



Residents Participation in Urban Community Governance under the New Normal

Yijia Li^(✉)

School of Political Science and Law, University of Jinan, Jinan Shandong Province 250000,
China

liyijia1999@163.com

Abstract. China's economic form shows a relatively stable development of the new normal characteristics, social structure is constantly optimized adjustment, put forward higher requirements for social governance. Through the study, we find that there are still many problems in residents' participation, such as weak awareness, limited participation type, different governance bodies. Aiming at these problems, this paper analyzes them based on the theory of collaborative governance, and puts forward six countermeasures from the internal and external governance guarantee.

Keywords: New normal · Citizen participation · Social governance

1 Introduction

Today, as the achievements of reform and opening up have been steadily consolidated, the rapid economic growth has gradually slowed down and the relatively stable development has emerged as the new normal. Profound changes have taken place in the economic system, as well as in the social structure, social management and social organization. Based on this special economic background, the traditional community governance model can no longer meet the needs of community governance, so it is an urgent problem for us to explore a better way to promote residents' participation in community governance under the new normal. The third plenary session of the 18 proposed the concept of "social management", compared with the past advocate "social management", "social management" advocated by a government agency responsible for the management of "social governance" is more focused on the participation, the government, citizen and society should play its proper role in the social governance, and more emphasis on the importance of civil action.

In the context of the new normal, residents' participation is of great significance to effectively safeguard residents' rights and interests and consolidate the construction of grassroots democracy. However, at present, there are still many problems in residents' participation in community governance. Therefore, it is necessary to study the prominent problems of residents' participation in the new normal. On this basis, this paper is mainly based on the theory of collaborative governance analysis. In a nutshell, the theory of collaborative governance is to carry out governance activities with the help of multiple governance subjects. Enterprises, social organizations and citizens can all

participate in the governance process. At the same time, there needs to be a certain restrictive relationship among various governance subjects [1]. In the process of residents to participate in, the governance body, including the government, citizen and social organization, this paper starting from the concept, analyzes the weakness of the original social management mode, investigating the present situation the participation of the governance body, put forward the problems, and from the Angle of the three parties respectively the corresponding countermeasures and Suggestions to the questions.

2 Analysis of Residents' Participation in Urban Community Governance

Community development is inseparable from the existence of residents, community autonomy is the most significant participation of residents. Although the practice of stimulating residents' participation has been carried out in many urban communities, the background of the new normal also puts forward higher requirements for residents' participation. At present, scholars generally believe that there still exist such problems as imperfect community governance practice, low initiative of residents, low quality and low frequency of participation in management [2].

2.1 Lack of Enthusiasm for Participation

First, the purpose of residents' participation is selfish. In practical activities, the majority of residents' community participation will only take the initiative to intervene when involving their own interests, and in activities related to public interests, only passively. Second, the concept of active participation of residents is lacking. The rapid development of the economy has increased the pressure on people's lives. Most residents are indifferent to the work of neighborhood committees, and they believe that residents' participation will only increase their own living costs [3]. At the same time, with the social mobility intensifying, more and more strange neighborhood also makes residents lack of sense of belonging to the community, making residents less active in community governance.

2.2 Limited Participation

Residents' participation should cover politics, economy, society, culture and so on. But according to the author's research results, L community is still dominated by recreational activities. Through the literature survey, the author finds that at present, residents' participation is mainly carried out in some general areas, and seldom involves the formal management activities in political sense [4].

2.3 Varying Levels of Participation

First of all, the degree of participation among the governance bodies is different. The government still occupies an important position in the pluralistic community governance. In practical activities, only neighborhood committees and community party organizations can really play a role in residents' participation, other social organizations can

not achieve the desired results [5]. Secondly, the different degree of residents' internal participation. In recent years, the cross-regional economy has developed vigorously, and the phenomenon of cross-regional mobility between people has become more and more frequent [6], giving rise to a large number of mixed communities, which makes the residents in the communities do not know each other, lack a sense of responsibility and belonging to the communities, and there are fewer, less and different levels of participation by residents.

2.4 Heavy Participation in Administration

Wang Lin and Qi Guosheng point out that the reason why residents participate less is that community affairs are mainly managed by neighborhood committees and sub-district offices [7]. Residents' committees should have been self-governing organizations at the grass-roots level, but at present, the community management pattern of "one thousand lines above, one needle below" has not really changed. The misunderstanding of some government officials on the concept of community autonomy, residents' lack of awareness of political participation and their habit of seeking government assistance have made residents' committees still have a distinct administrative color [8]. In fact, they have become the grass-roots organizations of the government, managing many affairs that should be in the charge of residents and community organizations, and a serious functional dislocation has occurred.

3 Countermeasures and Suggestions for Promoting Residents' Participation in Community Governance

3.1 Internal Governance Bodies

Community governance mainly includes government, citizens and social organizations. We should transform government functions, reduce burden for community empowerment and improve the governance ability of each subject.

3.1.1 Clarify the Positioning of Government Functions

First, we must clarify the positioning of government functions, clarify the relationship between government and society. The first is to clarify the important status of residents, and the second is to transform to a service-oriented government, giving more powers to communities, residents and social organizations and improving social governance. Second, to reduce the burden of community empowerment, stimulate residents to participate in vitality [9]. On the basis of meeting the needs of residents, we should provide more public services, encourage residents to participate, and cultivate residents to form the habit of self-management.

3.1.2 Motivate Citizens to Participate

Hou Jing and Zhou Lingang pointed out that enhancing residents' sense of identity, belonging and responsibility can effectively improve residents' participation in the community [10]. Therefore, we must first stimulate the residents to participate in awareness,

improve the enthusiasm for participation. While carrying out ideological education, we can also carry out sports games, interesting games and other interactive activities to make residents familiar with each other, break strange interval, and cultivate residents' enthusiasm for participation. Finally, to cultivate a sense of community belonging, to create a new era of community acquaintances [11]. Emphasis should be laid on the cultivation of residents' sense of responsibility and belonging. Communities should implement emotional governance and interact with residents from an emotional perspective [12]. For example, various activities such as solicitude and sympathy activities for the elderly living alone, theatrical performances, and neighborhood mutual-aid groups will be held. Through direct, regular, and lasting face-to-face contact and interaction, a relatively close neighborhood relationship will be formed, and efforts will be made to create a community of acquaintances in the new era, so as to stimulate residents' enthusiasm for participation [13].

3.1.3 Improve the Governance Capacity of All Entities

Importance should be attached to the development of community social organizations to stimulate the vitality of non-governmental organizations. As an important subject of community governance, community social organizations are facing many problems, such as lack of funds, small scale, unclear positioning, low level of specialization, etc. [14]. The government can provide financial support for organizing activities by purchasing public services from social organizations or directly giving financial support, help residents to correctly understand social organizations through social publicity, improve the credibility of organizations and support the development of social organizations [15]. And the development of policies to improve the supervision system, to achieve organizational and management transparency. In addition, we should improve the professional level of community work force, improve the quality of community talents and improve the quality of community service by widening the talent selection channels and standardizing the performance evaluation management system [16].

3.2 External Guarantee Mechanism

In addition to improving from within the governance body, it is also important to seek help from external means. The support of information technology and policy guarantee can better meet the needs of residents' autonomy, at the same time, we should also attach importance to the leading role of party building.

3.2.1 Using Information Technology to Broaden Channels for Residents to Participate

In the "Internet Plus" era, network participation will become an important driving force for the development of community governance. The 14th Five-Year Plan points out that it is necessary to strengthen the intelligent and digital level of social governance. Some scholars point out that community governance should pay attention to the application of information means, use the Internet to open up new channels for residents to participate, and explore more diverse residents to participate [17]. Community residents'

committees can set up their own web portals to enable residents to keep abreast of community dynamics, provide more convenient and standardized channels for residents' participation, and better realize residents' self-management and self-service.

3.2.2 Improve System Guarantee and Provide Policy Support

First of all, we should clearly define the relationship between the rights and responsibilities from the policy perspective. We shall ensure that neighborhood committees become grass-roots autonomous organizations in a real sense, regulate the functions of neighborhood committees through legislation and other channels, so that all governance bodies can perform their respective duties and avoid the offside of neighborhood committees. Secondly, we should regulate the community marketization rules from the policy perspective. At the same time, it is necessary to restrain the behavior of NGO participating in community autonomy from the policy, to avoid the breeding of contradictions, to protect the interests of residents, and to improve the level of social services [18]. Finally, we should provide policy support for community governance from the policy perspective. We shall, by improving the mechanism of "three-cooperatives linkage" and the government's purchase of public services, etc., meet the needs of residents' autonomy, actively carry out the construction of harmonious urban communities, and accelerate the establishment of a standard system of community autonomy. In addition, Zhou Lingang also believes that the governance market can be fostered by improving social capital introduction system [19].

3.2.3 Pay Attention to the Guidance of Party Building and Give Play to the Role of Community Party Organizations

As of 2017, 100,602 communities in China had established Party organizations. So the new model of self-government led by party building has a strong organizational foundation. We should place leadership of community-level Party organizations at the core, promote community-level development through developing community-level Party building, and create a new path for community-level Party building to lead social governance [20]. We should focus on improving the organizational strength of community party organizations, innovate the governance model under the leadership of party organization secretaries, give play to the exemplary leading role of community party members, and mobilize residents to participate in the initiative. At the same time, with the help of the special status of the Party organization, it builds a communication platform for the various subjects of social governance, harmonizes the relations between the subjects, and meets the diverse needs of community autonomy.

4 Conclusions

At present, the 14th Five-year Plan continues to emphasize the need to strengthen and innovate social governance, reflecting the high importance our Party and country attach to grassroots social governance. At the same time, the background of the new normal also sets higher requirements for residents' participation. By using the theory of collaborative governance, this paper concludes that there are still many problems in the

practice of residents' participation, such as poor awareness of participation, limited type of participation, and administrative color of participation.

Acknowledgments. Thank you.

References

1. Fang Jing, 2007, Research on Non-profit Organizations in Urban Communities under Governance Theory, Thesis, Shandong University, 11–12.
2. Zhu Fenhua, Chen Liqiang, 2010, Citizen Participation in Community Governance. *Journal of Heilongjiang Institute of Education*, 29(01): 7–10.
3. Liu Shaojie, 2009, Marginalization of Urban Community Construction in China under the New Situation. *Gansu Social Science*, 2009(01): 11–14.
4. Zhang Yunwu, Yang Yulin, 2009, Empirical Study on Political Participation of Urban Residents and Its Influencing Factors. *Journal of Inner Mongolia University*, 41(04): 36–41.
5. Fan Qiong, 2008, Study on Urban Neighborhood Committee Autonomy, thesis, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, 23–24.
6. Liao Liming, 2018, Problems and Countermeasures in Urban Community Governance under the New Normal, thesis, Central China Normal University, 110–130.
7. Wang Lin, Qi Guosheng, 2008, Thinking on Enhancing the Public Service Capacity of Local Governments. *Theoretical Exploration*, 2008(04): 128–130.
8. Chen Tianxiang, Yang Ting, 2011, Urban Community Governance: Role Loss and Its Root Causes - Take H City for example. *Journal of Renmin University of China*, 25(03): 129–137.
9. Yan Huijuan, Chen Rongzhuo, 2019, Power Reshaping and Functional Reconstruction: 40 Years of Community Structure Adjustment in China. *Urban Governance Study*, 4(01): 56–65.
10. Hou Jing, Li Ge, 2017, Advantageous Resources for Urban Elderly Community Participation: Taking Beijing A Community as an Example. *Social Governance*, 2017(02): 117–124.
11. Xu Bowen, 2019, Research on Community Education and Community Governance in the New Era: Based on Needs Theory Perspective. *Journal of Shenyang Institute of Engineering*, 15(02): 161–166.
12. Zhang Yan, Cao Hailin, 2021, Intrinsic Mechanism and Practice Path of Community Governance Community Construction. *Zhongzhou Journal*, 2021(11): 64–69.
13. Li Qin, 2012, Introduction to Sociology, Shandong People's Publishing House, Shandong, 225–229.
14. Yang Xiaojing, 2020, Research on the Development of Community Social Organizations from the Perspective of Social Governance Theory. *Yangtze River Series*, 2020(01): 78.
15. Lang Xiaobo, Yu Yunfeng, 2011, Participation of Social Organizations in Public Services: Organizational Advantages and Path Selection. *Journal of the Party School of Hangzhou Municipal Committee of the Communist Party of China*, 2011(05): 50–54.
16. Zhang Zaisheng, Niu Xiaodong, 2015, Mechanism and Model of Grassroots Social Governance in China. *Public Administration and Policy Review*, 4(01): 7–13.
17. He Jixin, Li Yuanle, 2016, Analysis of Precision Supply of Urban Community Public Service under the Background of Internet Plus. *Guangzhou University Journal*, 15(08): 64–68.
18. Li Youme, 2007, Community Governance: Micro Foundation of Civil Society. *Society*, 2007(02): 159–169.

19. Zhou Lingang, 2008, Analysis of Constraints on Residents' Participation in Community Governance: Based on a Questionnaire Survey of District A, Shenzhen. *Fujian Forum*, 2008(12): 138–141.
20. Wang Deqi, Lin Xiaoli, He Junyan, 2020, “Party Construction Blockchain”: New Path of Urban Community Governance. *Journal of Urban Studies*, 41(06): 64–68.

Open Access This chapter is licensed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>), which permits any noncommercial use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons license and indicate if changes were made.

The images or other third party material in this chapter are included in the chapter's Creative Commons license, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the chapter's Creative Commons license and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder.

