Research on Social Governance Innovation
During Social Transformation Period

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Key words: Social Governance; Social Equity; Social Relation; Social Governance Innovation.

Abstract. Social governance is not limited to governance function of government; instead, it also includes governance of other subjects and the society itself. Innovation is the unexhausted driving power for prosperity and development of a country as well as the soul of national advancement. In innovation of various levels of a country, social governance innovation is especially important and urgent. In particular, China is at a social transformation period which is an important period of strategic opportunity and golden period of development as well as a period of social risks with prominent social conflicts. Therefore, social governance innovation is imperative and research on it is imminent. The essence of social governance is analyzed in the paper from the dimensions of social equity, social relations and social risks with the purpose to find and dissolve various social conflicts and destabilizing factors and maintain social stability, thus to establish the effectiveness of social governance.

Introduction
With continuous social and economic development, China is faced with more and more public issues, so the government is faced with increasingly great pressure for governance. Presently China is in a period of transformation. In the past the key and difficult points of social governance were in economic field, and now it starts to transfer to social fields. Through years’ development, China’s economy has maintained rapid growth all along and market economy order has been continuously perfected, but at the same time, more and more complicated social issues start to emerge such as unbalanced development, environmental pollution and social equity. The county is faced with an increasingly severe situation of stability maintenance.

By social governance innovation is means formation of the situation with joint governance of government, enterprises and social organizations to bring the function of social forces into play in a better manner. As a socialist country with unique characteristics, China has its own situation, with government still playing a leading role in social governance.

Theoretical Basis of Social Governance

Connotation of Social Governance
Social governance mainly refers to the process of organization, coordination, supervision and control of components of social system, different fields of social life and different parts of social development by government and the society so as to promote harmonious operation of the social system. Therefore, the connotation of social governance covers six fields, namely, social organizations, social undertakings, social work, social security, social order and social issues. Social governance in such fields is essentially promoting the formation of a civil society.

Therefore, the purpose of social governance, continuously developed with economic development, is to promote social fairness and equity, prevent extension of social issues avoid social turbulence.

Subjects of Social Governance
As a new political analysis framework, social governance theory makes analysis from the
perspective of governance subject and emphasizes “three-department” cooperative governance. In other words, the subject shall be joint subject consisting of government as primary department, market as secondary department and social organizations as tertiary department. The three subjects are separate from each other while dependent on each other.

**Government.** Whether for traditional social administration or innovative social governance, government is definitely a subject as an organizational system with administrative power pursuant to law as well as a public agency of power offering public goods. In the process of social governance, government unitary system gradually transforms to multi-subject system, while changes and development of the society proposes new requirements for government. Some traditional functions are weakened while new functions emerge continuously.

**Market.** On the Third Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China it was proposed “to make market play a decisive role in resource allocation” and market is an agency of private powers offering personal articles. The emphasis is strengthening the social governance capacity of market and perfecting the social governance responsibility of market. At the same time, government must delegate powers consciously, reduce its intervention in resource allocation and coordinate market in playing its role.

**Social organizations.** In traditional social administration social organizations are passively administered, while in social governance, social organizations are one of the governance subject and private organizations offering public goods, playing a role in numerous fields of social governance. Social organizations have become an important part of social governance system as a third power for resource allocation in addition to government and enterprises.

**Functions of Social Governance**

Social governance is governance and service for people. First of all, social governance plays a role of redistribution of social wealth and it shall insist people orientation; especially the mechanism maintaining public interests led by the party and government must be enhanced and perfected. In this sense social governance is actually a process of providing social public service function. Secondly, social governance has the function of promoting benign social operation. It shall harmonize social relations and enhance governance of source of social conflicts based on the precondition of fairness and equity, promoting the formation of stable and harmonious social order by making social rules, thus to realize effectiveness of social governance. And finally, social governance has the function of avoiding social risks. It is to strengthen institutions innovation centered on order to realize high efficiency and goodness of social governance.

**Essence and Significance of Social Governance Innovation**

The tenet of social governance innovation is constructing a harmonious society. It is to secure social equity and realize harmonious social development through social governance by promoting social governance in such aspects as lawful administration. Strengthening and innovation of social governance should be centered on maintaining social order with social development as the background. Social governance shall be improved to adapt to the demand for changes of the age and promote harmonious economic and social development, thus to improve public participation in social governance.

**Promoting social equity is the precondition and basis of social governance innovation**

Equity reflects the idea and standard of value of the people to pursue the reasonableness of interest relationship, especially distribution relationship from moral and legal perspectives. It contains the people’s appeal for reasonable social order, social standard and interest layout. Social equity is not only a kind of value orientation in social development and advancement, but also a specific scope with actual requirements in different fields of the society. Social equity is not limited to reasonable distribution of wealth; it also includes equal political rights, social status, public service and social welfare for citizens.
Harmonizing social relations is the essential requirement of social governance innovation

Social governance is governance and service for people. Interpersonal, inter-group and individual-group linkage effect formed in the process of governance is social relation, the change of which causes changes in social structure. Among all the elements constituting social governance, interest relationship is the essence of social relation.

Avoiding social risks is a control means of social governance innovation

Social risks are extendable and can go beyond the limitation of geographic boundary and culture, causing severe consequences. Therefore, in terms of method to avoid social risks, it is required to establish new mechanism to deal with risks by improving modern thinking ability. Social risks include natural risk, economic risk, political risk and cultural risk.

The subject of social governance innovation lies in public participation

The process of social governance is the process of whole-process public participation. Public participation has become a non-negligible force for promoting high-efficiency completion of social governance. The age of information has sped up the pace of civil participation, with various modernized means of dissemination satisfying the demand of people of different classes and preferences. They may freely choose the information dissemination media suitable for them. In particular, the development of internet provides a favorable condition and broader space for civil participation.

Therefore, the significance of social governance innovation lies in overall implementation of the spirit of the Third Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, fully playing the decisive role of market and functions of government in resource allocation, and correctly handling the relationship of government with market and society. It has a fundamental function.

Inclusive Governance of Social Governance Innovation

Institutional innovation will be centered on stabilizing order

Social order refers to the state of existence with relatively stable and harmonious social life. In complicated social system, whether such official systems as written guidelines, policies, laws, rules and regulations, or unofficial systems such as customs, habits and morality existing as cultural tradition, or social lifestyle on different levels of life, is continuously extended through culture inheritance. The core is understanding and establishment of social order.

Reconstruction of social disorder lies in system standardization

Society is a system of certain criteria of action and standardized order. Rapid differentiation of social class structure leads to interest diversification and conflict, social order transforms from “two classes and one order” before the reform and opening up to a multivariate and complicated order structure, and the interest situation is subject to great changes. Rapid large-scale social mobility increases the difficulty of government administration. Social reconstruction is required to inhibit social disorder so as to establish a society in parallel with government and market.

Social governance innovation requires integration of order and mechanism

Innovation of social governance requires the establishment of a government delegating powers, which will not go without the coordination and integration of order mechanism. On the one hand, it is to perfect longitudinal order mechanism integration of social governance. Under such a reasonable governance structure and framework, the authoritative and leading function of government is emphasized. And on the other hand, it is to perfect transversal order mechanism integration of social governance, or opening order mechanism integration of social governance centered on government with participation of multivariate subjects. Its basis is a multi-center governance structure and it relies on fostering of social organizations and public wakefulness, reflected as a kind of opening harmonious integration.
Effective Approach to Improving Social Governance Innovation

Reflection of multi-subject nature of social governance innovation

Government is the principal subject of social governance, but it doesn’t mean that government is the only subject of social governance. Participation of various social powers shall be encouraged and supported so as to play the role of social powers in a better way and realize diversification of subject of social governance. Therefore, social governance of social public affairs must be carried out relying on market mechanism, nongovernmental organizations and the public to establish the social governance situation led by government with social cooperation and public participation.

Strengthen social governance innovation, promote effective integration of social resources

Social integration is a kind of social cohesive force in nature, which not only exists among individuals and groups of direct communication, but such an intangible social power also exists among strangers. All the members, unexceptionally, are led and controlled by such a power so that the effectiveness of social governance is improved.

Foster multivariate social organizations

Social organizations are a part of nongovernmental organizations, a bridge and tie between government and the public as well as one of the major channels for public participation in social governance. Hence, participation of social organizations not only broadens the channels of public participation and improves the capacity of public autonomy, but it may also evaluate and supervise government’s behaviors of social governance, thus to realize benign interaction among the three parties. In a word, fostering multivariate social organizations is a critical and indispensable part of social governance.

Conclusion

To sum up, social governance innovation is a systematic project with rich connotation and special rules of operation, which penetrates each field of social life. Social governance is particularly complicated and special in the present period of transformation. Realizing the essence of social governance innovation, promoting social equity, harmonizing social relations and avoiding social risks are essential requirements of supply side reform for social governance innovation presently. Institutional innovation centered on order stability is the fundamental security and goal to realize effectiveness of social governance.

References


