

# *The background, practice path and countermeasure suggestion of "five social organizations linkage"*

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**Abstract:** With the diversification of the main body of social governance, after the "three-society linkage" helps the grass-roots governance, there are "four-society linkage" and "five-society linkage". The report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China proposed to build a social governance pattern of co-construction, co-governance and shared benefits, and the grass-roots practice of "five social communities" is to build a "community" of social governance. This paper starts from the background of the "five-social linkage", analyzes its connotation logic, practice path and existing problems, and puts forward countermeasures and suggestions for the "five-social linkage" governance model to promote the modernization of community governance system and governance capacity.

## **1. Background: The re-innovation of the governance model of the "three-social linkage"**

Since the founding of New China, China's community development has experienced three stages: community service, community construction and community governance. The concepts of these three stages were put forward in 1987, 1991 and 2013 respectively. In 2013, the Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee made a strategic deployment of "innovating the social governance system", emphasizing that various forces in society are also the subjects of social governance, rather than just complementary forces cooperating with the government's work <sup>[1]</sup>. In 2017, the Opinions of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and The State Council on Strengthening and Improving Urban and Rural Community Governance proposed to further promote the "three-social linkage" of communities, social organizations and social work. In fact, the "three-social linkage" originated in Shanghai in 2004, which refers to the interconnection and interaction of social workers and social organizations on the platform of community. After that, the governance model of "three-society linkage" was carried out in practice in many places, and the governance model of "four-society linkage" and "five-society linkage" gradually emerged in the practice process.

According to CNKI, there are a total of 671 research articles on the "three-society linkage" as the main theme, published since 2005; As the main theme of the study, there are 23 articles, published from the earliest in 2014; A total of 83 studies on "the linkage of the five social organizations" as the main theme were published as early as 2012. After analyzing the previous research literature, it is found that there are a few different terms for "three societies" and "four societies", but usually

"three societies" refers to communities, social workers and social organizations, "four societies" add community volunteers on the basis of "three societies", and "five societies" add community charity resources on the basis of "four societies". In short, the proposal of the governance model of "five cooperatives linkage" stems from the re-innovation of the governance model of "three cooperatives linkage", which enriches the connotation and extension of "community" and also reflects the diversification of community governance subjects.

## **2. The practical path and realistic dilemma of "five social organizations working together"**

### **2.1. Practice path of "Linkage of five social organizations"**

"Five-social linkage" is an innovation and development of the existing "three-social linkage" mechanism, and a new service mechanism of "five-social linkage" based on the community as a platform, social organizations as a carrier, social workers as a support, community volunteer service team as a support, and social charity resources as a boost <sup>[2]</sup>.

Hubei, Inner Mongolia, Zhejiang, Hebei and other provinces and regions have issued relevant policy documents to promote the "five-social linkage" governance model: In order to ease the pain left by the epidemic in Wuhan, since May 2020, Hubei Provincial Department of Civil Affairs, with the support of the Ministry of Civil Affairs, has carried out the "Five-social interaction" project, cultivating more than 450 community social organizations, developing more than 8,400 community volunteers, and benefiting 1,568 million people from a series of psychological counseling services <sup>[3]</sup>. In May 2021, the Inner Mongolia Department of Civil Affairs issued the Notice on the Declaration of the 2021 "Five-social Linkage" social work service pilot project, launched the implementation of the "five-social linkage" social work service pilot project, and took the "five-social linkage" pilot project as the starting point to boost the construction of social work stations in townships (streets) in Soum, and guided by pilot and demonstration. To cultivate typical experiences and practices for comprehensively promoting the construction of social work stations during the "14th Five-Year Plan" period. In September 2021, the Zhejiang Provincial Department of Civil Affairs issued the Action Plan for Promoting the High-quality Development of Civil Affairs and Building a Demonstration Area of Common Prosperity (2021-2025), which mentioned the need to innovate the "five social linkage" mechanism between communities and social organizations, social workers, community volunteers, and social charity resources. We will work hard to build a community-level governance community in which everyone has responsibilities, responsibilities and benefits. In October 2021, the Hebei Provincial Civil Affairs Department, the Provincial Party Committee Organization Department, and the Provincial Political and Legal Committee issued the Opinions on Innovating the "Five Social Linkage" mechanism and Promoting the Modernization of grassroots governance System and governance Capacity, proposing that by the end of the "14th Five-Year Plan", Hebei will basically build a provincial social work service system based on township (street) social workstations. Urban community hub social organizations have achieved full coverage, and the province has basically formed a new grass-roots social governance mechanism of "five cooperatives linkage" with coordinated integration, orderly operation, and strong guarantee.

There are also many provinces and autonomous regions have been pilot practice, exploring a new model of grass-roots governance. From "flourishing" to "multi-point flowering", the exploration and practice of "five-social linkage" in various places has achieved a series of results and has been responded to at the policy level. In July 2021, "Improving the incentive policy for social forces to participate in grassroots governance, and innovating the linkage mechanism between communities and social organizations, social workers, community volunteers, and social charity resources" was written into the Opinions of the CPC Central Committee and The State Council on Strengthening the modernization of grassroots governance System and governance

capacity "[4].

## **2.2. Cause analysis of realistic dilemma**

Li Yingsheng, a well-known expert in the national social work industry, believes that the linkage mechanism of the five social organizations is a mechanism innovation that ADAPTS to the change of government management mode from management to governance and good governance. "Good governance" is a social management process that maximizes public interests, and its essential feature is the cooperative management of public life between the government and citizens, which is the best state of both. This kind of "cooperation" is "linkage", and there are some problems in the current linkage environment, coverage, mechanism, efficiency and so on.

### **2.2.1. There is a large gap in the level of community governance and unbalanced development**

At present, the gap between urban and rural community governance level is large, and the community development between different regions is unbalanced. First, there is a large gap in the conditions and resources for the development of local communities. Mainly reflected in the financial security, infrastructure construction, talent conditions, information application ability is different; Second, the professional level of social work in China is in the stage of development. Different from the development path of practice before education of western social work, the development time of social work in China is not long, and the development of social work takes an "education first" road; Third, the construction of social work personnel needs to be strengthened. Although the National Social Workers professional level examination has gone through 15 years, the professional degree of the social work talent team is still not high.

### **2.2.2. The development of social organizations is restricted by institutional environment**

The report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China pointed out that we should strengthen the construction of the community governance system, promote the focus of social governance to move down to the grassroots, give play to the role of social organizations, and achieve positive interaction between government governance, social adjustment, and residents' autonomy. However, the development of social organizations is restricted by institutional environment. First, social organizations are not professional enough. The state has issued policies to support the growth and development of social organizations, introduced social organizations to participate in community governance through the government's purchase of services, encouraged communities to cultivate and incubate community social organizations, and lowered the threshold for registration and filing of community social organizations. However, the overall professionalism of social organizations needs to be improved in practical activities. The second is the lack of "self-hematopoietic" function of social organization. There are many social organizations with limited financial resources, relatively low salaries, and a general lack of professional personnel. Third, it is difficult to cultivate community social organizations. Community social organization refers to the spontaneous civil organizations organized by community organizations or individuals individually or jointly within the community (town, street), carry out activities within the community, and meet the different needs of community residents. At present, the cultivation of community social organizations is still in the stage of exploration and innovation. A social worker said, "There are requirements for cultivating the number of community social organizations, but it is not so easy to cultivate, and many of the cultivated ones are mere forms and have not played much effect." Fourth, the homogenization of community social organizations is serious. The social organizations in the community are more positioned to serve the people, less to reflect the demands and regulate the behavior of the community residents, more cultural and sports services and convenience services,

and less to maintain stability and rights protection services.

### **2.2.3. The construction of community volunteer team lacks normal management**

According to the requirements of the document, the community has a volunteer service station to facilitate the organization of volunteer services. But in reality, on the one hand, the implementation of the volunteer registration system is not in place. Many communities do not strictly implement the volunteer registration system, do not establish a ledger for volunteers who participate in community service, register for assessment requirements, and register for the number of standards, ignore daily management, and there are obvious deficiencies in finding community residents who have service intentions to join the volunteer team to participate in activities, and often participate in community volunteer services are old faces. At the same time, it is necessary to establish the volunteer points system and exchange system to expand the community volunteer team. On the other hand, the management of volunteers is lacking. How to help the community construction and maximize the benefits of volunteers, it is necessary to combine the strengths of volunteers, classify volunteers on the basis of establishing a volunteer service ledger, and carry out various forms of volunteer service activities, so that community volunteers have the opportunity to participate in community service. At the same time, the management of volunteer service is implemented, and the effective service time is recorded.

### **2.2.4. The community consciousness of pluralistic governance subjects is not strong**

Translated from the English word "community", it refers to a community formed by a group of connected people living and working in a specific area. According to the governance concept of "co-governance, co-construction and sharing", the main body of community governance tends to be diversified, but the community consciousness of community governance is not strong. First, the enthusiasm of community residents to participate in community affairs is not high, mainly retirees, fewer young people. Second, under the influence of traditional ideas, community residents are used to reporting problems to the neighborhood committee or the grass-roots government, and their trust and understanding of social organizations are not enough. Third, more efforts should be made to coordinate the multi-participation of the community, such as the need to carry out more activities to improve the participation of residents; community should provide site support, policy guidance and work guidance for the development of community social organizations; Stimulate the endogenous voluntary motivation, attract community volunteers, guide the substantive transformation of voluntary activities from "you do it" to "I do it", cultivate the spirit of autonomy, mobilize the enthusiasm of residents to participate in community public services.

## **3. Countermeasures and suggestions of the governance model of "five social organizations"**

### **3.1. Government support and community leadership provide policy guarantee and guidance and coordination for the practice of "five-social linkage"**

The government supports to provide policy guarantee for the practice of "five-social linkage", and in this process, it is necessary to grasp the scale of government intervention and stimulate the grassroots Innovation vitality. First, we should increase financial input. The government should standardize project management, actively expand the channels of capital investment, and comprehensively use various means such as tax and fee reduction, fund guidance, cultivation and incubation, talent support, spiritual rewards, and co-construction to attract a wide range of social capital investment. We will strengthen oversight of the whole process and performance management, and make good use of all types of civil administration funds. At the same time, the

government should increase the funds for purchasing social work services, and encourage and support professional social organizations to participate in social governance. Second, we will strengthen legal safeguards. Dynamically adjust and gradually improve relevant laws and regulations on the development of social organizations, the construction of social work talents, and charitable undertakings, and strictly regulate and control the conduct of social organizations in the entire social service practice through supervision and management mechanisms, punishment mechanisms for dishonesty, and credit systems of social organizations; Third, we will innovate the operation mechanism of the "five social organizations working together". The government should establish and improve the construction of social workstations in towns and townships (streets), strengthen the staffing and the security of places and facilities, increase financial support at all levels for the long-term operation of social workstations, social organization public welfare projects and charitable undertakings, and give full play to the advantages of "five social cooperation" in various regions.

Community leadership defines the community as the leader and coordinator in the main body of the "five social interaction" action. In community governance, in addition to the "five social linkage" theory, there is also the "troika", which refers to the community, property, and industry committees, and the logic of "co-governance, co-construction and sharing" is consistent, that is, forming a joint force to solve existing problems. Among the diverse governance bodies of communities, the party organizations in the community are the leaders and should play a leading role in party building, the community neighborhood committees are the coordinators, and social workers are the executors to strengthen the leadership of grassroots party organizations, the autonomy of community neighborhood committees, and the full participation rights of social workers.

### **3.2. Professional support, technical enhancement, to provide the talent base and wisdom means for the practice of "five social linkage"**

Talent is the first resource, no matter how well the system is designed and the platform is built, it ultimately needs people to implement and complete it. The enrichment and improvement of the team of social workers not only means better services for the service objects, but also promotes the linkage and optimization of the community, social organizations, community volunteers and social charity resources, so as to cooperate with each other. Each subject jointly serve the grassroots governance<sup>[5]</sup>. Guan Xinping, executive vice president of the China Association of Social Work Education and professor of Nankai University, believes that it is necessary to establish a general professional social work system, realize the promotion from community workers to social workers, and establish a mechanism for division of labor and referral. At the same time, the government should further promote the professional construction of social organizations, so as to better demonstrate the professional service effectiveness of social organizations in the entire grassroots governance practice.

Digital empowers grassroots governance, gives play to the supporting role of information sharing platforms, and translates technical capabilities into governance effectiveness. To promote the "smart cerebellar" model and introduce information technologies such as the Internet of Things, big data, cloud computing, and artificial intelligence into the community, it is also necessary to take into account different application scenarios of daily governance and emergency governance, promote the construction of the integral incentive system through the digital cockpit, and provide a platform for consensus ideas and joint participation among multiple subjects; we should promote intelligent means, according to the actual situation of the community, integrate the derivative function modules of people's livelihood, community mutual assistance, grid management, neighborhood watch,



family doctor, etc., so that community governance can be upgraded to fast, accurate and effective digital governance; Find out the foundation, build a good database, and build a social management software system of connectivity and sharing according to the actual situation of the community, so as to realize the analysis and application of various types of data on the platform, improve the level of social management, and improve the ability to provide social services.

### **3.3. Project drive, resource link, to provide activity carrier and social resources for the practice of "five social linkage"**

In previous community studies, some scholars have summarized the overall content of community planning as "three bodies" : First, the "hardware" of the community, that is, the tangible construction in the community, which refers to the geographical environment, natural situation, transportation, market, school, hospital, park and other public facilities and buildings of the community; The second is the "software" of the community, which refers to the community's cultural traditions, historical origins, customs, cooperative spirit, values, beliefs, ideals, sentiments, knowledge, conventions and all other community norms and control forces; The third is the "toughness" of the community, which refers to the power structure and organizational relationship of the community, including public and private institutions in the community, formal and informal organizations of all walks of life, groups of people at all levels in the community, and the maintenance force among the above social organizations <sup>[6]</sup>. Combined with the "five social linkage", the "three-body" theory is also applicable, relying on the play of the role of the five social groups to improve and enhance the "hardware", "software" and "firmware" of the community.

It is necessary to take projects as the carrier, build linkage platforms, public interest venture capital, government purchase and other forms to drive residents to participate in improving the efficiency of grass-roots governance. It is necessary to integrate grass-roots resources, not only to move down the resources owned by the government, but also to introduce social resources, tap the power of grass-roots autonomy, and stimulate the vitality of grass-roots resources <sup>[7]</sup>. Compared with the "three-social linkage", the "five-social linkage" enriches the link of resources and has a broader basis for operation. First, the main body is more abundant, the availability of resources is stronger, and more human and resource energy is injected into community governance; The second is to change the single "blood transfusion" government supply, broaden the community funding path, reduce the shortage of government funds to the community construction constraints, and enhance the vitality and initiative of the community; Third, the community should cultivate the active force of community governance and enhance the capacity of community action <sup>[8]</sup>. On the one hand, community resources can tap into the internal strength of the community. On the other hand, they can introduce external resources, mobilize and coordinate social forces for joint management, form a diversified governance pattern, facilitate the construction of a "life community" suitable for living, working and traveling, and a "social complex" with efficient resource allocation in the "future community", and consolidate the foundation of a social governance community.

## **4. Conclusion**

In the practice of "five-social linkage", it is necessary to give full play to the professional advantages of social workers, become a bridge and an important driving force, promote the vigorous development of community social organizations, the expansion of the community volunteer team, the injection of community public welfare and charity resources, and finally promote the extensive participation of community residents, and promote the modernization of community governance capacity and governance level. This paper starts from the background of the

development of the governance model of "five social organizations", summarizes the practice path of "five social organizations", analyzes the realistic predicament of the governance model, and puts forward countermeasures and suggestions.

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