A Research of Methodology and Its Application on the Performance Assessments of the Local Governments in China

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1. Background and Significance of the Research

- The initiation of economic reform and opening-up
- China’s national economic system undergoing a transition: planned economy => market economy
- The “omnipotence-type” government with the traditional model has becoming more and more incompatible.
- The guiding line of “sole economic development-centered principle” has seriously affected and restricted the nation’s social harmony and sustainable economic development
1. Background and Significance of the Research

The reestablishment of the correct concept of government performance assessments and building up a scientific assessment system has become very important.
2. Construction of Performance Assessment System for the Local Governments in China

- Act on the mode and framework of “dimension-basic indicator-indicator factors”
- Put forward the “framework of performance assessment for the local governments in China”
- Four aspects: economic development, social development, resource and environmental concerns, administration and its effects
2. Construction of Performance Assessment System for the Local Governments in China

- A prominent cause-effect route in the efforts made by the government organizations in the whole process of acquiring resources and providing the outputs.
- Each of the key node corresponding to some multiple relevant dimensions.
- Involving various aspects such as economicality, efficiency and profitability, fairness, etc.
2. Construction of Performance Assessment System for the Local Governments in China

- Conducted through a demonstration and real effect-based perspective with local governments within the 18 districts and counties of the Beijing Municipality being involved and regarded as the representation for the whole body of local governments in China.

- Has made some further selections of “indicator factors” and has carried out some actual assessment practices.
2. Construction of Performance Assessment System for the Local Governments in China

- The surveys on the social condition and public opinion polls in the assessment system serve as important means as well as an important foundation for the assessment work.
- Investigation questionnaires, investigation methods and data evaluation methods
2. Construction of Performance Assessment System for the Local Governments in China

- The questionnaire regarding satisfaction degrees by the general public mainly reflects the three dimensions: political cultivation, economic development and social management.

- **general public (urban residents)**: living environments, reemployment for the laid-off employees, education for the children, etc.

- **general public (farmers)**: publicizing village affairs, transition or reshuffle of village committees, matters concerning the lands of the farmers, etc.

- **enterprises**: environments for enterprise development, governmental service quality, etc.
3. Application of the Performance Assessment System for the Local Governments in China

- **Data Collection:**

  “public safety felt by the broad masses”, “satisfaction degrees by the general public (enterprises) towards the local governments’ work can be properly obtained through social investigation organizations,

  the remaining indicators can be acquired by making inquiries through statistical materials from government organs for data collection.
3. Application of the Performance Assessment System for the Local Governments in China

- **Assessment Methodology:**
  comprehensive indicator evaluation method

\[ y = \sum_{i=1}^{n} w_i \cdot x_i \quad i = 1, 2, \ldots, n \]

We have taken notice whether the surveyed and measured data and values are reliable and accurate with suitability for practical applications calls for verification on the reliability and validity of those assessment tables.
3. Application of the Performance Assessment System for the Local Governments in China

- The differences in selecting and adopting assessment indicator systems and the choosing of different methods for assessments, as well as influences from external environment factors may lead to discrepancies and inconsistencies from the realities.

- The important tache should well be a correct understanding of the assessment process, fair treatment and evaluation of the assessment results and accurate interpretation of the indicator data.
3. Application of the Performance Assessment System for the Local Governments in China

- **Practical Applications:**

  From 2003 to 2008, a special inspection group in charge of the assessment work on the local governments’ efforts in coordinated social and economic developments was set up, which marked the first-ever endeavor by the Chinese government in putting forward and applying the concept of “performance assessments” on a macrocosmic level aimed to scrutinize the local governments management of the cadres.

  The assessment results be made use of as references and basis for the examination of government administrations on district and county levels.
4. Conclusion and Vista

- The performance assessment system for the local Chinese governments, established according to multi-dimensional performance goals has achieved good effects in its practical applications.
- It also played an important role in transforming the assessment results into practical administrative patterns and means.
- Greatly enhanced the performance management level.
4. Conclusion and Vista

- This research has merely conducted some initial studies from the perspective of assessment methodology and its applications.
- Accordingly, it is our expectation that, in the future, work and researches from the perspectives of the principal body of the local governments; the differences of development levels in different regions; various feasibility studies; matters relating to institutionalization, and so forth can be conducted so that more deepened explorations and exploitations can be better accomplished.
Thanks for your attention!