## Causes and Blocking Mechanism of Rural Micro-corruption

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#### **Abstract**

Based on the vision of rural revitalization, this paper explores the problems existing in the business environment and the causes of "micro-corruption" in rural areas, and investigates Longyan, Fujian, Zunyi, Guizhou, Xinzheng, Henan and other places. By using the methods of text study, case analysis and statistical test, it is found that there are some problems in the rural business environment, such as non-standard investment attraction and loopholes in relevant systems, etc,and the corresponding feasible schemes are put forward to help create a fair and orderly business environment.

## **Keywords**

Slight Corruption; Business Environment; Rural Revitalization; Cause of Formation; Blocking Mechanism.

#### 1. Introduction

In 2020, all the 832 poverty-stricken counties in China will be lifted out of poverty, which sounded the clarion call for victory in the tough fight against poverty and the charge for rural revitalization. However, the micro-corruption and style problems around the grassroots seriously slow down the pace of rural revitalization. According to statistics, since the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the website of the State Supervision Commission of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection has publicly exposed 156 typical cases of violation of discipline and law in the field of rural subsistence allowances. Such shocking figures reveal that "micro-corruption" in rural areas is likely to become a "great disaster" for overall rural revitalization. In recent years, the focus of academic circles on rural issues mainly focuses on rural revitalization, precise poverty alleviation, the effectiveness of villagers' autonomy, etc., and there is little research on rural micro-corruption. Optimizing rural business environment is not only conducive to the endogenous growth of rural economy, but also can promote the implementation of rural revitalization strategy. Therefore, how to rectify the slight corruption in attracting investment and rural engineering construction on the road of comprehensive rural revitalization and solve the problem of "urgent difficulties and worries" of the masses has become the top priority of comprehensive rural revitalization.

## 2. The related connotation of "micro-corruption"

#### 2.1 The connotation of "rural micro-corruption"

Micro-corruption in rural areas is a kind of corruption that is not easy to be detected around the masses. Scholars have studied its concept. Yu Yajie and Chen Wenquan stated in the articles "Theoretical Logic of Governing Micro-corruption" and "Realistic Dilemma and Effective Ways" published in mid-2018 that "micro-corruption" is a category of corruption. Administrative cadres at the grassroots level (including those responsible for management in villagers' autonomous organizations) use operable "micro-power" to seek benefits for others or make public interests lose in "small" matters, mainly corruption. In fact, it is the private use and abuse of public rights.

## 2.2 The definition of corruption

Corruption is a phenomenon that has existed for a long time in human civilization and has received a lot of attention and research. At present, a unified definition of corruption has not been formed. However, from the academic level, corruption involves abuse of authority and pursuit of personal

interests, and its manifestations are complex and diverse. The statement of corruption in this study is the phenomenon that individuals or departments with public power provide power to grab villagers' interests. The main staff are public officials, bearing public power, but aiming at public interests, their desire is to obtain personal interests, which usually involves a large amount of money and has a serious impact on society and people.

#### 2.3 Definition of farmers' sense of acquisition

Farmers' "sense of gain" mainly includes material and spiritual aspects, and the material aspects mainly include housing, medical care, education and social security; The spiritual aspect is mainly whether one's own power is guaranteed. The sense of obtaining agricultural names under rural revitalization is to make farmers' income higher, social security better, living standards better and family burden lighter; In spirit, farmers should feel the fairness and transparency of the whole poverty alleviation process, and they should not receive less money and help at all. They should fully feel the care of the country and the people and make their lives better and better.

#### 2.4 Optimizing the connotation of rural business environment

Rural business environment refers to the sum of external factors and conditions such as government affairs, market, rule of law, and humanistic environment involved in the process of market entry, production and operation, and exit from rural areas. The advantages and disadvantages of a rural business environment directly affect the amount of investment, as well as the operating enterprises in the rural area, and finally have an important impact on the economic development, tax revenue, social employment and so on. Good rural business environment is an important embodiment of the economic soft power of the rural area, and it is also an important aspect for a country or region to improve its comprehensive competitiveness.

#### 2.5 The basic connotation of rural revitalization

President Xi Jinping put forward the strategy of rural revitalization in the report of the 19th Party Congress. The basic content of rural revitalization strategy is prosperous industry, ecological livability, civilized rural style, effective governance and affluent life. How to establish and improve the system mechanism and policy system of urban-rural integration development and accelerate the modernization of agriculture and rural areas is the problem mentioned in the report of the 19th Congress. The fundamental problem in China is the problem of agricultural and rural farmers related to the national economy and people's livelihood. The most important task of the whole party's work is to always solve the "three rural issues" and implement the rural revitalization strategy.

#### 2.6 The difference between corruption and "micro-corruption"

Chinese laws in the Criminal Law of the People's Republic of China describe corruption as "corruption and bribery, dereliction of duty" and other acts. It shows that corruption includes not only corruption and bribery, but also dereliction of duty such as omission, omission, false act and disorderly act in the exercise of public will to power. At present, the academic circles have discussed the definition of "micro-corruption" from different research dimensions. Among them, the representative viewpoint is that "micro-corruption" refers to civil servants at the end of the basic public power system, who use their micro-power, illegally occupy basic public resources, obtain small personal interests and engage in illegal activities. Compared with corruption, "micro-corruption" is generally manifested in the following three aspects: the public power held by the actor is "micro", the benefits obtained are "micro", and the scope of influence is "micro".

#### 2.7 "Rural micro-corruption" research status at home and abroad

The research status of "micro-corruption" in China: as an important task of national poverty alleviation, the governance of "micro-corruption" at the grass-roots level is related to the construction of comprehensive rural revitalization, and Chinese scholars have done a lot of research on it. Among them, scholars Chen Yao and Zhang Song stated in the "Rural Grassroots Corruption Governance and System Construction" published in 2019 that "micro-corruption" mainly refers to the loss of ideals and beliefs of some village cadres in rural society with complex human relations, and relies on

small power in poverty alleviation. In the field, rent-seeking activities are carried out in business areas such as Huimin construction projects, village-level collective assets, national policy funds, enterprise bidding, and land distribution

Research status of "micro-corruption" in foreign countries: due to the difference of political system and cultural background at home and abroad, the research results of foreign scholars have not been involved in the field of micro-corruption of village cadres with Chinese characteristics. In foreign research achievements, the concept of "grass roots" is not clearly defined. Foreign scholars pay more attention to general corruption, especially the research of high-level corruption. On this basis, they pay little attention to grassroots micro-corruption. Samuel Samuel Huntington, an American scholar, once defined "micro-corruption" as a cross-border behavior, arguing that civil servants violated national laws and social norms in order to seek their own interests. Huntington studied the relationship between administrative level and corruption degree, and thought that the actual incidence of corruption was inversely proportional to the level of corrupt personnel. The lower the post level of corrupt personnel, the higher the probability of corruption.

## 3. Typical case analysis of "micro-corruption" in rural business environment

## 3.1 Advantages and disadvantages under the historical and cultural characteristics of Fujian Province

Longyan culture has both the Hakka culture of Western Fujian, which is presented in various villages of Yongding District. When the culture is integrated with different areas, it has the following characteristics: it has the characteristics of tradition and continuity: the inheritance of continuous Chinese traditional culture makes them lack of independent spirit; it has the characteristics of integration and diversity: Hakka people's crazy pursuit of architectural style, It has brought great difficulties to the urban industrial anti countryside in the comprehensive rural revitalization; it has the characteristics of inclusiveness and pioneering: influenced by religious belief, they lack enterprise and innovation; but their personality factors of daring to take risks and not content with the status help the development of Rural Revitalization.

## 3.2 Typical cases of "micro corruption" in towns of Longyan City, Fujian Province

In the process of investigation, according to the phenomenon of "micro corruption" in the process of rural revitalization, the team sorted out some typical cases of "micro corruption" in the local business environment. For example, Huang, the tax administrator of G town tax office, handled a tax refund declaration for Fujian J coal washing Co, Ltd. in 2016, and accepted a bribe of RMB 40000 from Li, the legal person of the company, through illegal channels. In February 2017, Mr. Huang helped Fujian Food Co, Ltd. to obtain the general taxpayer qualification, and received RMB 30000 from the person in charge of the company in his office.

## 3.3 Case analysis of "micro corruption" in towns of Longyan City, Fujian Province

From the historical and cultural point of view, the township level cadres are low in education, influenced by the traditional "official standard" thought, and make use of their power to make profits in the relationship between government and enterprise. According to the survey, the village cadres' economic income is not high, which leads to the village cadres' neglect of their own work. Due to the different distribution of resources supported by the state, the environment of bribery in Longyan is easier to form.

#### 4. The root cause of "micro corruption" in rural business environment

4.1 There are loopholes in the investment policy, and the policy system still needs to be optimized. Due to our country's business environment policies are not deep enough, the process of policy implementation is not transparent, the implementation of the central decision-making work to optimize the business environment is not timely, all of which may cause damage to the vital interests of farmers, and also have a bad impact on the rural business environment. First of all, the equity transfer management system is not perfect. In a large number of enterprise assistance projects,

enterprises will help villagers by buying shares. But most of the simple villagers are easy to be lured by the interests in front of them. Secondly, there are problems in the supervision and petition system. The supervision and petition system is not perfect, which is time-consuming and laborious for villagers. For villagers, it is difficult to report and even more difficult to report. Even if the villagers found and mastered the relevant clues of grassroots cadres' corruption, they still dare not report and expose them for fear of retaliation. Finally, because the data of poor residents come from the sample survey, the current poverty alleviation policy has the problems of low quality and low efficiency. For example, the base number of poor residents is not clear, which is related to poverty alleviation, resulting in social injustice such as supporting the poor but not supporting the rich, and breeding "micro corruption".

## Causes of micro corruption in Longyan City → Full Marks → Fraction Competence Education 9 National Support Resources National Culture 8 5 4 Living Environment Historical Reasons 3 2 **Bribery Environment** Definition of Concept . Hakka Clan Culture Economic Income Supervision

Fig. 1 Causes of micro corruption in towns of Longyan City, Fujian Province

4.2 The village cadres lack the sense of business justice, and the phenomenon of "collusion" between local cadres and enterprises is frequent. In the aspect of attracting investment, some cadres are prone to "conspire" for private interests with local business owners by taking advantage of poverty alleviation. For example, in the villages we investigated, some village cadres and enterprises "collude with each other" to take advantage of poverty alleviation projects and damage the national interests. In terms of grass-roots power, it is difficult to change the term of office and centralize the grass-roots power. At the same time, the rural land resource allocation and investment promotion policies are often decided by one person, and there are problems in the election of village cadres, such as family re-election, relatives voting, spending money to buy tickets, etc., which makes it difficult to replace cadres and centralize their power. This leads to the phenomenon that some public servants "implement meetings and documents by meeting" to do face saving projects. In the "pseudo poverty alleviation" activities, the phenomenon of "micro corruption" of grassroots cadres is serious. In terms of publicity policy: some village cadres lack of self-discipline, and the poverty alleviation policy is not publicized in time. They should give priority to telling their relatives and friends about the policy, so that they can enjoy the policy dividend first. Village cadres are lack of service consciousness, ability to build business environment and consciousness of actively serving customers. The atmosphere and consensus of comprehensively optimizing business environment have not been formed. Because of the true sense of mission and responsibility, the leading cadres, who are originally "key minority", have not only failed to stick to the bottom line of principles and play a good leading role as an example, but even become the beetles leading corruption, resulting in the phenomenon of "a nest of corruption" and group corruption from leading cadres to ordinary public officials.

4.3 There is a blind area in Villagers' knowledge about the relevant policies of rural revitalization, and they have a vague understanding of "micro corruption". For example, in the process of investigation, many villagers are not clear about the provincial standard and national standard standard standard, the amount of poverty alleviation is unknown, and they are not aware of the information of poverty alleviation posts in enterprises. The villagers are lack of consciousness of safeguarding their rights. The villagers are weak in legal consciousness and lack of awareness of rights protection. They turn a blind eye to the behaviors of people around them, such as giving gifts and engaging in relationships. They have a high tolerance for "micro corruption". As the young people in the village go out to work, most of them are old people, women and children who have no anticorruption consciousness, which leads to them not knowing how to protect their rights and interests through legal means, which provides development space for "micro corruption" at the grass-roots level.

4.4 It is influenced by the "dross" in Chinese traditional concept and traditional culture. Influenced by the erosion of negative culture, the local people have formed an incorrect outlook on life and values, and bred "micro corruption". "Micro corruption" has strong obstinacy and continuity, and is difficult to eradicate in a short period of time. The concept of "official standard" not only restricts the development of grassroots democratic practice, but also hinders the process of overall rural revitalization. China is a traditional society of human relations, while the countryside is an acquaintance society constructed by clan kinship. The village is small and the relationship between people is cumbersome. Influenced by the traditional thought in the past, it is common to rely on relationship to handle affairs.

## 5. The harm of "micro corruption" in rural business environment

- 1. Due to the fact that village cadres attach importance to investment promotion, neglect landing, go to close relatives, engage in cronies, and ignore the actual local demand, the legitimate rights and interests of business operators and villagers are seriously damaged. The local evil forces maliciously raised the price, which made the local raw material market failure and raised the operating costs of rural enterprises. The grass-roots political power violates the law and sets restrictive clauses in disguise, which hinders fair market competition. The amount of enterprise benefit fee determines the speed of administrative examination and approval of the village government. The administrative power has become a tool of collecting wealth for rural officials. The administrative cost of enterprises is high and their survival is hindered. Grassroots officials take advantage of their power to ask for and accept bribes, trade power and money, take cards and transfer interests. This will inevitably infringe on the vital interests of those farmers who urgently need targeted poverty alleviation and conscientious enterprises eager for a good business environment. It will also make the "life-saving money" of rural low-income insurance households and poor households be swallowed by corrupt officials, and their minimum living security can not be satisfied, and the "original intention" of Comprehensive Rural Revitalization will be difficult to realize.
- 2. The damage of grassroots political health has led to the crisis of trust of rural enterprises and farmers to the party. A small number of rural "top leaders" who have the right to control poverty relief materials abuse their power, retain and divide them privately, eat the people's tax paying food, but do things that harm the interests of the people. This has led to the loss of poverty relief materials and the increasing burden of rural enterprises, especially in the payment of subsidies for benefiting farmers and merchants, the payment of minimum living insurance, compensation and resettlement for demolition, application for joining the party, and certificate of handling affairs, which are closely related to the interests of the masses, and infringe on the vital interests of farmers and rural enterprises. As a result, it not only affects the fairness and justice of the rural society, but also erodes

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the sense of gain of the poor farmers. If the farmers' hard work is not rewarded, they will have bad or even negative political cognition, political emotion and political evaluation of the party.Local "collapse mode" corruption will seriously harm the party's ruling foundation in rural areas, intensify social contradictions, threaten harmony and stability, and induce the trust crisis of poor farmers to the party.

# 6. The path of business environment optimization under the Comprehensive Rural Revitalization Strategy

- 1. Improve the system of attracting investment and the system of appointment and investigation, and govern by system reform, optimize the business and benefit the people. Improving the relevant system is a sharp weapon to punish the unhealthy business environment in the comprehensive rural revitalization. The establishment of a sound supervision system for poverty alleviation and revitalization projects and strict implementation of the accountability system can achieve full coverage of supervision, strengthen the fund supervision of poverty alleviation and revitalization projects, and prevent the phenomenon of "collusion" for private interests. We will improve the supervision system of village elections and the relationship between government and enterprises. In the past rural management system, the power of grass-roots cadres played a leading role and lacked restriction. The establishment and improvement of the open system of grassroots cadres' poverty alleviation and revitalization work and the system of cadres stationed in the village can avoid the power monopoly and collective corruption among village cadres, and is conducive to the rational distribution of grass-roots resources.
- 2. Encourage the villagers to establish the anti-corruption ethos, so as to check the grass-roots micro corruption. We should popularize the villagers' understanding of relevant laws and encourage them to participate in the supervision of micro corruption in rural areas. The government should vigorously carry out anti-corruption propaganda and education, cultivate citizens' concept of the rule of law, establish a smooth prosecution mechanism, provide convenience for the villagers to report and expose and protect their rights and interests, and promote the process of "micro corruption". Encourage villagers to take the initiative to understand the policy of poverty alleviation and revitalization. The popularization of poverty alleviation and revitalization policy needs multi-level publicity. We should encourage villagers to participate in Anti-corruption Governance through organizational forms, and jointly create a clean and healthy grass-roots political ecology in rural areas, so as to clear the obstacles for the great journey of Comprehensive Rural Revitalization.
- 3. Strengthen the anti-corruption education for grassroots cadres and supervise their work in various aspects. At present, many grass-roots cadres in our country neglect the construction of clean government and legal system. In order to create a clean political atmosphere, it is necessary to strengthen the ideological education of grass-roots cadres, so as to promote the grass-roots cadres and public servants to cultivate the concept of abiding by discipline and law and honest governance from the heart. Guiding the grassroots cadres to participate in the supervision work and encouraging the public servants to actively participate in the governance of micro corruption is a "shot in the arm" for some people in the struggle. Corruption cases can form a warning and deterrent to public officials. It is of great significance to strengthen the sense of responsibility of cadres and form a clean and pragmatic style of work.
- 4. Build an intelligent supervision platform to make the micro corruption problem nowhere to hide. Integrate the information of grassroots work and create an electronic supervision platform. In the comprehensive governance of small and micro power at the grass-roots level, with the help of "Internet +" technology, an electronic management platform for rural projects serving the people and enterprises is built to make the performance evaluation of rural revitalization projects more efficient, improve the economy, and ensure the reasonable use of funds at the institutional level. Build a supervision platform for the funds of Party building to serve the people. The platform adopts the mode of "Internet + supervision", which runs through the whole process of service, gets through the "last kilometer" problem of rural supervision with high quality, cultivates a good atmosphere of

government supervision, and lays a solid foundation for the construction of a good business environment and the growth of new driving forces for rural development.

## 7. Conclusion and Prospect

Based on the research and analysis of Fujian, Henan, Guizhou and Gansu provinces, based on the investigation of the current situation of "Rural Micro corruption" under the strategy of Rural Revitalization and development in the new era, this paper combs the forms, characteristics and hazards of corruption in the field of poverty alleviation of some public officials in the new era, and focuses on the causes of Rural Micro corruption in the process of Rural Revitalization, The blocking mechanism was discussed. The governance of "micro corruption" under the strategy of Rural Revitalization and development can not be separated from the continuous development of the party and the government within the system, but also strengthen the social participation of grassroots anticorruption. At the same time, this paper studies how to improve the business environment of the vast rural areas and gives relevant suggestions. Although the "micro corruption" in rural areas is "micro", it should be "no micro governance". How to make full efforts in the "key minority" and control the "maximum number" and fully combine the anti-corruption forces of all parties to effectively combat the "micro corruption" under the Rural Revitalization is a topic that needs to be adjusted, improved and updated in the future.

The depth, breadth and difficulty of the comprehensive implementation of the Rural Revitalization Strategy are less than those of poverty alleviation. We should improve the policy system, work system and system system, accelerate the pace of agricultural and rural modernization with more powerful measures and gather more powerful forces, so as to promote the high quality and efficiency of agriculture, the livability and employment of villages and the prosperity of farmers. In the future, we will continue to leave our footprints in every corner of the motherland. In view of the "micro corruption" problems in different parts of the country in the process of "Rural Revitalization", we will put forward more detailed governance strategies to ensure a clean and healthy political ecology at the grass-roots level under the comprehensive rural revitalization.

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