

# Catalytic Brokerage: A New Paradigm for Xinxiang Talents to Participate in the Construction of Rule of Law Villages

## --Based on field observation of the integration of "rural elites+five governance" in Y Village, H City

Luyi Jian\*

School of Law, Anhui University of Finance and Economics, Bengbu, China

\*2841411486@qq.com

### Abstract

This study focuses on the new paradigm of catalytic brokerage mechanism in the construction of rule of law in rural areas, and conducts in-depth exploration based on field observations of the integration of "township elites+five governance" in Y Village, Huzhou City. Starting from the current perspective of grassroots governance, this article first reviews the evolution of brokerage mechanisms. Through a survey of 411 villagers (including 265 new rural elites) in Y village, the dynamic process of new rural elites from returning home to embedding into the rural governance system is described in detail. The unique operational mechanism of catalytic brokerage is analyzed within the framework of "state society" interaction. By comparing and analyzing the transformation of brokerage mechanisms from protective, for-profit, dual to catalytic, we can effectively address the challenges of rural governance and promote the modernization transformation of rural areas.

### Keywords

Brokerage mechanism, catalytic brokerage, emerging talents, grassroots governance, rural modernization, national social interaction framework.

### 1. Introduction

Rural governance is not only the cornerstone of the national governance system, but also a key link in achieving rural revitalization and modernization. The ethical model of rural China is influenced by Confucian culture and contains rich connotations such as filial piety to parents and good neighborliness. However, due to the impact of reform and opening up and market economy, a series of problems have arisen, such as the loss of talent resources and the poor connection between grassroots governance and national policies. In the new era, rural areas urgently need to reconstruct the rural ethical model to cope with the challenges of moral decline and social disorder.

Based on this, since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the country has included rural revitalization as an important development strategy, and has successively issued documents such as the "Rural Revitalization Strategy Plan" and the "My Hometown, My Construction" Activity Implementation Plan, encouraging retired cadres, retired teachers, retired technicians and other "new rural elites" to settle in their hometowns. Xinxiang Xianxian originated from traditional gentry, referring to new rural elites who have knowledge, ability, emotions, and are willing to contribute to rural development. As intermediaries between the state power and civil society, Xinxiang Xianxian has great potential to participate in the grassroots governance pattern of "Five Governance Integration" and deepen the practice of national policies at the grassroots level.

## 2. Literature Review

Reviewing the existing literature on Xinxiang Xianxian, the main research directions can be roughly divided into the following aspects:

(1) Analyze from the perspective of national historical changes. In the historical process of traditional grassroots governance, the embryonic form of the brokerage system can be traced back to the grassroots intermediary role under the feudal patriarchal social structure. This early brokerage role relied on the "police system" and "patriarchal ritual and education" order of the feudal period to maintain the "super stable structure" of grassroots society. [1] Since modern times, under the dual influence of Western modern concepts and the demand for local social change, the grassroots governance reform in the process of "nation state" construction has led to the deconstruction of the old brokerage system. After the establishment of the People's Republic of China, grassroots governance under the planned economy system followed the logic of the "unit system", and the grassroots brokerage system was incorporated into a unified "omnipotent governance" framework under a highly centralized administrative system. This process emphasizes the dominant position of state power, as well as the dependence and cooperation of social organizations and individuals on the administrative system, characterized by "administrative absorption of society". greatly restricted. After the reform and opening up, grassroots governance has moved towards a "diversified co governance" pattern, and the brokerage system has begun to reshape under the dual promotion of market mechanisms and social differentiation.

(2) Analyze from the perspective of grassroots governance under the mutual construction of the state and society. The brokerage system plays a key role in the process of national governance sinking to grassroots society, serving as a "transmission transmission". From the perspective of policy implementation, the brokerage system undertakes the function of "absorbing feedback" on the needs of grassroots society, transforming the macro policy discourse of the country into operational rules that are in line with the actual situation. In the demand feedback stage, the brokerage entity provides feedback on grassroots demand to relevant departments, providing a "bottom-up" decision-making basis for the country to formulate grassroots governance policies. In the process of interaction between the state and grassroots society, conflicts and contradictions are inevitable between both parties. The brokerage system plays an important role in buffering and coordinating in this situation. From the perspective of interest game, the brokerage subject plays the role of "interest balancer" between the state and grassroots people, guiding the people through the use of its social mobilization ability and "local knowledge" to maintain the dynamic balance of the "state grassroots" social relationship.[3]

(3) Deeply analyze its social value from the perspective of role function. In terms of integrating grassroots governance resources, the brokerage entities explore and utilize "social capital" to transform the trust relationships and other social capital inherent in rural society into practical driving forces for development. Brokerage entities, with their long-term presence and good reputation in grassroots society, have become a bridge of trust between the national governance system and grassroots people. From the perspective of governance legitimacy, the existence of brokerage entities helps to strengthen the grassroots public's "legitimacy recognition" of national governance. The brokerage subject actively explores innovative governance models and methods based on a deep understanding of the actual situation of grassroots society and a keen grasp of modern governance concepts. Establishing a platform for villagers' participation and utilizing information technology to enhance governance efficiency, etc., to promote the modernization of grassroots governance. Through the "creative destruction" of traditional governance models, brokerage entities have inherited and developed effective components of traditional governance models in the modernization

process of grassroots governance. By introducing new concepts, technologies, and methods, they have fundamentally innovated and reshaped traditional governance models. Through innovation, brokerage entities have broken the path dependence of traditional grassroots governance and injected new vitality into the modernization of grassroots governance.

### **3. The Evolution of Brokerage Mechanism and the Concept Proposed in this Article**

Du Zanqi first proposed the theoretical framework of "state agency" in his classic works, aiming to reveal how rural elites played a bridging role between the state and grassroots society in China's rural society during the late Qing Dynasty to the Republic of China period under the background of state power expansion. National brokerage "originated from the traditional role of" brokerage "in transactions, which is no longer limited to simple commission agents, but has become an intermediary force connecting the country and rural society. Under this framework, rural leaders have achieved effective communication between the state and rural society through the "cultural network of power". According to its different connotations, "brokerage mechanisms" can be divided into the following types:

#### **3.1. Protective Brokerage: Gentleman as Agent**

The emergence of protective brokers is rooted in the objective limitations of ancient feudal society, such as the scarcity of litigation cases. Due to the limitations of "official rule", the will of the state is difficult to directly reach the local level, and local elites fill this power vacuum accordingly. As the power carrier of rural society, the gentry have formed a unique "third domain" based on the construction of local cultural networks such as blood relations and kinship, rural rules and agreements, etc. This refers to a relatively independent and dynamic social space between the formal state power system and pure civil society. This domain is dominated by local elites, especially the gentry class, who use their social status, cultural capital, and local cultural networks (including blood relations and kinship, rural rules and agreements, etc.) to coordinate social relationships, resolve local disputes, and to some extent fill the gap of state power at the grassroots level.

In terms of power structure, the gentry class is both an agent of the bureaucratic system and a representative of local interests. This dual identity enables them to balance the dual interests of the state and society in rural governance. In terms of governance logic, protective brokers emphasize the maintenance of morality and maintain the balance between the state and society through social networks and local rules. Against the backdrop of limited financial investment in feudal empires and limited conditions for villagers themselves, the state adhered to the principle of "adapting measures to local conditions", allowing the gentry class to handle local disputes, coordinate education, etc. based on local customs and other factors, and effectively guide the development of the local economy with its strong economic strength and network. In addition, the use of unique political symbols emphasizes the legitimacy of national governance, combines grassroots governance with Confucian ethics, and promotes the harmony and stability of rural society.

#### **3.2. Profit oriented brokers: local elites acting as agents**

With the abolition of the imperial examination system in the late Qing Dynasty, the authority foundation of the traditional gentry class was greatly weakened, and the Baojia system gradually replaced kinship as the new pillar to maintain local governance order. At the same time, with the acceleration of the modernization process of the country, the country's resource absorption from grassroots society has significantly increased, which has led to the rapid growth of the emerging group centered on land assets and land management rights - the "local elites and powerful class". They rely on land wealth and land control rights to maximize their

own interests by manipulating rural resources. The state has to cooperate with these new "elite" groups in order to strengthen its control over the grassroots. However, in practice, these agents distort the process of implementing the will of the state into a tool for seeking personal gain, resulting in the inability to enhance the administrative functions and institutional efficiency of the state through the expansion of old style relationships. This process greatly exacerbated the political apathy and passive participation of the villagers.

Furthermore, the rise of for-profit brokers has also led to the alienation of the "state society" relationship. They not only lost their identity as inheritors of traditional culture and ethical spirit, but also became speculators in the extraction of grassroots resources and disruptors of national interests. In rural governance, they failed to gain legitimacy and recognition, instead exacerbating the political apathy and passive participation of villagers. Faced with the coercion and intimidating political mobilization of for-profit brokers, villagers often choose to escape or resist, further weakening the legitimacy foundation of the state power in rural society.

### **3.3. Multiple roles: Villagers acting as agents**

At the beginning of the founding of New China, the CPC broke the power structure of traditional rural society through a series of measures such as bottom-up political mobilization and "land reform". In terms of economy, the family, the traditional unit of economic activity, has been replaced by collective organizational forms, achieving a deep reconstruction of rural society by state power. Politically, the land revolution fundamentally changed the allocation of power in villages. In this context, village cadres have become grassroots extensions and agents of the state power, not only promoting the infiltration and strengthening of state power into grassroots society, but also reflecting the adaptive transformation and reconstruction of rural society in the process of national modernization.

With the deepening practice of reform and opening up, the role of village cadres has begun to undergo subtle changes. On the one hand, with the continuous sinking of state power and the continuous improvement of grassroots governance system, village cadres are undertaking more and more administrative tasks, and their role as agents of the state is increasingly strengthened. On the other hand, with the implementation of policies such as project entry into villages and resource allocation, some village officials have begun to deviate from their original role positioning, resulting in phenomena such as "new agents" governing the village. These new agents often use their own relationships to seek personal gain, deviating from the dual regulations and expectations of the state and society.

### **3.4. Catalytic Broker: Xinxiang Xian as Agent**

Catalytic brokerage "refers to the effective integration of national power and grassroots society through the integration of diverse elite resources within the village, where the emerging elite group not only relies on the endogenous authority recognized by the village to participate in rural governance, but also carries out national policies with the formal authority granted by the government. With the establishment of systems such as the reform and opening up of the socialist market economy, institutional barriers to social mobility have gradually been overcome, and the development and growth of new social classes have shaped new intermediary forces, buffering the dilemma of central direct intervention in local governance. On this basis, the culture of "new rural elites" has been nurtured. The participation of "Xinxiang elites" in social governance can, on the one hand, lead local economic development with their own technology; On the other hand, actively participating in the construction of local undertakings and promoting the realization of local "good governance". Currently, various regions in China are actively exploring new paths for local development based on the policy of rural revitalization, gradually changing the long-standing problem of governance hollowing out due to the lack of elite talents in local governance.

The catalytic nature of this brokerage system is mainly reflected in the following aspects: politically, Xinxiang Xianxian adheres to the guidance of party building, and ensures the smooth operation of rural governance mechanisms through the supervision of higher-level party organizations from top to bottom and mobilization methods from bottom to top. In terms of autonomy, we should combine the self-owned social operating rules at the grassroots level and improve the democratic autonomy mechanism. In terms of the rule of law, actively participate in the "soft law" role of village rules and regulations, and combine substantive laws to shape a good grassroots governance order. In terms of moral governance, the organic integration of moral education and legal protection has catalyzed the development of new rural moral standards with updated significance. In terms of intelligent governance, utilizing intelligent means to innovate rural governance, effectively bridging the information gap in rural areas, and catalyzing the coordinated development of rural and urban areas.

## **4. The Operational Presentation of Grassroots Governance in Y Village, Huzhou City**

### **4.1. Problem posing**

In recent years, Y Village in Huzhou City has regarded the return of new talents as an important engine to promote rural development, actively exploring a new model of grassroots governance of "township talents+five governance". For this purpose, this article randomly selected 411 people from Y village for in-depth research, including 265 Xinxiang elites and 146 villagers and other members. On the basis of extensive data collection and analysis, through a detailed description of the process of Y village elites from returning home to embedding in the rural governance system, the operational logic of rural elites embedding in the rural field is revealed.

### **4.2. The Process of Emerging Talents in Xinxiang**

Stage 1: The Light of Enlightenment - The First Encounter of New Knowledge and New Talent  
From the end of the last century to the beginning of this century, China's economic and social structure has undergone profound transformation. Y Village, as a pioneer in development, was the first to experience the "pains of growth", among which environmental pollution was particularly prominent. After decisively closing the cement plant and three mines, Y Village embarked on the journey of building a "beautiful countryside in China", but encountered the challenge of a talent gap in the process. To solve this problem, Y Village recalled elite A who had been wandering outside. He had worked as an accountant at Y Village Mine and later moved to Jinhua and Ningbo, venturing into the finance, accounting, and computer industries. He was a well-informed talent. With the transformation of the village, the fate of many villagers has also changed. For example, Lao Yu, who transformed from a mine driver to a farmer, planted more than 30 types of grapes, attracting urban residents to come and pick them; Mr. and Mrs. Hu gave up their career in Ningbo and returned to their hometown to establish a homestay, as well as adding a tea room and coffee bar. Under the guidance of local sentiments, numerous local elites who are striving outside, carrying strong local emotions, have contacted colleagues from all over the country, actively participated in the construction of their hometowns, and reignited the villagers' love and sense of belonging to their hometowns.

Stage 2: Resource Integration - Gathering the Power of Xinxiang Talents

Over the past forty years of reform and opening up, the industry of Y Village has undergone a magnificent transformation from agriculture to mining, bamboo processing industry, and then to cultural tourism industry. Guided by the concept of ecological civilization construction, Y Village has opened a new chapter of development. In terms of grassroots organizational construction, Y Village adheres to the concept of "red leadership and green development", and has established the "Two Mountains Council" village council platform and six teams, including

"Two Regiments, Two Sessions, and Two Teams", to contribute to the development of the hometown. In terms of industrial development, Y Village actively explores leisure tourism, broadens the transformation path of "green mountains and clear waters are as valuable as mountains of gold and silver", integrates tourism with agriculture, culture, academic research, education and training, and creates new formats and models. By establishing a village level leisure tourism company, villagers can transform into shareholders, convert resources into capital, and share the fruits of development. In terms of spiritual and cultural construction, Y Village continues to promote the transformation of customs and traditions, and the appearance of the village has been rejuvenated. Through revising the "Village Regulations and Customs", collecting good family traditions and teachings, establishing typical examples, and stimulating the enthusiasm of villagers to participate in civilization construction.

Stage three: Forge ahead - the rise of outstanding local talents

The newly built mountain trail is winding and winding, with green mountains and clear waters along the way. Walking along it, you can deeply feel that Y Village is like a "green heart" radiating positive energy to the surroundings. In 2021, the central government officially issued the strategic deployment for building a demonstration zone for common prosperity, which is not only the pursuit of Y Village in the past 20 years, but also the current goal of struggle. Faced with the new requirements of common prosperity, Y Village's development vision naturally expands to the surrounding two townships, and a larger scale of resource allocation begins. As a pioneer, Y Village was the first to encounter problems such as a single business model and homogeneous competition. To this end, they targeted young people and issued a recruitment order for "Y Village Global Co Creation Partners". The most remarkable feature of Y Village today is the vibrant young people who inject new cultural symbols into the countryside with their creativity and understanding. The huge "∞" symbol at the entrance of Y Village's "Youth Dream Sailing Station" symbolizes that young people will bring infinite possibilities to rural China. They are jointly writing the future chapter of China's countryside, beautiful countryside, and even beautiful China.

## **5. Operation Mechanism of "Catalytic Brokerage"**

### **5.1. Grassroots governance under the mutual construction of "state society" [10]**

#### **5.1.1. The top-down promotion of national authority**

As a governance institution that has emerged from social differentiation, the essence of the state is mainly reflected in its social governance functions. Internally, it manifests as using state coercive power to maintain social and political order, and using state power to manage public affairs. Due to the limitations of "official rule", it is difficult for the will of the state to directly reach the local level. So political symbols were used to emphasize the legitimacy of national governance, strengthen the recognition of grassroots society, and achieve the goals of resource extraction and social mobilization.

#### **5.1.2. Undertaking from top to bottom in grassroots society**

In the process of national enforcement, conflicts between the central and local governments can easily arise due to various complex reasons. Based on this practical dilemma, the "gentry class" as a communication bridge between the central and local governments is particularly important. It gradually developed into an "informal system", supplementing the shortcomings of official rule and presenting a coherent progressive pattern: regime gentry people. On the one hand, it promptly accepts the central government's will and discusses solutions based on local conditions; On the other hand, when there are situations such as imposing excessive taxes that

seriously harm the interests of the people, it can also play a better role in safeguarding local interests.

### **5.1.3. Governance model based on practice**

The development of society usually relies on the interaction between the state and society. The relationship between the state and society has never been a binary opposition or either or in Western theory. China's "state" and "society" undoubtedly evolve in a close entanglement, shaping a system that is both "binary" and "unified". The current "governance of China" should not only strive to achieve the unity of history and logic, but also realize the benign mutual construction of "state society" based on practice.

## **5.2. Chinese gentry tradition [11]**

### **5.2.1. Supplement the "Shortcomings of Official Governance"**

The rulers of traditional Chinese society were wary of the political potential of local elites, and the gentry class must play their role without posing a threat to the state power. The governance structure of traditional China is roughly composed of an official system controlled by imperial power and a local system controlled by gentry. This requires the consolidation of ideology through the imperial examination system and the formation of a practical system of division and governance at the grassroots level. The divide and conquer system is a social governance system carried out by multiple power centers dispersed at the grassroots level, mainly undertaken by local gentry who have certain land, property, and reputation, and effectively guide the development of the local economy with their strong economic strength and network relationships.

### **5.2.2. As a bridge for communication between officials and civilians**

The gentry are a social class that emerged on the basis of the establishment of a centralized state, and their rise and fall are deeply influenced by the state system. In the long-term historical development, the gentry class was regarded as the "intermediary" between the central state and local society, serving as both agents of the bureaucratic system and representatives of local interests. In traditional society, the execution of central power faces many challenges: firstly, the difficulty of controlling grassroots society can easily lead to deep-seated crises; Secondly, the central government attempts to intervene in grassroots society, and this contradiction requires the coordination of the gentry class to assist the state in management and reduce the interference of oppressive policies. In order to maintain traditional ritual governance and stabilize the state power, the gentry class was granted many privileges, thus building a unique political ecology of "government civilian co governance".

## **5.3. Coupling Logic: How is it possible for Xinxiang Xian to catalyze and empower the integration of rural "Five Governance"**

As active participants and promoters of rural governance, the knowledge, abilities, emotions, and sense of responsibility of the elites in Xinxiang provide strong support for the integration of the five governance systems. As a systematic and scientific rural governance system, the "Five Governance Integration" also provides a broad stage for Xinxiang talents to display their talents and realize their values.

In the new era, Xinxiang Xian has demonstrated its unique catalytic effect by investing in the governance pattern of "Five Governance Integration". One is to inherit and promote excellent culture. As cultural leaders in rural society, Xinxiang Xian plays a political leading role by inheriting excellent traditional culture and guiding villagers to establish correct political concepts. The second is to actively participate in rural governance, fully demonstrate the organizational and coordination abilities of new talents, and provide strong guarantees for rural autonomy. The third is to respond to the needs of people's livelihood and apply the rule of law consciousness of the new rural elites to the practice of rural social governance in

accordance with the law, truly realizing the role of legal protection. The fourth is to lead the moral trend, play the role of moral demonstration and guidance in the moral construction of rural society, promote the good customs in rural rules and regulations, and promote the realization of moral governance. The fifth is to leverage innovation capabilities and implement intelligent governance.

The goal of the "Five Governance Integration" is to achieve modernization of the rural governance system and governance capacity, and to compensate for problems such as talent loss, imbalanced economic development, and the decline of rural rules and regulations. Updating grassroots governance methods requires both material and economic support. Among them, politics is the core, autonomy is the foundation, rule of law is the guarantee, rule of virtue is the guidance, and intelligent governance is the extension. The functional positioning of Xinxiang Xian is highly aligned with this goal. This fit provides a new perspective and path for rural governance.

#### **5.4. Five Governance Integration: Catalytic Brokerage Creates a New Chapter of Rural Harmony**

##### **5.4.1. Political Navigation Condenses Souls and Gathers Vitality to Promote Prosperity**

Political guidance is the primary task of Party building guidance, specifically to uphold the Party's leadership. Grassroots party organizations in rural areas should obey the unified leadership of the central government, fully leverage the role of grassroots party organizations as battle fortresses guided by party building, and ensure that rural governance work always follows the correct political direction. At the same time, actively play the role of leading the joint construction and governance of Xinxiang talents and villagers, enhance the sense of gain and happiness of villagers, and form a governance system that is interconnected and jointly governed by the upper and lower levels. In addition, we will actively promote the normalization and institutionalization of village affairs disclosure, effectively safeguarding the people's rights to know, participate, and supervise. It is necessary for new talents and party members and cadres to actively contact and explore the needs of people's livelihood at the grassroots level, effectively enhance the leadership, organizational and execution capabilities of village party branches in rural governance, and strive to transform the political and organizational advantages of village party organizations into rural governance advantages.

##### **5.4.2. Autonomous consolidation and collaborative efforts to enhance momentum**

The core of strengthening and innovating social governance is to improve the rural autonomous governance system led by the Party organization and adhere to the principle of governing the country according to law. Combining with the existing social operating rules at the grassroots level in rural areas, pay attention to promoting the importance of rural autonomy. Starting from the actual needs of villagers and aiming for governance that they hope for, continuously strengthen and enhance the autonomy of grassroots masses. Give full play to the advantages of the new era civilization practice station, deepen the promotion of the Party's policy propaganda and preaching, and carry out activities such as changing customs and promoting new practices, guiding everyone to actively move forward and truly work hard. Promote government transparency and increase village participation. Grassroots mass autonomy is a necessary link in realizing the strategy of rural revitalization and promoting the revitalization of rural industries. It is the intrinsic driving force for activating rural industries. Therefore, it is necessary to enhance the enthusiasm, initiative, and creativity of the masses to participate in grassroots autonomy.

##### **5.4.3. Rule of law guarantees stability, order, and public support**

Law is a crucial tool for governing a country, and good laws are a prerequisite for good governance. We need to accelerate the improvement of the legal regulatory system in the

process of rural governance, promote improvement through the rule of law, drive development through norms, and accelerate the path of "good governance" in rural governance. In the process of solving practical problems, grassroots governance institutions often rely on village regulations and agreements as specific implementation references. Firstly, we need to leverage the "soft law" role of village rules and regulations, and provide specific action guidelines for people through forms such as criticism and education, negative examples, etc. Secondly, it is necessary to create a comprehensive social environment for learning, understanding, abiding by and using the law, gradually forming a good order in rural areas where people consciously abide by the law, understand the law, and seek the law when encountering problems, and promoting the modernization of rural governance. Finally, it is necessary to strengthen the supervision of power within rural grassroots organizations, promote the rule of law and modernization of rural governance.

#### **5.4.4. Moral Governance, Nourishing Hearts, Cultivating a New Trend of Civilization**

Rural social norms are one of the important criteria for measuring the breadth, depth, and strength of rural governance. Moral education is an important cornerstone for achieving "good governance" in rural areas. By imposing moral constraints on individuals in society, it cultivates a civilized atmosphere in rural areas. In the process of rural governance, the integration of moral education and legal protection is organically carried out, integrating law with reason and combining legal principles to form a long-term mechanism for improving rural governance capabilities. Adopting a model of branch leadership, village elites taking the lead, and mass participation, we will revise and improve village regulations and agreements through the process of villagers' own proposals and public discussions, and establish a rural moral evaluation mechanism. Strengthen value orientation, vigorously promote civilized new trends, continuously promote rural moral construction, and effectively stimulate the endogenous motivation of the masses to participate in rural governance.

#### **5.4.5. Intelligent governance empowers efficient services and makes them more convenient for the people**

With the deep application of the "Internet+Grid" model in agricultural and rural areas, rural development is no longer subject to the influence of geographical location to a large extent, realizing the organic connection between physical space and digital space, integrating public resources at the township and village levels to a greater extent, and building a rural convenience service system combining online and offline. The effective linkage between digital information and on-site governance in the process of digital governance has promoted the diversification of rural governance entities. By strengthening the support of "smart governance" and actively coordinating with relevant departments to promote the construction of safe and digital villages, relying on convenient service stations, village "two committees" members and Xinxiang elites guide villagers to handle public service matters online through WeChat mini programs, effectively building a new pattern of rural governance of "co construction, co governance, and sharing".

## **6. Comparative Analysis and Extended Discussion: from Brokerage Mechanism to Catalytic Brokerage**

Rural governance, as the cornerstone of national governance, has undergone a profound transformation in its brokerage mechanism from protective, for-profit, and dual to catalytic. This evolution not only reflects the dynamic adjustment of the relationship between the state and society, but also profoundly affects the stability and development of rural society.

The protective brokerage mechanism is rooted in Confucian ethics and local authority, with the gentry class as the main body, and maintains order through education and nurturing of the

people. However, its closed nature and neglect of individual rights have limited its ability to adapt to external changes, making it difficult to cope with social changes since modern times. The for-profit brokerage mechanism is manifested as the use of state authorization by tycoons and bullies to plunder resources, seriously damaging public interests and exacerbating the wealth gap and turmoil in rural society. The predatory nature of this mechanism not only weakens the legitimacy foundation of the state power, but also hinders the modernization process of rural governance. Under the political value orientation of strong state and strong society, the dual brokerage mechanism has achieved a balance between "administration" and "autonomy". However, the imbalance of authority foundation and the contradiction of operation mode have limited the efficiency and effectiveness of rural governance, and lack endogenous motivation and innovation ability.

In contrast, catalytic brokerage mechanisms have become an effective means of addressing complex challenges in rural governance due to their flexibility and adaptability. The catalytic brokerage mechanism absorbs the group of talented individuals from Xinxiang as the governing body, achieving the diversification of governing bodies and authoritative foundations. By strengthening consultation, interaction, and collaborative governance, we have not only implemented the national will, but also leveraged the advantages of village autonomy. Its governance model combines the characteristics of task-based governance and participatory governance under administrative leadership, achieving the integration of tradition and modernity, improving governance performance, and promoting the sustainable development and modernization transformation of rural society.

## 7. Summary

Through in-depth analysis of the field observation of the integration of "township elites+five governance" in Y Village, Huzhou City, this study reveals a new paradigm of catalytic brokerage in the participation of new rural elites in the construction of rule of law in rural areas. Against the backdrop of modernization of national governance and transformation of rural governance, the catalytic brokerage mechanism has achieved diversification of governance subjects and authoritative foundations by absorbing the new generation of talented individuals. Xinxiang sages have become an important force in promoting the construction of rural rule of law with their profound local sentiment, rich social resources, and unique moral prestige. In the future, the author will further optimize the operational mechanism of "catalytic brokerage" and fully leverage its catalytic effect in rural legal construction, in order to contribute to current academic research.

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