

Research on Grassroots Community Governance Paths from the Perspective of Marxist View of People's Livelihood

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Abstract: The theoretical system of Marxism always places the safeguarding and improvement of people's livelihood at its core, profoundly revealing the fundamental purpose of social development. This theoretical perspective provides important ideological guidance for us to examine the current practice of grassroots community governance. As the basic unit of the national governance system, grassroots communities shoulder important responsibilities in serving residents, resolving conflicts and maintaining social stability. Their governance effectiveness profoundly affects people's sense of gain, happiness and security. This paper mainly analyzes the prominent problems existing in current grassroots community governance, explores the internal compatibility between the Marxist view of people's livelihood and grassroots community governance, and puts forward targeted governance paths.

Keywords: Marxist View of People's Livelihood; Grassroots Community Governance; Problems; Compatibility; Paths

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Against the backdrop of profound changes in the social structure of contemporary China, how to effectively elevate the level of community governance and earnestly respond to and meet residents' diverse and high-quality livelihood demands has become a fundamental issue in advancing the modernization of national governance. The Marxist view of people's livelihood emphasizes that the ultimate goal of human social development is to realize human freedom, and that safeguarding and improving people's livelihood is an essential requirement of socialist society. This theory provides fundamental ideological guidance and value criteria for reviewing and optimizing grassroots community governance.

1. Problems in the Current Grassroots Community Governance

1.1 Single Governance Subject and Insufficient Mass Participation

A prominent dilemma in the practice of grassroots community governance lies in the relatively single structure of governance subjects, which fails to effectively absorb the collaborative participation of diverse social forces. To a large extent, this situation results from the obvious inadequacy in the depth and breadth of public participation in community public affairs. Specifically, the leading force in the daily operation and decision-making of community governance is mostly concentrated in community administrative organizations. As the true masters of the community, residents lack smooth participation channels, and their enthusiasm for participation has not been fully stimulated or institutionally guaranteed^[1].

1.2 Lack of Refined Livelihood Services and Mismatch between Supply and Demand

At present, grassroots communities are obviously deficient in the refinement of livelihood service supply. To be specific, the design and provision of services cannot accurately match residents' diverse and dynamic actual needs. In resource allocation and service arrangement, communities generally adopt extensive management modes, lacking in-depth investigation and analysis of residents' demographic structure, living conditions and potential demands. This leads to repetition and idleness of some supplied services and resources, while other scarce and crucial service resources are in short supply or even absent^[2].

1.3 Fragmented Governance Resources and Weak Conflict Resolution Capacity

In the actual operation of grassroots community governance, governance resources including human resources, authority, information and service channels are scattered among multiple entities such as sub-district offices, community neighborhood committees, grid administrators, property management companies and various social

organizations, without an effective integration mechanism and unified scheduling platform. Such fragmentation results in ambiguous responsible parties when handling residents' appeals and disputes, easily giving rise to mutual buck-passing and poor connection. Poor information sharing among departments and at all levels makes it impossible to timely and fully perceive early signs and hidden conflicts in the community, making it difficult to formulate systematic early warning and intervention plans^[3].

2. Internal Compatibility between Marxist View of People's Livelihood and Grassroots Community Governance

The grassroots level is not only a geographical concept, but also a hierarchical concept of national governance. Grassroots community governance refers to the activities of providing livelihood security, public services, interest coordination and conflict mediation, as well as building a safe, harmonious and comfortable living environment for community residents under the leadership of the Communist Party of China by mobilizing multiple forces including the government.

The Marxist view of people's livelihood profoundly clarifies the fundamental stance and practical path for improving people's lives. Its core essence is to take the people's aspiration for a better life as the starting point and ultimate goal of all work, and emphasizes that the ultimate purpose of development is to realize the free and all-round development of human beings. This ideological system inherently requires social construction to focus on solving the people's most concerned, direct and realistic interest issues.

Correspondingly, as the basic link of the national governance system, the fundamental task of grassroots community governance is to serve residents directly, and effectively respond to and meet their multi-level and diversified needs in daily life, public services, environmental improvement, security guarantee and spiritual culture. The two share profound isomorphism in value pursuit: both firmly prioritize the protection and improvement of people's livelihood and commit to safeguarding and realizing the fundamental interests of the overwhelming majority of the people^[4].

3. Governance Paths of Grassroots Communities from the Perspective of Marxist View of People's Livelihood

3.1 Uphold the People's Principal Position and Construct a Diversified Collaborative Governance System

Under the guidance of the Marxist view of people's livelihood, the key to strengthening grassroots community governance is to deeply understand and practice the fundamental principle of putting people first. The theory holds that the people are the subject of history and the decisive force driving social progress. Only by safeguarding people's rights to subsistence and development can society achieve greater progress and harmony.

As the basic unit of society, community governance must be oriented to people's needs. Therefore, community workers should take the initiative to unite multiple forces to build an open, inclusive and efficient collaborative governance platform. In practice, community Party organizations should not only play a core leading role and coordinate the daily operation of community neighborhood committees as statutory autonomous organizations, but also actively absorb extensive social resources, such as university youth volunteer groups, resident enterprises and public institutions, professional social service agencies and community activists^[5].

For instance, some communities have established the Community Governance Joint Council system, regularly inviting resident representatives, property companies and social work organizations to discuss community affairs. The system not only integrates service resources and governance wisdom, but also responds to residents' specific demands in elderly care, environmental improvement and conflict mediation. Such a governance structure featuring equal participation and collaboration of multiple subjects embodies the people's subjectivity advocated by the Marxist view of people's livelihood at the grassroots level, making service supply more closely aligned with people's real life^[6].

In addition, attaching great importance to meeting people's basic material needs (clothing, food, housing and

transportation) as well as spiritual and cultural demands, the Marxist view of people's livelihood requires grassroots community governance to translate these needs into concrete service projects and work arrangements. In practice, communities can integrate resources to build community elderly service stations integrating day care and health consultation, or set up cultural and sports interest classes and parent-child activity rooms according to residents' wishes to enrich community cultural life. These measures strive to translate the theoretical proposition of upholding the people's principal position and ensuring people's livelihood into tangible improvements in residents' daily life. Through solid practice at the grassroots level, the theoretical guidance of the Marxist view of people's livelihood is closely linked with the vital interests of the general public, forming dynamic exploration of grassroots governance and laying a solid foundation for the harmony and stability of communities and the whole society^[7].

3.2 Cater to Practical Livelihood Needs and Promote Targeted Supply of Community Services

The Marxist view of people's livelihood always takes meeting the people's growing needs for a better life as its core value pursuit, stressing the continuous guarantee and improvement of people's livelihood amid social development. It reveals that the practical basis of improving people's livelihood lies in accurately grasping realistic needs, with the ultimate goal of realizing common prosperity and all-round development for all people.

As the foundation of governance, the effectiveness of community services depends directly on the accurate and detailed understanding of residents' diverse demands. Community workers must abandon the previous extensive and uniform service mode. Relying on refined grid management, grid administrators can conduct regular household visits and face-to-face communication with residents. The investigation covers all aspects of daily life, with special attention to the urgent needs of the elderly for medical care, day care and spiritual consolation, as well as the difficulties of dual-income families in after-school care and tutoring for minors.

For example, after thorough investigation, an old residential community found that elderly residents, especially the aged and living alone, faced difficulties in dining. It then coordinated resources to launch a community canteen with customized meals based on the elderly's health conditions. Another community launched After-school Classroom in cooperation with local educational institutions to provide safe care and homework tutoring for children, addressing the pain point of young parents working late. Such demand-oriented services are typical examples of targeted service supply^[8].

Based on detailed investigation data, communities shall scientifically analyze residents' composition, including age structure, family types (empty-nest elderly, multi-child families, single-parent families), health status and economic level, so as to classify, sort out and prioritize people's needs and identify the most urgent livelihood issues. Through scientific evaluation, communities can rationally allocate limited public service resources, manpower and materials. For example, prioritizing activity spaces for the most needed childcare and elderly services, precisely allocating assistance funds to vulnerable groups, and introducing professional resources such as doctors, lawyers and psychological counselors to where they are most needed.

This realistic, targeted and result-oriented path of community service supply fully embodies the essential requirement of the Marxist view of people's livelihood: development for the people, by the people and with the people sharing the fruits. It constantly clarifies the fundamental direction of improving grassroots governance efficiency and highlights the institutional advantages of socialism in meeting people's daily needs.

3.3 Coordinate and Integrate Governance Resources to Consolidate the Foundation of Grassroots Livelihood Security

Classical Marxist theory emphasizes that satisfying the people's growing material and cultural needs is the purpose of socialist production, and it is imperative to solve practical problems closely related to people's vital interests. This ideology requires governance practice to always adhere to a people-centered approach and allocate resources accurately and efficiently to areas in greatest need.

As the frontline for collecting public opinions and catering to public demands, communities undertake the

important responsibility of serving the people directly. To consolidate the foundation of livelihood security, communities should act as a hub to absorb professional services from social organizations, introduce intellectual resources and youthful vitality from ideological and political practice teaching in universities, and organize local volunteer forces. Community workers can integrate multiple subjects, activate tangible assets such as community venues and facilities, and gather service resources covering elderly care, medical consultation, conflict mediation, legal aid and convenient maintenance^[9].

For example, in a community practice, the sub-district coordinated the functional integration of idle activity rooms and community day care centers. Meanwhile, it invited teachers and students majoring in social work from universities to deliver regular mental health lectures, and organized retired medical workers in the community to participate voluntarily in health monitoring, greatly improving the life convenience and spiritual care of the elderly.

Community cadres should accurately identify residents' urgent practical needs guided by the core proposition of focusing on real demands in Marxist livelihood thought, especially common problems such as insufficient elderly care, neighborhood conflicts and inconvenient government services for residents, and carry out resource integration and allocation accordingly. The key is to break the fragmented administrative structure and isolated "governance islands" of disconnected resources, so as to form a coordinated and rapid response support network integrating elderly care, dispute mediation and various convenient services.

Notably, the inherent educational advantages of university ideological and political education can inject strong momentum into grassroots governance. Community Party organizations can establish stable cooperation with Schools of Marxism and related departments in universities, encouraging young students to participate in community practice in a planned way. Young students can not only apply professional theories to deliver accessible policy lectures on people's livelihood issues such as common prosperity, social security and fairness and justice, enhancing residents' understanding and recognition of the Party's lines and policies, but also take part in community environmental improvement, elderly and disabled care, after-school tutoring for teenagers and community cultural activities. Essentially, this practices the Marxist principle of integrating theory with practice, extending governance resources and service forces to the grassroots and delivering services to residents' doorsteps.

4. Conclusion

In summary, the proposition of all-round human development contained in the Marxist view of people's livelihood provides fundamental guidelines for the innovation of grassroots community governance. By upholding the people's principal position to build a diversified collaborative governance system, catering to practical livelihood needs to realize targeted community service supply, and coordinating and integrating governance resources to consolidate grassroots livelihood security, communities can evolve into living communities that satisfy material demands and realize social values, injecting new impetus into the grassroots governance system with Chinese characteristics.

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