

## **A STUDY ON CHINESE ADOLESCENTS' PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL MANAGEMENT**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Nowadays, the social development is getting faster and faster, the society is become dynamic, and the interests are also moving in the direction of diversification; On the other hand, the class began to divide, the social population flows rapidly, and social problems soaring, more importantly, the social transformation still not finished. It shows that the current task of social construction and social management in China is arduous and pressing. Teenagers as one of the vigorous and most energetic people should be one of the mainstay in social management. On the one hand, promoting the participation of young people in social management can alleviate the contradictions in the process of social development, and it also could promote social harmony; On the other hand, encourage teenagers to participate in social management can perfect their personality, which also give them sense of responsibility to society. This paper mainly analyzes the present situation and necessity of adolescents' participation in social management, and puts forward the policy suggestions on adolescents how to participate in social management better by the current situation analysis.

**Keywords:** Adolescents, China, Social Management, Social Construction

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

#### **The Status of Adolescents' Participation in Social Management**

Social management mainly refers to the process of organizing, coordinating, guiding, standardizing, supervising and correcting the social failure in the different areas of social life and the various aspects of social development by government and social organizations, in order to promote the coordinated operation of the social system. Social management, in the broad sense, is the overall management in social economic, political and cultural affairs by specialized agencies, which composed by community members. In the narrow sense, social management

only refers to the specialized management, under the specific conditions, that cannot be placed under the existing economic, political and cultural sector management of public affairs. Thus, by definition, social management encompasses all aspects of society where young people can gradually participate in social management from different areas.

Speaking of the status of adolescents' participation in social management, we found that adolescents are weak in public awareness but have a strong desire to participate; First of all, from the ideological aspects of young people, today's adolescents' ideas become increasingly diverse because of the growth experience, educational experience, information access and other aspects of differences, and the impact of new media and other networks on their ideas, behavior and communication is also growing. In the area of social participation, the public awareness of adolescents is relatively weak, but the desire to participate in social governance is increasingly strong, they pay more attention to the realization of their own values, hoping to improve the social existence of value and social discourse. Traditional media and new media trust survey shows that the most trusted media of urban residents are television, newspapers and networks, but it also shows that people under the age of 30 trust network more than newspapers. According this survey, 44.4% people who use the micro-blog believe that micro-blog information is true, in this case, to promote the social management of young people is inseparable from the correct guidance of online media.

Besides, we also found that adolescents participate in social management channels scattered sparsely and scarce. At present, adolescents correspond social management services mainly through the Communist Youth League or voluntary access to relevant information on the network, it can be seen that the channel of their participation in social management scattered and scarce. However, another noteworthy phenomenon is that the current adolescents are more self-organized, and the role of the Communist Youth League is gradually weakened. Youth groups now gathered mainly to hobbies, hometown identity, network communication, etc. According to statistics, as of the end of 2007, the country has a total of 381 million kinds of legally registered civil society organizations, and other organizations that no registered and really belong to the number of spontaneous organizations of private people are estimated more than 1 million. Besides, According to the survey, more than 70% adolescents have joined or participated in network-based youth self-organization, more than 50% of teenagers have self-organizing members with fixed links in online communities or forums, and more than 80% of college students join the campus network, including all kinds of forums, BBC, QQ group, alumni group and other self-organization. So, how to convey the spirit and information of social management in various groups is the key to promote young people to participate in social management.

In short, adolescents, on the one hand, lack the understanding in social management system and

the enthusiasm of the actual participation, on the other hand, the channel provide to teenagers to participation is single and scarce, and did not form a perfect system, coupled with the examination-oriented educational environment, leading to the majority of adolescents learn knowledge only from books and lack of knowledge from the corresponding social management experience.

## **II. THE NECESSITY OF ADOLESCENTS' PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL MANAGEMENT**

As the adolescents' mind is still in the stage of immaturity, it is the first step to let them participate in the social management gradually that deepen their understanding of society and do some service practice, and its social management should focus on the field of public services at the beginning. Thus, The necessity is mainly in the following two aspects.

First of all, for adolescents themselves, to encourage their participation in social management is the demand in contemporary era. China has always been in the examination-oriented education environment, so most families only concerned about the book knowledge and scores, only the score could be the school and the family's guidelines, resulting in that most of the students not only focus on learning the requirements of the school books knowledge and ignore the hands ability and practical ability, but also the lack of a sense of responsibility and mission to the community. In recent years, news that teenagers drop out because lack of self-care ability, are growing with each passing day. Most of them are keen to talk about gossip rather than the current affairs. Adolescents, as the future of a state, shoulder the rejuvenation of the nation and the prosperity of the country, so the phenomenon that teenagers busy themselves in learning knowledge in class and ignore what is going on beyond their immediate surroundings should avoid. At the same time, we should cultivate the public spirit of young people, encourage their participation in social and public affairs, and perfect their personality, so that they could shoulder the important task of building the country.

In addition, in the perspective of public service, adolescent participation in social management can effectively reduce the burden on the government, and contribute their effort in the main issues on the public sector that our country is currently facing. In the case of aging, for example, the problem of population aging in China is becoming more and more serious. According to the data released by the National Bureau of Statistics of China, the proportion of the elderly population aged over 60 in the Chinese population exceeded 10% for the first time in 2000 and reached 12.5% in 2009. As of 2008, in addition to Tibet (9.68%), Qinghai (9.85%) and Ningxia (9.47%), the other 33 regions and provinces (including Hong Kong, Macao, excluding Taiwan) of the elderly population were more than 10%, the highest degree of aging of the elderly

population in Shanghai has accounted for more than 22.5% of the population.

From a long-term perspective, the number of elderly people in China will continue to grow rapidly in the next 40 years and is expected to peak in 2050-2055, even if the population aging rate will slow down later, but the overall trend is that the proportion of the elderly population in China will remain at 34% in 2100. In a very long period of time, the trend of aging problem in China and the world as a whole is irreversible, and the aging phenomenon will continue throughout the 21st century, which will have a huge impact on Chinese society.

In the economic field, population aging will have an great impact on savings, taxation, investment and consumption, social welfare systems, labor markets and industrial structures; At the social development level, the aging of the population will put forward new challenges for the health and health care system and affect the family structure, intergenerational relations, housing and migration etc.; In culture and politics, aging will not only change people's traditional ideas and lifestyles, but also affect the relationship, directly or indirectly, between different social groups and even political forces pattern. In China, the national conditions of the large scale of the aging population, and the traditional ethical code of "respect the old" and other factors also have an impact on economic, social and cultural development in varying degrees. Therefore, to advocate young people to participate in social management, it is not only for young people to have a general awareness of the current social problems, but also to a certain extent, reduce the aging of the various adverse effects, which will help the government and relevant institutions solve troubles that caused by aging problems.

### **III. THE SUGGESTION OF ADOLESCENTS' ORDERLY PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL MANAGEMENT**

Adolescents not only need to acquire knowledge in books but also cannot ignore the importance of social management and practical services. In order to promote the social management of adolescents in order, we could implement the relevant social management activities to large and medium cities in several junior high schools as a pilot object, and gradually form the great environment that is orderly in subject, process and activities, thus we could establish a large-scale network communication platform of youth social management. Specific ways are as follows:

First, we should set up social management theory and practice courses regularly in the middle school. Because of the long-term lack of social management experience, most students lack a deep understanding of society; In order to make them more efficient and more professional to participate in social management, the first step should begin to set up social management related courses from the junior high school so that young people can form a system of knowledge

system to guide the practice better. In addition, putting the knowledge related to social management, which as formal course, into the students' learning life not only can arouse the attention of teachers and students but also could formalize the operation of social management, which is conducive to the next step to promote and carry out the policy.

The social management curriculum include two parts namely theory and practice, and the theoretical aspects should include the scope of social management, the introduction of institutional departments, social practice, management of specific rules, etc., which designed to enable students to have a comprehensive understanding in the meaning of social management and practical procedures. Practice should include team social management services, personal social management services, teachers and students social practice, and social survey and research, etc.; The goal is to enable students to jump out of school ivory tower to really touch the various fields of society, let them familiar with the mode of social operation and work methods in various fields, combining the theory and practice to guide them. Each student should make a summary of the experience at the end of a semester for the social practice, the person in charge should give the corresponding scores as the results of social practice this semester.

Second, the provinces could gradually implement "plus points system" in college entrance examination. Under condition of the current examination-oriented education, the practice of extra points is the key to encourage more students to participate in social management and social practice. The Ministry of Education could take the social management practice scores into consideration in the entrance examination, including the theoretical study scores and the practical scores. Besides, the actual achievement scores are mainly evaluated by the relevant subject institutions according to the set evaluation indexes, so that we could encourage students to do more orderly social management though scores or levels evaluation, and let the social management experience become a part of assessment in students' learning process. At the same time, we can set up an independent relevant monitoring mechanism at the outset, in order to avoid students to avoid practice or related institutions scoring and other issues. Until the process is mature, then we could establish the relevant network information platform, which is from manual operation gradually into electronic operation and thus become a necessity in the course of students.

Third, it is of importance to promote cooperation between schools and social management organizations or nonprofit organizations. For example, at present, China's aging problem has become increasingly prominent, all kinds of nursing homes gradually into the people's vision, but because homes for the elderly in China is still in the initial stage, there exists poor management, lack of labors and other issues. Schools can be used as a bridge between students and nursing homes to enable students to regularly complete a certain social activities in the nursing home.

The assignments and workload are allocated by the head of the nursing home. Finally, it could be included in the evaluation of semester practice in writing form. In addition, we should give full play to the role of the community. Schools can contact the community through the community organization of social management training for students, the community will integrate all the organizations that can be managed by the students and inform the school. The teacher will give a detailed introduction to the students in the social management class, including the functions and responsibilities of the various organizations, and the students will choose the organizations they would manage though the information that their teachers inform them. On the one hand, it allows students to have a certain understanding of various types of organizations, and have clear awareness of the formation of the whole community; On the other hand, it also maximize the freedom to give students the right to choose their own areas of interest, and to clear their own value and the future they may be set foot on during the social management and social practice.

Finally, we should establish and improve the social network management practice network information platform. After deepening the concept of adolescent participation in social management and accumulating sufficient management practice, our ultimate goal is to transition from an artificial operation to an electronic system and to establish a legal, orderly and spontaneous practice of adolescent social management network platform. All departments and non-profit organizations spontaneously put management practice information on the network platform, at the same time, schools or young people online register their own information and according to the contents of the practice of the other party to choose the one they like, and then the relevant departments choose the suitable candidate according to the required staff, and ultimately form the pattern of two-way selection.

In addition, every time the students completed a social practice will be recorded on the network platform, the school can be associated with this platform and the school's educational system, so that the results of the practice would automatic addition in the students' test scores. On the one hand, the establishment of large-scale network platform could avoid the cheating phenomenon to maximize during the process; On the other hand, the network platform could achieve direct docking between students and institutions, which eliminate the bridge between the school and community role, and saving labor costs. It also allows students and organizations to take full advantage of their free choice right to achieve the optimal allocation of resources.

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

It is not only impact on adolescents in a right way by encourage them to actively participate in social management, but also reduce the burden of government social management, therefore the government, schools, social organizations, etc. should also actively cooperate with each other to

provide a good platform for adolescents to participate in social management.

The continuous progress of science and technology, the growing maturity of the global village, and the enormous impact of globalization, are put forward higher requirements and challenges for Chinese adolescents. In addition to the need to learn more books knowledges and professional skills, the youth also need to understand the global development process, realize all areas of society, clear their own value, in the practice and exercise to enrich their own life experience, and improve their own personality training, only in this way could they shoulder the task of building the country.

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