Research on the Dilemma and Countermeasures of Happy City Construction

Jiawei Long*

School of Marxism, Donghua University, Songjiang District, Shanghai, 201600, China
*Corresponding author: 2193313698@qq.com

Abstract: *As an important way to realize the people's longing for a better life, building a happy city is of great significance to improving the quality of life of the people and building a modern and powerful socialist country. This article first sorts out the three major difficulties facing the construction of a happy city at present, including the binary opposition between "villages in the city" and urban high-rise buildings, the imbalance of public resource supply caused by the concentration of urban population, and the imperfection of the urban ecological civilization system. On this basis, corresponding countermeasures are put forward from the three levels of the country, society and individuals, covering aspects such as consolidating the economic foundation, innovating social governance, and updating ideas and concepts.*

Keywords: *happy city; dilemma; path and countermeasure*

1. Introduction

A happy city refers to a city where residents living in the city can feel happy. It can be examined from the aspects of economic development, social governance, urban culture and human settlement environment, and is usually measured by "urban happiness". [1] At present, China has achieved many results in the construction of happy cities, and people's happiness has been significantly improved. However, in the context of the new era, the construction of happy cities also faces certain difficulties that need to be solved. To this end, carefully analyzing the current difficulties faced by the construction of happy cities, and proposing effective countermeasures to improve the quality of happy cities on this basis, is of contemporary significance for realizing people's happy life and accelerating the pace of building a modern and powerful socialist country.

2. Dilemma of building a happy city

2.1 Development dilemma: the binary opposition between "villages in the city" and urban high-rise buildings

Urban villages refer to villages in which farmers become urban residents due to the expropriation of all or most of their arable land during the process of urbanization, but villages still implement village self-government and rural collective ownership.[2] Urban villages are the product of rural urbanization that has not yet been completely completed. These "urban villages" are not only residential spaces for a large number of migrant populations, but also economic strongholds on which poor people rely for survival. They have some common problems.

First of all, the structure of the residential population is complex. "Villages in the city" are composed of three parts: villagers, citizens and migrant workers. Among them, migrant workers have high social mobility and the social security situation is very unstable. The migrant population belongs to the marginal group of the "village in the city". They have neither the right to participate in community management nor the relevant community service guarantees. Secondly, there is a lack of overall planning, and various illegal buildings gather together. A large number of "one-line sky", "handshake building", "veneer building" and other illegal buildings emerge one after another. [3]Finally, incomplete public facilities, poor sanitation, messy pipes, poor sewage discharge, disorderly piles of garbage, and narrow streets pose a great threat to fire safety. At the same time, on the other side of the "Village in the city", high-rise buildings are rising in the city, a large number of buildings are constantly being expanded, housing prices are soaring, and a large number of "house slaves", "dwellers", "ant

clan" and other groups have emerged. However, urban land resources are relatively fixed and limited. Existing urban land resources are far from meeting the growing housing needs of urban residents. In addition, local governments rely on selling land use rights to increase government revenue, causing housing prices to rise rather than fall. A large number of migrant workers, college graduates, and entrepreneurial young people simply cannot afford such high housing prices. They can only "live" in "urban villages" with incomplete facilities, small areas, and inconvenient transportation, and bear the burden of being marginalized. Pain has gradually become the "ant tribe" in urban life, not to mention improving the quality of life and increasing happiness.

The binary opposition between the continuous expansion of urban high-rise buildings and the large number of "dwellings" in "urban villages" has become a bottleneck restricting urban development. It has also seriously affected the improvement of people's quality of life and hindered the pace of building a happy city. This urban "cancer" of "high housing prices and difficult housing" is, on the one hand, the bubble and virtualization of the economy, and on the other hand, it is the emergence of shortcomings in social and people's livelihood issues. High housing prices make it untenable for a large number of talents, discourage low-income earners, make migrant workers "outsiders" to urban welfare, cut off channels for injecting new talents into urban development, and hinder the construction of a happy city.

2.2 Structural Dilemma: There is a mismatch between urban population agglomeration and public resource supply.

Population is the driving force for urban development. The large inflow of population has brought strong impetus to the development of cities and quickly formed the development dividends of super megacities. At the same time, the influx of a large population has also had a huge impact on the limited urban space and per capita public resources, reducing residents' quality of life and reducing their happiness in life.

First, excessive population agglomeration leads to uneven distribution of public resources. The pursuit of a better life in the city has driven a large number of people to move to big cities, and some big cities in my country have even become places where foreign populations "explode" inflow. The agglomeration of population has resulted in insufficient public service facilities and prominent shortcomings in people's livelihood. Secondly, the issue of work-housing balance still needs to be resolved. Taking Hangzhou, a benchmark for the construction of a happy city in my country, as an example, on the one hand, there are problems with the structure of residential and employment land. For example, Qiantang District, Gongshu District and Binjiang District in Hangzhou have more employment land and less residential land, resulting in a structural job-housing imbalance. On the other hand, from the perspective of commuting time, due to the imperfect transportation organization system and insufficient guidance of public transportation such as subways, 17% of commuters in urban areas still take more than 45 minutes to commute. Finally, the population in central urban areas is agglomerating, approaching the limit of carrying capacity.

Therefore, under the premise that the urban area is the basic unit for the allocation of resource elements, the over-concentration of population in the main urban area will lead to an unreasonable and unbalanced scale structure of the population and public resources, and will inevitably lead to industrial development, public services, urban governance, and magnify the various problems in the construction of a happy city.

2.3 Institutional Dilemma: The ecological civilization system is not sound and perfect enough

First, institutional crowding and institutional absence coexist. In the process of practice, there is system congestion in relevant policies and systems among local governments, which is mainly reflected in the number of systems and the level of systems. In terms of the number of systems, the coexistence of many systems weakens the implementation and effect of the dominant system. As a result, the powers and responsibilities of various departments are unclear, and the phenomena of "fishing in troubled waters" and "free riding" among various departments and systems appear. Taking water management as an example, most of the management of water resources involves the Government, the Ecological Environment Bureau, the Water Group and other departments, each department has its own responsibilities to introduce the appropriate rules and regulations. However, this objectively results in the coexistence of multiple systems and a lack of unified management. Dispatch and command lack overall grasp and leadership. In terms of system level, the coexistence of different levels and types of systems makes the system redundant, making grassroots departments overwhelmed and difficult to deal

with. Taking ecological and environmental protection supervision as an example, regarding the issue of ecological supervision, four major entities at different levels, namely the party committee, the National People's Congress, the government, and the competent authorities, coexist. As a result, most grassroots entities are busy dealing with various ecological and environmental protection inspections, which seriously distracts the pursuit of ecological green. The energy of development reduces the quality of ecological environment construction. At the same time, on the other side of the crowded ecological civilization system, there is a lack of system. The absence of the system is mainly manifested in two aspects: first, the absence of the institutional system. Promoting green development and building ecological civilization is a systematic project that requires overall planning and overall advancement to build a systematic, scientific and complete ecological civilization system. For example, due to the dispersion, concealment, uncertainty, lag and other characteristics of rural non-point source pollution, and its close relationship with farmers and agricultural production, there has been a long-term lack of effective control and governance of rural non-point source pollution, and there are institutional gaps. Secondly, there is a lack of institutional innovation. Take the carbon trading system in terms of energy conservation and emission reduction as an example. For many years, there have been only voices but no action, and institutional innovation has been elusive for a long time.

Second, the lack of institutional guidance and conflicts between institutions. On the one hand, the construction of ecological civilization is a dynamic evolution process, and the design of the system should also be constantly updated and evolved. In the early severe stage of ecological environment governance, the governance of the ecological environment was mainly based on "mandatory systems" such as administrative accountability, criminal liability, and administrative penalties. With the continuous improvement of the quality of the ecological environment, it should be gradually transitioned to the green fiscal and tax system and green property rights system and other "selective system" is the main measures. However, judging from the current institutional practice, the role of "selective systems" such as the green fiscal and taxation system and the green property rights system has not been effectively played. Ecological and environmental governance is still dominated by traditional "mandatory systems", and the leading role of the system insufficient. On the other hand, the ecological civilization system lacks coupling reinforcement and has matrix conflicts. First, the system design should be coupled and complementary, so as to realize comprehensive governance and system governance, and create "1+1>2" performance. However, in the current practice, there is a phenomenon of "fighting independently". Taking current pollution control as an example, total emission control and emission rights trading are independent of each other and do not interfere with each other. If total emission control and emission rights trading are coordinated with each other, system optimization can be achieved and the expansion effect of institutional coupling can be achieved. Second, there are conflicts in the ecological civilization system matrix, which makes it difficult for various systems to match and couple with each other, and various departments and units lack mutual cooperation and cooperation. This conflict is manifested in: the details of the subordinate legal system conflict with each other. For example, on the one hand, some ecological functional zones emphasize not using GDP as an assessment indicator; on the other hand, they have introduced investment policies to assess the quality and quantity of investment. This is actually assessing economic indicators in a disguised form, which has greatly reduced the effectiveness of the implementation of the system.

3. Paths and countermeasures to improve the quality of happy city construction

3.1 Concept innovation leads economic construction

Concept innovation is the forerunner of orderly economic and social development, and top-level design is the strategic guideline for economic construction. The construction of a happy city requires the guidance of correct concepts in order to continuously improve people's livelihood and well-being, thereby achieving the free and comprehensive development of people.

Adhere to the people-centered development philosophy. The construction of happy cities should focus on improving the level of economic development, with the goal of sharing development results by the people, and continue to promote the construction of happy cities to improve quality and efficiency. Implementing the people-oriented concept into the entire process of economic construction, on the one hand, we strive to make the "cake" of economic construction bigger, through vigorously developing regional comparative advantages, taking supply-side structural reform as the main line, adjusting the industrial structure and building a modern economic system. As a starting point, we aim to achieve high-quality development, create more material wealth, and solidify the foundation for the

construction of a happy city; on the other hand, we must divide the "cake" of economic construction and promote social fairness and justice. Through innovative institutional arrangements, efforts will be made to solve prominent problems such as uneven development between regions, inequality between local residents and migrant populations, and the opposition between urban high-rise buildings and "villages in the city", ensuring and improving people's livelihood while sharing development results, and forming a society of co-construction, co-governance and sharing, so as to realize the common well-being of the entire population.

Adhere to the new development concept. The new development concept with "innovation, coordination, green, openness, and sharing" as the core is the theoretical guidance and fundamental compliance of my country's current economic construction. The construction of a happy city must be integrated into the overall national economic construction, improve its political position, and adhere to the guidance of new development concepts. The concept of innovation is used to vigorously develop the digital economy industry and promote industrial restructuring, optimization and upgrading; the concept of coordination is used to promote the construction of regional linkage and solve the current problem of imbalance and insufficiency of development among regions; the concept of green is used to build a green economic system and properly resolve the contradiction between economic construction and ecological environmental protection; the concept of openness is used to create a new platform for opening up to the outside world and inject diversified impetus to the economic development; and the concept of sharing is used to promote the sharing of the fruits of economic and social development among all the people, and to promote fairness and justice in society.

3.2 Increase the effective supply of public goods

As the provider of public products, the government is responsible and obliged to provide more and more effective public products, and it is also the due meaning of building a service-oriented government and meeting the public product needs of building a happy city. Therefore, it is necessary to promote the structural reform of the supply side of public products, optimize the supply structure, improve the quality of supply, increase the effective supply of public products, and strengthen the material support for the construction of a happy city.

Strengthen the top-level design and system planning of public product supply. Formulating a scientific and effective public product supply strategy is helpful to improve the supply quality and supply efficiency of public products, and realize the "benefit maximization" of public product supply. On the one hand, it is necessary to do what is within our capabilities and do our best to clarify the amount of public products provided by the government, that is, to allocate financial funds reasonably by clarifying the amount of supply, so as to avoid excessive government debt burden caused by too much investment in public products, or insufficient investment in public products unable to meet social needs. On the other hand, it is to implement the main responsibility and clarify the quality of public goods provided by the government. It is necessary to adhere to the principle of systematic planning and highlighting key areas, allocate public resources reasonably within the region, and prioritize the effective supply of public products related to key areas such as national economy and people's livelihood. At the same time, it is also necessary to strengthen the current structural reform of the supply side of public goods, address prominent issues such as supply-demand imbalance and disconnection from the supply side, and enhance the adaptability and matching of the supply structure of public goods to changes in social demand,

Support social participation and multiple supply of public goods supply. The government, as the main provider of urban public goods, does not exclude other market players from producing and providing public goods, and such non-government market players are able to improve the quality of their supply through competition to make up for the shortfall in public goods provided by the government in the process of providing public goods. In the future supply of urban public goods, the government can guide and support the injection of social capital into the field of public goods supply, and support the participation of social capital in the construction of social and livelihood-related fields by appropriately expanding the scope of the main body of the supply of public goods, subsidizing the investment of social capital, providing subsidies for loans and interest rates, and purchasing public services from the market in a variety of ways, so as to expand the scope of the coverage of the supply of public goods through multi-channels, multi-initiatives, and improve the quality of the supply of public goods, so as to raise the quality and increase the efficiency for the effective supply of urban public goods.

3.3 Improve personal wealth creation ability

Talent is the first resource. Building a happy city is a great undertaking that all people participate in and strive for. It requires everyone's active participation and unremitting efforts. Only in this way can the talents and wisdom of the people be effectively brought into play and the majestic power of building a happy city can be gathered. Therefore, efforts must be made to improve personal wealth creation capabilities, increase residents' income, improve the employability and willingness of the labor force, and solve prominent employment problems such as structural unemployment and frictional unemployment.

Guiding the establishment of the concept of lifelong learning by stepping up publicity and education efforts. Ideas are the forerunner of behavior choices, and correct ideas are conducive to the realization of happiness. In view of the current problems of low employment quality, poor employment matching, and low employment income of a large number of migrant workers, it is necessary to vigorously guide them in the process of labor skills training and vocational education, and stimulate their enthusiasm for learning labor skills and receiving vocational education. Initiative and creativity, improve their acceptance and participation, enable them to change from passive acceptance to active participation, establish the concept of lifelong learning, so as to meet the needs of industrial structure optimization and upgrading, and solve structural unemployment problems.

Enhancement of the working population's willingness to be employed through the establishment of a sound mechanism for training in labor skills. In order to increase the individual's capacity for wealth creation, it is first necessary to increase the individual's capacity for labor. At present, the relevant government departments should formulate and implement a systematic, institutionalized and standardized labor skills training system, clarify the content and objectives of vocational training, regulate the process and conduct of training implementation, and strengthen the standards and quality of training assessment. At the same time, through the establishment of accountability, supervision and feedback mechanisms, they should overcome the "generalization problems" that exist in labor skills training, such as going through the motions, making appearances and engaging in formalities, so as to effectively enhance the relevance and effectiveness of labor training, and to improve the working population's capacity for labor and wealth creation. Furthermore, in view of the "lying flat" phenomenon that exists among young people in the current society, it is also necessary to cultivate correct labor values of the younger generation through correct public opinion guidance and theoretical propaganda, establish the ideal and belief that labor creates happiness, and enhance their employment willingness and fighting spirit, thereby improving their ability to create wealth and enhancing the material foundation for the construction of a happy city.

3.4 Build a diversified social governance pattern

The people are the main body of social and historical development, and they are also the main force in the construction of a happy city. In the great journey of improving the construction of a happy city, the government's "going it alone" is difficult to meet the diversified needs of today's social development, which has slowed down the progress of the construction of a happy city. Therefore, breaking the old pattern of the current government's "going it alone" and actively building a new pattern of social governance with pluralism and co-governance will help maximize the enthusiasm and creativity of various subjects in society, improve social governance capabilities, and contribute to the comprehensive construction of social governance. A happy city creates a harmonious and stable social environment.

To bring into play the synergies of multiple main bodies, including the three main bodies, namely, the people, social organizations and for-profit organizations. First, it supports broad public participation in social governance. "The people's city is built by the people, and the people's city is for the people." The people are not only the main body of the construction of a happy city, but also the enjoyers of the construction of a happy city. To promote the construction of a happy city, it is necessary to establish and improve the policies, regulations and institutional mechanisms for people to participate in urban construction and management. Secondly, social organizations should play an active role. Social organizations should be used to take advantage of their multilayered, flexible, civic and convenient nature to play their role as a bridge and link between the Party and the Government in contacting and serving the masses. There is a great need to encourage and support social organizations of all kinds to offer advice and participate in social governance and to play their role as "think tanks" for the Party and the Government. It is also indispensable to guide social organizations to participate in resolving

conflicts and disputes and to give play to their role as the "glue" that promotes social harmony. Finally, for-profit organizations should be guided to participate actively. Guiding for-profit organizations to participate in social governance through the provision of public goods, giving full play to the role of the market competition mechanism, promoting the improvement and upgrading of the quality of public services and the efficient use of financial resources, and giving full play to the new advantages of cooperation between the Government and enterprises.

3.5 Guide the public to establish a correct concept of happiness

Building a happy city is not only a strong material foundation and social security provided by the country and society, but also requires social groups and individual citizens to cultivate the awareness and ability to perceive and experience happiness, and establish a correct concept of happiness. Improving the happiness concept cultivation of social groups and individual citizens requires the coordinated progress of government departments and individual citizens, giving full play to the synergy of government guidance and citizen consciousness to achieve two-way interaction between the improvement of happiness values at the social level and the enhancement of happiness at the individual level.[4]

From the government level, we should focus on strengthening ideological and moral construction to guide members of society to establish correct values of happiness. Good moral cultivation can make people correctly view the gains and losses of interests, the ups and downs of life and interpersonal relationships, be better at adjusting inner emotional changes, and be better at discovering the truth, goodness and beauty in the world, making it easier to obtain and perceive happiness. First of all, use the core socialist values to guide and establish a correct view of happiness. It is necessary to adhere to the guiding position of socialist core values, to address outstanding issues at the ideological and moral levels at the national, social and civic levels, to purify society of undesirable trends, and to create a social atmosphere of "everyone for one, one for everyone ". It is also necessary to enhance citizens' motivation and self-consciousness in observing social morality, developing professional ethics, improving personal character, and promoting family virtues, thereby guiding members of society to establish a correct concept of happiness. Secondly, using legal means to safeguard ideological and moral construction. By using legal means to solve prominent problems in the field of morality, promoting virtue and morality, punishing unethical behavior, and promoting the standardization, institutionalization, and legalization of ideological and moral construction. Finally, we should attach great importance to the supervision of public opinion and create a good new social trend. Guided by correct thinking, the mass media should play a positive and encouraging role in promoting "positive energy" and singing the main theme, and resist and condemn negative examples that harm social morality through online exposure. Through the organic combination of positive guidance and negative condemnation, we can jointly create a good new social trend.

From a personal level, citizens need to consciously establish a correct view of happiness. Establishing a correct view of happiness is the cognitive prerequisite for perceiving happiness and obtaining happiness. Without a correct view of happiness, it is easy to encounter the dilemma of "not knowing the blessings despite the blessings". On the one hand, individuals must consciously establish a correct view of happiness, realize that only labor can create happiness, learn to reasonably handle the contradiction between the pursuit of material happiness and spiritual happiness, and correctly view the relationship between personal happiness and collective happiness, current happiness and long-term happiness, discovering the greatest happiness in life. On the other hand, individuals should focus on cultivating the ability to perceive happiness. The world does not lack happiness, but it lacks the eyes to discover happiness and the ability to perceive happiness. Therefore, we must be good at discovering and detecting every bit of happiness in life, perceiving the truth, goodness and beauty in life, feeling extraordinary happiness and joy in ordinary life, and improving our ability to perceive happiness. At the same time, maintaining a contented mentality and not deliberately worrying about winning and losing in life will make it easier to obtain lasting satisfaction and happiness.

4. Conclusion

Building a happy city is an important way to realize the people's yearning for a better life. To this end, only by accurately studying and sorting out the current difficulties faced by the construction of happy cities can we implement precise policies and comprehensively promote them from the three levels of the country, society and individuals, improve the efficiency and quality of happy city

construction, and create a modern city sample.

References

[1] Yang Fang. Research on Happy Cities [M]. Kunming: Yunnan People's Publishing House, 2012:17.
[2] Liu Rui. Unity of justice and benefit: land, property and governance [D]. Huazhong University of Science and Technology, 2015.
[3] Shen Si. Research on the Reconstruction of Urban Villages in the Process of Urbanization in my country [J]. China Housing Facilities, 2020 (04): 65+71.
[4] Chen Peng. Research on the paths to improve people's happiness index from the perspective of "livable city" construction [J]. Urban Architectural Space, 2022, 29(10):73-75.