is relatively lagging behind, and the phenomenon of moral decline is serious, such as unfilial piety and disrespect.

The incorporation of rule of virtue into rural governance can play an intrinsic role in moral leadership, regulation and restraint. Then, how to strengthen the governance of the rule of virtue in rural areas? To be clear, the country should further cultivate and carry forward socialist core values and effectively integrate them with village rules and regulations. By effectively integrating social values in this way, villagers can exercise self-restraint with high standards of value norms. Furthermore, the government should put forward higher requirements for the moral standard of grass-roots cadres. Last but not least, we must vigorously carry forward the Chinese traditional virtues. By cultivating social morality, professional morality, family virtue and personal morality, we will create a great cultural environment for rural governance and state governance.
CONCLUSIONS

As be shown by practice experience in the past several years, the rural governance system that combining autonomy, rule of law and rule of virtue is the urgent requirement and governance direction of the rural revitalization strategy in the new era. At present, the peasants' democratic consciousness, participation consciousness and rights concept are not strong enough in our rural society. The villagers cannot fully participate in self-government. At the same time, it is easy to be re-interpreted by the knowledge tradition of local social customs in the process of legal system going to the countryside. Under such circumstances, the rule of virtue as an emotional support for rural governance can effectively promote rural social governance. By actively mobilizing "Xinxiang saints" with knowledge and noble moral character to participate in rural governance, we can manage the countryside more effectively. Similarly, the rule of law provides protection for rural governance. Because a series of economic and social conditions needed by villagers' autonomy are still to be matured, especially "villager's autonomy" is still lacking of sufficient experience and wisdom. That may lead to a small number of villagers take the opportunity to illegally seek personal interests. In this case, we can integrate the rule of law into rural governance to achieve rural governance order.

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