

# An Analysis of the Effective Ways to Improve Citizen Participation in Public Policy Making in China

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## Abstract:

Citizens' participation in the formulation of government public policies is an important way for citizens to participate in decision-making. The article examines citizen participation in the process of public policy making in China, pointing out the new trend of citizen participation and identifying some problems of citizen participation, such as insufficient motivation of citizen participation and the prevalence of extra-institutional participation. The reasons for these problems are analyzed in depth and countermeasures are proposed, such as improving the relevant legal system and increasing the supervision and feedback of the policy-making process.

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**Key Words:** public policy making; citizen participation; open government; Public Agenda

Compared with western countries, China's civil society is still in its infancy and transition period, which is not mature enough, and the sense of citizenship needs to be further strengthened. Therefore, we should take strengthening civic education, cultivating civic awareness and civic spirit as the primary task.

## 1. Cultivate civil society and improve citizens' subjective consciousness and participation ability

First of all, we should strengthen civic education and cultivate their civic awareness. Citizens should realize that they are an integral part of the society and an indispensable part of the society. They should establish the concept of equality, humanistic awareness and legal awareness, and infuse and convey the concept of freedom and equality to citizens. We should also strengthen citizens' awareness of participation and social responsibility education, so that citizens can actively participate in the management of social affairs, actively participate in the formulation of government public policies, contribute their wisdom, and enhance citizens' awareness of participation.

Secondly, improve citizens' political participation ability. Improving citizens' ability and quality to participate in decision-making is the key to improving citizens' participation in decision-making. First, we should carry out democratic political education to enhance citizens' political and cultural quality, so that everyone can correctly use their own knowledge and information to make decisions. Second, we should continue to teach citizens about politics, cultivate their political participation skills, and let them know how to protect their legitimate rights in participation, so as to continuously enhance their policy participation ability and level.

## 2. Improve the relevant legal system for citizens to participate in policy formulation, and ensure the channels for public opinion expression

Information related to public policy formulation should be actively disclosed by the government, including policy formulation objectives, influencing factors, etc. Information related to citizen participation should be made known to citizens in advance, including citizen selection criteria, materials to be prepared before

participation, participation procedures, feedback of participation results, etc., so that every step of public policy formulation can be carried out in the sun, so that citizens can clearly understand the process of public policy formulation. In the network era, we should highlight the leading position of the party and government media. Under the overall leadership of the Party, the government should earnestly fulfill its main responsibility and supervision responsibility, accelerate the organic combination of new media and traditional media, and form the joint effect of "all media". To be specific, the public policy content should be easily accessible. In addition to the traditional paper materials, the government should actively use the mass media such as the two micro end to publish relevant information on the official platform in a timely manner, so that citizens can easily access it, and ensure the accuracy and authority of the public information.

In order to improve the hearing system, the first step is to select the hearing representatives. The government should strictly set standards, standardize the selection procedures, make the selection process rule-based, and set the proportion of representatives, so that the citizen representatives can fully reflect the interests of different classes. On the one hand, we should pay attention to the universality of the selection of representatives, so that people from all walks of life and all fields have the opportunity to participate in the process of government public policy formulation. On the other hand, we should pay attention to the balance of the selection of representatives, select hearing representatives from all industries, all strata, and all ages in proportion, and pay attention to the differences of hearing representatives [Peng Huancai. Building a harmonious socialist society from the perspective of "good governance" [J]. Journal of Central South Forestry University of Science and Technology (Social Science Edition), 2011, 5 (01): 19-22.]. In addition, we should pay attention to the proportion of experts and scholars, actively attract experts in relevant fields to participate in the hearing, attach importance to the opinions and suggestions put forward by experts and scholars, give full play to the role of experts and scholars, and strengthen the scientific nature of the hearing.

### **3. Increase the supervision and feedback of the policy making process and improve the effectiveness of citizen participation**

All rights can lead to corruption and abuse. Due to the lack of supervision and accountability mechanisms, the government faces the risk of ignoring the public interest and abusing its own rights when formulating public policies. To this end, we must establish a decision-making supervision and accountability mechanism supported by legislation, judicature, administration and society, so as to maximize the function of the supervision mechanism, form a joint force of supervision, and with an effective accountability system, urge decision-makers and executors to strictly abide by various public policies with public participation, and use scientific decision-making methods and legal and standardized decision-making procedures, To some extent, it avoids the procedural lack of decision-making and the formalization of invitation to participate.

We should strengthen public opinion supervision of the news media. In the past, television, radio and newspapers, the three traditional media, played an important role in public policy. With the progress of science and technology, people's living needs are also changing. The network has become a new platform for interaction and communication between the government and the people. In addition, the anonymity of the network also allows the public to freely express their opinions and opinions. In the process of decision-making, different interests and demands can be fully considered, so as to improve the scientific nature of government decision-making and achieve the expected policy objectives.

### **4. Cultivate social organizations and improve the participation mechanism of social organizations for consultation and dialogue**

In the process of participating in government decision-making, social organizations have the following advantages: First, social organizations come from grassroots and civil society, and their members' feelings about social life are real and representative; Second, social groups have strong vitality, have continuous

attention and analysis ability to specific public events, and thus can provide sustainable solutions for government departments. It should be pointed out that social groups have the role of decision-makers in the government's raising of problems, suggestions and solutions. They play an important role in public policy formulation. They are a subject, but they are also an object. This dual identity enables their opinions to better reflect the interests of more people. Therefore, the influence of social organizations cannot be ignored.

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