

On Government Innovation

Yixiao Wu

Shanghai University of Engineering Science

Abstract

With the international and Chinese political and economic development, Chinese government needs to build a modern government by management innovating. In the past years, though the theoretical and practical innovation emerged one after another, the result was far from satisfying as there was little improvement in the level of governmental management. It can be concluded that, those innovation did not make a combination of our national conditions. Because of these problems, this paper is going to analyze the problems existing in the systematic innovation, e-governance, open government and service-oriented government, putting forward some solutions to realize the real meaningful innovation.

Keywords: Innovation; governmental management; e-governance

1 Introduction

It has been thirty years after the reform and opening up in China, who has experienced a tremendous change in economic development. Under the influence of economic globalization, Chinese traditional governance cannot meet the demand of national and social development. Only do the government makes some innovation in its administration according to the current situation and condition, can we china catch up with the international step. in recent researches toward government administration, scholars and professionals show a tendency to study public management theory and learn the experience from foreign countries, promoting e-governance, improving technical skill and efficiency of administration. They also suggest the establishment of transparent government and the enhancement of credibility between public and government. But all these theories and experience are coming from other countries, without taking the Chinese situation into consideration, so some of them are not suitable for china. This paper aims at pointing out the problems existing in the innovation and coming up with some solutions. According to the report made in the Third Plenary Session of Eighteenth Central Committee , to bring the socialist market economic system into full play, it is necessary to macro control rationally and administrate effectively. Government functions need to be transformed, revolution of administrative system needs to be deepened, and the management style needs to be innovated. Government credibility and execution ability should be enhanced so that a law-based government and service-oriented government can be established.

2. Outline of the Government Administrating Innovation

2.1 Definition of Administration Innovation

Government administrative innovation means to make innovative adjustment and reformation from the perspectives of its functions, management, organization, operation, process, methods and technical skills in administrating in order to accommodate the outside changes and new requirement, so it is obliged to grasp an understanding of the situation in and out of china. Nowadays, with the increased complexity of the society, foreign experiences are not proper for china and the solely copy may hinder the development of china. Thus the innovation should be endowed with Chinese characteristics and be made step by step.

2.2 details of Administration Innovation

From the definition we can know that, government administration innovation involves the government functions, management style, structure and so on. According to the Chinese situation, government administration should first make a concept innovation from regulation to service. Second, a system innovation should be considered to improve the system construction. Third, advance the government management and promote e-governance, while making government information public. Fourth, transform the government functions and build a service-oriented government.

2.3 The Importance of Government Administration Innovation

Government administration plays an important role in national and social development, which is also beneficial to the national building, economic development, modern-government establishment, as well as the improvement of living standards. An innovative mechanism adapts the government to the ever-changing environment, minimize the administrative cost and improve the administration efficiency meantime. It is an urgent to promote the administration innovation for socialist market economy, for material, ideological, and political progress.

3. Problems and Reasons Existing in Government Administration Innovation

3.1 Problems

3.1.1. Unperfect System

There are still certain problems existing in the administrative innovation. Backward innovation will discourage government in dealing with the social changes. In formulating the system, sometimes the government cannot put the public in the first place, which leads to the inelasticity in implementation and fails in the adaptation to environment, while the service-oriented and human-oriented concept will not be realized.

3.1.2. Backward E-Governance

E-governance can help improve the management and each level of government pays attention to the building of e-governance, but imperfection still goes with the process. Government hasn't got a proper idea of its establishment, so they cannot put it into full use. Due to the unbalance in different regions, there are difficulties and limitations in building the e-governance in some places of less developed. What's more, some government administrators are not capable enough to meet the needs of e-governance.

3.1.3. Unqualified Openness

It is necessary to be open for government in order to incoordinate with the public. Inadequate openness and unperfect system are the two main problems existing in building a perfect government. What's worse, the supervision and the disclosure of government information of media are limited by the inspection of some government department, which hinders the development of transparent governance.

3.1.4 Absence of Service-oriented Governance

Service-oriented government is the unchanged ideal in china, though it is not as improved as what we think. Allocation of right and benefit is far from less at the central and local level, and the public cannot participate in the management due to the system. For some historic reasons, some officials still hold the stubborn idea that they are of super status while cannot fully service others elaborately. Additionally, immaturity of the civil society and the tough development of the third sector are among the hindrances towards participation in government management.

3.2 Reasons

3.2.1. Absence of the Service-Oriented Idea

A service-oriented government should also be people-oriented, but under the influence of the traditional administrative culture, such ideas as government-centered, official-centered still deeply root in the government management ideal. People-oriented concept calls for thinking of the public and taking the public satisfaction as the core of government services. Government service concept is vital to build a service-centered government, without which, innovation in government management cannot be realized.

3.2.2. Absence of the Reasonable Management Structure

In China, E-governance should be such a network system that comprehensively covers each region and each department.

However, according to the recent development, aimlessly develop the E-governance without changing the structure cannot really realize the innovation. To china, each section within the Chinese government is comparatively independent and closing. The work of the government needs the cooperation of each section whose main duty is to communicate and coordinate. E-governance, based on the public needs, the modern information technology and communication technology, demands to break up the traditional organization limit while forming a network system. That's to say, the current system cannot meet the needs of e-governance.

3.2.3. Unscientific Rule-Making

Government is due to make the rules, but being affected by the traditional idea of power-oriented, it can not objectively and fairly maintain the interest for the public. Because of the current unsound system, the choice made by the government is affected by the governmental interests and other interests. At the same time, system innovation may be destroyed by the misuse of authority by some officials. Legal perfection for system innovation is no merely law making, neither the solving of surface problem.

3.2.4. More Electronic Than Governance

When building the e-governance, some leaders and staff still hold the out-dated ideas that they regard the e-governance as the computerization of the government department. What's more, "electronic" has been paid so much attention that massive funds were used to pay machines and equipments while ignoring the real governance, neither the combination of software designing and governmental processes. Some of them don't take the e-governance seriously, which in their opinion is just a complement of governmental management. Additionally, the staff has limited ability in operating the e-governance. as a result, e-governance may only waste lots of social resource if it were built on the basis of traditional ideas.

3.2.5. Limited Information Disclosure

Modern government is not as mysterious as the autocratic government. As is stipulated by our Constitution, people is the master of power and government must be responsible for its people, thus people has the right to know the information of government, which is obliged to public its information. Chinese government promotes to make government information public while limiting the extent of details. in china, ways to make the information public include the active openness of administrative information and information asked for by the public. The current administrative provisions cannot ensure the right of the public to get information when it is un-requirable, which indirectly indulge the government's ignorance of the right of the public acquisition and hinder the building of a transparent government.

3.2.6. Immature Civil Society

Service-oriented government asks for the participation of the society and public during the whole building process. Without the mature civil society, the public cannot put the due pressure on the government. China hasn't formed a complete Third Sector Organization and the public awareness of participation is not keen enough. Changing functions of service-oriented government mainly depends on the third sector organization, which can coordinate the government and market. However, the development of the third sector organization is far from mature. It is highly relying on the government without independence and the social influence is little. Service-oriented government should be oriented by the public, but nowadays, the public show little interests to the building of service-oriented government and even is indifferent to the policies.

4. Ideas on the Governmental Management Innovation

4.1 Change and Solidify the Governmental Management Philosophy

Management innovation requires the thorough change of the deep-rooted ideas as the government-centered and official-centered. System should be set up to support the reinforcement of service-oriented idea. Government department may detail the work of its staff and regulate their working content, attitude and efficiency. Strict system of penalty and rewards should also be established. For example, the complaint system for government is established to punish those being complained while confirmed. By doing this can the government staff change their original ideas into new ones which live up to the innovation. In addition, the government department can adapt flexible working schedule to remind the staff of their influence on the society and the public caused by their attitude and ideas. Day by day, the staff will change their attitude and ideas actively and improve their working efficiency and level, so that the government situation can be renewed and finally realize the management innovation.

4.2 Improve the Scientificity and Adaptivity of the System

4.2.1. System Innovation

System innovation should be in line with the social development, whose scientificity and adaptivity need to be improved. The governmental management innovation requires setting standard formulation to make preparation for and secure the governmental innovation.

What's more, ideas as service-oriented and people-oriented are due to embodied in the new flexible and adaptive system. That is to say, when setting the new system, the government officials have to make a thorough consideration and timely make response to the execution according to the changing environment, thus the new system can be more and more perfect .meanwhile, makers of the new system should keep the ideas of serving the people as the new system is more to serve people than to constraint people.

4.2.2. Reform the Administrative Management System

The government administrative system has to distinguish the functional relationship between the central and local department, and the activity the local government. An open and flexible organization structure should be set to ensure the coordination of the different department of the government. Government should be open and ease policy on publishing so that can an open government be established. Administrative innovation is also in demand. For example, on the relationship between the central and local government, their property and right should be reasonable divided and be set by law. Central government is mainly responsible for the macro-control so the general interest and partial interest should be dealt rationally. To those less developed regions, central government must assist and support on human and financial resources and appropriate ease some policy, even provide some preferential Policies. Adaptive and organic organization can be established to assist the government management, which serves as an organization platform for the management innovation.

4.3 Improve the Working Ability of Government Staff

To improve the working ability of the government staff involves the entrance system, evaluation system and training system, aiming for cultivating them to adapt and meet the needs of social development .as the performer of the government management, the quality and ability of government staff are key elements to management innovation, especially on the building of e-governance and open government. So it is a must to improve the quality and ability of government staff. On the evaluation of the stuff, original simple and single mode and standard have to make a change. Evaluation system can never be an opportunity for somebody to promote and neither be formalization, which also should be objective and fair, combining the leaders and public, ordinary and regular schedule. On the training of the stuff, the cultivation of outstanding ability should be put ahead and the training varies in accordance with their different characteristics. Additionally, special training system for civil servants should also be established and strictly carried out; establish the incentive and restraint mechanism to combine the training and employment in order to activate and keep the internal motivation of the training.

4.4 Foster a Mature Civil Society

If the government wants to manage the social affairs together with the public, it needs to foster a mature civil society and support various nongovernmental organizations, stimulating and boosting the public's participation in government and political affairs, so that the due political right of the public can be ensured. To foster a mature civil society, non-governmental and non-profit organizations should be developed, which is aiming at public welfare. The most fundamental thing of fostering the civil society is to stimulate and enhance the public political sense, lead them to concern and participate in the political affair, cultivating their consciousness of right to know, sense of accountability and so on. Meanwhile, government should guarantee the public rights by setting related laws and regulations, without which, public political awareness is hard to build and maintain. Increase the punishment if someone hide the information or resist the openness of information and guarantee the right to know. What's more, only if the way to accountability is open can the government interact with the public efficiently. In addition, safeguard mechanism of the public right to accountability needs to be established to maintain and support the public rights.

5. Conclusion

Government management innovation is a must in social development and in keeping way with the world trend. By learning and reface the foreign experience and in accordance with the current situation in government management, government needs to establish and carry out the management innovation with Chinese characteristics. Under such circumstances, service-oriented and e-governance can be set to innovate, and only by doing so, can the innovation form a modern government.

References

- Haiyan Huo. The influence of the rise of civil society on the policies and systems [J]. Chinese Administration. 2008(2)
 Guomin Qin, Wei Wang. Governmental management innovation under the perspective of system.[J].Journal of Zhengzhou University,2007(7)
 Jingfeng Sun, Rui Wang. E-governance and Chinese governmental management innovation.[J] Gansu Social Sciences,2009(1)
 Xianggang Peng,Lifeng Zhu.On the realistic difficulties of building the service-oriented government.[J] Journal of Ningbo University.