

# The Study of Social Organizations Participating in Government Management

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**Abstract:** Although the government of our country emphasizes the importance of grass-roots social organizations' participation again and again, the actual participating percentage is not high, and the status of social organizations is not fully reflected. In view of the low efficiency of Chinese social organizations' participation in government governance, under the guidance of the theory of public management, this paper makes a brief analysis of the role of social organizations and the current situation of participating in government governance, and then analyzes some problems in the process of participation from current situation. This paper aims to analyze the current situation, problems and causes of social organizations' participation in government governance, and then puts forward countermeasures from the aspects of system, mechanism and internal organization so as to provide relevant suggestions for future research and solving the problem of low participation efficiency.

## 1. Introduction

In the late 1990s, with the advantages of flexibility, small scale and being able to effectively help the government deal with public affairs and reduce the cost of direct contact between the government and the public, social organizations ideally filled the gap in the field of governance brought by the lack of government capacity, developed rapidly in the short term and became an indispensable governance subject outside the government and the market. However, social organizations are affected by various factors, and there are some problems in the process of development. With the deepening of the government's "deregulation service" reform and the enhancement of public democratic consciousness, the role of social organizations in government governance will become more and more important.

## 2. The Role of Social Organization and the Significance of Participating in Government Governance

### 2.1 The Role of Social Organizations in Government Governance

#### 2.1.1 Social Organization is a Collaborator of Government Governance

The 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China emphasizes "giving full play to the synergy of various organizations at the grassroots level"; the Third Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China takes social organizations as a part of the reform of the party and state institutions, and social organizations become an important force for the party to take charge of the overall situation and coordinate all parties [1]. The spirit of these conferences shows that social organizations should act as partners of the government and provide advice for government governance with rich professional knowledge. That is, the government plays the role of macro-control, and entrusts the micro level management function to the social organizations or jointly.

#### 2.1.2 Social Organization is the Supervisor of Government Governance

The national nature of people's democratic dictatorship determines that the ultimate goal of government governance is to let the public enjoy more benefits, which requires specific groups to

exercise power--government officials. However, officials will not have any moral advantage because they are given more power, so it is necessary to supervise by other subjects. Tocqueville put forward the famous thought of “restricting power by society”, and pointed out that the multi society composed of various independent societies can form a social balance for power [2]. As the organization carrier of the public, social organizations can help the public to exercise supervision power, including supervising the government's decision-making process and supervising the government's response to the public.

### **2.1.3 Social Organization is the Communicator of Government Governance**

All kinds of social organizations participate in government affairs, become an important intermediary between the government and the public, help to eliminate the gap between them, help the government to disseminate policies, communicate intentions, and promote the implementation of policies while improving the image of the government. Social organizations collect the public's opinions, needs and other feedback to the government, at the same time, convey the government's decision-making and the realization of work objectives to the public, and improve the public's understanding of government work.

## **2.2 The Significance of Social Organizations Participating in Government Governance**

As the cooperators, supervisors and communicators of government governance, social organizations have the responsibility to participate in government governance and play a role in enhancing the objectivity, impartiality and legitimacy of government governance. Only by accepting the existence of social organizations and providing favorable conditions for social organizations to participate in government governance can the government be easily welcomed and supported by the public. What's more, social organizations provide value standards for government governance from the public, and measure the merits and demerits of government governance by the degree of public satisfaction. Secondly, social organizations provide efficiency guarantee for government governance, and bring government governance, especially management process and effect, into the scope of social supervision, so that those who engage in formalism and fraud have been rectified. In this way, the government must improve the way of governance, so as to promote the development of public management.

## **3. The Status Quo of China's Social Organizations Participating in Government Governance**

### **3.1 Overview of Social Organizations Participating in Government Governance**

According to the 2019 China Social Organization report, by the end of 2018, there are 816000 social organizations in China, an increase of 54000 over 2017, including various welfare institutions, intermediaries, hospitals, schools, etc. these social organizations not only play an important role in China's social, political and cultural life, but also penetrate into many areas of government governance and improve the basic life of residents. A lot of work has been done in terms of conditions, poverty alleviation and ecological environment protection. At the end of 2018, there were 29391 grassroots mass autonomous organizations in Zhejiang Province and 55298 social organizations in Zhejiang Province. A considerable number of social organizations directly or indirectly participated in social management and assisted the government in handling public affairs. It can be seen from these situations that the government has recognized the necessity and importance of social organizations participating in government governance, and has made bold attempts: first, the main body of governance has become diversified, and the governance power is gradually controlled by a single administrative department to the three-party mutual trust and cooperation system of the government, citizens and social groups, and social organizations are encouraged to actively participate in government governance. Second, the government has strengthened the support for the development of social organizations through the transformation of functions and the development of theme education activities, so that the responsibility of social organizations participating in government governance can be demonstrated and fulfilled, providing

a platform for social organizations to participate in management. However, although the government has created many opportunities for social organizations, the practical work of social organizations' participation in government governance in China is still under exploration. Neither a complete set of participation mechanism nor clear laws are formed to guarantee and regulate the participation of social organizations in the whole process.

### **3.2 Problems and Causes of Social Organizations Participating in Government Governance**

#### **3.2.1 Over Reliance on Government**

Government governance is usually initiated and prepared by government departments. The content and methods of work are controlled by government departments. The participation of social organizations is often temporarily entrusted by the government. Secondly, due to the limited scale of social organizations and the single source of funds, we have to rely on government subsidies. In the process of participating in public affairs, it is inevitable to rely on the eye of the government departments, and the independence of social organizations is difficult to guarantee. This is mainly because the participation of social organizations comes from the entrustment of the government, and the resources needed in practice are mainly from the government, or largely controlled by the government, which greatly weakens the independence of social organizations in the management work and reduces the actual participation. The government leading mode is still deeply affecting the participation of social organizations in government governance.

#### **3.2.2 The Style of Taking the Form Prevails**

In government governance, social organizations participate in the form of Representatives. Although the state has repeatedly stressed the importance of social organizations in government governance, and social organizations have the right to speak when they participate, the final decision is made by government departments. After social organizations only sing praises for the decision-making of government departments, they do not actually participate in government governance. Therefore, this kind of participation only takes the form of decorating the "Facade" of democracy. The reason for this problem is that the participation ability of social organizations is limited. The real development of social organizations in China began in the 1990s. Many members of social organizations are aging in age and knowledge structure, not updated in time, and do not have the quality to participate in governance. In this way, if social organizations continue to work in a conservative way, they will be eliminated by the society in the future. In many cases, the participation of social organizations in government governance has become a document of survival.

#### **3.2.3 Lack of System and Regulation Guarantee**

In reality, the participation of social organizations in government governance is very arbitrary. There is neither scientific administrative regulations as guidance, nor clear legal provisions and rules and regulations as backing. Government departments have real power, and social organizations lack rules and regulations to protect their right to participate, so the role of social organizations can not be guaranteed for a long time. In addition, the demand preference of the public and the change of the management environment are changing rapidly, which leads to the lack of rules for social organizations to follow. An important reason for the lack of legal system guarantee is that although the constitution of our country points out the basic path for social organizations to participate in government governance, it has not yet made detailed provisions, and there is no corresponding national norms or legal provisions to provide environmental support [3]. Secondly, the current laws and regulations are not perfect, and the focus is still on how to standardize the registration of social organizations in accordance with the law and strengthen the management of names, such as the regulations on the administration of registration of social organizations. Finally, there is no formal legal document, lack of certain scientific and institutional, which leads to the lack of scientific guidance when social organizations participate, and affects the correctness of the direction and form of participation of social organizations.

## **4. Getting out of the Dilemma: Countermeasures to Expand the Participation of Social Organizations in Government Governance**

### **4.1 Bring the Participation of Social Organizations in Government Governance into the Track of Legalization**

According to the scholar Salamon, like the government and market mechanism, NPOs have inherent defects, that is, voluntary failure [4]. From the micro point of view, social organizations are likely to be irrational in the process of participation. The establishment of scientific laws and regulations can prevent social organizations from acting on their own, seeking private interests and damaging the friendly cooperation with government departments, so as to guide the participation of social organizations to develop along the track of legalization. Therefore, the government should promptly introduce laws and regulations on the participation of social organizations in government governance, and guarantee the orderly participation of social organizations in government governance in the form of law. First of all, laws and regulations on the protection and management of social organizations should be promulgated to clarify the forms, ways and scope of social organizations' participation in government governance. Secondly, we will introduce preferential policies for social organizations to participate in government governance, mainly including professional assistance policies, temporary entrustment management policies, administrative licensing policies and tax preferential policies, so as to improve the enthusiasm of social organizations to participate. In particular, the formulation of preferential tax policies can encourage social organizations to voluntarily participate in the process of government governance. To promote the orderly participation of social organizations through fair laws and regulations is an important measure of government public management.

### **4.2 Establish a Communication and Interaction Mechanism between the Government and Social Organizations**

In the process of mutual communication, we should cultivate the trust between the government and social organizations, and promote social organizations to participate in government governance voluntarily and autonomously. From the perspective of the government, the government should make room for social organizations to perform their duties by streamlining administration and delegating power, strengthen the management and cultivation of social organizations, and improve the comprehensive quality and service awareness of social organizations [5]. Specifically: first, the government departments will implement the slogan of building an open, transparent and sunny government, make government affairs open and information sharing, fully protect the right to know, participate and express of social organizations and even the public, and make more social organizations voluntarily participate in the government governance process; second, expand the information disclosure channels and enrich the information disclosure content, in addition to information through the Internet In addition, press conferences, consultation meetings and information symposiums and demonstration meetings attended by experts, social organizations and the public should be held regularly to understand public opinion and open government information in various forms. From the perspective of social organizations, social organizations should devote themselves to government governance, actively report the public's opinion needs to the government, and convey the government's major policies, principles and meeting spirit to the public, so as to play a good role as a bridge and link; on the basis of this kind of positive interaction, we should deepen trust and build an effective communication and cooperation mechanism.

### **4.3 Help Social Organizations to Strengthen Their Own Constructions**

To actively promote the participation of social organizations in government governance, it is urgent to improve the ability of social organizations to carry out independent management, self-management and service. First, we need to ensure our independence and raise our awareness of independent participation. The high-level positions of social organizations shall not be held concurrently by the leaders of government departments, and the government departments and their staff members shall be firmly prevented from obtaining any improper benefits from the work of

social organizations. Second, strengthen the sense of professional service and give full play to their professionalism [6]. Social organizations should strengthen their sense of service, improve their sense of participation and service ability, and gradually establish the service tenet of “what the people need, we will participate in what kind of management work”. Third, strengthen the self-discipline function and improve the social public reliability. Social organizations should strive to build an independent management, self-management and self-restraint organization system. Whether the internal construction of social organizations is sound or not, and whether the staff are fair or not directly affect the image of social organizations in the public mind. Fourth, strengthen the construction of talent team. On the one hand, it is necessary to establish and improve the system of linking wages and benefits, labor security and training and promotion of organization members, promote the professionalization of social organization members, attract more professional talents, continuously provide fresh blood for social organizations and the government, and improve the service level. On the other hand, we should speed up the construction of talent training and vocational training system, and actively explore the talent training system combining college education and technical training.

## 5. Conclusion

With the rapid development of social politics and economy and the diversification of government governance subjects, the practice of social organizations participating in government governance has proved that the participation of social organizations in government governance is conducive to improving government image, social public satisfaction and stability of political and social relations. It is necessary to ensure the full play of the main role of social organizations, solve the problems that affect the effective participation of social organizations in government governance from aspects of laws and regulations, interaction mechanism and internal construction of organizations, and create a good environment for the participation process of social organizations.

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