

## *Original Paper*

# A Study on the Realistic Dilemma and Innovative Paths of Rural Consultative Democracy

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### **Abstract**

*Consultative democracy recognizes and accepts the fact of a diversified society, and the trend of diversified social interest subjects cannot avoid conflicts and differences among various subjects. To some extent, consultative democracy can eliminate these problems and promote consensus among multiple parties. This paper focuses on analyzing the problems and influencing factors in the implementation of rural primary-level consultative democracy. The overall implementation level of primary-level consultative democracy in rural areas is relatively low, which to some extent affects the implementation and development of primary-level consultative democracy in the village. It's necessary to put forward the countermeasures and suggestions on the basis of the current operation situation and difficulties of rural grass-roots consultative democracy in rural areas, including improving the political literacy of farmers, optimizing the rural consultation system, and improving the quality of grass-roots cadres.*

### **Keywords**

*primary-level consultative democracy, rural primary-level democracy, political participation of farmers*

### **1. Introduction**

Rural primary-level consultative democracy is conducive to the construction of primary-level democracy in China and is an important practical form for farmers to protect their legitimate rights. However, due to various reasons, the general public's understanding of consultative democracy is not in place, resulting in many difficulties in the implementation of consultative democracy. Therefore, studying the innovative path of rural primary-level consultative democracy is particularly important. This paper will study the difficulties in implementing rural primary-level consultative democracy, analyze the reasons for the problems, and propose constructive methods and suggestions, so as to provide a reference for relevant departments to better implement rural primary-level consultative democracy.

## **2. Problems in Rural Consultative Democracy**

### *2.1 Villagers Lacking Enthusiasm for Political Participation*

Rural residents, mostly elderly and middle-aged women, are generally poorly educated as well as feudal and backward-minded, lacking enthusiasm for dealing with rural affairs. They always believe that this is the responsibility of rural officials, presenting a posture of being indifferent and holding high. In their minds, as long as it does not involve their individual interests, it is not their business. The village should be managed by rural officials, and whether the management is good or not is a matter of their ability, and they never participate in the management of the village on their respective initiative. This attitude also largely reflects the villagers' general attitude towards participating in rural affairs. There are a large number of rural migrant workers who work outside and are not familiar with rural affairs. Besides, this group of people work outside for a long time to earn money and do not have time to attend to rural affairs. They show a completely indifferent attitude towards rural affairs, resulting in many public affairs and major issues involving the vital interests of farmers not being fully discussed and negotiated. They are objectively difficult to participate in and subjectively unwilling to do so. As a result, such a situation makes it difficult for village officials to manage.

### *2.2 Inadequate Promotion of Relevant laws, Regulations and Policies*

In rural areas, villagers lack relevant channels to learn laws and regulations, and their cultural level is generally not high. If only written announcements are issued, it will affect the efficiency of policy implementation. Although there are legal advisors arranged by the government in villages, only a few villagers actively seek legal advice. What's more, the location of legal advisors is far from villages, and villagers are busy earning money to support their families, so they rarely seek legal advice specifically.

### *2.3 Low Work Efficiency of Village Officials*

Village officials have low work efficiency and lack the political awareness to serve the public. They perfunctorily solve problems, by only solving easy problems and avoiding difficult ones, designating representatives to make a speech during negotiations, and only nominating members of their own families for poverty alleviation projects. The villagers are dissatisfied with the actions of village officials, which seriously affects the construction of primary-level consultation democracy and reduces their enthusiasm for political participation. It is impossible to ensure the basic interests of villagers and to fully implement primary-level consultative democracy.

## **3. Exploration of the Innovation Path for Rural Consultative Democracy**

### *3.1 Enhancing Farmers' Political Literacy and Negotiation Awareness*

After raising the quality of education and the economic level of farmers, it is necessary to improve their political literacy as the next step. What the local government needs to do is to actively publicize the benefits of participating in political life for farmers. New online media can be used, such as WeChat official account, social network platform, etc. Farmers should be encouraged to watch current political news, care about national affairs, and deeply realize that the national government is closely related to

their own lives. By enhancing farmers' enthusiasm for participating in political life, their political literacy can be improved and their understanding of primary-level consultative democracy will be strengthened. When farmers encounter problems, they will immediately think of using primary-level consultative democracy to solve problems, so as to safeguard their legitimate rights and interests.

### *3.2 Optimizing the Rural Consultation System*

Government should enrich the political rights of farmers while clarifying and ensuring their subjectivity, so that rural areas have a legal basis for participating in political life, and provide farmers with a guarantee of using primary-level consultation democracy to solve problems. To establish and improve rural primary-level consultative democracy policies, the government is committed to examining the development of rural primary-level consultative democracy in rural areas and making timely adjustments to policies based on actual rural life.

### *3.3 Improving the Quality of Primary-level Officials*

The quality of primary-level officials will directly determine whether rural primary-level consultative democracy can be reasonably and legally implemented. A favorable political environment can maximize the effectiveness of rural primary-level consultative democracy and achieve the political demands of the public. The quality of primary-level officials directly affects the survival and development of rural primary-level consultative democracy in rural areas. Therefore, it is necessary to focus on improving the quality of primary-level officials and providing a political environment conducive to the development of rural primary-level consultative democracy.

The assessment and evaluation feedback mechanism can enable the public to supervise the decision-making process of rural affairs, and to some extent, it can enhance the enthusiasm of villagers to participate in political life. The following evaluation and feedback mechanisms can be established. Firstly, the evaluation of democratic elections can evaluate the openness and fairness of democratic elections. The second is to evaluate village officials and village committees, which can regularly and effectively evaluate the actions of village officials, so that village officials and primary-level organizations recognize their shortcomings and make timely improvements.

## **4. Conclusion**

Consultative democracy recognizes and accepts the fact of a diversified society, and the trend of diversified social interest subjects cannot avoid conflicts and differences among various subjects. Consultative democracy can eliminate these problems to some extent and promote consensus among multiple parties. This paper focuses on analyzing the problems and influencing factors in the implementation of rural primary-level consultative democracy. The overall implementation level of primary-level consultative democracy in rural areas is relatively low, which to some extent affects the implementation and development of primary-level consultative democracy in the village. Based on the current situation and difficulties of rural primary-level consultative democracy in rural areas,

countermeasures and suggestions are proposed to improve farmers' political literacy, optimize the rural consultation system, and improve the quality of primary-level officials.

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