Plights and solutions for social organization participating in urban community governance—set jinxing social community as an example

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Abstract. As a new power in participating into urban community governance, social organization has its own advantages and characteristics such as eliminating negative factors in social development, meeting community residents’ various needs and improving people’s sense of happiness. The following passage sets Jinxing social community as a typical case, a National Top-ten Minority Unity and Progress Demonstration Community. Questionnaire survey, case studies and interviews are used to support the passage. The research sums up experiences and traits such as leadership and participation from members of the CPC, community autonomy, brands of community cultures and so on, explores plights and analyzes reasons in development. In the end it gives suggestions from perspective of government, social community and social organization for general mode for social organization participating in urban community governance.

It was held in the 4th Plenary Session of the 19th Party Congress that, social organization should be valued and work at full capacity in the benign interaction among government governance, social regulation and resident autonomy in order to build a new pattern for basic social governance. Social organization is a new force for participating in urban community governance. Especially, it plays an important role in adjusting structure of social community governance and forming a new pattern of pursuing collaboration and common interests.

As one of multiple subjects in urban community governance, social organization participating is a new development tendency. In this background, the following passage sets Jinxing Community in Kunming which is regarded as national the Ten-top Minority Unity and Progress Demonstration Community as an example. Through summarizing the present situations and traits, the passage aims to analyze the achievements and plights in order to

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explore a new scientific and operational model for social organization participating urban community governance.

1. The current situations and traits for social organization participating urban community governance — take Jinxing Community in Kunming as an example

1.1 Brief introduction for Jinxing Community in Kunming

Jinxing Community is formed in 2005, which includes 0.45 square kilometers area and 21693 population in total. In the community there are 33 minority groups living together such as Hui, Bai, Yi, Zang, Dai People and so on. Jinxing Community sets with 3 organizationa as Party branch, neighborhood committee and workstation and 53 members of staff whose average age is 33. So far, the community has achieved so many honours such as National Advanced Basic Party Organization, National Civilized Unit and National Top-ten Mirority Unity and Progress Demonstration Community and so on.

1.2 The current situations and traits for social organization participating in urban social community governance in Jinxing Community

1.2.1 Call on Party members participating in social community governance in order to draw civilian’s attention and joining

Recently, government has being enforced a task named “Double Check-in ” for Party members, which aims to play the vanguard and examplary role of the members of the CPC. For Party members, not only they belong to the union but also to their social community. Policy “Double Check-in” has made the Party members full demonstrate their roles in spare time for social community service. And also the action is another volunteer spirit to draw other ordinary people in social community to serve for others. “Double Check-in” service includes various tasks ranging from environment cleaning, fire fighting, law advice, government policy explanation to helping for the disabled. Through the Party members leading action, master spirit has been aroused and strengthened. As of December 2022, more than 1700 volunteers have registered in Jinxing Community which is a strong power for social community governance.

1.2.2 Through task of building clean and civilized community, especial community’s environment has been improved

A clean environment is the first basic demand then is civilization for a sample social community. Building clean and civilized community is for all the people and also needs all redidents’ participation and devotion. In Jinxing Community, a group named “Beautiful Homeland”, its volunteers in service have played very important role and got a lot of extraordinary achievements in sample social community construction. For example, “Beautiful Homeland” volunteers called on teenagers in the community in summer holiday to publicize and demonstrate waste classification, which not only advanced young people’s belongs to the social community but also set a new community governance mode through connections between teenagers and their family members.
1.2.3 Community workers’ working load has been reduced through community autonomy

Contents of social community are various and innumerable, so the working pressure is very heavy for social community workers. Social organization’s effective participation is a helpful way to reduce community workers’ working load. For example, a social organization named “Peacemaker” who is more concerned with stopping bickering than setting the issue, is always asked to smooth conflicts among neighbors. “Peacemaker” aims that residents’ conflicts are not out of the community, and residents should solve their problems by themselves within social community. So far, “Peacemaker” has successfully adjusted more than 30 conflicts in Jinxing Community, so recognitions from civilians in the community have been increased significantly.

1.2.4 Cultivating the strength of ethnic minority talents and creating distinctive ethnic cultural activities in order to build brands of community culture

In Jinxing Community, there are 33 minority groups living together. Different ethnic groups have their own cultures and customs. So it is a good advantage for community building distinctive and diverse cultural activity. For one thing, talents are the key for social community development. Jinxing Community has cultivated 5 service groups according to their minority identity ranging from social community safety, calligraph and photography, cultural volunteers to veterans. Different talents in different walks of life have been united and served for the community. For another, Jinxing Community has created distinctive ethnic cultural activities in order to build brands of community culture. Hundred Family Banquet for Minority Union has been the most famous logo for the community. Because through the way, residents in community have improved their belongings, shareness, cooperation and happiness.

2 Plights for social organization participation in urban community governance

2.1 Policies and rules for social organization participating in urban community governance are not sounded

So far China has no any universal law toward social organization. Some relative laws about social organization are mainly general laws such as Contract Law, Labor Law and so on. There are only 3 relative and direct rules about social organization. These 3 rules are all about how to manage social organization. They are belong to rules rather than laws. Because of no the regulation and restriction in laws, the development of social organization is arbitrariness. Some social organizations affording social service are formed through community residents’ interest, enthusiasm and the same goals. Once the interest and goals are stopped, the connection for members in social organization is also disappeared. Consequently, the social organization would become rigid and useless.

2.2 The credibility and authority of social organization is not sufficient

In most social organizations, members’ age is not young and their education is not very high, so when social service is working, social organization has to rely on social volunteers. And also the professional knowledge and practical experience of volunteers are very limited and lack of professional guidance. In this case, social organization has managed to
ask for help from professional social groups. But due to the limited money supply, the working mode is unsustainable. Meanwhile, in the architecture of social community, Party Branch Committee and Neighborhood Committee are two most powerful forces in social community governance. Social organization is a secondary, affiliated role comparing with them. So the credibility and authority of social organization is not sufficient in community residents’ mind.

2.3 Social organization is short of resources so the social service supplying from social organization is not good in quantity and quality

For one thing, because social organization is non-profit, some roads for getting public welfare supports are limited, enterprises and citizens’ donation is not sufficient, for these reasons, social organization is short of resources in China. The fund for social organization operation mainly depends on government. And also the fee for government to purchase social service is not abundant. So the development for social organization is very difficult. For another, because most funds are from government for social organization, so government in fact is tendentious. These money supply must be fit for government policy, as a result, they always have the same mode to support some social organization, the social service supplying from social organization is not in high quantity and quality.

2.4 The participation level is not high for social community residents

The participation in community governance for residents is very important because they do not only share the achievements of urban community governance but also they are one of the most important subjects for community governance. Through field investigation, most residents have not paid enough attention and known about social organization well and fully. Most residents admit that they are willing to participate community service, however, without channel and rich energy, they have to give up.

3 Reasons for plights in social organization participating in urban community governance

3.1 Supporting power is not sufficient from governance

In real life, government has insufficient understanding toward the role of social organization, so they have no the trageted policy toward social organization. Meanwhile, government always devides social organizations into different kinds levels. They lay almost all funds toward some key supporting targets social organization which are devided according to their scale and service contents. So for some social organization not large in scale, they almost can not get the fund supply from government. For a long time, government, social community and social organization are in a bad circle.

3.2 The positioning for all subjects is not clear in urban community governance

According to theory of social governance, as one of bodies in social governance, social organization is ought to have the same status and role in social governance as government and community. However, when government plays roles in community governance, autonomy power for social community is less, and social organization is least. So the
positioning for all bodies is not clear in urban community government, which has become a serious event to support social organization’s role in social governance.

3.3 The specialization for social organization is not mature

So far most social organization’s development is not mature and just in a primary period. For example, some workers in social organization are not clear about their task and role in community governance. They just finish their job according to requirements from supervisors. Most of them have no training in professional development. Meanwhile, government policy is short of guidance in real life. Due to insufficient professional talents and training, social organization has to ask for help from other professional talents and organizations, which is a serious waste of money and resources.

3.4 The ability for social organization to raise money is weak

The fund for social organization mainly depends on government, and the ability for social organization to raise money is weak, limited and unstable. Some leaders of social organization hold that social organization are non-profit, so it would not operate marketing activities as profit organizations. So they do not advertise themselves reasonably and gain social supports and resources actively. Consequently, they have no enough power to make decision and are under heavy survival pressure.

4 Suggestions for social organization participating in urban community governance

4.1 Government

4.1.1 Government should support social organization more especially in purchasing social service system

Although the service supplied by social organization is non-profit, the fee must be consumed. It is difficult to make the activities go well only by means of social organization itself, which leads that many social organizations are unsustainable. So we suggest that government is in charge of supporting, social community is in charge of receiving and social organization is in charge of carrying by means of exact items and services.

4.1.2 Government and social community committee should partly releasing powers

According to the requirement in the Fourth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee, the center of gravity for social governance should be transferred into social organization and groups in community. Government and social organization are both the two main bodies for social community governance. They have the same status. And also the connections between them should be harmonious, fair and cooperative rather than opposite and affiliated.

4.1.3 Cultivate and develop social organizations especially in the service contents of social governance

Government can investigate and integrate community resources through door-to-door
interviewing, questionnaire, feedback letter in community so as to cultivate social organizations more clearly and better. Meanwhile, Social workers should be distributed into social organization reasonably and normatively. For example, each social organization should include 2 professional social workers at least. Each social organization and social worker should be directed and supervised by the 3rd party social supervision.

4.2 Social community

4.2.1 Manage to enhance residents’ sense of participation and increase roads for their participation

A key to evaluate how social organizations participate urban community governance well or not depends on how accumulation of social capital is. So social community should guide residents’ values correctly such as sense of participation, donation, engaged individuals. Through the establishment of social participation network, social capital would be accumulated gradually.

4.2.2 Intergrate all social community resources and manage to form distinct advantaged activity for influenced token

Social community is the first responsible subject to know about how the community resources are. So it would make good use of all useful resources in community to build distinct advantaged activity for residents. Meanwhile, a good and district activity should be known and recognized by advertisement. Community should look for the common profits among residents, social organizations, governments and community itself. Only on this way, would the influence of social community be enhanced and residents’ sense of happiness be enhanced.

4.2.3 Set up a feedback communication platform between social organization and community residents

On One hand, social community should attach importance to residents’ opinion and suggestion. Through setting up a feedback communication platform, community knows about residents’ needs in time. According to the feedback, social community can make proper decision and action. On the other hand, through the platform, residents’ participation and sense of belonging also can be enhanced, which can draw more residents to participate social community governance activity in turn, so a good circle can be formed.

4.3 Social organization

4.3.1 Enhance Party’s leadership in order to improve the cohesion of social organization

In the report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, Party’s leadership and progressiveness should be played fully. For example, a cooperative association between Party members and community residents is a useful way. What’s more, learning Party Rules, learning Party Reports and be qualified Party member are also some typical ways to show Party leadership for ordinary people.
4.3.2 Develop social organization should make its status clear and roles.

Firstly, social organization serves for community residents and it is not the accessory of government. Secondgly, a sound system of rules and management should be set up within social organization. Thirdly, some elite teams should be supported and formed by means of VIP residents and leaders of all groups in community.

4.3.3 Strengthen professionalization of talent team for developing social organization’s service power

Professionalization of talent team is the key to improve social organization’s service ability. For example, social workers must be good at some aspect in community governance such as elderly care service, present-child relationship, neighborhood harmony and so on. So professional talents’ role should be displayed fully so role and specialization can not be replaced by others.

5 Conclusions

All in all, due to the unique advantages and characteristics in affording community service, social organization has being played very important roles in urban community governance. Especially, it is included into the system of pluralistic intergration for social governance. Its roles can not be ignored and replaced. All the subjects as government, social community, social organization, volunteers, residents go well and intergrate as an organic whole will be a useful mode for effective urban community governance.

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