

The Path to Effective Governance of “X” Village from the Perspective of Rural Revitalization

Dangli Zhao*

Qinghai University, Xining 810000, Qinghai Province, China

*Corresponding author: Dangli Zhao, 2856296375@qq.com

Abstract: Rural governance is described as a continuous improvement of internal self-management in rural areas as well as the proper resolution of rural development issues. This article believes that effective rural governance must be achieved. Persist in the initial combination of autonomy, the legal system and the “three governance” system of the rule of virtue, and promote the complete and effective advancement of the rural social governance system. Continuously improve the level of spiritual civilization in rural areas through effective rural governance, and strive to promote rural revitalization.

Keywords: Effective rural governance; Combination of the three governances; Rural revitalization

Publication date: June 2021; **Online publication:** June 30, 2021

1. Introduction

Rural governance mainly promotes the development of local economy and society through the integration of rule of virtue, rule of law and autonomy. The implementation of the rural revitalization strategy is an inevitable requirement for resolving the main social challenges of China in this new era, achieving both “centenary” goals and the Chinese dream of the great transformation of the Chinese nation. It is of great practical significance and extensive historical significance.

2. The Status Quo of “X” Village in B County, C Province

“X” Village is located in the northwest of B County. There are 400 households in the village, including 60 poor households. The village has a total area of 216km², including 185km² of cultivated land. The village has a relatively large population of Han people, among which minority populations such as Hui, Tu and Mongolian. This article takes “X” village as an example to analyze in detail, the path of effective village governance.

2.1. Health status of villagers in “X” village

The author visited more than a dozen poor households in the village and found that they have a common feature that 70% of single men have varying degrees of depression. Most of them have been unmarried or divorced due to poor family and personal conditions. At the same time, there are more villagers suffering from chronic diseases in this village. Therefore, the “X” village committee adopts the method of family doctors and the corresponding national policies to encourage and support them to join the public medical system. If the policy is implemented, the effect must be investigated. During the interview, many villagers said that the public medical system pays for their health, especially for those who encounter major diseases. Some party’s bear most of the medical expenses, and the author is very grateful for the party’s

policy.

2.2. “X” village becomes hollow village

With the development of the industrial economy, many young people in “X” village choose to go out to work, mainly in B Province. Only a few villagers work in developed coastal areas. Most of them work as catering waiters, store attendants, and construction workers. The higher proportion of household income are migrant workers. According to reports, a village couple who are migrant workers generally earn 2500-6000 yuan a month. The elderly and children are left at home doing farm work. The elderly parents rent out part or all of their land. Their income is relatively insufficient, but they essentially meet the conditions of two to three commitments. When asked what they expect for their children who are going out to work, an elderly person replied, “It is good for them to be safe outside.” There are about 187 elderly and children in the whole village, so the hollowing phenomenon in the village is more serious.

2.3. “X” village cadre-group relationship

During the interview, when asked whether the water supply, electrical network and children’s schooling in the village have improved compared to before 2013, many villagers said that these have been improved a lot. They can drink tap water, walk on hardened roads, and have electricity. There is normal water and electricity supply, the internet is cheaper, and children’s schooling is more convenient than before, also the state provides some subsidies. However, the village still suffers from seasonal water cuts. Tap water can only be consumed in spring, summer and autumn. In winter, because C Province is located in a high-altitude area, the cold weather will freeze the water pipes. At this time, farmers can only go to nearby places like mountain spring water. This situation has been put forward many times by the village leaders, and the village cadres are perfunctory by saying that they are preparing to repair and immediately start work, which causes the villagers’ dissatisfaction with the village cadre’ inaction. When interviewing a farmer and asked if she felt that the village cadres did things fairly, she said, “It’s not fair at all. Wang’s family is very rich because they are the relatives of the village cadres, but they are judged as poor households.” There are several poor families in the village, and their family condition is not good. The author went to the village committee to reason together, but still they refused to appraise the poor households.

3. Problems in the Village

Prosperity in the village leads to prosperity in the country, and decline in the village leads to decline in the country. The characteristics of China in the primary stage of socialism for a long time was also based on the village to a large extent. Chen Xiwen pointed out that the current outstanding problems of rural governance are reflected in the type, function, and work of the township governments^[1]. However, with the rapid development of urban and rural economy, China’s rural areas are facing many new problems that need to be solved in a timely manner.

3.1. The system made it difficult for villagers’ autonomous organizations to operate effectively

At this stage, with the continuous expansion of the dual structure of urban and rural areas, villagers’ autonomous organizations are facing a lack of governance talents and a hollowed-out state of village affairs management^[2]. After investigating “X” village on the spot, it was discovered that because some constitutional cadres did not engage in economic development in accordance with the actual situation, the phenomenon of only focusing on the form and neglecting the implementation became more prominent, posing a barrier to the villagers’ self-government organization’s efficient operation.

On March 22, 2019, a total of 9 poor households and 6 middle-classed households were surveyed in “X” village. Among them, there was a villager from a middle-classed household named Xiaofu. There

were 6 people in his family. Among them, his wife and aunt were deaf and dumb. The parents were elderly and critically ill, also the son is in kindergarten. His family's household income is generally low, with 30 cows

in the family, and essentially farming 6 acres of land. He was seriously affected in 2014, which is equivalent to raising 5 people by himself. During the interview, it was found that the stove in other people's home was hot during the day, while the stove in his home was icy, which coincided with a small snowy day. Asked him why he didn't use the stove, he said, "the stove was used only at night, which can save a little money." Although the family was in difficulty, but did not evaluate as a poor household. Later, the author asked the first secretary of the village regarding Xiaofu's family and he said, "when the poor households were evaluated, his family was in a middle-classed condition." He added that, "some households had sudden major illnesses which were more in line with the evaluation. We are now discussing the criteria for poor households, and we can only give an answer after discussing it according to the conditions of Xiaofu (village cadres)." At the time of writing this article, the Xiaofu contacted with the village secretary but never got a response from him, and finally nothing came of it.

3.2. Difficulties in microfinance loans for rural households

When the author visited a poor household in the village and asked Jin Shuping, a poor villager what difficulties he had, he said, "A few years ago, he wanted to build a larger breeding farm by himself, but he didn't have the funds to expand the scale of breeding, and he didn't get a loan from the bank. At the same time, his younger brother and elder brother were also single, so if they want family members to help with the loan, it won't work. Asked if they went to the village committee to ask the reason? He said, "the village cadre responded that he was a bachelor, and the bank did not give loans." Jin Shuping believes that the new agricultural business entities have a large demand for loans from financial institutions, and their own production conditions, national loan policies and lack of collateral have become the main reasons for not obtaining loans ^[3]. When the author visited the other two counties, he found that bachelors were not able to obtain loans. It was not a single case, but a common phenomenon. Problems occurred, which needed to be solved.

3.3. Lack of the rule of virtue

When the author visited the village, he asked about the additional income of the family. The village interviewed 7 poor households and 3 general households. They found common problems. Married sons or daughters rarely buy clothes or clothes for their parents during the holidays. For Chinese New Year celebration to receive red envelopes, only 30% of children come to visit their parents during the holidays. The relationship between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law in this village is very inharmonious, often noisy, son is filial but not in charge, the relationship between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law is deadlocked, and half of the 10 households have a poor relationship between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law. In addition to this, it was discovered that the neighbors of the village were not in harmony. One household had been working outside the village for many years. At that time, the village was building a sewer. His house was located at the end of the village. The sewer repairing stopped in front of his house, and he often went home. The response with the village committee was of no use. When the wastewater from the villager's house ran to the wall of the villager's house in front, he was verbally abused and even beaten by the neighbors.

3.4. Hollowing is serious problem, where young talents are lost

During the visit, it was found that most of the elderly and children were the only ones staying in the village for a long time, young people went out to work, leaving behind the elderly and children with no long-term care. The elderly and children had different stages of problems, with the development of the industrial economy, young people left their hometowns to work outside, the village was less capable of providing opportunities. The head of the village is an old man with elementary school education. It is

mainly because

his brothers in the family have rich financial resources to be selected. Young people with relatively high education level almost find it difficult to come back after going out. The main reason is that there are more job opportunities outside, as the income is relatively high. Second, the author feels that working in other industries is relatively decent compared to agriculture. In this way, there has been more loss of young people in rural areas.

4. Measures for Rural Governance

To achieve effective rural governance, we must strengthen the basic work of rural constitutional and improve the rural governance system that combines autonomy, rule of law, and rule of morality.

4.1. Strengthening the construction of autonomy

Based on the mechanism of modern rural constitutional democracy in China, Xiao Lihui once proposed to fully respect the laws of constitutional democracy innovation and continue to promote the steady and healthy development of constitutional democracy in response to the problems encountered in the selection of poor households by village cadres ^[4]. These are ways to overcome those issues, conduct a democratic election, have a democratic decision-making session, have a democratic management and have a democratic supervision. Simultaneously, we must cultivate and strengthen the rule of law, as well as strengthen the legal thinking abilities of rural constitutional cadres. Improve villagers' autonomy and guiding villagers to act in line with the law, by standardizing the behavior of rural constitutional cadres and organizations.

4.2. Reducing loan restrictions to promote economic growth

During the visit, it was found that the farming and agricultural industries in the village were small and some farmers were unable to expand their scale due to single incomes and without loans. To achieve the growth of rural society, Xuefeng, a villager urged rebuilding the rural governance structure through the distribution of resources to the village. How to overcome the problem? ^[5]. Therefore, banks should first reduce the restrictions on loans for poor farmers, and provide decentralization of capital resources to farmers. The small amount of microcredit loans does not necessitate the declaration of a bankruptcies. If bachelors have the potential to become rich, the restrictions can be reduced accordingly.

4.3. Strengthen the rule of law and promote the revitalization of talents

Currently, the mentioned problem to achieving rural governance is a lack of talent. Measures should be adapted to the local conditions in order to solve this problem. To begin, select a capable party branch secretary, then rebuild a powerful team of the village party's backbone members to attract the talents to return. Encourage constitutional entrepreneurs, migrant workers, college students, and others to take an active role in rural development and governance. Continuously strengthen rural governance competence and establish a modern rural social governance system.

4.4. Persist in taking the rule of morality as the guide to achieve the soul of rural governance

The soul of rural governance is the rule of virtue, and it is also a major support for a successful rural governance system. To begin, emphasize value guidance and behavioral norms, as well as the development of new rural cultures. Second, raise the farmers' awareness of their own subjective involvement. Finally, emphasize the importance of role models and demonstrations. We must pay attention to publicizing morality through rural role models and spread positive energy.

Disclosure statement

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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