

Original Research Article

A study on the county-level CPPCC participation in grassroots governance

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Abstract: The Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (hereinafter called CPPCC) is an important part of the national governance system. Social co-governance requires the joint participation of multiple entities in governance, and a new pattern of social governance of co-governance and sharing is constructed. Continuously improving the ability of the CPPCC to perform its duties is an important way to promote the realization of Chinese-style modernization. To construct and improve the model of joint governance of urban and rural communities, it is necessary to adhere to the rule of law and give full play to the exclusive functions of the county-level CPPCC in consultative democracy.

Keywords: County-level CPPCC; Grassroots; governance; Deliberative democracy

It is necessary to adapt to the requirements of comprehensively deepening reforms, vigorously promote the ability to perform duties with reform thinking, innovative ideas, and pragmatic measures, and strive to play a greater role in promoting the modernization of the national governance system and governance capacity.^[1] In the process of building a pluralistic governance model, actively playing the role of county-level CPPCC and promoting the innovation of grassroots community governance is an important path to promote the continuous modernization of our national governance system and governance capacity.

1. Practical exploration of county-level CPPCC participation in grassroots governance

At present, the county-level CPPCC is mainly involved in the following aspects in the governance of urban and rural communities.

1.1. Promote grassroots democracy and good governance through grassroots consultations

Most of social affairs of governance take place at the grassroots, in urban or rural communities. County-level governance is at the forefront of promoting the modernization of grassroots governance. At grassroots level, there is a situation in which the number of united front targets is large, the composition is new, and the structure is mixed. To promote the shift of the focus of social governance to the grassroots and create a social governance pattern of co-construction, co-governance and sharing, it is increasingly necessary for the county-level CPPCC to have extensive consultation, participation, cooperation and supervision. The county-level CPPCC can play an important role in participating in social governance.^[2]

Grassroots consultation and community governance are essentially the same. The practice of the CPPCC at the county level in various localities is manifested in the efforts to build a brand of periodic regular consultations on the basis of various regular meetings and consultations, and to carry out various consultation activities on the implementation and implementation of national policies, law-related and litigation-related petitions, and the implementation of the Xueliang Project. Some of them have achieved the effect of opening the door to discuss politics by inviting the masses to observe the CPPCC meeting; Some carried out activities such as "discussing social conditions, talking about people's livelihood, and seeking development" and soliciting "100-word golden

ideas”; Some invite elites and professional experts from all walks of life to “consult and negotiate”, reach a consensus through effective communication, and solve problems through consultation.

1.2. Create a grassroots extension platform to smooth the interests of all parties

The mutual promotion and promotion of various connection platforms and social organizations objectively provides multifaceted conditions for various subjects to participate in joint governance.^[3] In the process of spontaneously connecting people from strangeness to familiarity and then to cooperation, a variety of public connection platforms such as residents’ deliberative bodies and community self-governing organizations have also been established to complete the consultation of common affairs among members of different communities. With the deepening of the reform of the economic system and the rapid development of the economy and society, the internal structure of the grassroots public sphere has shown diversified changes, and a collaborative mechanism characterized by pluralistic and multi-subject participation in governance has begun to emerge.^[4]

Many county-level cities have carried out activities for CPPCC members to go into communities, parks, and rural areas in the whole CPPCC system, and have organized all CPPCC members to participate in them, extending the tentacles of consultative democracy to communities, rural areas, and parks, so as to achieve an effective combination of serving the overall situation wholeheartedly and serving the masses with sincerity. Through the establishment of township (street) front CPPCC members’ studios, members’ activity groups, direct reporting points for information reflecting social conditions and public opinions, and platforms such as “having something to say to the members”, the channels for face-to-face communication between CPPCC members and the masses have been unblocked. Adopt online interviews and offline interviews and interactions with committee members; The activity group of the committee members was set up in the streets, which broadened the platform for mobile committee members to perform their duties; Carry out the chain of “one link ten, ten links hundred”, one member of the Standing Committee of the CPPCC to contact ten members, ten members to contact 100 people, and build a platform for close contact between CPPCC members and the grassroots masses.

1.3. Expand the influence of social governance through sectoral activities

The CPPCC sector is the most distinctive feature and the most prominent advantage of the CPPCC. The characteristics of the CPPCC sector are highly consistent with the goal of seeking the greatest common divisor in grassroots social governance, and they can work their own strengths and strengths. Some organizations went out of the venue, to the society, to the masses, to the township to carry out science and technology, culture, health, employment information “four to the countryside” activities; Some organize the masses to carry out activities of reading, speaking, and using history, to establish cultural self-confidence internally, and to gather positive energy for development externally. All of the above methods have greatly exerted the role of demonstration and guidance and radiation driving in the sector. Giving full play to the role of the CPPCC sector, promoting greater participation of the people and social organizations in the grassroots governance of urban and rural communities through consultative democracy, and alleviating the tension between grassroots governance units and civil society, has become a basic demand for the reform of urban grassroots governance.

1.4. Participate in social governance with grassroots Committee members as the main body

CPPCC members are important participants and practitioners of consultative democracy and grassroots social governance. By establishing a number of observation points on the environment for the development of

the private economy in enterprises, and organizing committee members to observe the service environment, market environment, government affairs environment, legal environment, and public opinion environment of enterprises, we can effectively supervise and standardize law enforcement and promote the development of the private economy. Organize CPPCC members to serve as “election observers” for the general election of village and community organizations, carry out consultation activities in complex villages where the election is re-elected, villages where it is difficult to select cadres, and villages where there are many remaining problems, and participate in grassroots democratic deliberations and democratic hearings. Focusing on poverty alleviation, water pollution prevention and control, special supervision by stationed members, unannounced visits without greeting, inspection supervision and committee member evaluation, grasp the “nerve endings” of social dynamics. All these methods are to give full consideration to the advantages of CPPCC members’ professionalism, professional familiarity, and close relations, so that CPPCC members can better connect with the masses and better solve problems for the masses at the grassroots level. Practice has proved that the participation of CPPCC organizations and CPPCC members in grassroots social governance has extended the tentacles of CPPCC consultations and enhanced the ability and level of the CPPCC’s united front work.

2. The practical dilemma of the county-level CPPCC participating in grassroots governance

With the continuous advancement of the modernization process of grassroots social governance, the CPPCC’s democratic participation in grassroots social governance is being carried out steadily and orderly and has achieved certain results. However, since deliberative democracy is still in its infancy in grassroots governance, the practical dilemma faced by grassroots CPPCC in the process of promoting consultative democracy is still very obvious.

2.1. The negotiation entity’s awareness of participation is insufficient and the negotiation capacity is weak

The insufficient participation of the subject of consultation and the weak awareness of democratic politics are important factors affecting the quality of consultation. A prerequisite for the good functioning of deliberative democracy is that the subject of consultation needs to have sufficient rationality and strong negotiation ability. In the process of governance, due to the high cost of public participation, the public’s enthusiasm for participating in deliberative democracy activities has decreased, and the citizens’ awareness of their own participation in political life is weak, and their way of thinking is still stuck in the traditional administrative model dominated by government management, believing that the main body and responsibility of governance are official and leadership matters and have nothing to do with the grassroots masses, so they are indifferent to whether they need to participate in the process of grassroots governance and consultation activities, and cannot meet the requirements of deliberative democracy.

2.2. Lack of guidance and incentive mechanisms for consultative democratic participation

If the participation consciousness and inner enthusiasm of community residents are the internal driving force for promoting deliberative democracy, then a good and perfect guidance and incentive mechanism is the external driving force that can promote community residents’ participation in deliberative democracy. Although the system of deliberative democracy is gradually gaining popularity in practice, there is still room for significant improvement in the quality of consultation.

In addition, when difficult problems are difficult to solve, consultation mode is initiated, and democratic consultation is abandoned for issues that can be resolved internally. It can be seen that it is precisely because of the lack of account opening, guidance mechanism and incentive mechanism that deliberative democracy lacks consciousness at the institutional level.

2.3. The advantages of the CPPCC sector are not fully exerted

Due to the small number of democratic parties in the CPPCC at the county level, there is no corresponding organizational structure and no standardized and unified work system for the CPPCC sector, and it is difficult to give full play to the advantages of the CPPCC sector. There are not enough platforms and carriers for studying the CPPCC's united front work; Due to the rapid development of the times, people devote most of their time to their own specific work, while ignoring their political rights as community members, coupled with the lack of an effective and perfect working mechanism for the county-level CPPCC, the advantages of the CPPCC sector are often easily overlooked, or although they are brought into play, it is difficult to give full play to them.

3. Counter-measures and reflections on giving play to the role of county-level CPPCC in grassroots governance

As a united front organization, the county-level CPPCC integrates the concept, organization and mechanism of the united front, and is in the forefront of promoting the modernization of grassroots governance.

3.1. Assume the CPPCC's national governance functions and missions

The newly revised CPPCC constitution clearly states that the CPPCC is an important part of the country's governance system. In a certain sense, this has given the CPPCC new functions. Townships and towns "should establish and improve a 'through train' system for CPPCC members to reflect the situation and make suggestions." It is necessary to adhere to the problem-orientation, study and formulate social governance work methods that are in line with the actual conditions of the county and township CPPCC, clarify the overall requirements, main principles and important measures for the county-level CPPCC to participate in national governance.

3.2. Promote the extension of CPPCC consultative democracy to the grassroots level

The proportion of community organizations and social forces integrated into community governance is gradually increasing. Through consultative democracy, we will lead all kinds of social organizations into the grassroots society and enable them to play the role of joint governance. On the basis of accelerating the promotion and development of social forces, we should promote the integration of social forces into the common governance of the grassroots society through the decentralization of social forces, and then promote the grassroots society to enter the common governance of the whole society, and form an effective governance model that combines social regulation and residents' autonomy.

3.3. Adjust and optimize the mechanism of the CPPCC sector

The CPPCC sector setting is an important carrier for many social entities to achieve communication and expression. Seize the opportunity of the reform of the CPPCC institutions, extend the tentacles of the CPPCC sector, rationally adjust the composition of the sector according to the changes in the current new situation, appropriately adjust the structure of various interest groups in the CPPCC, and absorb emerging social

forces and representatives from all walks of life into the CPPCC to the greatest extent.

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