

An Analysis of the Evaluation Function Realization of Rural Grassroots Party Organizations in Times of Transition

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Received: June 23, 2012 Accepted: July 11, 2012 Online Published: August 21, 2012

doi:10.5539/jpl.v5n3p88

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5539/jpl.v5n3p88>

Abstract

The evaluation and the feedback of function realization of rural grassroots Party organizations is one of important approaches to improve the implementation of functions. The key for effective evaluation of function realization of rural grassroots Party organizations in times of transition is the combination of three aspects: establish reasonable evaluation indicators by types, insist on the subjective position of public evaluation, and use feedback to reflect the effectiveness of evaluation.

Keywords: rural grassroots party organizations, function realization, evaluation process, evaluation system

1. Introduction

In times of transition, rural grassroots Party organizations, as the administrative basis for the Party in rural areas, the bridge between administrative organizations and the public, and the bottom level of the Party, are important for stabilizing the society, guiding the development, and consolidating the regime. It is necessary to fulfill the function of leadership core, the function of serving the public, the function of integrating interests, and the function of political recruitment and socialization. The evaluation and the feedback of function realization of rural grassroots Party organizations is one of important approaches to improve the implementation of functions. In order to achieve effective evaluation of function realization, this paper will probe into the goal orientation, evaluation process, and potential problems in the evaluation of function realization of rural grassroots Party organization in times of transition, and confirm the key for effective evaluations of function realization of rural grassroots Part organizations in times of transition.

2. The Goal Orientation of Evaluating the Function Realization of Rural Grassroots Part Organization in Times of Transition

The effective evaluation of function realization is based on the clear goal orientation of evaluations, starting from the principles and directions for the building of rural grassroots Party organizations in times of transition.

2.1 The Function Realization Focuses on the Party's Central Task

The approaches, scopes, and goals for rural grassroots Party organizations fulfilling the functions should focus on the central task of the Party. "Party building must be closely around and serve the great cause of the Party, follow the political route of the Party, focus on the central task of the Party, and aim at the general goal of Party building." Since the reform and opening up, Chinese Communist Party has completed the transformation from "led by class struggle" and "continuous revolution under the proletarian dictatorship" to "taking economic development as the center". At present, the function of rural grassroots Part organizations must focuses on "developing modern agriculture, training new farmers, guiding the public to be rich, and maintaining rural stabilization", and takes it as one of goal orientations for the evaluation of function realization.

2.2 The Realization of Functions Reflects the Cohesion of the Party

All organization, including Party organizations, face two fundamental problems: "the first is to adapt to the environment in order to achieve existence and growth; the second is to achieve internal integration in order to maintain normal operation and develop the ability of adapting to the environment. For the so-called internal integration, the most important is cohesion." The realization of functions of rural grassroots Party organizations is the process of adjusting self system to adapt to the changed environment. In other words, the adjustment of

self system is internal integration, which finally results in the attraction for and cohesion of Party members and external folks. The cohesion of rural grassroots Party organizations is mainly displayed by the capabilities of dominating rural development, guiding rural organizations, attracting rural folks at all levels, and integrating Party members. This is one of goal orientations for the evaluation of function realization.

2.3 The Function Realization Reflects the Return of Party Function

Chinese Communist Party has the unique character of proletariats and the common character of political organizations. After becoming the ruling party, Chinese Communist Party must achieve the transformation from the “revolution party” to the “ruling party”. Since the foundation of new China, the organization of Party has become more political, causing serious consequences for the development of the Party and state. In times of transition, Party building must follow the law of modern democratic policy, and make the Party organizations come back to the functions of political parties. Rural grassroots Party organizations should also follow the law of development. Rural grassroots Party organizations fulfill the tasks and obligations by administration and might achieve extremely high efficiency in a short period of time, with good performances in leading rural economic and social development. However, this approach is far away from the great direction of Chinese Communist Party. Therefore, to make the function realization of rural grassroots Party organizations reflect the return of functions of political parties is the important goal orientation of the evaluation.

2.4 The Function Realization Is in Line with the Specific Status of Self

In times of transition, the urban and rural social structure experiences significant changes. Rural grassroots Party organizations face the environment in profound changes. The urbanization of rural areas accelerates the formation of central villages and new communities. People rushes into central counties and villages. The transfer of urban and rural industry promotes the improvement of degree of industrial organization. Industrial associations and commercial alliances grow fast. The diversification of rural economic and social development and the changes of farmers’ demands cause the emergence of more new private social organizations. In practice, the Party invents new types of organizational arrangement, such as the joint organization of neighbor villages, the joint organization of village and enterprise, organizations for industries or branches, and organizations for unsettled Party members in certain area. The grassroots committees, general Party branches, Party sections, and Party groups in different rural areas have diversified specific functions. Party members in different Party organizations have different missions and tasks. Therefore, the realization of functions should be in line with self status.

3. The Process of Evaluating the Function Realization of Rural Grassroots Party Organization in Times of Transition

The Fourth Plenary Session of the 17th Central Committee of the Communist Party (CCP) of China proposed the concept of “scientific Party building”, confirming that Party building must follow the scientific approach, by a series of scientific theories, systems, and approaches, improving the level of Party building. Here, we take references from system theory, sort the process of evaluating the function realization of rural grassroots Party organizations in times of transition, and analyze the potential problems in the process, which will help the scientific and practical evaluation of function realization.

3.1 Establish the Purpose of Evaluation

The establishment of the purpose of evaluation is the first stage. The purpose of evaluation should reflect the needs of subjects. The subjects for the evaluation of function realization are grassroots committees, general Party branches, Party sections, Party groups, and Party members in rural areas. Because different subjects hold different views of the purpose of evaluation, it causes the following conflicts: firstly, the existence of different subjects makes the purpose of evaluation diversified. For example, the Party organization in county pays more attention to the core competence of leadership, while the one in enterprise focuses on the capability of guiding services. Secondly, different subjects have different effects on the purpose of evaluation. For example, if the Party organization in county is the host of evaluation, it will exert more direct and determining effect on the purpose of evaluation. The unsettled Party members and groups, and the Party sections in county or enterprise will exert relatively smaller effect on the purpose of evaluation. Therefore, the status of different subjects in the Party organization system determines its level in the evaluation system. The establishment of the purpose of evaluation must take the differences of different subjects into full consideration, improving the comprehensiveness and feasibility of the purpose of evaluation.

3.2 Design the Evaluation Program

After the establishment of the purpose of evaluation, we need to solve two problems at least in order to design the evaluation program. Firstly, select the evaluation contents of subjects by levels. Take the building of ideas, organizations, styles, systems, and anti-corruption as the macro evaluation for the function of rural Party grassroots organizations, and individual Party organization as the evaluation subject. For example, whether the Party leadership operates well or not can reflect the core competence of leadership. The quantities and quality of newly-joined Party members can show the political recruitment. The survey of public attitudes can embody the socialization of politics. In a micro aspect, we can take Party members and the evaluation subjects, choosing the evaluation contents from the theoretical basis, behaviors, and services. Secondly, establish the evaluation approaches according to the evaluation contents and indicators, especially make choices and balance between relative objective quantitative approaches and relatively subjective qualitative approaches.

3.3 Collect Evaluation Information

At this stage, the evaluation needs to confirm whether the description of things is comprehensive, objective, and accurate. Information collection may encounter three obstacles in three aspects: firstly, the coincidence of evaluation targets and evaluation subjects may cause inaccurate evaluation. For example, as Party members evaluate the Party organization, it may not be objective enough. Secondly, information collection may not cover all information and maintain complete objective. For example, in some rural areas the elderly and children accounts for the majority of the residents. Limited by insufficient education, they cannot finish the questionnaire. The interview-based survey will undoubtedly increase the influences of subjective attitudes. Thirdly, information collection is affected by limited time, human resources, and materials. Therefore, the evaluation must completely motivate the enthusiasm of evaluation subjects, especially the enthusiasm of the public.

3.4 Analyze and Explain the Evaluation Information

For information analysis, the first is to categorize and summarize the collected information, and then compare and judge them. At this stage, the main task is to solve the technical problem: quantify relevant data materials as much as possible in order to judge by certain criteria; considering the orientation of evaluation, design the weights of indicators reasonably; make sure the reasonability of final comprehensive evaluation by all means. Here, we should notice that even the quantified information may have different explanations. The fixed objective criteria can give an absolute explanation, such as the times of democratic meetings in certain Party organization in half a year. The comparison with other entities can give a relative explanation, such as the ranks of satisfaction degree of the public to certain village Party organization. In practice, we can select one explanation or use both in different conditions.

3.5 The Feedback and Implementation of Evaluation Results

The purpose of evaluating the function realization of rural grassroots Party organization is to give feedback and adjust the functions and the effects in time. Different evaluation subjects and targets may understand or response to the evaluation results differently. Different feedback time, scope, and forms will affect the implementation or the use of evaluation results. Therefore, the evaluation activity should think about the time, the scope, and the form for the release of evaluation results.

4. The Key Points for Effective Evaluation of the Function Realization of Rural Grassroots Party Organization in Times of Transition

4.1 Establish and Categorize the Evaluation Indicators Reasonably

Considering the differences of evaluation targets and the levels in evaluation system, we must establish reasonable evaluation indicators by categories.

The county Party committee in parallel with the administrative structure and the village Party organization in parallel with the village autonomy, as the entities ensuring the control and dominance of the ruling party over rural society, should possess the function of leadership core. Therefore, the emphasis of evaluation should focus on whether the core status of the Party is displayed in social connections, i.e. whether the county Party committee and the village Party organization, as the leadership core of various rural organizations and activities, properly handle the relationships with external organizations, such as the villager committee, the branch of the Communist Youth League, the women association, and the militia group, whether they are capable of reasonably guiding the “two new” organizations, including the farmers’ professional cooperative, the farmers’ economic cooperative, the association of older people, and the market management committee, ensuring that the later accept and follow the leadership of the Party, unify closely around the Party, and give full play to their multiple functions in politics, economy, and social management.

The grassroots Party committee, the general Party branch, the Party section, and the Party group based on rural industrial chain or certain link of the industrial chain form rural industrial Party organization, which achieves political leadership by social services and interests integration and focuses on guiding service in function. Therefore, the key point for evaluation is whether the Party organization can fulfill its function effectively by guiding services without directly using administrative power, i.e. whether the rural industrial Party organization can actively provide supports and services for rural industrial economic development, whether the way for rural grassroots Party organization leading rural economic development changes from direct decision-making to indirect suggestions, from direct dominance to guiding services, from directly creating economic entities to developing appropriate conditions and environment for production.

To evaluate the Party members, who are the cells of Party organization, we must set up reasonable indicators considering the area, industry, level, and specific position. For example, Changzi of Shanxi invents the “categorized evaluation of Party member” in practice, which is worth learning: for Party members in current leadership, the requirements mainly focus on the fulfillment of obligation, the maintenance of team unity, honesty and self-discipline. For Party members without administrative position, impose them with responsibilities mainly concerning the fields of serving the public and helping people become rich. For Party members in difficulties or the older, requirements are mainly about supporting the work of Party organization, promoting Party policies, and solving social conflicts, considering their limited capabilities. For unsettled Party members, who live outside for a long period, the requirements chiefly focus on maintaining connections with the Party organization and participating the “double serve” activity, namely serving the hometown, and serving the resident area. To establish indicators by categories gives evaluation specific criteria to follow.

4.2 Insist on the Evaluation Subjects of People

The Party has always insisted on the important status of the people. People are the creator of history. The Party has close connections with people. The excellent tradition is to accept the supervision of people. From the general view of Party organization, the people are the targets of rural grassroots Party organization in work. The work effects and function realization should be evaluated by people. From the individual view of Party member, all Party members are from people, and live among people. People should have a word for the quality and the effect of Party member. Therefore, we should insist on the evaluation subjects of people.

First of all, smooth the channels for people knowing the facts and improve people’s enthusiasm for evaluation. Knowing is the prerequisite of evaluation. The participation, without knowing the facts, is nothing but a form. Insist on “open Party business” and “open administration” and increase the justice and transparency of power operation. Publicize the most sensitive contents by various ways, including the notice for public administration, the news media, the publicity of personnel, and the administrative inform. Secondly, establish a normal mechanism to ensure the timelines of people evaluation. Further improve the social hearings system and make people’s evaluation and supervision cover all specific Party-led work. Enhance the mechanism for selecting supervisors and asking their opinions and take people’s advices periodically. Thirdly, set reasonable degrees of transparency for different stages and improve the authenticity of people valuation. The process of selecting evaluation subjects must be open and transparent. The personal information of evaluation subjects needs to be protected according to actual situations. It is necessary to build relevant systems and regulations to guarantee the openness and the fairness of the process of collecting information, analyzing evaluation results, and publicizing evaluation conclusions.

4.3 Strengthen the Feedback and the Evaluation Effect

To implement the evaluation results is the purpose of evaluation. We should improve the feedback from two aspects, namely the Party members and the Party organization.

Give immediate feedback to individual evaluation results. Use clear punishments and rewards to improve the quality of individuals. It is necessary to praise the Party members with high degrees of people satisfaction and excellent performances and make them examples. Summarize the experiences and give references to other Party organizations. For example, Suichuan of Jiangxi Province builds “the list of Party members’ advancement”. The county Party committee rewards the Party members on the top of the list and the village Party branch encourages the Party members in the middle of the list, which effectively stimulates the Party members’ internal motives for being the best. Lecture the Party members and leaders who win low degrees of people satisfaction and ask them to reform themselves in a limited time period. If the reform is not satisfying, they will be asked to leave the Party. By this way, it displays the authority and the timeliness of people evaluation, enhancing the Party organizations’ pressures, motives, and energies. Further build and improve the mechanism for Party members’ purity and self-renewal, creating an “exit” for them. Set reasonable criteria of unqualified Party members. Exclude the Party

members who “refuse to pay Party fees, do not participate in Party life, and do not work for the Party”. Furthermore, from the angle of making Party members exert their effects, evaluate, help, and deal with problems of the unqualified Party members. For example, Feicheng of Shandong Province invents the “case study” approach to solve the problems of unqualified Party members: dynamically and scientifically set the requirements for the advancement of Party members and the characteristics of unqualified Party members; investigate the Party branch or Party members as a “real case” for unqualified activities, and make judgment based on actual situations. For the unqualified Party members in judgment, implement the help-and-support responsibility mechanism and deal with the thoughts of Party members in punishment properly.

Adjust the functions in time. All kinds of rural grassroots Party organizations at all levels should arrange evaluations periodically and make it a normal work to collect people’s suggestions, opinions, and needs. Besides, the purpose of evaluation is to apply the comprehensive evaluation results to specific decision - making. For example, Nanchong of Sichuan Province invents a people evaluation-and-feedback mechanism: “make commitment at the beginning of the year, make self - evaluation in the middle of the year, dynamic adjustment, final evaluation at the end of the year, rewards and punishments”. At the very beginning of the year, collect and process people’s suggestions, list the items of commitment, and publicize it by all ways; update the situations of the commitment, listen to people’s opinions widely, and continue to enrich and improve the commitment in public according to people’s wishes and requirements. This evaluation-and-feedback mechanism gives people an opportunity of expressing suggestions and needs and makes the expression regular and normal, which helps rural grassroots Party organizations to adjust the work objectives and action approaches, achieving the purpose of reforming the organizations’ functions.

5. Conclusions

The building of rural grassroots Party organizations is an ongoing process in theory and practice. In the process of deepening reform, rural areas will unnecessarily confront new situations. Only by achieving normal and effective evaluation and feedback to rural grassroots Party organizations and continuously building and improving relevant mechanism, can it guarantee the fighting energies and cohesion of rural grassroots Party organizations in times of transition, consolidating the ruling power of Chinese Communist Party in rural areas.

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