



The Participation of Social Organisation in the Building of New Rural Areas in Vietnam

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Traditional public administration theory considers that the government is the sole agent in public governance, then public governance theory considers public governance as well as the process of public policy as an active interaction of many centers, mainly government - businesses and society (social organisations and citizens). The building of new rural areas is one of the important policies aimed at the comprehensive development of agriculture and rural areas and improving the quality of life of rural Vietnamese residents. This policy is directly and in many ways related to the lives of people in rural areas. Therefore, it is very necessary for the participation of people as well as social organisations as representative organisations of the people. The participation of people and social organisations in the building of new rural areas in Vietnam is an important factor contributing to the public purpose of new rural construction policy, as well as a contributing factor to promote social resources in rural development. Based on theoretical frameworks and survey results, this study assesses the current status of the participation of social organisations in the building of new rural areas in Vietnam. At the same time, it provides suggestions to increase the participation of social organisations in the building of new rural areas in Vietnam.

Keywords: *participation; social organisations; local governance; the building of new rural areas; Vietnam*

1. INTRODUCTION

Up to now, the role and functions of social organisations in public governance have been mentioned by many different theories, such as the theory of the third way; the theory of pluralism; the theory of unionism; and the theory of governance of many centers. From the perspective of public administration science, before the limitations and shortcomings of the traditional public administration model, from the 1960s up to now, there have been many theories about public administration, such as the new public administration, the social constructivist theory, the new public service theory, and the public value management theory. The administrative model theory has had direct criticism from the traditional public when it sees the government as the sole agent in social governance. At the same time, based on affirming the "public nature" of public administration to emphasise the creation of an open governance model, as well as emphasise the participation and cooperation of social organisations in public governance (Binh, 2018). In this context, many people attach great importance to research on the role of social institutions in public governance as well as its relationship and cooperation mechanism with the government in public governance.

Usually, social organisations are referred to with many different terms, such as non-profit organisations (to distinguish it from the business); non-governmental organisations (NGO) (to differentiate them from the government); the third sector (to differentiate it from the first is the state and the second is the market). Around the concept of social organisations, there are still many different views, which can be mentioned as follows: (i) "social organisations are organisations outside the state and political parties, whose primary function is to influence public policy (Wilson, 2009); (ii) social organisations, also known as non-profit organisations, is characterised as formal, folk (formed by the people), nonprofit, self-governed and voluntary (Salomon, 2007); (iii) Social organisation is an organisations voluntarily contribution and founded by people, non-profit and non-governmental organisations (Jun, 2014); (v) Social organisations are social organisations, trade associations, funds outside the state sector, the profit sector (enterprises), using non-profit as a purpose. Social organisations cover fields such as education, science and technology, health, culture, art, environmental protection, poverty reduction, and protection of disadvantaged groups' interests. Social organisations operate based on their own laws and regulations to provide services to society as well as promote humanitarianism, reflect with the state on issues that people care about and supervise. The behaviour of the state and the political participation of people in residential areas is an important entity to promote democracy at the grassroots, while promoting irreplaceable functions in social governance (Rong, 2013).

From the above points of view, it can be said that social organisations are associations, professional associations, funds existing outside the state, political parties and markets voluntarily established by citizens. Therefore, implementing self-governance, recognized by law, operating independently and voluntarily, through many different ways to realise the

interests of members and the public. Social organisations have many basic characteristics, such as: (i) formalism, meaning having legal status and recognised by state law; (ii) relative and folk independence, that is, these organisations are relatively independent of the government; (iii) non-distribution of profits; (iv) autonomy and self-governance, that is to have internal governance procedures, without receiving the control of outside organisations; (v) voluntary, that is, a member's participation in the social organisations is not compulsory, but entirely voluntary; public interest, that is, social organisations contribute to resolving legitimate interests of members as well as providing public services to society (Salamon, 2004).

Regarding the classification of social organisations, based on many different criteria, researchers give different classifications for social organisations. For example, according to the scope of activity and the distribution of members, social organisations are classified as organisations with national scope and with a local operating scope. According to the organisational structure, some people classify social organisations into: organised according to pyramid model and is organised in a fragmented style; According to the organisational institutions and membership types, some people classify social organisations as open or closed social organisations (Jin, 2003). From the nature of the organisations and the nature of the operation, some classify the social organisations into promoting social organisations and protecting social organisations. Social organisation protection emphasise the protection of legitimate interests of the members of the organisations. The social promotion of organisations not only emphasises the protection of the interests of the members, but also aims to promote changes in perception, institution, policy and behaviour of the commune to contribute to the realisation of public interest (Hague&Harrop, 2016).

In terms of methods and forms for social organisations to participate in public governance as well as the public policy process, there are still many different approaches and perspectives. Some studies suggest that there are three ways for social organisations to fulfil their functions in public governance: (i) the path of cooperation between the government and social organisations; (ii) the path of participation of social organisations in public governance; (iii) the path of autonomy, social self-governance (Ying, 2015). Another viewpoint is that, in public governance, social organisations have the following role: (i) public policy development; (ii) market surveillance; (iii) government oversight; (iv) direct public service provision; (v) maintaining public values; (vi) cultivating citizenship; (vii) broaden people's participation (Fu, Zhang Cheng & Yun, Dang Xiu, 2004). There is also a view that, in public governance, social organisations have the role of: (i) contributing to maintaining public values; (ii) reporting social issues to public policy-making agencies; (iii) participating in consultation and criticism on public policy options; (iv) participate in the monitoring of government behaviour and administrative officials; (v) review of public policy and the performance of government and administrative agencies; (vi) participate in the provision of public services (Binh, 2019).



The policy of the building of new rural areas in Vietnam is implemented in accordance with the Prime Minister's Decision No. 800/QĐ-TTg dated June 4, 2010, approving the National Target Program on the building of New Rural areas in 2010-2020. The content of this policy is to develop rural areas in Vietnam politically, economically, culturally, socially and ecologically, thereby promoting the comprehensive and sustainable development of rural areas in Vietnam, as well as improving the quality of life of rural residents. This is one of the important public policies that is directly related to the rights and interests of the majority of rural residents in Vietnam. Therefore, it requires the participation of people and social organisations. Inheriting existing studies and from a public administration perspective, this study argues that participation is still the most basic and important way for social organisations to assert their role in public governance and the public policy process. The participation of social organisations in the building of new rural areas is understood as all acts and activities through institutions and formal mechanisms to influence the planning process, organising the implementation and evaluation of policies for new rural construction, thereby contributing to ensuring the efficiency and sustainability of building a new environment. The participation of social organisations in the building of new rural areas in Vietnam is manifested in many different modes and forms. In this study, we mainly survey and evaluate the participation of social organisations on 6 aspects, namely: (i) access to information; (ii) policy initiatives; (iii) social criticism; (iv) self-governance and social autonomy; (v) cooperating with the government in the provision of public services; (vi) supervising the government in the process of the building of new rural areas; (vii) evaluating the results of implementing the building of new rural policy.

In addition to the documentary research methods and normative methods to form the above theoretical framework, this study uses the sociological survey method to collect data to clarify the current status of the participation of social organisations in building new rural areas in Vietnam. Specifically, based on the indicators of the above research scope, a system of questions was designed to interview and collect information from two main subjects at the grassroots level (commune level). These are (i) heads of social organisations and (ii) local people. The total number of surveys issued is 5000, to gather information in some provinces and cities in different regions of the country.

2. RESEARCH RESULTS

Access to information about social organisations

The level of information on the grassroots new rural construction policy of social organisations plays a very important role in the participation of social organisations as well as the participation of the people. Because, this is the basis for social organisations to actively coordinate with the government in the process of building a new countryside, as well as the

basis for social organisations to perform their functions, such as propaganda, supervision, and criticism functions.

The research results show that 78% of respondents are leaders of social organisations, and said they have grasped information about the National Target Program to build new rural areas; 86% of the respondents said they knew about the set of criteria for building a new countryside; 87% of the respondents said that they knew about the programs and plans for new rural construction of the government at district and commune levels; 62% of respondents said they know about the results of new rural construction; 45% of the respondents said they know information related to the planning of new rural construction; 42% of the respondents said they knew about the new rural construction project; 42% of respondents said that they know information related to the estimate and settlement of new rural construction projects. 69% of respondents said that they did not know enough about the program and plans to build a new countryside of the community government; 93% of respondents said that they do not know fully about the planning of new rural construction; 76% of respondents said that they do not fully know about the new rural construction project; 89% of the respondents said that they do not know fully about the cost estimates and settlement of new rural construction projects.

Regarding the method of accessing information, 63% of the respondents said that they access information on new rural construction through the mass media; 31% of respondents think that their organisation is actively searching, the rest is through other methods. Regarding the meaning and effects of access to information, 79% of respondents said that fully understanding of information on new rural construction helps social organisations to participate more actively in the effectiveness in the process of building a new countryside.

Outlining policy initiatives

Policy initiatives are a form of social organisations' participation in local governance. It is understood that social organisations actively raise their initiative to the government about the issuance or amendment of a certain policy (Binh et al, 2019). If the initiative is well implemented by social organisations and the government attaches great importance to their initiatives, this will contribute to improving the capacity of the government to respond, as well as contribute to the government policy to reflect the needs and aspirations of citizens.

The research results show that 36% of respondents said that social organisations have raised initiatives in the process of building a new countryside, of which 67% of respondents said that organisations society raised initiatives on new rural construction projects; 18% of respondents said that social organisations have raised initiatives to adjust the way of implementing the new rural construction project; 7% of respondents said that social organisations have initiatives to change the order of priorities in new rural construction



projects; 6% of respondents said that social organisations raised initiatives to adjust members of the Commune's New Rural Construction Steering Committee and the Commune New Rural Construction Management Board. There are 85% of respondents that said the initiative proposed by social organisations has been absorbed by the government.

Social criticism of social organisations

Social criticism is an important form of participation of social organisations in public policy processes as well as in local governance. Social criticism of social organisations is understood as the fact that social organisations are based on a theoretical basis, practical basis and from the people's standpoint to comment and evaluate state opinions and opinions, draft government policies. Social criticism of communal organisations aims to detect missing, inaccurate, inappropriate, or inappropriate contents in draft government policy documents; proposing practical contents, contributing to ensuring the correctness, in accordance with the reality of social life and effectiveness in government policy-making; guaranteeing the people's legitimate rights and interests; promote democracy, strengthen social consensus. If the quality of social criticism of social organisations is good and the government attaches great importance to and receives criticism from these social organisations, then social criticism will contribute to improving the quality of government policies.

The research results show that 92% of respondents said that social organisations have implemented social criticism on their own draft policies, plans and projects on new rural construction. In which, 28% of the respondents said that social organisations had criticised the draft plan on building new rural long-term and each year; 13% of respondents said that social organisations have criticised the draft new rural construction planning; 51% of respondents said that social organisations had criticised the draft report on the results of new rural construction; 5% of the respondents said that social organisations have criticised the draft planning for new rural construction; 3% of respondents said that social organisations have criticised the budget estimate for new rural construction. 54% of the respondents said that social organisations are proactive in criticising; 41% of respondents said that the draft was sent by the government to invite social organisations to comment. Regarding the main difficulties in implementing social criticism, the question for leaders of social organisations is: "What are the difficulties in implementing social criticism of social organisations today", 44% of the respondents said that it was due to the low critical capacity of their organisations; 24% of respondents said that due to lack of funding; 14% said that the mechanism was not clear; 3% think that it is due to the government's lack of conditions and 13% of the respondents' lack of information.



Supervision of social organisations

Social monitoring of social organisations is understood as the monitoring, discovery, review, evaluation and recommendations of these organisations to influence the government and public managers on legal policy. Supervision of social organisations falls under the category of social supervision. With many different modes, the supervision of social organisations plays an important role in ensuring the implementation of administrative responsibilities (Binh, 2014) and contributes to ensuring the fulfilment of the government's responsibility (Rosenbloom et al, 2008).

Research results on monitoring of grassroots social organisations in building new rural areas in Vietnam show that 91% of respondents are leaders of social organisations who self-assess activities that are social monitoring of social organisations is “good”. Regarding the monitoring content, 30% of respondents said that social organisations supervise the implementation of new rural construction projects; 8% of respondents said that social organisations supervise budget revenues and expenditures related to building new rural areas; 31% of respondents said that social organisations monitor the behaviour and employment of government and grassroots public managers; 26% of respondents said that social organisations supervise the implementation of grassroots democracy regulations.

In Vietnam, the People's Inspectorate and the Community Investment Supervision Board are social institutions that perform a grassroots monitoring function. Regarding the supervision activities of these institutions, 58% of the respondents rated the activities of the People's Inspectorate and the Community Investment Supervision Board as effective, while 42% of respondents said that the monitoring activities of these organisations are not effective. A report on the effectiveness of governance and public administration at the provincial level in 2018 in 2019 shows that the proportion of respondents who believe that the People's Inspectorate and the Investment Supervision Board of the community supervise the new construction and repair, 37.78% and 41.11% respectively (CECODES, VFF-CRT, RTA & UNDP, 2020).

Regarding the activities of reporting and raising recommendations on related issues in the process of building a new countryside of social organisations, 55% of respondents who are leaders of social organisations said that social organisations regularly raise feedback and make recommendations to grassroots government on issues related to new rural construction. Regarding the method of raising feedback and recommendations, 60% say that these organisations give their feedback and recommendations through periodic dialogues organised by the authorities; 40% said that these organisations reflect and give their opinions through proactively submitting petitions. Regarding the contents of feedback and recommendations, 84% of the respondents said that social organisations reflect and recommend to the government on issues that people are frustrated with. Regarding the level of government

responses to the recommendations, proposals and feedbacks of social organisations, the proportion of respondents saying that the government has responded satisfactorily to the organisation's complaints and recommendations to the society are 20.17%.

Social autonomy and self-governance

A good government is not necessarily a government that has every requirement, but a government that provides adequate opportunities for citizens to solve problems themselves. Social self-governance or social autonomy is a means or institution that ensures people learn about governance, creating common good together and improving the level of social civilization, also an important path and foundation to promote open government construction. Social self-governance refers to a form of citizenship and social organisation-centered governance, whereby within a certain organisation and region, citizens and social organisations conduct their management with public issues.

Social self-governance of social organisations in the construction of new rural areas in Vietnam mainly manifests itself in two basic aspects: self-governance in residential areas and self-governance through propaganda, advocacy and the organisation of volunteer activities in new rural construction. Regarding self-governance in residential areas, research shows that, in the process of building a new countryside in Vietnam, social organisations have organised and maintained many models of self-governance in residential areas, attracting the participation of many people. These self-management activities are mainly related to ensuring security and order, building a cultural life, and protecting the environment. The survey results show that 54% of the people surveyed said that they were members of the team, a certain self-governing group in the residential area organised by social organisations. Of which, 38% of the respondents said that they were members of the self-management team in terms of security and order; 11.3% said they were members of the self-governing team for environmental protection; 18% said they were members of the grassroots mediation self-governing team; 12.7% said that they were members of the self-governing team of law education; 2.7% said that they were members of a self-governing team for the management of public works in the village and commune; 17.3% said they were members of other self-governing teams. Social self-governance of social organisations is also through many different activities and movements, namely: (i) propagating and educating members on the policy of building new countryside and mobilising members to accumulate pole join this policy. The research results show that 54% of the respondents said that the propaganda and mobilisation of the people of social organisations is good; (ii) volunteering, in recent years, social organisations have deployed many volunteer activities, especially volunteering in implementing social security. The research results show that 100% of the respondents said that social organisations organise volunteer activities in the process of building a new countryside. In particular, it is necessary to mention the typical volunteer activities, such as



"The program to mobilise care and help for the poor"; The "gratitude fund" movement. Some social organisations have derived from the nature of their own organisations to deploy appropriate movements, such as the Farmers' Union, which deploys the movement "Farmers good business and production emulation, solidarity to help each other get rich and sustainable poverty reduction", "Farmers emulate building a new countryside"; organizing the Youth Union to deploy the movement "Youth join hands to build a new countryside"; The Women's Union organises the movement "Women work together to build a new countryside", "Model Women's Union, associated with the campaign of; no poverty, no law violation and social evils, no domestic violence, no third or higher children, no malnourished children and children dropping out of school, and cleanliness clean house, clean kitchen, clean lane. The Veterans Association organised the movement "Exemplary veterans and helped each other do business"; The Red Cross organised the movement "Each organisation, each individual is associated with a humanitarian address". In particular, the "Farmers Association" model in some localities in Dong Thap province has played an important role in promoting the self-governance of farmers and promoting the people's ownership.

Cooperate with the government in public service delivery

As an important aspect of public-private cooperation, cooperation between government and social organisations is meaningful in many ways, contributing to overcoming "market failure" and contributing to part overcoming "the failure of the state". To be more specific, through forms such as contracting, the government subsidises social organisations and procures public services from social organisations, cooperation between the government and social organisations, contributes to the lack of government resources; bringing into play the strength of many parties to promote the quick and effective resolution of social problems; reduce government public spending; provide public services faster; reduce the social role of the government; promote social autonomy and autonomy as well as improve the quality of public services (Binh et al, 2020). Cooperation between the government and social organisations is also an important way to fund the activities of social organisations. There are studies showing that, in Europe, Hong Kong (China) and the United States, the revenues of social organisations are from the state budget for the procurement of public services, accounting for 40-70 %, 70-80% and 31% (Jin, 2009).

The practice of building a new countryside in Vietnam shows that, in addition to autonomously organising the movements and voluntary activities mentioned above, social organisations also participate in cooperation with the government in providing public services (ensure security and order, develop transport infrastructure, protect the environment, provide legal advice) and solve social problems (crime and social evils, multidimensional poverty) through the provision of funding by the government for social organisations to carry out certain projects or work. In this respect, the research results show that 53% of the respondents said that social organisations have been assigned by the government to implement a project

and are provided with adequate funding; 61% of the respondents said that social organisations have been assigned by the government to perform a specific job and are provided with adequate funding.

Participate in evaluating the effectiveness of the new rural construction policy

One of the primary functions of government is the provision of public goods and services, considering it the primary task of realising the public good and satisfying the needs of the public. Therefore, citizen-centric public governance also means taking citizen satisfaction as a basic criterion for assessing government performance, while ensuring the participation of citizens and social organisations in government administration (Binh, 2016). As a public policy, the effective implementation of a new rural construction policy reflects the effectiveness of government governance, the governance capacity of the government manifested in the government's function and its mission. Emphasising the "people-centered" motto in the process of new rural construction requires the government to grasp the level of people's satisfaction with the results achieved; At the same time, it is necessary to ensure the participation of citizens and social organisations in the results of new rural construction.

The research results on the evaluation participation of social organisations on the results of implementing the new rural construction policy showed that 92% of the respondents said that some social organisations have been Government requests for comments on the implementation results of the new rural construction policy; 62% of the respondents said that social organisations have collected opinions of people on 17 contents according to the National Criteria for New Rural Communes in the 2016-2020 period.

3. DISCUSSION AND EVALUATION

From the research results on the participation of social organisations in building new countryside in Vietnam, some comments can be made as follows:

Firstly, social organisations' access to information on new rural construction has some advantages but still has some limitations in both content and extent. Specifically, the proportion of respondents who are leaders of social organisations said that they have grasped information related to planning for new rural construction; new rural construction projects; estimate and settlement of new rural construction projects respectively 45%; 42%; 42%. This shows that the level of social organisations' access to information on new rural construction is not high. Besides, 69% of respondents who are leaders of social organisations said that they did not know enough about the commune's programs and plans to build new rural areas; 93% of respondents who are leaders of social organisations said that they do not know fully about planning for new rural construction; 76% said they did not know fully about the new rural construction project and 89% of the respondents said that they did not know fully about the

cost estimates and final settlement of new rural construction projects. Social organisations' inadequate access to information on new rural construction is one of the reasons leading to the level of ensuring people's right to access information on new rural construction. low. The study results showed that 26% of the respondents said that they knew about the programs and plans to build new rural areas of the district and commune governments; 20% of the respondents said that they knew about the commune's new rural construction planning; Only 7% of respondents said that they know about the new rural construction project; Only 5.3% of the respondents said that they know about the cost estimates and finalisation of new rural construction projects.

Secondly, Social organisations have not properly appreciated activities of policy initiatives and social criticism in the building new rural areas. As shown above, 64% of respondents who are leaders of social organisations said that the organisations they are in charge of do not raise policy initiatives in new rural construction. 36% of the respondents said that the local government did not consult and listen to the opinions of social organisations on related issues in the process of building a new countryside. The number of respondents who are working in social organisations said that their organisations have participated in criticising the draft new rural construction plan; draft new rural construction planning; new rural construction project; the budget estimate for new rural construction reaches a very low rate, corresponding to 28%; 13%; 5%; 3%.

This data shows that the government has the direction and control in which social organisations can criticise certain types of draft documents. That is, critical drafts that need to be criticised are not considered critical, for example, planning new rural construction, a new rural construction project, and budgeting for agricultural construction of a new village. On the other hand, the capacity, quality and courage of social organisations to criticise are still limited. Most social criticism of social organisations is only reflected in commenting activities. The capacity and spirit of brave and daring people to criticise social organisations are not high. Regarding the causes of the difficulties and limitations in implementing social criticism of social organisations, 44.4% of the respondents said that because the critical capacity of social organisations is not high; 24% thought it was due to lack of funding; 14.4% believe that the mechanism is not clear; 13.4% think it is due to lack of information and 6% say that it is due to the lack of information from the government.

Thirdly, the effectiveness and efficiency of social supervision of social organisations is still not high. The basis of this affirmation is that 29% of the people surveyed said that social organisations seldom raise feedback and petition to the government on related issues in the agricultural construction process of a new village; 24% of respondents who are working in social organisations think that the supervision of the People's Inspection Committee is ineffective; Similarly, 42% of respondents said that supervision of the Community Investment Supervision Board is not effective. This is further confirmed by other research

results. According to the report on the effectiveness of governance and public administration at the provincial level in 2019, 41.11% of the respondents said that the People's Inspectorate and the Community Investment Supervision Board supervised the construction of public works in the community (CECODES, VFF-CRT, RTA & UNDP, 2019). Besides, these institutions have not properly attached importance to the supervision of the contents of budget revenue and expenditure as well as the implementation of democracy in housing. The number of respondents said that these social institutions participating in monitoring of government budget revenues and expenditures as well as the implementation of democracy at the grassroots level are only low, at 8% and 26% respectively.

Fourthly, the quality and effectiveness of autonomy and social self-governance are still not high. Regulations and conventions in residential areas are important institutions for implementing social self-governance. However, the building of conventions has not yet promoted the participation of people as well as social organisations. The research results show that 34% of the respondents said that they did not participate in the process of building conventions. The people's sense of self-awareness in implementing social autonomy according to the conventions is still inadequate when nearly 40% of the respondents say that the degree of voluntarily compliance with the conventions of households is not good. Self-governance of people in residential areas through the establishment and operation of self-governing groups, teams and associations is still limited. A related study showed that only 16.76% of respondents said that they participate in social organisations, associations, groups and independent clubs (CECODES, VFF-CRT, RTA & UNDP, 2019). This study showed that 46% of respondents said that they are not members of any team or self-governing group in the neighbourhood. On the other hand, self-governing teams and groups in residential areas are not yet comprehensive in all fields. 38% of respondents said that self-governing teams operate in the field of security and order; also in other fields, such as environmental protection; grassroots mediation; propagating and disseminating laws; management of public works in residential areas and other self-governing teams accounted for a low percentage, respectively: 11.3%; 18%; 12.7%; 2.7% and 17.3%.

The implementation of social self-governance through the activities of social organisations is also limited when the effectiveness of these organisations' propaganda and education is not high. The study shows that only 5% of the respondents said that they access information on new rural construction through the propaganda of social organisations. In addition, apart from some advantages, some movements and self-governance models deployed by these organisations are still formalistic and unsustainable. Some models and volunteer activities of social organisations have not yet met the needs and aspirations of people in residential areas.

Fifthly, the participation in the assessment of governance and policy evaluation of social organisations has not yet met the requirements. Citizen-centric governance requires the participation of citizens and social organisations in the assessment of governance and the

implementation of critical policies. However, in general, social organisations are not organisational subjects for people to participate in governance assessment as well as policy evaluation. The limitations in evaluating the implementation of new rural construction policies of social organisations are reflected in the main aspects: (i) social organisations have not promoted the participation of people in the assessment with the government's new rural construction policy, when up to 50% of the respondents said that they did not have the opportunity to participate in evaluating the effectiveness of policies, new rural construction projects; (ii) the autonomy and independence of social organisations in evaluating the effectiveness of the implementation of new rural construction policies is not yet high. This means that, although a number of social organisations have participated in evaluating the effectiveness of the implementation of the new rural construction policy, the assessment has not really ensured objectivity and independence; (iii) The organisations for the people to participate in the evaluation of the new rural construction policy, as well as the direct evaluation of the new rural construction policy of the social organisations, is mainly done before community procedures to be recognised as a community meeting the new rural standards, which has not been conducted regularly after it has been recognised as a commune meeting the new rural standards.

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From the above research results, we can confirm that, in local governance and building new countryside in Vietnam, social organisations have shown their roles. However, the effectiveness of participation of social organisations in local governance as well as in the process of building a new countryside is not high. Therefore, to optimise the local governance structure as well as improve the efficiency of local governance, it is necessary to pay attention to the following issues:

Firstly, the institutional reform of rural development and new rural construction in Vietnam in a way that places greater emphasis on the participation of social organisations in the local governance process and in the construction of new countryside, namely: (i) expressing and grasping the "citizen-centred" perspective in local governance and the process of building a new countryside; (ii) recognising that the participation of people and social organisations is key and a decisive factor to ensure the subjective role of the people in local governance and in the process of building a new countryside. , from there, both in institutional building and institutional implementation, attaching importance to the real participation of people and social organisations; (iii) express a clear view of the three pillars of the state - market (businesses) and society (people and social organisations) in local governance and in building a new countryside; (iv) completing a set of local governance evaluation criteria towards a full emphasis on criteria, such as government integrity; the degree of ensuring publicity and transparency in government operations; rule of law; the level of citizen participation assurance; the level of performance of accountability; the level of development of grassroots

public utility organisations; the level of internet usage by the people and the efficiency of information technology application in government activities; quality and efficiency of autonomy and self-governance of the people at the grassroots level.

Secondly, transform the government's governance model to an "open government" model. Both theory and practice show that not all governance models of the government are conducive to promoting the participation of social organisations in public governance. With the "closed" feature, the traditional governance model of government is not conducive to the participation of social organisations. Only open government is a governance model conducive to the participation of social organisations. Open government is a governance model with features, such as (i) citizenship, that is, the government itself is not an end, but an instrument; (ii) fairness, ie the state that the government is not "self-centred", the government accepts all differences, through sincere dialogue to seek consensus; (iii) openness, ie openness and transparency of information in government governance; (iv) sharing and cooperation, that is, the effective interaction and cooperation between government and business, society and citizens; (v) integration, that is, the integration of hierarchy, function, and between the public and private sectors in governance; (vi) innovation, which recognises and encourages everyone to have maximum freedom within the framework of the law; through freedom to get innovation, to unleash creativity (Fu, 2015). Open government is achieved through institutional systems, such as information disclosure and transparency; policy consultation and consultation; participation of people and social organisations; governance cooperation between government and business and society (social organisations); autonomy and social self-governance. Therefore, to improve the effectiveness of social organisations' participation in local governance and in building a new countryside in Vietnam, it is necessary to strengthen the transformation of the government's governance model towards an open government. This is a prerequisite for enhancing and enhancing the effectiveness of social organisations' participation in local governance in Vietnam.

Thirdly, develop social organisations and improve the autonomy of existing social organisations. Many studies have confirmed the importance of the development of social organisation for the implementation of democracy. Social organisations are essential for the functioning of the democratic process, which has the function of minimising state coercion, ensuring political freedom, improving people's lives (Dahl, 1983). The role of social organisations is to synthesise and express the benefits of the people, and at the same time, it is the basis for people to exercise social autonomy and self-governance. In fact, the role of government, especially the role of local government, is to facilitate the development of social organisations and help social organisations fulfil their functions, including the function of expressing the aspirations and benefits of people as well as fostering skills and capacity to participate for the people (Danhart et al, 2001). Through social organisations, the voice of the people is easily appreciated by the government. This means that social organisations themselves are the best way for people to participate in the local governance process. Social



organisations also play an important role in fostering capacity and participation skills for people, because only in social organisations can people rely on a form of dialogue and personal discussion to join together, which is the essence of democracy and residential construction.

In recent years, social organisations have developed quite strongly in Vietnam, for example, there are currently more than 1000 social organisations in operation. Even so, the scope of activities of social organisations is mainly at the provincial and district levels. Few social organisations are operating at the community level, especially in rural areas. This is one of the reasons that 31.24% of the people are not members of any organisation. From this reality, it is necessary to create a suitable political and legal environment for social organisations to form and develop; At the same time, local authorities need to support the development of social organisations, as well as actively cooperate with social organisations in local governance.

In addition to developing voluntary and public social organisations in rural areas, existing social organisations need to improve their autonomy and participate more effectively in the governance process. In local governance, the main functions and roles of social organisations include: (i) representing and protecting people's rights and interests; (ii) public policy development through policy initiatives, social consultation and criticism; (iii) monitoring and giving comments, feedback and recommendations to the authorities; (iv) unite, gather all classes of people and mobilise people to implement policies; (v) propaganda and education; (vi) participate in social problem solving and the provision of public services; (vii) assess local governance. The aforementioned functions and roles of social organisations are all important, but in the current new conditions, grassroots social organisations based on the function of representing and protecting the rights and interests of people to place greater emphasis on functions, such as public policy development, especially policy initiatives and social criticism; function of monitoring and commenting, reflecting, recommending; function to assess local governance and promote democracy. In local governance as well as in the construction of new countryside, social organisations need to attach more importance to activities, such as policy initiatives, social criticism; supervise, comment, reflect, and recommend to the authorities; policy review; cooperate with authorities in providing public services and expanding people's participation. To effectively implement their functions and activities, social organisations themselves need to attach importance to self-renewal and improve autonomy in operations. Besides, the government should strengthen cooperation with social organisations as well as create favourable conditions for social organisations to perform their functions and roles well and in local governance in accordance with legal regulations the law.

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