

A Study on the System of the Role of New Rural Sages in the Background of Rural Revitalization

Hanyu Li*

School of University of Jinan, Jinan 250022, Shandong Province, China

*Corresponding author: Hanyu Li, 18366358861@163.com

Copyright: © 2024 Author(s). This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY 4.0), permitting distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is cited.

Abstract: Against the backdrop of the comprehensive implementation of the rural revitalization strategy, new rural sage plays an important role in rural governance as a new generation of talents that inherits the advantages of traditional rural talents. Talent revitalization is the key to rural revitalization. Through its exemplary leading role and resource-driven role, new rural sages can effectively enhance the autonomy of villagers and promote rural economic development. However, in practice, the role positioning of new rural sage and its role in assisting the village committees in governance and serving the villagers need to be clarified. Therefore, the role of the new rural sage needs to be played on the premise of adhering to the leadership of the party and village autonomy, clarifying the functional relationship with the village committees, and improving the participation and supervision system to ensure its effectiveness in the new era.

Keywords: Rural revitalization; New rural sage; Mechanism of action; Rural governance

Online publication: July 9, 2024

1. Introduction

Under the premise of rural revitalization, new rural sage has increasingly become an important social force. The central government has repeatedly mentioned new rural sages and demanded that grassroots governments fully play the role of new rural sages. In recent years, new rural sages have actively participated in rural revitalization in various ways and channels, becoming a new force in rural revitalization, which has aroused widespread discussion and research in academia.

Scholars mainly study new rural sages from the following three aspects. Firstly, define the connotation concept of new rural sage. Different scholars have different views. Some believe that making contributions to their village and gaining recognition from the villagers is the new village sage, while others believe that it should be defined from multiple aspects such as morality, talent, and emotions. The second is to analyze the influence of new rural sage in rural revitalization. Some scholars believe that new rural sages can fully mobilize rural resources in rural revitalization and play a very important role in helping rural areas overcome difficulties^[1]. Some scholars also believe that new rural sages can drive the cultural development of rural areas and effectively promote rural revitalization. The third aspect lies in the participation of new rural sages in rural governance,

mainly due to their reasons and some external factors.

In summary, domestic scholars have shown profound concern and keen insight into practical issues in the study of new rural sages. However, research on how new rural sage plays its functional role and the underlying mechanisms of its role is still in a relatively early stage. Therefore, in the current context of comprehensively promoting the rural revitalization strategy, it is particularly important and urgent to further reveal the internal mechanism of the role of new rural sage in rural governance and explore effective ways to optimize the participation mechanism of new rural sage in rural governance by deeply analyzing the complex relationship between new rural sage and the village committee, as well as the villagers.

2. Mechanism for the role of new rural sage in rural revitalization

2.1. There is a tendency for tension between new rural sage and the village committees

Currently, many rural areas are facing the dilemma of collective resource scarcity and insufficient mobilization ability of villagers, which leads to the village committees feeling inadequate in fulfilling their public responsibilities. As a local elite, the authority of the new rural sage is mainly based on the broad recognition and deep trust of the villagers. One of their important responsibilities is to assist and supplement the work of the village committees, effectively filling the governance gap caused by insufficient resources of the village committees through their resources. At the same time, new rural sage plays a leading and demonstrative role in rural revitalization, which can significantly enhance the collaborative efficiency among diverse entities ^[2].

2.2. Relationship with villagers

The ultimate goal of rural revitalization is to achieve common prosperity, improve the quality of life of villagers, deepen their sense of gain and happiness, and promote the modernization of rural governance. In this process, new rural sage plays a crucial role. As wise individuals in rural society, they not only have noble moral character but also possess certain resource capabilities, voluntarily dedicating themselves to rural construction and development.

Firstly, the new rural sage played a role as a middleman between the village committee and villagers. When there is a disagreement or disagreement between the two sides on a certain issue, the new rural sage mainly stands from the perspective of the villagers, actively communicates and coordinates with the village committee, and strives to find common interests between both sides, thereby expanding consensus and narrowing differences. Secondly, the new rural sage also serves as a role model and demonstration for the villagers. Due to the lack and lag of cultural education, some bad behavior habits still exist among villagers, which to some extent hinders the construction of harmonious and beautiful countryside. However, the new rural sage has set a good example and played a positive role as a model for the villagers with his noble character and uncompromising style of handling things ^[3].

3. The problems in the participation process of new rural sage in rural revitalization

3.1. Conflicts easily arise between new rural sage and the village committees

The village committees, as officially authorized village autonomous organizations, have an undeniable decision-making influence within the village. However, under the influence of the deep-rooted concept of official centeredness, the village committees may exhibit a certain attitude of exclusion when facing the organization of new rural elites to maintain their own authority and power.

On the one hand, the village committees may be concerned that the rise of the new rural sage organization will weaken its dominant position in the village, leading to a shift in the decision-making process from

unilateral decision-making to multi-party negotiation. Therefore, they may hold a resistant or even oppressive attitude towards the new rural sage organization.

On the other hand, under the current work assessment system, village committees often face pressure and task requirements from higher-level governments. To reduce work resistance and improve efficiency, the village committee may be more inclined to recommend candidates from the committee who have a close relationship with themselves. Although this approach can ensure the smooth progress of work in the short term, in the long run, it may lead to the new rural sage organization relying too much on the village committees, losing its independence and functionality, and only serving as a formal existence.

In summary, the village committees may exhibit a certain degree of exclusion and dependence towards the new rural sage organization due to various reasons. This not only affects the normal development of the new rural sage organization but may also pose certain obstacles to the deepening of village autonomy^[4]. Therefore, how to balance the relationship between the village committees and the new rural sage organization, and promote their coordinated development, is a problem that needs to be paid attention to and solved in promoting the process of village autonomy.

3.2. Lack of a sound supervision and management system

The new rural sage plays an indispensable role in rural governance, serving as an important auxiliary force in the governance process of the village committees. At the same time, they also make up for the lack of village autonomy to a large extent. However, at present, there is no clear and detailed regulation on the legitimacy and specific status of new rural sages in China, which undoubtedly brings certain difficulties and limitations to the role of new rural sages in rural governance^[5].

Within the current regulatory framework, there is still a lack of a clear definition of the identity and responsibilities of new rural sage, which may lead to them facing various challenges in their actual work. Due to the lack of clear legal support, new rural sages may feel inadequate in promoting rural development and coordinating village relationships. Meanwhile, due to the lack of corresponding rules and regulations for the management and supervision of new rural sages, there may also be risks of improper behavior or abuse of power^[6].

Therefore, to fully leverage the positive role of new rural sages in rural governance, it is necessary to clearly define its legitimacy and status, and establish a sound management and supervision system. This not only helps to enhance the work enthusiasm and sense of responsibility of new rural sages but also ensures that they play a more stable and effective role in rural governance. At the same time, this is also an important measure to promote the modernization of rural governance and enhance the level of village autonomy.

3.3. The management scope of new rural sage is too extensive

In recent years, with the deepening implementation of the country's rural revitalization strategy, the national level has actively promoted and guided the participation of new rural talents in rural construction. The local government has also actively responded by introducing a series of preferential policies and cultural education activities to attract talented individuals from new rural sages to return to their hometowns to participate in governance and development^[7]. However, it should also be noted that there is currently no specific and clear legal system and policy framework in place to regulate the functional positioning, role, and status of new rural sages.

In this situation, the functional role of new rural sage in participating in rural revitalization often appears too broad and not precise enough. A significant phenomenon is that many places place too much emphasis on the economic functions of new rural elites, tending to attract those economically strong "economic experts" to join the organization of rural elites, and focus on playing their leading role in rural economic development. This tendency, although may bring certain economic benefits in the short term, can also easily lead to the

phenomenon of “wealthy people governing villages” in the long run, which affects the democracy and breadth of rural governance to a certain extent.

Therefore, to fully leverage the positive role of new rural sages in rural revitalization, the government needs to further refine and clarify its functional positioning and ways of exerting its role at the policy level. The government needs to fully leverage its economic advantages to drive rural economic development, and also pay attention to its role in culture, education, social governance, and other aspects to promote comprehensive rural development. At the same time, it is also necessary to strengthen the cultivation and management of talented individuals in new rural sages, ensuring that they truly become active promoters and effective participants in rural revitalization.

4. Optimization of participation methods for new rural sage in rural governance

4.1. Strengthen cooperation with village committees

In the process of deepening grassroots work in rural areas, it is crucial to clarify the attributes and characteristics of new rural sages. As a social force spontaneously formed by villagers, the core mission of the new rural sage organization is to assist the village committees in jointly promoting village autonomy. To achieve this goal, clear codes of conduct and participation paths need to be established to define the specific position, function, and scope of rights and responsibilities of new rural sages in rural revitalization.

In constructing the governance structure, the main position and authority of the village committees should be clarified, and their decision-making and execution leadership should be granted. At the same time, the new rural sage is positioned as an auxiliary role, providing strategic suggestions and opinions to the village committees in the form of a think tank. This division of labor helps to form a governance pattern of “main and auxiliary complement each other, and power conspires together.”

In the process of clarifying the scope of rights and responsibilities of the new rural sage organization, special attention should be paid to its interactive relationship with the village committee. The village committees should maintain an appropriate balance when listening to the opinions of the elites in the new rural sage. Overreliance on the suggestions of new rural sages may lead to villagers having high expectations of new rural sages, thereby weakening the authoritative position of the village committee. On the contrary, if the village committees ignore or do not adopt the opinions of the new rural sage organization, it may undermine the enthusiasm of the new rural sage and exacerbate the village committees’s tendency toward arbitrariness.

Therefore, properly handling the relationship between the new rural sage organization and the village committees has become crucial. New rural sage should be encouraged to leverage their advantages in knowledge, experience, and other aspects to provide beneficial support for the village committees. It is also necessary to ensure that the village committees maintain independence and authority in the decision-making process and to prevent improper intervention of the new rural sage organization in village affairs. Constructing such an interactive system can achieve a positive interaction between the new rural sage organization and the village committee, and jointly promote the healthy development of rural grassroots work.

4.2. Develop a comprehensive supervision system

To fully leverage the positive role of new rural sages in rural revitalization, a sound and standardized participation system needs to be established urgently, to provide solid institutional and legal guarantees for the participation behavior of new rural sage. Although the current national level strongly advocates and encourages new rural sage elites to devote themselves to the cause of rural revitalization, hoping to promote the comprehensive development of rural areas, the functional role of new rural sage elites has not been fully and

effectively played in reality due to the lack of relevant supporting laws and imperfect rules and regulations.

Considering the complexity and diversity of the rural social environment, new rural sage often faces many challenges and uncertainties in participating in the process of rural revitalization. These challenges may come from communication and collaboration with villagers, an in-depth understanding of the actual situation in rural areas, and finding suitable development paths in the complex and ever-changing rural environment. Without clear legal guidance and institutional norms, the elites of new rural sages may find it difficult to effectively leverage their professional advantages and social influence, thereby affecting the overall effectiveness of rural revitalization.

Therefore, it is particularly necessary and urgent to introduce corresponding legal systems. By clarifying the legal status, responsibilities, authorities, and participation methods of new rural sages in rural revitalization through legislative means. Clear action guidelines and legal guarantees can be provided for new rural sages, making their participation process legal and systematic. At the same time, a sound legal system can also provide necessary support and protection for new rural sage, such as giving certain preferential treatment in terms of funds, projects, policies, and so on, thereby stimulating their enthusiasm and creativity in participating in rural revitalization^[8].

In summary, the establishment of a sound and standardized participation system is of great significance for safeguarding the legitimate rights and interests of new rural sages in rural revitalization and promoting the in-depth implementation of the rural revitalization strategy. The government should strengthen legislative work, improve relevant rules and regulations, and provide solid institutional guarantees and legal support for the participation of new rural sages in rural revitalization.

Disclosure statement

The author declares no conflict of interest.

References

- [1] Zhang L, Han N, 2023, Research on the Optimization Path of New Rural Sage's Participation in Rural Governance under the Rural Revitalization Strategy. *Qin Zhi*, 2023(1): 7–9.
- [2] Li ZQ, 2022, How to Explore Modern Research in Rural Areas. *Journal of Zhejiang University of Technology*, 2022(5): 125–133.
- [3] Burt RS, 1992, *Structural Holes: The Social Structure of Competition*. Harvard University Press, Cambridge.
- [4] Zhang HH, Li H, 2017, Establishing a Sound Mechanism for the Participation of Talented Individuals in Rural Governance in New Rural Sages: Taking the Advanced Group of New Rural Sages as an Example. *Learning Forum*, 2017(02): 54.
- [5] Ding NN, 2019, The Role of New Rural Sages in Rural Governance. *Heilongjiang Science*, 2019(07): 23.
- [6] Li Q, 2009, Research on the Role and Participation Path of New Rural Sages in Rural Revitalization. *Journal of Guizhou University*, 2009(03): 12.
- [7] Hao XY, Zhang Q, 2021, The Dilemma and Path Optimization of New Rural Sages in Rural Governance. *Leadership Science*, 2021(18): 17–21.
- [8] He XF, 2018, Rural Revitalization from the Perspective of Urban Rural Dual Structure. *Journal of Beijing Institute of Technology*, 2018(05): 99–104.

Publisher's note

Bio-Byword Scientific Publishing remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.