

Research on Enabling Mode of Digital Governance in Community Construction

Xi Jin*

School of Grammar, Huazhong Agricultural University, Wuhan, China

*Corresponding author: jin_0605@webmail.hzau.edu.cn

Abstract. In the gradual transformation of China's governance modernization, the rural governance community, as an important part, is the core content of realizing China's rural revitalization and poverty alleviation. However, due to various internal and external factors, its construction still faces a series of development difficulties, such as the decline of traditional community thought and public consciousness, the lack of motivation for farmers to participate in rural governance, and the operation path of the community needs to be improved. Therefore, the government needs to explore the effective path and mechanism of community building. Now entering the digital era, with the rapid development and universal implementation of digital technology and digital trade in the world, the introduction of digital technology into the community construction and governance model has become a new and efficient policy means for all countries. In China, digital governance has become an important innovative measure to promote high-quality economic and social development and promote the modernization of rural governance capacity. By integrating digital governance into community construction and villagers' self-governance, it is of great significance to promote rural revitalization and build a pattern of co-governance and shared development.

Keywords: Rural governance; community construction; digital governance; digital empowerment; rural revitalization.

1. Introduction

Due to the long-standing urban-rural dual pattern in China, China's rural development is lagging behind. In this situation, China attaches great importance to rural development and construction in the new era, and establishes relevant systems and policies to promote rural revitalization. In the context of today's rural revitalization and construction in full swing, rural governance is carried out in all regions, and the development pattern is co-construction, co-governance and sharing. Under this pattern, it is required to expand the participation of the masses, expand the subjectivity of the masses, and give play to the initiative of the masses. The Party's 20th National Congress also clearly proposed the goal of building a social governance community that "everyone has responsibilities, everyone is responsible, and everyone enjoys" and improving the level of social governance [1]. Therefore, if we want to realize the effective governance of rural revitalization in rural areas, the key lies in the construction of rural governance community, which is related to the effectiveness of rural revitalization.

Nowadays, China enters the digital age, and the integration of digital into rural governance has become an inevitable trend. Digital rural governance is not only an important part of building a "digital China", but also the core issue and innovation path of rural governance. The Outline of the Digital Rural Development Strategy issued in May 2019 emphasized the fundamental supporting role of informatization in promoting the modernization of rural governance system and governance capacity, and put forward the important concept of "building a new system of rural digital governance". The Digital Rural Development Action Plan (2022-2025) issued in January 2022 listed the digital governance capacity improvement action as one of the eight action plans, which covers five key tasks such as "promoting the extension of 'Internet +government services' to the countryside" and "smart management of village-level affairs", so as to continuously improve the effectiveness of rural digital governance [2]. At the same time, the emergence of digital technologies represented by

artificial intelligence, blockchain and big data has provided possible new ways to alleviate a series of problems faced by rural villagers' autonomy at present. Relying on real-time communication and connectivity, digital technology further strengthens the cohesiveness of the community, empowers rural governance in the new era, and fundamentally changes the rural social structure and social relations. On the other hand, the application of digital technology as an empowering tool has also brought many practical problems and negative effects that need to be overcome, such as insufficient participation of villagers and the phenomenon of "two skins" in policy implementation. How to overcome its negative impact, clarify its practical significance and development direction, still need to further explore, find effective factors to promote the implementation of digital governance policies, so as to achieve policy improvement.

To sum up, the rural governance community points out the development direction of rural digital governance, and digital governance provides important support and innovative ideas for villagers' self-governance. The two reference each other and provide new and effective development ideas for rural revitalization in the new era.

2. Literature Review

According to the current research results of scholars, the research on digital governance to promote rural community construction mainly covers the following aspects:

2.1. Rural Community

First of all, the connotation of rural community research. Some researchers believe that the social governance community is not a slogan artificially created to cater to the trend preference, but according to the actual needs of our economic and social development, under the guidance of the concept of building a harmonious society and promoting the free and comprehensive development of people, the process and model of social governance is an innovation. Specifically, the social governance community refers to a social relationship model of common governance of social public affairs formed on the basis of democratic consultation in accordance with certain social norms by multiple subjects of social governance with common value identification and goal pursuit within a certain geographical scope [3]. The second is to explore the path to realize the rural governance community, including innovating the governance mechanism, optimizing the way of community resource allocation, giving play to the advantages of rural social capital, and repositioning the role of township governments [4]. The third is the research on the current predicament faced by the rural governance community. Some researchers have pointed out that there are some practical dilemmas in the construction process, such as lack of supporting system design at the grass-roots level, rigidity of governance means at the grass-roots level, insufficient mobilization ability of village cadres, lack of villagers' subjectivity and retarding development of rural social organizations [5]. Another scholar pointed out that the construction of governance community faces the problem that the function positioning of multiple subjects in rural social governance is vague, and the mechanism of rural social governance community needs innovation [6].

2.2. Digital Technology Empowerment

As an emerging and important force in the reconstruction of rural economic form, physical space, social connection and governance mode, digital technology is related to rural development and spatial transformation [7]. First of all, at the functional level of rural digital technology empowerment concept, three viewpoints are formed: "tool theory", "transformation theory" and "construction theory", which is a process of "promoting digital technology to drive high-quality development of agriculture and rural areas". It has played an important role in the challenges of "data 'technical barriers', 'low adaptability 'of farmers,' double-edged sword 'of network and' low utilization rate 'of data" faced by rural grass-roots governance [8].

3. Analysis of Foreign Experience

Digital governance is an emerging field of global governance. With the progress of digital technology, digitalization has gradually become the main driver of globalization, and the rapid development of digital trade and digital economy, digital governance has also become a pivotal issue in the global governance system. By studying and analyzing the digital governance measures and means adopted in different regions of the world and comparing them with China, we can learn from the experience and better explore how China can further develop digital governance.

Some foreign scholars believe that digitalization is an effective method that does not need to remember everything - a large amount of data can be quantified, aggregated, compared, visualized, and quickly accessed and stored [9]. This is also an important reason why digitalization is widely used in community construction and rural governance by countries -- more accurate, intelligent and efficient.

Take the United States as an example, in the governance of most of its enterprises, the use of digital is a crucial link in its governance system. Not only are they using IT governance to ensure data quality, they have also introduced the COBIT framework under the Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX) Act, the generally accepted framework for IT auditors to assess SOX compliance [10]. It can be concluded that in digital governance, in addition to ensuring the quality of data, it is also necessary to establish a suitable data governance framework to achieve effective data governance.

In addition, the EU's approach to digital governance also has some reference significance. When it comes to digital content innovation, the European Union has always been at the forefront of the world. In 2020, in order to break the monopoly of Internet technology giants and maintain digital sovereignty and technological sovereignty, the EU introduced the twin bill of Digital Services Law and Digital Protection Law, which formed the "Digital governance Bill package" of EU digital governance in the new era, and officially came into force in September 2023 [11]. The bill regulates the Internet data content, governs the information monopoly phenomenon in the digital economy, and hopes to promote the innovation of the digital economy in the EU. It puts forward new concepts, new obligations and new directions of digital governance from the aspects of operation mechanism, implementation objectives and regulatory protection, and provides a model with certain guiding significance for the construction of digital governance policies and laws in China.

4. Existing issues in policy

Based on the summary and analysis of research literature, digital governance has been implemented for a short time. Therefore, most scholars have provided a research basis for the development of digital governance and its impact on rural governance through the study of typical cases, and have made a preliminary theoretical summary and practice of the policy, which has played an important role in promoting its development. From previous studies, it can be concluded that the advantages of digital governance have played an important role in the construction of rural communities in China. However, from a comprehensive analysis, it can be seen that there are still many shortcomings in the construction and implementation of the existing digital governance at the grassroots level. Although the current implementation of digital governance has played a good model role, but at the same time, there are mainly the following problems:

4.1. Copying Advanced Experience and Ignoring Local Governance Characteristics

The current research focuses on the specific content and detailed measures of digital governance in different regions, with typical cases in different regions as the research theme. However, the source, nature, operation logic and mode of the overall digital governance theory are lacking in theoretical generalization and refinement, so it cannot be flexibly applied according to local characteristics. In the process of implementing digital governance policies, top-down policy diffusion is mainly adopted. Local governments build smart industry centers, build e-commerce channels, increase relevant publicity, etc., and effectively realize the "formal achievements" of policy diffusion. But in fact, its

behavior only copies the digital development mode of advanced regions, which belongs to the general way of "universal", in which "local particularity" is only different local specialties, and plays a function of speeding up rather than improving quality in the development mode [12].

4.2. Pay More Attention to the Form, Ignore Whether the Policy Really Landed

The most important thing to promote effective community building in digital governance is to integrate policy implementation with local development characteristics, development subjects and the environment, form a diversified and interactive governance pattern, and ensure the implementation of policies. The main reason for the phenomenon of "two skins" and "policy suspension" in the process of policy implementation is that in the process of policy implementation, rural managers simply understand digital governance as the introduction and simple application of digital technology, and do not fundamentally integrate digital technology with the needs of rural governance and villagers. Some regions even just establish a data governance framework to deal with "political tasks", which does not effectively play the governance effect, resulting in a formalized illusion of "surface digitization" [13]. For example, the establishment of data convenience centers and smart communities, etc., most of them do not actively mobilize villagers to participate in and apply the practice, but mechanically roll out digital technology governance policies in a simple and top-down way, forcing the introduction of concepts, and there is a disconnect between policy implementation and village governance. In addition, villagers and even village management personnel lack the knowledge of data technology, which leads to difficulties in the application process and can not fully understand the concept and value of digital technology governance. As a result of the phenomenon of "digital divide", people with different identities have different rights in receiving information, expressing demands and making rules, etc., which leads to the formalization of the implementation of digital governance policies.

4.3. The Internal Power is Insufficient and the Villagers' Main Body Mobilization is Ignored

In the current participation process of China's digital rural governance, concern for interests is the most important driving force among various driving factors, that is, the most important component of the endogenous driving force of rural governance is the interests of governance subjects. Nowadays, in digital rural governance, some communication and interaction between people are replaced by interaction on digital platforms and intelligent programs. However, due to the lack of technical application knowledge and conservative thinking, some villagers are difficult to adapt to the digital governance model, and their needs cannot be met, thus they cannot fully obtain a sense of gain. This also leads to low participation of villagers in rural digital governance. Therefore, nowadays, many villagers are indifferent to participating in the governance of rural affairs. Some people think that governance affairs are the business of leading cadres, and have nothing to do with themselves. There are also some people who are accustomed to obedience and maintain a default attitude towards the decision-making of rural governance, and only participate passively due to the implementation of digital governance policies, lacking active participation.

5. Suggestions and Prospects

Digital governance empowerment is an important measure to promote community building and realize rural revitalization. Therefore, governments at all levels and relevant departments must pay attention to the constraints in the implementation process, formulate supporting solutions and effectively supervise the implementation of the plan, and finally jointly promote comprehensive rural revitalization.

5.1. Relying on Specific Policies, Improve Digital Infrastructure

In recent years, with the formulation and advancement of strategies such as "rural revitalization" and "governance modernization", China's internal infrastructure, such as transportation, hydropower, and network, has made great progress. However, the "new infrastructure" represented by 5G networks,

smart logistics, Internet monitoring, and artificial intelligence is still in its infancy. Compared with traditional infrastructure, "new infrastructure" is a necessary tool to enable the growth of digital governance, and infrastructure construction has richer meaning and can better stimulate the vitality and potential of data elements [14]. Therefore, in order to realize the efficient development of new infrastructure, we must first guarantee the construction of "new infrastructure" in rural digital governance through a variety of capital channels under the guidance of the government as the main body in view of its high investment and slow effect. In addition, rural governance systems are more homogeneous than urban ones, so the need for "new infrastructure" is more concentrated. According to the specific development situation and development needs of specific villages, resources can be concentrated to prioritize the construction of a certain type of "new infrastructure", and then gradually promote the construction of other infrastructure in the development process, so as to complete the construction of rural governance system in a more orderly manner.

5.2. Clear Governance Concepts and Adhere to People-oriented

In rural digital governance, the first thing to be clear is the people-oriented governance concept, and villagers are the main actors in the implementation of digital governance policies. In the process of policy formulation, policymakers should always consider the actual needs of villagers and policy participation. First of all, openness and transparency in the implementation of digital governance policies should be ensured, the legitimate rights and interests of villagers should be guaranteed, and anti-corruption and anti-monopoly agencies should be set up to properly intervene in the negative impact of political and social capital on rural digital governance, so as to increase the opportunities for everyone in the village to participate in digital governance [15]. Secondly, a timely feedback mechanism should be established to ensure that the demands of villagers are timely feedback, so that the problems in the village can be solved in a timely manner. In summary, multiple measures should be taken simultaneously to lay a good foundation for rural digital governance.

5.3. Develop Digital Talents and Improve Village Digital Literacy

Villagers mastering basic digital governance knowledge is the basis and key to the orderly promotion of rural governance modernization. Therefore, the government and relevant departments should formulate relevant policies to narrow the differences in the ability of different user groups to use information technology and reduce the "digital divide", such as training villagers before the implementation of a policy to help them better master the method, so as to increase the participation of villagers in digital governance. Secondly, the government should take measures to increase the training and construction of digital technical talents in underdeveloped areas, and properly tilt the resource investment. The ability of grass-roots cadres is required and cultivated, and new technical guidance talents are introduced, so as to clarify the specific direction of rural digital governance, form a new pattern of pluralistic co-governance, promote the implementation and popularization of digital governance in rural areas, and achieve high-quality construction and development of the community.

6. Conclusion

Rural digital governance is an inevitable way to realize the modernization of rural governance, and its development and innovation have important strategic significance for grass-roots governance at home and abroad. Breaking through the difficulties and problems in the process of digital governance is the inevitable choice to realize the modernization of rural governance and community construction. Therefore, we should constantly explore and improve the principles of digital governance in line with the specific situation and implement practical governance policies to avoid possible problems, so as to further promote grass-roots governance and better realize rural revitalization.

References

- [1] Xi Jinping. Holding High the Great Banner of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics and Uniting and Striving for the Comprehensive Construction of a Modern Socialist Country-Report at the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China.
- [2] Li Chunru, Huang Junlu. Practical experience and value orientation of rural community construction empowered by digital governance: Based on the investigation of L Village in Southern Jiangsu. *Journal of Nanjing Agricultural University (Social Science Edition)*, 2024,24(01): 23-34.
- [3] Zhang Guiqun. Social governance Community: Theoretical connotation, Times Value and construction Path. *Journal of Chongqing University of Technology (Social Sciences)*, 2019,35(03):124-132.
- [4] Mao Yijing. Building a village governance community: an optimization path for village governance . *Journal of Huazhong University of Science and Technology (Social Sciences Edition)*, 2021,35(04):56-63.
- [5] Yin Bing, Guo Kaiyu. The realistic dilemma and practical path of building rural governance community. *Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 2023,3:44-46.
- [6] Ding Feifei. Dilemma and way out of the construction of rural social governance community. *Modern agriculture*, 2021,5: 30-34.
- [7] Liu Qin. Research on the construction of rural community empowered by digital technology. Qingdao university, 2023.
- [8] Liao Chengzhong, Zhai Kunzhou, Mao Lei. "Data Governance" Driven by Digital Rural Construction: Functions, Scenarios and Paths. *Reform*, 2023,(12):113-127.
- [9] de Siqueira I R, Leite C C, Beerli M J. Powered and Disempowered by Numbers: Data Issues in Global Governance. *Global Governance*, 2017,23(1): 27.
- [10] Cheong L K, Chang V. The need for data governance: a case study. *ACIS 2007 proceedings*, 2007: 100.
- [11] Gong Shulin, Chen Lewei. Analysis of the logic and implementation of digital governance in the European Union. *Young Journalists*, 2024, (03): 96-101.
- [12] Shen Feiwei, Ye Wenxin. The Practical Dilemma and Innovation Path of Digital Rural Policy Diffusion: A Case Study Based on Kecheng District, Quzhou City. *Journal of the Party School of Hangzhou Municipal Committee of the Communist Party of China*, 2020,(06):44-50.
- [13] Wu Xiaolong. How Digital Rural Governance is Possible: An Overarching Analytical Framework . *E-Government*, 2022,6: 37-48.
- [14] Liu Kuanbin, Xiong Xue, Zhang Zhuoqun. Data Elements to Promote High-quality Agricultural Development: Logic, Dilemma and Countermeasures. *Agricultural Outlook*, 2024,20(01):18-22.
- [15] Luo Le, Zhao Wen. Research on Public Ethical Dilemmas and Breakthrough Paths of Rural Digital Governance. *Director of Village Committee*, 2024,1:105-107.