

# *Research on "Three-Governance" Model from the Perspective of Rural Revitalization*

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**Abstract:** The "Three-Governance" system benefits our pursuits of improving and perfecting rural governance. This paper is focus on the connotation, objective and path of the "Three-Governance" model in the context of rural revitalization. It attempts to energize rural vitality through "self-governance", preserve rural order by "governance by law", and promote rural uprightiness in virtue of "rule of virtue". In the meantime, it suggests upholding the principle of co-construction, co-governance and sharing, persisting in the value standpoint of "people-centered", and combine self-governance, rule of law, and rule of virtue to prosper rural industries and build a livable, civilized, well-governed, and well-off rural society.

## 1. Introduction

Well-equipped grassroots lead to a powerful country. Report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China further specified the task of improving the basic works at the grassroots level in rural areas and perfecting the three-governance system, sparing focus from its "rural revitalization strategy" proposition. In the new era, building a "three-governance" system is a telling response to the fresh situation and contradictions in grassroots governance, advances the past single governance mode, and a valuable attempt in landing the national governance and modernizing the the governance capacity to the grassroots.

## 2. Connotation

### 2.1. "Self-governance" energizes rural vitality

Well-governed villages build a safe and sound nation. Building prosperous, livable, civilized, well-governed, well-off and beautiful villages caters to the general guidance of the rural revitalization strategy. The grass-roots mass self-governance system opens a window for people at the grassroots level to manage, educate, serve, and supervise themselves. Self-governance a legal way for the rural masses to engage in rural governance through democratic election, decision-making, management and supervision through the grass-roots self-governance system. Participation is the primary source of satisfaction—with public affairs and the personal role. Public participation in rural governance therefore is constructive for the grassroots political democracy building in the new era. It is also a process of education that enables every participant to learn "civic morality" and

social responsibility, and get a better grasp of public policies, thereby facilitating the implementation of decisions. Such participation, however, reduced, weakening the self-governance, as numerous young and robust laborers go out to work. In this regard, it is of great significance optimizing the "self-governance" to "co-governance" through calling upon other participants in addition to local residents, so as to shifting the pure government supervision to social collaborative governance, perfecting the governance system of social coordination, public participation, and legal protection, and creating a social governance pattern of co-construction, co-governance and sharing.

## **2.2. "Rule of law" preserves rural order**

"Law, the dawn of governance". The rule of law provides major support for the national governance system and capacity, and assumes roles of leading, regulating and safeguarding in social governance. It refers to binding villagers by means of laws and regulations, and village rules to stabilize rural society and keep it orderly. To answer the call of preserving rural order through the "rule of law" as worshiped in the new era, efforts must be doubled in guiding villagers to respect, study, and abide by the law, strengthen their awareness of law enforcement, enhance their legal literacy, form the rule of law thinking, and dissect and address disputes legally. Local rules, the general term for the self-governance jointly established and abided by all local residents, make a difference in transforming outmoded habits and customs. Rural governance ran by the endogenous authority by the traditional acquaintance society with strong homogeneity and weak mobility has fallen into a history. In the context of rule by law in all rounds, the countryside is still a weak link in the national legal construction and shows a felt demand for "practicing the law", affected by factors such as education, publicity, and population structure. In the new era, the rule of law should be conducted in a popular and well-accepted manner by the public, thereby launching legal popularization and further strengthening the public awareness. In the meantime, it should assign "a specific police assistant to each village" and also "a special legal adviser" as a base to publicize the importance of the legal construction on site, popularize legal knowledge, equip the masses with legal concept, settle conflicts and disputes legally, and wipe out social security problems turning to the law.

## **2.3. "Rule by virtue" upholds rural uprightness**

"A country cannot prosper without virtue, so does a person." Traditional Chinese rural society is not only a naturally formed village community, but an emotional and moral social community and a community of shared destiny. Morality works through public opinion, traditional customs and inner beliefs. It is precisely under the guidance of the correct concept of good and evil that rural morality regulates the behavior of local residents, coordinates their interpersonal relationships, and maintains the harmony and order of the rural society. The law is written morality, and morality is the inner law. Both the rule of virtue and of law are important ways to coordinate interpersonal relationships, regulate people's thoughts and behaviors, and maintain social harmony and order. In terms of transforming outdated customs such as sky-high wedding gifts, weddings and funerals, and human-relationship comparisons in rural areas, it is necessary to give full play to the guiding role of the core socialist values, and to change customs as an important breakthrough in creating a civilized rural style and realizing rural morality. We must vigorously advocate the new social fashion of being diligent and persistent, show the charm of the core socialist values in guiding the people to stay upright, promote the local culture of mutual help, enhance the sense of moral identity, and consciously resist the erosion of the concept of self-interest.

### 3. Objective

Given the rural revitalization strategy, the "three governance" system should aim at "effective governance". The rural self-governance system is the grass-roots democratic political system in China. In practice, it emphasizes the form construction and value pursuit of grassroots democracy, which weakens the effectiveness of rural governance. In the new era, the main social contradictions in China have changed, when the public need for a better life has become more prominent. Report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China made "effective governance" one of the goals of rural revitalization. The rural governance has changed from "management democracy" to "effective governance", that is, the efficiency and performance of rural governance have been significantly improved, and a harmonious and orderly rural governance has been achieved.

The Fourth Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China emphasized the importance of modernizing the national governance system and capacity. The rural governance system is an important part of the national governance system, and it is also a practice field for realizing the modernization of grass-roots governance. An effective rural governance has fundamental, strategic and overall significance for realizing the modernization of the national governance system and governance capacity. In the new era, effective governance is the proper meaning of rural revitalization, and rural governance should get rid of the fragmented, sporty, and single governance model. The spiritual core of the system of "three governance", which combines the self-governance, rule of law, and rule of virtue, is to enhance rural vitality with autonomy, ensure rural order with rule of law, promote rural integrity with rule of morality, and achieve economic benefits, political efficiency, and service satisfaction taking four elements of social development as evaluation indicators, so as to streamlining the grassroots governance, advancing production development, and building a happy and beautiful countryside!

### 4. Path

On the basis of the theory of cooperative governance, the system of "three governance" should adhere to the main principles of diversification of governance subjects, complex governance methods, and the people's nature of governance values, and form a governance frame where all subjects effectively participate in multiple governance, that diversifies the governance methods and enhances the well-being of rural people.

#### 4.1. Diversify governance subjects: adhere to the co-construction, co-governance and sharing

To better the ability and level of rural governance, it should adhere to the value concept of co-construction, co-governance and sharing, and output a rural governance community where everyone is responsible and granted with certain power. Simply put, we must mobilize the masses, social organizations, and social forces to join rural governance, so as to enable a benign interaction between government governance, social adjustment, and the self-governance of the village, and shape a rural governance pattern of co-construction, co-governance and sharing. Furthermore, it should empower rural governance turning to digitization, that is, guiding villagers to participate in the management of public affairs, improve the democratic and scientific nature of decision-making, and enhance villagers' understanding and support for public policies in virtue of technologies.

Diversification of governance subjects requires activating the enthusiasm of "self-governance, rule of law, and rule of virtue". These three have constituted the core force for coordinating the authority of national jurisprudence and of rural etiquette and customs. Progress should be made in innovating the realization form of rural self-governance, and giving play to its main role. It should

carry out diverse legal knowledge publicity to improve rural people's legal awareness, form legal thinking, and effectively settle grassroots conflicts and disputes in collaboration with "rural sages" who know both local norms and national laws. Besides, it should encourage local residents to be conscious adherents, staunch defenders, and loyal advocates of the rule of law through the self-held "popularizing the law into the community", "mobile court", "moot court" and other methods, thereby shaping a law-abiding atmosphere. While the rule of virtue lays its emphasis on mobilizing rural elites with noble morals and outstanding abilities to participate in rural governance, so as to respond to the demands of the villagers through consultation and dialogue, and build a social governance pattern of co-construction, co-governance and sharing.

#### **4.2. Integrate governance approaches: persist in integrating self-governance, rule of law, and rule of virtue**

The compound governance method lies in lifting the self-government by means of multiple governance methods, that is, supplementing the self-governance, rule of law, and rule of virtue with each other. They are quite different. Self-governance energizes rural vitality. The rule of law preserves rural order, and the other, rule of virtue, upholds rural uprightness. The rule of law shines on forcefully punishing the anomie behavior of governance subjects. However, conflicts and disputes that generally face the difficulty to access to the judicial process in rural areas make it impossible to be addressed through judicial process. Meanwhile, the rule of virtue widely adjusts the rural social order with the power of moral inspiration, but fails to impose mandatory constraint. That hastens the need for the rigid constraints of the law and the flexible governance of the virtue. While self-governance, the core of the rural governance system, performs its duty of empowering the people. It does not suggest granting unlimited rights. Instead, the key is to combine the laws and regulations with local culture to enhance rural governance, balance both of their roles, so as to enabling the self- and democratic management and streamlining rural governance.

#### **4.3. Humanize governance: stick to the "people-centered" position**

To strengthen and improve rural governance, we must adhere to the "people-centered" standpoint, list people's pursuits for a better life on the agenda of improving rural governance, spare no efforts to eliminate their troubles, concerns and worries, and build a better life, govern rural affairs and share fruits with them. The self-governance in rural areas must esteem the dominant position of people, acknowledge their pioneering spirit, and adhere to the mass line in the new era. Rules and regulations concerning village affairs must profoundly absorb public opinion, be tested taking their satisfaction as the fundamental criterion, and be filled with the mass line throughout the rural governance. The rule of law proposes to restrain subjects legally, guiding people's social behaviors according to legal principles and rules, dissect and handle problems, and settle disputes with legal thinking, thereby strengthen the authority of the rule of law in rural areas. While the rule of virtue creates a benign social atmosphere through functions of moral cognition, regulation and adjustment, and charts course for people's behaviors by means of imparting good and evil, honor and disgrace, obligation, and. In rural life, it defends fairness, justice, harmony and order through the power of public opinion in a society of acquaintances, the demonstration power of elites and capable brains, and the incentives by the government.

### **5. Discussion and Outlook**

Rural revitalization, a systematic project, not only stresses the economic development in rural areas, but highlights the rural governance system and modernization of governance capabilities.

Ground on probing into the connotation of the "three-governance" under the background of rural revitalization, this paper studied the feasible implementation, and expected to streamline rural governance and improve rural governance efficiency. Its core issue is to figure out how to modernize the rural governance system and governance capacity under varying social, political and cultural paths, driven by effective governance objectives, so as to institutionally backing the rural revitalization strategy. On the course of a new journey, rural governance should fulfill its duty to give the appropriate needs firmly meting, continuously improving the modernization level of rural governance capabilities, and aid the landing of rural revitalization strategy.

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