

## **Analysis on the Path of Deepening Integration of Rural Grass-roots Party Construction and the Promotion of Village Regulations and Conventions**

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**Keywords:** Rural Party Building; Village Rules and Regulations; Villager Autonomy; Rural Governance

**Abstract:** The promotion of village rules and regulations is an important task of village governance. In the revision and improvement of village rules and regulations, the leadership of grass-roots party organizations and the demonstration of outstanding party members in the village are indispensable. Taking the revision and improvement of village rules and regulations as an important starting point is conducive to the in-depth development of the party building work at the grassroots level in rural areas. Therefore, it is an effective means to realize the effective integration of the rural grass-roots party construction and the village regulations and conventions, to promote the grass-roots party construction with the village regulations and conventions, and to assist the perfect implementation of the village regulations and conventions with the rural grass-roots party construction. It is also an effective means to carry out and strengthen the promotion of the rural grass-roots party construction and the village regulations and conventions at the same time.

### **1. Introduction**

At the end of December 2018, the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the Central Organization Department, the Central Politics and Law Committee, the Central Civilization Office, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, the All-China Women's Federation and other seven departments jointly issued the "Guidance on Doing a Good Job in the Work of Village Regulations and Conventions and Resident Conventions". This guiding opinion is the first national guiding document on the work of village regulations and residents' conventions jointly issued by the central government and relevant departments of state organs. The document emphasizes that "by 2020, all villages and communities in the country will generally formulate or revise practical and effective village rules and conventions and residents' conventions to promote and perfect the modern grass-roots social governance mechanism under the leadership of the Party organization, which combines autonomy, rule of law and rule of virtue" [1]. It can be seen that the revision and improvement of the village rules and regulations will become one of the important tasks of rural work in China in the future. How to promote the revision of the village regulations and the improvement of the work should also become an important topic for the in-depth study of rural issues in China's academic circles.

In June 2019, the General Office of the CPC Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council issued the "Guiding Opinions on Strengthening and Improving Rural Governance." The paper proposes that rural work should be carried out in accordance with the overall requirements of implementing the rural revitalization strategy, adhere to and strengthen the party's centralized and unified leadership over rural governance [2], and emphasize the important position of grassroots party organizations in rural governance. The promotion of village rules and regulations is an important task of rural governance and an important embodiment of villager autonomy. The in-depth implementation of this work is inseparable from the leadership role of rural grassroots party organizations.

## **2. The Necessity of Deepening the Integration of Rural Grass-roots Party Construction and the Promotion of Village Regulations**

“The party and government, the army and the people, the east, west, north and south, the party leads everything.” [3] Under the leadership of the Party, we will push forward the revision and improvement of village rules and regulations to achieve a deep integration of the two. This is not only the embodiment of adhering to and strengthening the Party's leadership over rural work, but also provides direction for further improving villagers' autonomy in the context of the new era.

First, the in-depth integration of rural grass-roots party building and the promotion of village regulations and conventions is conducive to the smooth development of rural grass-roots party building. The Communist Party of China is the ruling party in our country. The party's construction is related to the country's political stability and sustainable development. As the forefront of the Party building work, the rural Party building directly faces and serves the rural masses. Whether it can be effectively carried out and implemented is related to the mass foundation of the CPC in power. Incorporating the construction of the rural grassroots party into the promotion of the village rules and regulations will help to play the role of the fighting fortress of the rural grassroots party organizations, train and test the rural party members and cadres in the process of leading the masses to formulate and implement the village rules and regulations and regulations, and actively play the exemplary and leading role of the rural party members.

Second, the in-depth integration of the grass-roots party construction in rural areas and the promotion of village rules and regulations is conducive to the in-depth work of villagers' autonomy. Above the township government, our country adopts an administrative management style of governance. However, in the vast rural areas, our country implements the villagers' autonomy, which is managed and served by the villagers themselves. Democratic election, democratic management, democratic decision-making and democratic supervision are the four aspects of villagers' autonomy. As an effective carrier to realize democratic management, democratic decision-making and democratic supervision of villagers, strengthening the revision and improvement of village rules and regulations is of great significance to the effective implementation of villagers' autonomy. To emphasize the important role of rural grass-roots party organizations and rural party members in the promotion of village regulations and conventions is helpful to standardize the revision and improvement of village regulations and conventions. At the same time, promoting the effective implementation of village regulations and agreements is also conducive to better implementing the party's will in the process of villagers' autonomy.

## **3. The Way to Realize the Deep Integration of Rural Grass-roots Party Construction and the Promotion of Village Regulations**

In order to achieve a deep integration between the party building work at the grassroots level in rural areas and the promotion of village rules and regulations, the key is to accurately understand and grasp the relationship between the two. On this basis, on the one hand, it is necessary to highlight and emphasize the leading role of party building in rural areas in all rural work, including village regulations and conventions. On the other hand, it is also necessary to better implement the “one core, three governance” rural governance system under the leadership of the party through the formulation and implementation of village regulations and conventions.

### **3.1 Party Construction at the Rural Grassroots Leading the Promotion of Village Regulations and Conventions**

In the revision and improvement of village rules and regulations, it is inseparable from the leadership of rural grass-roots party organizations and the demonstration of outstanding party members in the village.

First of all, the rural grass-roots party organizations need to play a leading role in the revision and improvement of village rules and regulations. The rural grass-roots party organization is the fighting fortress and the core of leadership in all kinds of rural work. To this end, the overall

leadership of the rural grass-roots party organizations should run through the whole process of revising, implementing and supervising village regulations and conventions. It is necessary to ensure that the specific contents and revision procedures of village rules and regulations are legal and reasonable, so as to prevent the formulation process and provisions of village rules and regulations from being too arbitrary or serving the interests of a few people. The “Guiding Opinions on Strengthening and Improving Rural Governance” emphasizes that the village party organizations should study and discuss important issues and major issues at the village level and fully implement the “Four Discussions and Two Openings”. Rules and regulations of villages are binding rules and regulations formulated according to the conditions of the villages, respecting the social morality of our country and traditional customs and habits. It is the main carrier of villagers' self-management, self-service, self-education and self-supervision. Therefore, the formulation and perfection of village rules and regulations should become an important issue in villagers' democratic decision-making, and should be carried out strictly in accordance with the working mode of “four discussions and two openness”. It should be studied and discussed by village-level Party organizations and villagers' self-government organizations, grasp the correct direction and position, after strict checks on its provisions by village-level Party organizations and villagers' self-government organizations, after deliberation by the Party members' congress, and then submitted to the villagers' meeting or villagers' Congress for voting and approval. We will publicize the resolutions and implementation results, strictly implement the procedures of “four discussions and two publicity”, and ensure that the contents of village regulations and people's agreements are reasonable and the procedures are compliant.

Secondly, rural Party members need to play a demonstration and driving role in the implementation of village rules and regulations. The implementation effect and degree of practice of village rules and regulations are directly related to the level of rural governance and the effect of villagers' autonomy. The key point for the masses to look at cadres and do a good job in rural areas is to give full play to the exemplary leading role of Party members and cadres. At present, in the rural areas of our country, the differentiation of people's life style, interest orientation and values is obvious. It is more and more difficult for farmers to cooperate in concerted action. The tendency of “atomization” in rural society is more prominent. Farmers pay more attention to and safeguard their personal interests than to the collective affairs of villages. Influenced by this, in the process of implementing the village rules and regulations, there is an urgent need to give full play to the exemplary and leading role of rural Party members, cadres and other capable people. On the one hand, in a relatively closed and familiar range, party members and cadres abide by village rules and regulations, which is easy to infect and drive the masses. In addition to the rural party members and cadres themselves, it is also necessary to pay attention to the leading role and influence of party members and comrades in groups such as veterans, demobilized soldiers and village capable people in the implementation of village regulations and conventions. On the other hand, party members and cadres in the village have certain comparative advantages over ordinary villagers in terms of knowledge and culture. They carry out publicity through languages and methods that are popular with the masses, and it is easier for the contents of village regulations and conventions to be familiar with and recognized by the masses.

### **3.2 Rules and Regulations of Villages as an Important Hand to Strengthen the Party Construction at the Grass-roots Level in Rural Areas**

Village rules and regulations are folk conventions organized and formulated by villagers' committees for villagers to exercise self-restraint. They embody villagers' common values and are easy to be accepted by villagers. Taking village rules and regulations as the breakthrough point, it can strengthen the self-discipline and self-construction consciousness of grass-roots party organizations, improve the satisfaction of villagers to grass-roots party organizations, and is also conducive to enhancing the exemplary drive consciousness and ideological and moral quality of rural party members.

First of all, through the improvement of village rules and regulations, the leadership of the rural

grass-roots party organizations will be strengthened. General Secretary Xi Jinping stressed in his report to the 19th National Congress that we must uphold the Party's leadership over all work. Strengthening the construction of the party's leadership should become an important part of the current party building work in our country. And specifically to the party building work in rural areas, it is also necessary to strengthen the leadership of rural grass-roots party organizations. Rural grass-roots Party organizations are the core of leadership to win the battle against poverty, implement Rural Revitalization and rural governance. The core role of rural grass-roots Party organizations depends on leadership. This kind of leadership should be embodied in the formulation and implementation of village rules and regulations and other rural work. The formulation and improvement of village rules and regulations is the concrete practice of villagers's self-management and self-service. In the revision of village rules and regulations, the role of grass-roots party organizations in rural areas should be strengthened. From the direction and position of village rules and regulations, we should follow the Party's will, the principles and policies of rural work and the socialist core values, and consciously abandon all kinds of feudal dregs and inappropriate opinions. In the early stage of revision, the rural Party organizations solicited opinions on the content of the provisions of the village regulations and folk conventions. In the process of revision, the rural Party organizations discussed and strictly checked the village regulations and folk conventions. Then, after revision, the rural Party organizations effectively supervised the concrete implementation of the village regulations and folk conventions. The leading role of rural grass-roots Party organizations will be implemented in the whole process of revising and implementing village rules and regulations, and the leadership and organizational capacity of rural grass-roots Party organizations will be strengthened.

Secondly, we should strengthen the political function of rural grass-roots party organizations by means of the publicity function of village regulations and conventions. The report of the Nineteenth National Congress pointed out that "we should focus on enhancing organizational strength, highlight political functions, and make the construction of grass-roots Party organizations such as enterprises, rural areas, organs, schools, scientific research institutes, neighborhood communities and social organizations into propaganda of the Party's propositions, implementation of the Party's decisions, leadership of grass-roots governance, solidarity and mobilization of the masses, and promotion of reform and development." Strong battle fortress." [3] Propaganda of the Party's claims and implementation of the Party's decisions are important manifestations of strengthening the political functions of rural grassroots Party organizations. The village rules and regulations are easy to understand and close to the villagers. They can be used as an important carrier to publicize the Party's important policies, lines and ideas. On the one hand, the content of loving the Chinese Communist Party and supporting the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party is reflected in the specific provisions of the village regulations and conventions. Through the formulation of village regulations and conventions, education guides farmers to love the Party and patriotism, and enables villagers to internalize and externalize their love and support for the Party. On the other hand, the party's important ideas and basic principles are incorporated into the specific content of the village regulations and the people's agreement, and the relevant provisions of the village regulations and the people's agreement are updated and adjusted in real time with the changes of the times.

Finally, we should strengthen the style construction of rural party members through the effective practice of village regulations and conventions. The in-depth development of rural party building work ultimately needs to be carried out to meet the personal quality requirements of rural party members. The construction of the Party's style of work is an important part of the Party's "Five Major Construction". A good party member's style of work is conducive to enhancing the people's trust and identification with party members and party organizations. Village rules and regulations cover rich contents such as "respecting the old and loving the young", "mutual help among neighbors" and "opposing large-scale operations and large-scale management" involving good family style, civilized rural style and simple folk customs. They play a role of moral restraint in village management. Through the effective implementation of the village rules and regulations, rural party members consciously abandon the stereotypes and promote the improvement of personal

moral quality. In addition, it is necessary to establish and improve the supervision and reward and punishment mechanism for village regulations, and the village party organizations can post “black list” to party members who violate the village rules and regulations. For the party members and comrades who have played a prominent role in the implementation of the village regulations, the “red list” was posted, and the implementation of the village rules and regulations was regarded as an important reference standard for the evaluation and evaluation of rural party members. In addition, it will strengthen the supervision role of the village rules and regulations, and transform the “soft constraints” of the village rules and regulations into “strict requirements.”

#### **4. Challenges Faced by the Deep Integration of Rural Grass-roots Party Construction and the Promotion of Village Regulations and Conventions**

It is undoubtedly a beneficial attempt to effectively integrate the current party and national rural work policies with villagers' autonomy to lead the villagers' democratic contract promotion work with the rural grassroots party construction. On the premise of fully affirming the interaction between the two, it is also necessary to face up to the practical problems faced by some areas, especially the rural grass-roots party construction in the central and western rural areas, in guiding and guiding the formulation of village regulations and conventions.

##### **4.1 Rural Grass-roots Party Organizations are Weak and Lax, and Political Leadership is Ineffective**

With the deepening of reform and opening up, the internal order, interest pattern, employment form and even value choice in rural society are becoming more and more complicated and diversified, and the traditional “acquaintance society” is gradually transitioning to the so-called “semi-acquaintance society” in He Xuefeng [4]. Under this background, the construction of party organizations in some rural areas has also changed, with a large number of young and middle-aged rural labor force working in cities. Young party members are increasingly scarce in rural areas, and middle-aged and elderly party members have become the main force in the ranks of party members and cadres in rural areas. On the other hand, the labor economy has replaced traditional agriculture as the first choice for many young rural population to make a living. As a result, the social relations of farmers themselves have changed, the dependence on land and villages has shown a downward trend, and the actual influence of rural Party organizations on farmers' lives is also decreasing. Finally, the rural party members and cadres are limited by their own knowledge and cultural level, age, energy and other factors, and are unable to build a learning and service-oriented grassroots party group. The aging of the ranks of Party members and cadres in rural areas and the weakening or even marginalization of the role of Party organizations need to be solved urgently.

Rules and regulations of villages are beneficial practices to promote villagers' autonomy. In the process of formulation and implementation, they should accept the leadership of grass-roots party organizations in rural areas. However, influenced by the weak and scattered grass-roots party building in rural areas, the leading and demonstration role of grass-roots party organizations is “vacant” in operation, and the voice rights of Party members and cadres are weakened from time to time. Because of their limited theoretical level and lack of prestige, a few Party members and cadres are not competent to guide the masses in formulating village rules and regulations. In the process of formulating village regulations and people's restrictions in some areas, the guidelines of the Party and the state on rural work have been simplified and Abstractly copied. Whether villagers really understand and know the relevant policies is unknown. The village rules and regulations formulated under such circumstances are not only difficult to truly embody the organic combination of the Party's leadership and villagers' autonomy, but also to a certain extent can further reduce the recognition and recognition of the grass-roots party organizations in rural areas in the minds of the people.

##### **4.2 Implementing the Party's Mass Line and the Way of Seeking Truth from Facts**

The mass line and seeking truth from facts, the valuable experience accumulated by the

Communist Party of China in its long-term work, are also the basic principles that should continue to be adhered to in carrying out rural work at present. The purpose of the villagers' covenant is to further promote and perfect the practice of villagers' autonomy. Therefore, in the process of formulation and implementation, it is necessary to ask the people to revise and improve the contents and expressions of village regulations and conventions in a timely manner according to the actual situation of rural social development and changes.

From a practical point of view, in the process of making village rules and regulations, there are still some problems such as “low transparency, lack of standardization, procedure and democracy, often subject to the excessive guidance of the state administrative power, not fully reflecting the grass-roots autonomy” [5]. “Most village regulations are formulated by the village party branch and a small number of village political elites in the village committee. The participation of the villagers is low and the recognition rate is not high. The affixed to the wall has become a formalized symbol.” [6] In the process of formulating village rules and regulations, some townships and towns even provided “templates” for villages within their jurisdiction, resulting in a highly homogenized feature of “one thousand villages”. In the process of formulating the village rules and regulations, the grass-roots government has become more and more responsible for the internal spirit of the villagers' self-government and the party's mass line work guidelines. In addition, in the existing village regulations, the propositions of emphasizing “the male superiority and the female humiliation” and safeguarding the interests of the clan and other feudal dross and even violation of laws and regulations are still reflected. Restrictive means emphasize economic punishment, and light supervision and persuasion are more common [7]. In the context of governing the country according to law and administering villages according to law, such claims are neither legal nor appropriate. In the end, many village rules and regulations were shelved due to their complicated contents and too detailed regulations, which were not conducive to the people's memorization by heart, and eventually degenerated into decoration. At the end of 2018, the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the Organization Department of the Central Committee and other seven departments jointly issued the “Guiding Opinions on Doing a Good Job in the Work of Village Regulations and Citizen Conventions”, requiring that village regulations and citizen conventions cover all villages in the country by 2020. In this context, the author believes that besides emphasizing the comprehensive coverage of village rules and regulations and their practical application, we must be vigilant against falling into the formalism pattern in the process of implementation.

## **5. Conclusion**

The in-depth development of the party building work at the grassroots level in rural areas and the in-depth promotion of the improvement of village rules and regulations are important contents of China's rural governance at present and for a long time to come. To achieve the effective integration of rural grass-roots party building and the implementation of village rules and regulations, to promote grass-roots party building by village rules and regulations, and to improve the implementation of village rules and regulations by rural grass-roots party building is an effective means to achieve the rural grass-roots party building work and the promotion of village rules and regulations.

## **Acknowledgement**

This article is the result of the 2019 philosophy and social science research and planning project of Ya 'an City, “Research on the Deep Integration Mechanism of Rural Grass-roots Party Construction and Promotion of Village Regulations and Conventions” (ProjectNo.: YA20190014).

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