The Research of Urban Governance Problems and Countermeasures

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Abstract: Once the theory of urban governance has been put forward, it has aroused great repercussions in China. In China, urban governance is facing different difficulties: the main body of urban governance faces various challenges, governance mechanisms need to be perfected, governance methods are single, and governance environment is not ideal enough. Based on these, corresponding solutions are put forward, such as establishing multi-subject participation mechanism, adopting modern governance means and strengthening various systems.

1. Introduction

The theory of urban governance has provided new ideas and directions for China's urban management. In recent years, the urban problems in China are more prominent and urgent to be solved. In order to better apply the theory of urban governance to the urban problems with Chinese characteristics, we should understand the background of urban governance, and put forward the theory of urban governance in China for nearly ten years. With the support and promotion of China, whether China's urban problems have improved or not, and what problems have emerged in the application of this theory, we can not avoid it. After finding out the problems that may arise in their application process, we propose corresponding countermeasures to better solve the problems of urban management in China.

2. The Background and General Survey of Urban Governance Theory

2.1 The Background and General Situation of Urban Governance Theory in Foreign Countries

In the 1970s and 1980s, the emergence of two oil crises plunged western developed countries into a new round of economic crisis. At the same time, economic growth stagnated, inflation, rising unemployment rate and other phenomena appeared. Keynesianism was questioned and challenged. The economic base determines the superstructure. At the government level, in order to cope with the economic crisis and various social problems, governments have carried out corresponding reforms. Mrs. Thatcher's iron-handed reform in Britain and Reagan's public sector reform measures have made the western economy gradually recover. In the mid-1990s, the crisis of modern democratic countries became news again, which was triggered by globalization, national reconstruction and major social and political transformation. The development of practice also promoted the breakthrough of theory. In this period, the spring of the new public management theory came, which was different from the traditional public administration model. The four models of the new public management, namely, efficiency-driven model, miniaturization and decentralization model, pursuit of excellence model and public service orientation model, were more suitable for the development requirements of the times. The theory and practice of new public management also promoted the formation of governance theory.

In this way, the application of governance theory in different fields and regions produces different governance theories. For example, the concept of governance applied in cities is called “urban governance”. Similarly, “global governance”, “intergovernmental governance” and “community governance” came into being. Urban governance is the application of governance theory in urban public affairs management. As a new way of urban management, urban governance is the latest theoretical paradigm in the field of public management. Once governance theory
emerges, it will be absorbed by urban management theory and practice. Since the 1990s, western scholars have made fruitful studies on the concept of urban governance, the relationship between participants, governance models and comparison, metropolitan governance and urban governance in developing countries.

2.2 The Background and General Situation of Urban Governance Theory in China

With the introduction of governance theory in western developed countries and the application of governance theory in urban management, China is influenced by its thoughts and China's urban problems continue to emerge. In the early twenty-first Century, it began to pay attention to the new paradigm of urban governance research. “Early scholars in China mainly introduced western urban governance research, and some scholars translated it into urban governance. Later, scholars discussed the problems of urban governance research and their application in China.”

In 2017, according to the statistical yearbook data, the urbanization rate of China has reached 58.52%. The proportion of urban population accounts for more than half of it has been 9 years since 2011. The higher urbanization rate means that more people will enter the cities, settle down in urban life, plus urban workers and their children, and so on, so the number of urban population will be even larger. In recent years, big cities such as traffic jam, population crowding and housing difficulties have also appeared in big cities such as China, and other cities are also no exception. Problems such as the near escape conflict, the education of migrant workers’ children, the gap between the rich and the poor, and urban pollution are also urgently needed to be solved.

The theory of urban governance in China is not only based on the advanced experience of foreign countries, but also based on the realistic considerations of China's economic and social development, the inevitable requirement of economic and social development, the embodiment of the rise of civic awareness, the reform of the government's system and mechanism, and the modernization of the governance system of the state governance system. War, and all we have to do is to take advantage of new opportunities and meet new challenges.

3. Concept Definition

3.1 Management

Management was originally used in enterprise management, referring to the process of achieving goals by adopting different methods and means of technology management. Taylor, the father of scientific management, thinks that management is directing others to work best. Herbert and Simon believe that management is decision-making. Generally speaking, management has five elements: plan, command, control, coordination and incentive. Then the concepts of government management and social management emerged. In government management, the traditional top-down management mode is generally emphasized. Government management is not at the helm. Governments of large and small affairs should be in charge of much more and more widely. In decision-making, we usually adopt “one voice” instead of “one voice”. The strong way of execution is also the characteristic of traditional government management. In the use of methods and technologies, traditional government management emphasizes the use of administrative means, legal means and command mechanism to manage.

3.2 Government

Once the governance theory was put forward, it has been widely concerned by scholars at home and abroad. Wang Dianli, a Chinese scholar, holds that “governance is through the dialogue, coordination and cooperation of multiple stakeholders to achieve the maximum degree of mobilization of resources and the realization of a win-win mechanism of interest relations.” In my opinion, governance is a process in which the government, enterprises, non-profit organizations and society cooperate together and use their own advantages to regulate and promote social development.
3.3 Urban Governance

The concept of governance was introduced only after 2000 in China. The concept of urban governance came into being with the emergence of governance. Yang Xiong believed that urban governance is a modern sense of urban management. “It refers to the effective activities of pluralistic urban management subjects in managing or participating in public affairs in urban areas according to law, with the diversification of subjects, diversification of objects, systematic process and means. Modernization and other characteristics.” The definition of urban governance in my opinion is: urban governance should be the main body of urban management, using different management methods and management means, in order to promote urban development and improve urban residents' happiness.

4. Challenges to Urban Governance

4.1 Challenges Faced by Urban Governance Subjects

The main body of urban governance is diversified, including government, enterprises, non-profit organizations, communities and residents. As the organizer of urban governance, the government will face many responsibilities. The transformation of the government's function needs a certain time, and the problems such as imperfect organizational structure, unclear objectives of personnel management, and strict performance appraisal still exist. As a main part of urban management, enterprises can help the government to provide public goods and connect with the masses, but enterprises generally aim at making profits, and need to participate in urban governance. There may be many difficulties. However, the development time of China's non-profit organizations is short and the development process is slow. Many of them are the “second in command” of the government. They obey the government, do not have their own set of development ideas, organize the purchase and operation mechanism of the organization, so the voice making in urban governance will not be so obvious.

4.2 Urban Governance Mechanism Needs Improvement

Urban governance has been put forward later, and the mechanism reform has not been able to keep pace with the development of theory. The administrative system of the government needs to be reformed continuously. In addition, the administrative execution of the government still lags behind, mainly manifested in the emergence of “Sectoralism”, “localism” and “rent-seeking phenomenon”. In addition, because the government controls non-profit organizations, it is difficult for them to develop independently and have their own development logic. The mechanism of public participation in urban governance mainly includes government affairs platform, e-mail, government affairs and so on.

4.3 Single Means of Urban Governance

Under the influence of traditional urban management, China is still using administrative means, legal means and economic means in urban governance. However, with the development of big data and Internet, data management can be introduced into urban governance. Not only that, but also in the process of governance should be “both hard and soft”, and education means is an indispensable one.

4.4 Urban Governance Environment is Not Ideal

“Since the reform and opening up, China's urbanization process has entered the middle and later stages after a long period of rapid development. During this period, the whole urban governance level is hard to keep pace with the rapid development of urbanization, and some serious social problems have emerged, such as the urban floating population is difficult to integrate into the city, urban traffic congestion, environmental pollution, food safety and so on.” In addition, the development of new media, Internet, big data and cloud computing has brought a new direction for Urban Governance - smart city construction, but under such icebergs, we should also see potential
threats such as hacker attacks and public privacy leaks.

5. Promoting the Modernization of Urban Governance

5.1 Establishing a Model of Multi-Party Participation and Collaborative Governance

Urban governance emphasizes multi centers and multi agents. In the process of governance, governments, enterprises, non-profit organizations, communities and the general public should participate in it. According to Zhang Wenli, “in the multi center urban governance mode, the city government is still the organizer and commander of urban public affairs management. The multi-level government system of the central government and the city is the influence and participants of the urban governance; transnational corporations and international organizations are the natural governing bodies of the more and more internationalized cities; profit making enterprises and non-governmental organizations. It is an organization that matches the government's provision or production of public services and goods for urban governance. The public is the basic cell in the main body of urban management. Their participation makes the mechanism of urban management transform from passive extrapolation to endogenous participation.” Indeed, in the process of urban development and governance, society, enterprises and government are indispensable. They are playing an irreplaceable role. They should try to improve the enthusiasm of all parties and make them participate in the process of urban governance, and establish a sense of ownership. To construct a pluralistic citizen participation mechanism, we must first establish a fair mechanism, abolish or reform some existing systems and policies, and secondly establish an incentive mechanism. For the government that actively participates in urban governance and has special contributors, we should establish a special award. Thirdly, we should establish a responsibility mechanism, make decisions without authorization in urban governance, and fail to fully listen to public opinions, which will cause public dissatisfaction. Finally, we should establish a safeguard mechanism to compensate the public for their efforts in urban governance.

5.2 Using Modern Management Methods to Promote Smart City Construction

In recent years, the development of Internet, big data, cloud computing and Internet of Things has been gradually improved. The popularity of computers is high, the number of Internet users is large, and the development of science and technology keeps pace with the times. Therefore, in the urban governance, a large number of scholars have proposed to make use of advanced Internet technology to build smart city, and use cloud computing and big data to improve social governance. For example, Zhang Xiaojuan and others started from the construction of smart city, and proposed that under the governance of smart city, we should form a multi sectoral collaborative management pattern of urban governance, “accelerate the construction of urban, business and organizational public information platforms suitable for urban management, attach importance to the innovation and construction of system, make full use of information technology, and establish and dredge urban planning, construction and management. The channels of public participation in the Chinese Communist Party should continuously improve the public participation mechanism of urban governance in China.” Not only that, we should also consider objectively whether wisdom can bring better urban governance, realize urban social governance under the new normal, the concept of overall cooperative governance, the support of the wisdom system, and the support of high-performance hardware equipment. The development and innovation of new technology, the cultivation of talents and education are all very important.

5.3 Strengthening System Construction and Perfecting Governance System

To promote the modernization of urban governance, system construction is an indispensable part of the top-level design. The government can promote the citizen participation in the electoral system, publicity system and hearing system. In addition, in order to better understand the public sentiment, we can make better use of e-government, all kinds of Party and government windows, mayor's mailbox, hotline and so on. In order to improve the enthusiasm of enterprises to participate
in urban governance, we can appropriately reduce taxes, increase government purchases, and let enterprises have the initiative to participate. For non-profit organizations, the government should give them room for growth and opportunities for growth, so that they can have decision-making power, rather than just having executive power.

In addition, we need to establish a sound and complete legal system. We should formulate laws and regulations corresponding to urban governance on the basis of the constitution of the basic law, and establish and improve the local urban governance system. “We should study and formulate the plan and annual plan for legal publicity and education in the field of urban governance, strengthen the intensity and intensity of administration according to law and rule by law in urban governance areas, and intensify punishments for all kinds of illegal activities in the field of urban governance, so as to effectively enhance the level of legal system in urban governance.”

5.4 Construction of the Great Environment for Urban Development

After the reform and opening up, China's economy has developed rapidly, mainly focusing on speed but lacking quality. The rapid economic development of 40 years has brought benefits and disadvantages. Our country has leapt to the second largest economy in the world, with its comprehensive national strength constantly improving and its international influence increasing. Our country has the right to speak in the world development. However, due to the unilateral development of economy, the ecological problems of our country become more and more serious, the urban problems emerge endlessly, the gap between the rich and the poor is large, and the social contradictions are sharp. Therefore, if we want to apply the theory of urban governance correctly and appropriately to China's reality, we must take the overall social environment as a breakthrough, and build political civilization, economic civilization, social civilization and ecological civilization together. Politically, the government is honest and impartial, which will put the people's service in the first place; economically, the speed and quality go hand in hand, increase the development of the third economy and promote the construction of new energy resources; build a harmonious society, the unity and friendship of all nationalities, mutual assistance, courtesy and honesty of the people, respect for the elderly and children; ecologically, it emphasizes green development, pays attention to the construction of ecological civilization, compulsory implementation of garbage classification, and clarity. Relevant laws and regulations, learn from the experience of garbage treatment in developed countries, and build green and beautiful Chinese cities.

6. Conclusion

As soon as the theory of urban governance has been put forward, it has aroused extensive discussion in the academic circles of our country. Compared with urban management, urban governance has indeed introduced some advanced management ideas and management concepts, which are in line with the current development of China and the background of China. It has promoted the research and discussion of scholars and provided new ideas for urban management in our country, but not all theories. China's national conditions are applicable. If we want to make good use of the theory of urban governance, we should make full use of it, take its essence and get rid of its dross. The author lacks quantitative analysis in the process of writing, the paper may not be rigorous enough, coupled with limited knowledge reserve and lack of in-depth thinking, the paper may not be completed high enough, but as a student of public management, the author will continue to pay attention to such issues in the future learning career, constantly improve their professional level, in order to better think and improve the paper.

References


