### China Development of Social Efficiency and Construction of Social Governance System

Li Liangrong,

Director of Research Center of communication and national governance, Fudan University

China's development of social efficiency, the public's satisfaction degree with the development of China, which is a comprehensive description of the economic growth, political stability and people's happiness, reflects the effect of China's social governance. Based on research and analysis on China's development of social efficiency, in combination with discussions during Shanghai Forum, this paper aims to study China's construction of social governance system and put forward suggestions for Shanghai's innovation of social governance.

#### I. The Current Situation of China's Development of Social Efficiency

The Research Center of Communication and National Governance at Fudan University issued "2014 annual China network social development efficiency index report" on the basis of long term tracking of Sina Weibo users covering multiple professional and social groups which measured Chinese Internet users' sense of security, comfort, identity and development. The Center combined the report with discussions concerning Internet governance and cyberspace in Shanghai Forum and found that China's development of social efficiency has characteristics and hidden problems as follows:

# 1. China's network social development efficiency is positive, showing a trend of strong development and strong recognition. But there is tendency of public opinion orientation and irrational expression.

The analysis of data on China's development of social efficiency shows that China's network social development efficiency is positive. Rationality is increasing in power and has been in dominance. But today's Internet media is based on social media, where selective recognition is intensifying users' bias. On the whole, Chinese netizen shows recognition in terms of existing systems and social conditions, has a fairly good experience in the aspects of safety and comfort, and also shows confidence in the future of individual and social development. Four two stage indexes are all positive, with identity index ranking highest, followed by the development index,

Introduction>>

China's development of social efficiency, the public's satisfaction degree with the development of China, reflects the effect of China's social governance. It is of great significance to build up a social governance system with people's livelihood as its value orientation and diversified mainbodies' involvement, to innovate ways to resolve social conflicts and to improve public safety system. In the case of Shanghai, the government should strengthen basic level construction to meet people's needs for public service; enhance the construction of people's livelihood security system to protect and improve people's livelihood; improve urban security system to maintain social stability.

while safety index is the lowest, showing a trend of strong development and strong recognition.

## 2. Chinese Internet users' overall evaluation of existing systems is positive, with a strong sense of political trust. But it needs to be more based on China's issues.

In recent years, the outbreak of many group conflicts has been attributed to the conflict between the people and the government. As an important expression channel, however, the Internet seems to be filled with negative emotions and evaluations of the government, which may be one of the reasons causing the negative energy of the network society. But the index of China's development of social efficiency indicates that the public's social political recognition is on the whole positive, which means Chinese Internet users have positive overall evaluation of existing systems, relatively high recognition and a strong sense of political trust. The discrepancy of political recognition index among Internet users of different regions, generations and influence is not significant, while gender and social group type have great impact on it, with lower political recognition index from male group and the bottom of society. On the Internet, there is a structural defect on social issues, which is probably an element leading to negative emotions of netizens: people's concern and discussion of social topics are not really grounded on China's national condition, but rather the specific events, so it is easy to create a gap between the government and the people in the process of information dissemination and development and hard to form a consensus on specific issues.

# 3. China's network society shows a limited positive efficiency. The social security and the environmental comfort need to be improved, the social group gap needs to be reduced

China's network society shows a limited positive efficiency but still need to be improved. On the one hand, the social security and the environmental comfort indexes are negative, on the other, the bottom of society generally show negative social efficiency, and the social efficiency varies significantly between different gender and social groups. One strait of current social pattern is intergrowth: the intergrowth of various stakeholders with different value appeal. Sustaining positive social efficiency is needed in public opinion guidance, economic development

and social stability. This calls for the government to give full play to the social strength of different classes and groups in China.

### II. Construction of social governance system with people's livelihood as its value orientation

From the results of China's network social efficiency survey ,we can see that the improvement of social efficiency depends on resolution of problems concerning people's survival and life as well as narrowing the gap between different social groups. It means that China's social governance should innovate its system with protection and improvement of people's livelihood as it value orientation, so as to ensure social security, protect people, especially vulnerable groups of social interests and interest expression rights, and promote social equity and justice. The construction of China's social governance system based on people's livelihood includes:

### 1. The construction of a social governance structure with diversified main-bodies' involvement

Chinese traditional social structure is dominated by the government and the public's social involvement is very low, hence the social structure resulted in a highly centralized social management system. With the transformation of economic structure and social structure, the government failed to provide a full range of public products and services because people's social needs are increasingly diversified. At the same time, diversified stakeholders emerged in the course of social development. The social groups with mainstream public opinion hold social resources and the right of discourse. Therefore they have affected the fairness and equality on the government's distribution of public goods and services. We can include from that that social governance relies on not only government management, but also social organizations' participation to ensure the comprehensiveness, fairness and equality in offering public goods and services. In network society China should learn from the US in following three aspects: firstly, partnership for public service; secondly, socialization; thirdly, cooperative ability between various levels. It is a weak point as well as a basic aspect in our Internet society. Thus social governance should form a pattern led by the government while participated in by multiple social organizations and residents.

On the one hand, the government should actively support the growth of non-governmental organizations as a bridge between the government and the public. The development of China's current social organization is still relatively slow, and the government should adopt tax incentives and financial subsidies to support them. At the same time, the government should relax the restriction of social organization activities, support economic cooperation organizations and interest expression organizations for vulnerable groups in order to improve people's livelihood. On the other hand, the government should guide the citizens to participate in social governance, safeguard and protect their legitimate rights and fundamental interests. At present, China's public participation in social governance is still relatively low, the government should strive to perfect the regulations, foster public awareness, innovate the organizational system of citizen participation in social governance.

#### 2. Innovate the system of resolving social contradictions

China's social development has brought about new social contradictions, and the source of those contradictions is people's livelihood. For example, uneven income distribution leads to low income groups' demand for basic social security and an even income distribution system; slow development of social undertakings leads to people's demand for education, culture, health care, sports and other public services; Household registration system leads to floating population's demand for equal treatment with local residents. The solution of those contradictions depends on the government's reform and innovation of the existing social system. The government should improve the social stability risk assessment mechanism of major decision making, improve the hearing mechanism of cases for administrative reconsideration and mechanism of solving people's reasonable demands timely, so as to innovate the system of preventing and solving social conflicts effectively. However we should note that the thorough solution of social contradictions lies in institutional reform and innovation including: the government actively promote financial transfer payment system, social security and welfare system and household registration system.

#### 3. Improve public security system

At present, Chinese society is facing an unprecedented, multi - level, multi - domain and diverse social security problems. Some highlights are

frequent occurrence of large scale mass incidents, food and drug safety incidents, work safety accidents and fraud cases, strong social hostility and continuous rising of violent terrorist incidents. Those safety problems have greatly hindered the development of China's social efficiency. It is urgent that the government establish sound social security, food and drug supervision, safety production management, disaster prevention and mitigation, network and information security systems.

Besides, with the fast development of information technology, the protection of public security is no longer a simple combination of relevant departments. It calls for government departments to take into consideration information dissemination, conduct risk assessment of security incidents in light of the scope and effect of information dissemination and adjust emergency plan, and establish a three-dimensional, dynamic public security system.

When we observe the efficiency index and the Chinese society through the network society, we can foresee the development of network management and expect a better public security system. Both the participation of multiple institutions and the existence of power dependence between various groups will change our original concept of social governance. But no matter it is central government or local level, the rule of law itself, as governing means, should be more legalized and transparent.

#### III. Suggestions for Shanghai's innovation of social governance system

In the report, Shanghai's combined efficiency index is higher than that of Beijing and Guangzhou, indicating relatively good positive efficiency. But as a special city with the largest urban population, there are a lot of problems in the course of its development. The following aspects should be implemented realize the innovation of social governance according to this paper:

## 1. Strengthen basic level construction to meet people's needs of public services

During its development, the layout of Shanghai's urban and rural area has been dramatically changed. The center continue to expand outside the boundary;; a variety of community forms came into being in suburban area; the hollow phenomenon appears in exurb area. Those phenomena lead to serious public service deficiency, which urgently calls for

innovation of social governance based on the actual situation at the grass-roots level. Shanghai Municipal Party Committee put forward "innovating social governance and strengthening basic level construction" as its major research topic in 2014. The research found that public services and management provided by Shanghai city government was severely absent in partial area and realm. Community governance and autonomy level is not high; mobilization ability of social power is not strong.

Currently, the Shanghai municipal has issued a paper, "Opinions on Further Innovating Social Governance and Strengthening Basic Level Construction", and six other supportive documents including deepening the reform of street system, improving the management system of residential areas, improving village level governance system, deepening and expanding grid management to improve the city's comprehensive management effectiveness, organizing and guiding social forces to participate in community governance, and regulation for community workers management. Those documents are launched with the goal to resolve some serious problems like settlement of street mechanism, construction of grass-roots forces, governance resource allocation, and basic fund of primary-level organization reaching the minimum. The above policies have yet to be tested in practice. At this stage, the government should encourage and promote innovative practice of grassroots level social governance to provide empirical support for theoretical research. Secondly, we should establish evaluation system of the public services in basic level construction, in order to inspect the effect of social governance in Shanghai and constantly adjust the implementation plan.

## 2. Strengthen the construction of the people's livelihood security system, to protect and improve the livelihood of the people

At present, Shanghai has some outstanding problems such as high prices, high housing prices, high medical expenses, structural unemployment, the huge gap between the rich and poor, a lack of pension facilities and services, poor community environment etc. Therefore, the Shanghai municipal government should stabilize the market price with the use of market regulation and government control mechanism and improve the livelihood security mechanisms to cope with rising prices; expand the coverage of affordable housing orderly and improve the supporting services around large residential communities; carry out policy guidance

and create employment opportunities for college students and disability groups; accelerate comprehensive reform of public hospital system and promote the combination of medical care and supporting of the old; press forward the reform of income distribution system and improve the social security system.

#### 3. Improve the urban security system, maintain social stability

The stampede in December 31st, 2014 exposed the problems in the existing urban security system in Shanghai City. They are the government's under-assessment of urban development and security risks, institutional defects in organizational security system, insufficient allocation in multi-level security forces and so on. On the one hand, it depends on the government to improve the urban spatial layout, take a full consideration of the bearing capacity of urban key areas in order to improve the construction of governance infrastructure. On the other hand, the government should improve the security system, establish a sound security monitoring system, develop a scientific security process, and strengthen the construction of security team.

Translator/Zhao Chengmei