On the Path of Grassroots Party Construction Leading to Grassroots Governance—Based on the Investigation of Liangdong Village Model in Yunfu City, Guangdong Province

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Abstract. Since the 19th CPC National Congress, the grassroots Party construction leading to grassroots governance has become one of the core themes of rural governance in China. This paper uses the case study method to conduct an in-depth study of Liangdong Village, Xinxing County, Yunfu City, Guangdong Province. The study finds that the sinking of the Party construction organization from the administrative village level to the natural village (village group) level, and the establishment of the Party's new grass-roots construction system on the basis of the Party and mass service points, play an important role in activating the natural village Party members' resources and forming the Party's guidance of social governance. It is of great significance to improve the Party's leadership style, to use soft power to guide the governance and rural development, and to expand the mass base of the Party's ruling power by putting the basic Party construction in the most basic natural village.

Since entering the new century, the social structure of China's rural areas is increasingly moving from the structure of “totality” to “differentiation”. In this process of social transformation, the tranquility of the local society was completely broken; the society is increasingly characterized by diversity, fragmentation and mobility. Under the background of highly differentiated and strong mobilized rural society, traditional grass-roots governance which based on traditional agriculture, with static and networked management of farmers and rural governance models is increasingly unsuitable for agricultural farmers. In the comprehensive deepening reform of rural governance in the new era, the Party construction in the countryside, as the core content of the social governance pattern, has been put on the agenda.

Like the traditional governance pattern of “village autonomy”, the rural Party construction has also showed its mismatching with the social development. It is mainly manifested in the following aspects: the value leading ability is suspended, the Party organization is suspended, the activity ability is declining, and the mechanism of embedding society relies heavily on administration. These problems have become the main obstacles for the Party to lead the rural governance, the Party committee’s leadership improvement, government responsibility, social cooperation, public participation, social governance system with the guarantee of the law, and creation of the co-construction, co-governance and co-shared social governance pattern.

The Short Board Problem that the Rural Party Construction Should Focus on

The Suspense of the Leading Ability of the Value Level of the Rural Party Organization Construction

The CPC is the leadership core in the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics. The Party’s construction purpose is to integrate the state and social ideology with the Party's ideology and realize the unity of the three. When it comes to social ideology, especially in countryside, the Party's ideology is weak due to the diversity, mobility and networking of the rural society. The Party’s advocating values lacks the key groups’ practice. The Marxist concept system as the ruling Party’s ideology suspends on the rural society, and does not match with the ruling party's leadership position.
Rural Party Construction Suspended on Rural Governance Organization

In practice, the operation of the village Party organization often relies on the top-down operation of administrative power. In the social practice of the new era, with the growth of the new social space, the village Party organization has no real control over the new rural social space, such as people, wealth and things. The Party construction platform driven by administrative force in the past lacked substantial influence. As a result, its organizational leadership is difficult to influence and penetrate into these organizations; it is easy to appear the phenomenon of “idling” of Party construction in the process of rural governance operation.

The Inactivation of the Village Party Organization in the Construction Activities

Party members' participation in governance activities is the link which connects the rural Party construction and the social governance. From the main body of the activity, the participation of the Party members is low in social activities. With the rural Party construction being included in the Party and government performance appraisal indicator system, the enthusiasm of the Party and government departments to participate in rural governance has been ignited, which has spawned a series of projects led by Party construction to lead rural governance. From the content of the activities, the current activities of rural Party construction mainly focus on government-style activities, cultural and sports activities, volunteer activities and other ceremonial activities. As for rural social problems and deep level of villagers' conflict of interest, Party members take more avoidance methods. From the form of activity, the top-down Party construction logic dominates the entire process of rural Party construction. The full and balanced interaction between the Party members and the villagers is still in an ideal state and cannot find a foothold in practice. Based on this, the top-down rural Party construction logic and the bottom-up rural governance logic have no real connection.

Rural Party Construction Cannot Find a Mechanism to Embed in Rural Society

Although since the new era, the rural Party construction has constructed the “all-covering, no-blind area” Party construction network, covering all rural governance. The top-down Party construction logic and the closed tendency of the bureaucracy make the rural Party construction fall into the administrative-led “path dependence”. The rural Party construction could not be done in terms of the source of resources, the actors mobilization and the system arrangement without the administrative organization. Therefore, from the practical effect, the current rural Party construction still lacks deep mechanism embedded in rural society.

Based on the above problems of the rural Party construction and the Party construction leading the grass-roots governance, the author studies the typical cases of the innovation of the Party construction and the Party construction leading the rural governance in Liangdong Village, Lezhu Town, Xinxing County, Yunfu City.

Liangdong Village has 6 villager groups, resident population of more than 1300 people. In the past, rice and litchi were the main industries, and then, under the rural Party organization’s leadership, Wenshi enterprise group was introduced actively, and the village income per capita was more than 100 million. Liangdong Village has been exploring the Party construction at the grass-roots level for a long time. It has built the Party construction contact point, the village culture square, the open column and so on. They take the grass-roots Party organizations construction as the core, radiate the two committees of the village, the township ethics council and other organizations, take the village party secretary to lead all the villagers to carry out grass-roots Party construction to lead the grass-roots governance innovation. It realizes the creation of a new rural governance system with autonomy as the main body, the rule of law as the basis and the rule of virtue as the soul. Good results have been achieved.

The Liangdong Mode of Rural Party Construction Leading Rural Governance

In recent years, Liangdong Village has used the superior financial support to meet the needs of
village-level Party construction to lead the grass-roots governance. On the issue of the Party construction, the Party's group activities space and the Party affairs public facilities are built. The gravity center of rural Party construction and villager autonomy has been moved downwards, and the rural Party construction organization structure of the “village Party branch + villager's Party group” has been established.

**The Construction of Service Space Forced by the Tradition of Mutual Assistance and the Realistic Demand**

In the relatively closed society of Liangdong Village, the autonomy tradition of “keeping watch and helping each other, compassionate to each other” has always existed. With the acceleration of urbanization, young people in Liangdong Village have left their homes to work, leaving many elderly people in the village. The absence of children, the tradition of mutual help, and the “hollowed” village have made villagers' desire to solve daily life problems nearby very eagerly. For this reason, the two committees of the village decided to set up more formal mutual service points in each village group. At the same time, support is given to the villagers’ group to elect its own head of the service point, to decide on and manage its own daily affairs, and to supervise its work by itself. Village party members and activists are encouraged to set up party members or prospective party groups in service points. Since the establishment of this service point in natural villages (village groups), fewer people have come to the two committees of the village to quarrel, the relationship between the Party and the masses has become closer and the masses have become more enthusiastic about autonomy. The two committees of the village can also free up more time and energy to deal with major issues in the village.

The Party construction staff of Liangdong Village called this project a three-step work strategy of “wearing a hat”, “giving face” and “wanting mind”. The “wearing a hat” is that the staff rely on the Party construction service points and organizational system to put on a status hat, they will have the courage to do their work. In turn, they can’t shirk the villagers who are needing their help when they wear this “hat”. “Giving face” means that the Party construction staff in the village group are more familiar with the group things, and have deeper ties with each other, and can do “difficult things” such as mediating the neighbors’ contradictions. The “wanting mind” indicates that the Party construction service point is truly “landing” to do practical things.

It is worth noting that building Party construction activities points into natural villages is different from top-down Party construction. When the Party construction service point is doing its job well, its Party members are more likely to use their villager identity. They would use the organizational system of the Party construction service points and their own social network to make a flexible transition between the identity of the Party members and the villagers, and create a vague action field between the private life and public politics. On the one hand, they use the organizational identity to obtain the name of the system and the organization to mobilize the villagers’ participation. On the other hand, they skillfully use the villager identity to coordinate the public opinion within the group, and then the village Party construction work is run into the service for the people, thus establishing the effective connection between village Party construction and villager autonomy at the level of village group.

**The Construction of the Natural Village Party is the Core of the Life-based Party Construction to Lead the Rural Governance**

The construction of the Party construction service point is to strengthen the practice ability and expand scope of itself to promote the change of the operation mode of the rural Party construction function. Its essence is to embed public opinion in the village Party construction work, make the Party's idea be needed, and combine with the villagers' life need. To embed the Party's cognitive schema so that the Party's grass-roots work can be understood and combined with the autonomy of village groups. Embed emotion and value identity, let the Party and group empathy be internalized in the heart, and agree with the villagers' daily emotion. Embed events to externalize Party construction work, and fit with the daily action of the villagers. The sinking of the Party construction placed the Party committee and the village group discussion committee in “a fixed
place around” and let the villagers “touch it directly.” It can not only let the villagers of Liangdong Village know the basic Party construction directly, but also enliven the atmosphere of villager autonomy.

**Effect Analysis and Popularization Value of Liangdong Party Construction Model**

**In the Inter-emergence of Party Organizations and Rural Society, the Party’s Leadership Has Truly Achieved “Sinking” in Rural Society**

The prominent feature of the Party construction in Liangdong Village is that it straddles the traditional organization jurisdiction and crosses the traditional boundary between the public and private sectors. The significance lies not only in the integration of the Party, government, market and society into the governance system, but also achieving mutual embedding and connection in the multilevel governance networks construction, thus integrating the organizational Party system with the social governance system into a dynamic, complex, and holistic adaptive system. The governance network established by the Party construction fits the structure of the village governance on the one hand, and clarifies the difference between the Party leadership and the Party guidance on the other hand, and the accurate positioning of the two in different network relationships. In this sense, the Party construction mode of Liangdong has realized the Party’s guidance to “sink” to the rural society, and realized the mutual embedding of the Party organization and the rural society.

**Solved the Suspension Problem of Rural Party Construction in Terms of Value, Platform, Activity and Mechanism**

The model of Liangdong Party construction solves the suspension problem of rural Party construction and governance in terms of value, platform, activity and mechanism. In fact, The model is using a democratic negotiation method to play a role as space and pipeline in the rural governance to maintain interaction and form an organic connection between the ruling party, the state, the society, the government and the people. It is also in this sense that the grass-roots Party construction and the modernization of grass-roots social governance are truly combined. The establishment of the discussion platform based on the life world, on the one hand, has promoted the administrative path of the Party construction work, forming the real “Party construction sinking”. On the other hand, it has also led to the “floating” of rural governance. The model has realized the “confluence” and “docking” among the Party, government and people on the platform, and has realized the Party's overall leadership over the reform and development and social construction in the rural areas.

**Realized the Integration of the Party’s Formal Leadership and Guidance**

Liangdong Party construction model mobilizes all the formal and informal mechanisms in the rural field. The formal mechanism embodies authority and order; Informal mechanism reflects relevance and humanization. The two complement each other and combine the authority of formal mechanism with the flexibility of informal mechanism, which is of great significance to the acquisition of governance effectiveness. The cooperation and complementation of these two mechanisms, in fact, promoted the cooperation between the grass-roots Party and the government departments and the rural governance organizations, and expanding the influence of the Party. It gives the villagers a real sense of gain. In this sense, the Liangdong Party construction model has achieved the dual effects of the authority of the Party leadership and the effectiveness of rural governance.

**References**


