

## Strategies for Social Organization's Exerting Functions in the Process of China's National Governance

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### Abstract

Nowadays, to innovate the social management system has been paid more and more attention in China in the wake of the promoting of the "governance". Because of its own characteristics and advantages, China's social organization has become the noticeable carrier of public participation in the governance beyond all doubt. This article analyzes its irreplaceable role and important functions in China's national governance based on the characteristics of the social organization. However, due to some restrictive factors, such as the legal environment, financial and human resources and its own restrictive factors, the functions exertion of social organization in national governance is restricted to some extent. Therefore, in order to push on with modernization of the China's governance system and governance capability, it is necessary to research how to take a series of feasible measures to guide the social organization to make full use of its advantage and participate in governance better. So perfecting the relevant legal system and internal management system of the social organization, defining the Relationship between the government and the social organization and enhancing the awareness of public service are new tasks which should be solved urgently.

**Key words:** Social organization; China's national governance; Functions exertion; Strategies

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### INTRODUCTION

The Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee proposes a new proposition for the first time that the general objective is to improve and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics and push on with modernization of the country's governance system and governance capability. And the fifth Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee continued proposing that in order to achieve the goal of improving and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics, pushing on with modernization of the country's governance system and governance capability, we must perfect the system in all aspects, accelerate transforming the government functions, and provide strong powerful guarantee for the development. The government management mode should be transformed from the top-down approach into the mutual participation mode of the whole society. What's more, push on the modernization of the governance capability, it is necessary to improve the way of China's social governance and activate the social organization. Since the status of the social organization has been improved a lot, they play a more and more important role in the governance system. However, the social organization undertake the task given by the era, they are also faced with some challenges at the same time.

### 1. THE FUNCTIONAL POSITION OF THE SOCIAL ORGANIZATION IN CHINA'S GOVERNANCE SYSTEM

#### 1.1 To Promote Political Democratization

In some ways, on the behalf of the general public, the social organization cares about the will of the people, their mission and views of value are full of commonweal. So they represent and protect public interest rather than pursue their own benefit and development absolutely. The social organization' existence is very necessary, because they can express public opinions and safeguard people's rights and interests with a more scientific and reasonable way instead of uncivilized ways. To a large degree, the commonweal of the social organization makes most people's enthusiasm of participating in political life increased greatly. As thus, the social organization is very benefit for the increase of the public participation in the political life, and they can also promote the process of political democratization, improve the development of administrative ethics.

### **1.2 To Realize Social Fairness and Justice, Promote the Development of Social Ethics**

When government formulates public policies, they always care about interests of the majority of people, and according to their needs to make policies in each aspect, so the coverage is limited. In fact, any policy can not represent the interest of the whole society, cover every aspect or protect all people who have all kinds of different requirements. What's more, a policy would even damage the interests of the minority sometimes, especially some disadvantaged groups and marginal groups in society. The social organization would pay more attention to these groups, to serve them and their interests. Let they get their deserved rights and services, so as to maintain social justice, safeguard social harmony and stability.

### **1.3 To Promote the Economic Development**

Market economy may cause some problems, such as polarization of rich and poor, social injustice and confusion of the market economic order and so on. The government would make policies and laws to regulate and adjust the market. However, it's not enough only depend on the government to solve these problems. The social organization also is relied on to do something in the economic field by using their special functions and advantages. The social organization can use a variety of means and flexible mechanism, and plan a market-oriented strategic Planning, and take full advantage of human resources, technology, information and other resources, provide diversified service for citizens and the market. So the social organization can make up for the inadequacy of the market, promote the development of economic ethics, and promote the economic development.

### **1.4 To Play an Important Role in Building a Harmonious Society**

The social organization can resolve social contradictions and avoid conflict. As the main subcontractors of the functions of government, the social organization plays a noticeable role in advocating the social civilization.

Promote cooperation of different organizations and different departments, and coordinate the interest between different groups. At the same time, they provide a kind of channels for citizens to participate in the democratic governance, and strengthen people's awareness of democracy. Through the activities of the social organization, people learn the public morality, learn the rules of civilized life, and learn how to get along with other people, care about common interests, and participate in social life actively. In order to improve the quality of citizens, social organization not only plays a positive role in promoting social civilization. They but also have an important effect on the relationship between human and the nature, the social organization realizes the harmonious development of man and nature and try their best to protect the environment.

## **2. RESTRICTIVE FACTORS OF CHINA'S SOCIAL ORGANIZATION PARTICIPATING IN THE NATIONAL GOVERNANCE**

### **2.1 The Morbidity of Legal Environment**

After 1978, China has carried out the economic system reform, political reform and social reform. The establishment of the socialist market economic system, the transformation of the functions of the government and the streamlining of government organs make the relationship between state and society and the relationship between the state and the market is facing profound changes and adjustments, the function of all kinds of the social organization face new differentiation and reasonable positioning. The social organization have a rapid development in recent years, the number and the scale grow really fast. However, the legal environment is still imperfect. And the speed development of law is far behind the pace of development of the social organization. To a certain extent, an unsound legal environment would restrict the social organization.

### **2.2 The Lack of Fund and Human Resources**

There is not enough money for the social organization to keep running with out the support from the government and companies. Although after 30 years of reform and opening up, the economic development of China has made great achievement, generally speaking, China is still a developing country. And the social organizations do not have enough money to develop quickly. In addition, some social organizations just have only a sole source of raising fund. That is the membership dues from all members. So far, the government has taken a few measures to encourage firms and citizens to contribute money for the social organization. What's more, the human resources are the key to the development and movement of the social organization. The lack of the professional talent and volunteers is a serious problem which is faced by China's

social organization. Nowadays, the social organization has quite low labor expense, so they can not attract more staff to join organizations. And for some special reasons, most members of some organizations are volunteers who have not been trained. So they have low process abilities, low qualities. This is a main reason of restricting the development of the social organization.

### **2.3 The Lack of Independence**

Independence is indispensable for the social organization to operate effectively. To some extent, the social organization belongs to the whole society and they are different from government and firms, so they are supposed to be independent of enterprise and government. However, most social organizations still are independent on the government in China. They put themselves in the control of the government and they need advises and guideline from government. They also need the government to teach them how to work and operate. Although there is no relationship between the social organization and the government nominally, they are still similar. The social organization copies the system and conception from the government to manage themselves.

### **2.4 The Imperfection of the Internal Management System**

Government agencies do not considerate and plan for the development of the social organization with a unified way. And there is also no authoritative departments which are responsible for manage them. So the social organization internal mechanisms are in a state of disorder. Perfect internal management system is the important guarantee of the social organization's good development. The social organization system in China is still in a state of imperfect, because they are lack of necessary organizational system, financial system and the personnel management system and so on.

### **2.5 The Failure of Social Organization**

If the behavior of the social organization deviates from the commonweal goal and mission, they would fail to provide public products and services.

#### **2.5.1 Voluntary Failure**

The establishment of most social organizations is generally on the basis of voluntary. And their members are most volunteers, their services are provided by these volunteers. In addition, the fund is donated by the whole society. Due to the drive of personal interests, social members would ignore the social benefit and just pursue personal interests, honor and power. And the social organization can not give their staff higher income, so it is hard to attract more members to provide free products and services to the society so as to deviate from the basic value of the social organization. And it was called "voluntary failure" by the American scholar Salomon.

#### **2.5.2 Commonweal Failure**

The social organization engaged in commonweal activities. The maximization of commonweal is the

highest value concept of the social organization. However, they just pay more attention to some special groups and they just serve these groups and protect their interests rather than the public welfare of the whole society. And there is even a very bad case that is to harm the interests of other members of the society. This kind of phenomenon is called "public failure". In recent years, due to the public crisis events occur frequently, there are many disadvantaged groups. Although they need the biggest demand for public products and services and they are in need of immediate help, there is no corresponding organization to safeguard their interests. The reason is that some social members forget the organization's mission; they just want to pursue their organization's interests.

## **3. STRATEGIES OF THE SOCIAL ORGANIZATION'S FUNCTIONS EXERTION**

### **3.1 Perfecting the Relevant Legal System**

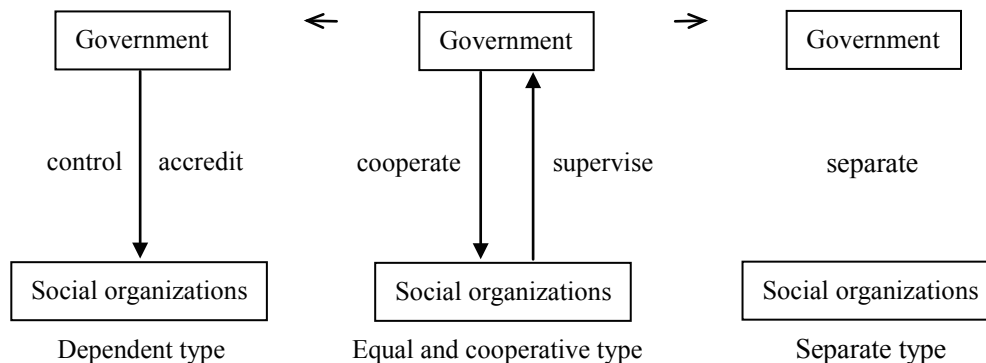
Although with the development of the social organization in China, the relevant laws and regulations are also introduced gradually, the legal environment in China is still not perfect. So the social organization can not exert its maximum energy effectively. Only improve the relevant legal system constantly and distinguish responsibility and authority of the social organization, it can play its role in governance well. New relevant legislation should be special designed for behaviors and effective operation of the social organization, introduce some unified, scientific, effective management law and some other local laws and regulations. Besides, as time goes by, the laws should be modified and supplement continuously, if there is anything inappropriate and unsound. Only perfect the relevant legal system, we can ensure that all activities of the social organization and behaviors are lawful.

### **3.2 Defining the Relationship Between the Government and the Social Organization**

On the one hand, the social organization does not belong to the government agencies. They are independent. On the other hand, they rely on the government to some extent in China. This makes the relationship between the government and the social organization is not clear and indistinct. If the social organization depends on government completely, they will lose the necessary independence. It is not beneficial for the social organization to develop and operate quickly to be under the control of the government completely. To separate administrative functions from enterprises helps us to straighten out the relationship between government and enterprises and makes the enterprise independent of development and operate effectively. In a word, we have achieved good results. Nowadays, it is also necessary to make the relation between government and the social

organization clear. They should get and preserve their autonomy from the government. However, it does not mean the social organization would isolate themselves from the government completely. And they must keep

in touch with the government and supervise mutually. The relationship between the social organization and the government is neither adherent nor separate, but equal and cooperative. See Figure 1.



**Figure 1**  
**Types of Relationship Between the Government and Social Organization in China**

### 3.3 Perfecting the Internal Management System of the Social Organization

In recent years, with the flourish of Chinese social organization, the number is increasing and the scale is expanding quickly. So we should pay attention to their internal management systems. The unsound internal systems will be an obstructive factor which can not be neglected of the good operation and rapid development of the social organization. As we all know, an integrated management system maybe include the board of directors, the financial management system, the personnel management system, the supervisory system and the evaluation system and so on. Moreover, it should be establish and build according to their requirements and the characteristics of the social organization. In order to regulate the behaviors activities of the social organization, they should establish a really suitable management system for themselves. Only this, the social organization just can get a promising future.

### 3.4 Strengthening the Construction of Human Resource Procession

Due to the voluntary character of the social organization, which makes the channels of introducing talents are not very easy to get. And full-time staff are not enough to be able to complete all the work in China. It is quite difficult to introduce enough talents just rely on volunteers. Most of these volunteers are busy in making a living, and they can not put their heart and soul into the voluntary job. To a certain extent, the abilities to provide services and the service quality of the social organization depend on the abilities and quality levels of organization members largely. As a result, the social organization should introduce a large number of professional members. In order to improve the quality of the members of the organizations and strengthen the construction of talent teams, it is necessary to strengthen the education and

training. On the other side, improving the social status of social members, attaching importance to the value of each group members, and caring about the social security of them are also really important.

### 3.5 Enhancing the Awareness of Public Service

Only do a good job in public service, the social organization just can be supported and endorsed by public. The government purchase service from society, which promote the transformation of government function, and it also provide a broad space for the social organization to participate in society management. The social organization should strengthen the public spirit and the voluntary spirit, and set up the public service consciousness. Human resource is an indispensable element in the social organization. To participate in the national governance, the social organization has a great demand on human resource, and especially need those who have the public service consciousness. Organizations should ensure them can keep the public spirit and the voluntary spirit for a long time, and the most important thing is to transform these spirit and consciousness into action. Notable is, avoid by all means in the guise of public welfare, to seek the realization of their own interests and local interests. Only establish a sense of public service, the social organization can complete organization's mission, to create social value, and to provide high quality efficient public services and products for society.

## CONCLUSION

The social organization is the necessary product of social development, and it belongs to social members. China's social organization have played an irreplaceable role between the government and the market, it can make up for the inadequacy of them two. So the social organization has a pivotal position in the national governance, and



it is the power should not be ignored in the process of promoting the modernization of national governance. Social organization is the main carrier to undertake the functions of the government and public participation in governance. Its characteristics of non-governmental and non-profit make it has a unique advantage in the national governance. So it is easier to capture the diversity of interests and social needs, thus it has become a key member of the governance. To take a series of feasible measures to guide the social organization make full use of its advantage and participate in governance better, and to improve the ability of social organization to participate in the national governance is a pressing problem. Its governance capability directly affects the economic and social development and the process of modernization management ability. The government should increase the intensity of support to speed up for cultivating the social organization, and perfect the relevant legal system to promote the healthy and order development of social organization. What's more, the social organization should overcome its own various obstacles and constraints to exert more important functions and make a great contribution to the rapid development of social economy. In China due to the short history of the social organization, the subsequent long-term development of China's social organization also will face many challenges which need to be found and solved.

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