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The Contribution of Non-Profit Organizations in Creating a Unified Society

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Abstract: Non-profit organizations play a crucial role in the social security system. Their flexibility, resource integration capabilities, and public welfare focus make them an essential complement to government and market functions. This paper begins with a theoretical foundation to analyze the alignment between non-profit organizations and social security, exploring their specific roles in service provision, policy advocacy, and the establishment of collaborative networks. Through case analysis, the paper summarizes the practical experiences of non-profits, further examining the advantages and challenges they face in participating in social security. Finally, it proposes strategies to enhance non-profit involvement in social security, including institutional support, capacity building, multi-party cooperation, and raising public awareness. The paper offers both theoretical and practical recommendations for non-profits to better contribute to the social security system. Its aim is to provide valuable insights into the role of non-profit organizations in social security and support the development of a diversified and sustainable social security system.

Keywords: social security; non-profit organizations; harmonious society; construction method; public services

1. Introduction

With the development of the economy and changes in demographic structures, social security has become a critical mechanism for maintaining social fairness and improving the well-being of citizens. However, the traditional government-led social security system faces challenges in addressing increasingly complex social needs. Limited resources and inefficiencies in the public sector often hinder the effective provision of social security services. In contrast, non-profit organizations, with their flexibility, adaptability, and deep connections to grassroots communities, have increasingly become key participants in the social security framework. These organizations complement the efforts of the government and the market by directly addressing the needs of marginalized and vulnerable groups, advocating for policy improvements, and establishing networks that foster multi-stakeholder collaboration. The participation of non-profit organizations in social security thus represents a significant development in the evolution of modern welfare systems [1].

2. Theoretical Basis of Non-Profit Organizations and Social Security

2.1. Definition and Characteristics of Non-Profit Organizations

A non-profit organization (NPO) is an organization formed with the purpose of serving the public good, rather than focusing on generating profits. Its surplus is required to

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be reinvested into the organization's mission and social services, rather than being distributed to its members or shareholders. This characteristic gives non-profit organizations a high level of credibility in the provision of social services, making them an essential part of the social security system. Non-profits are typically characterized by voluntarism, with their formation and involvement primarily driven by a commitment to social missions rather than economic incentives. This intrinsic public welfare spirit provides non-profits with enduring energy and motivation for their development. Moreover, non-profit organizations generally maintain a degree of independence, not being entirely reliant on government or market forces in their management and decision-making processes. This autonomy allows them to remain objective and neutral in public policy and market activities, which enhances their ability to advocate for and serve the public interest effectively. In addition, non-profits focus on improving social welfare, with their services often targeting disadvantaged groups or public interest stakeholders. They play crucial roles in various sectors, including education, healthcare, social assistance, and environmental protection. Compared to government agencies, non-profits are typically more flexible and capable of responding quickly to societal needs, particularly in times of emergency or when serving specific communities. This flexibility allows them to address gaps in public service provision and innovate in delivering targeted support to those most in need [2].

2.2. Connotation and Goals of the Social Security System

Non-profit organizations play a vital role in the social security system not only by providing essential services but also by driving policy advocacy and fostering public participation. As intermediaries between society and policymakers, non-profits contribute significantly to the optimization and implementation of policies, using their unique position to influence positive changes that enhance the fairness, inclusivity, and sustainability of the social security system. One of the key functions of non-profit organizations in policy advocacy is their ability to bridge the gap between the grassroots level and decision-makers. With deep insight into the needs and challenges of marginalized populations, non-profits are well-positioned to offer practical, evidence-based recommendations to governments and legislative bodies. They often conduct thorough social research to uncover the gaps and inadequacies in current social security policies. For example, by collecting data on the experiences of disadvantaged groups, non-profits can highlight how existing policies may fail to meet the needs of vulnerable populations, thus advocating for necessary reforms [3]. These organizations frequently use various strategies to communicate their findings and proposals, such as publishing research reports, hosting public forums, and organizing policy roundtables. These forums provide an opportunity to discuss key issues with experts, policymakers, and the public, ensuring that diverse perspectives are taken into account when shaping social security policies. In addition to policy advocacy, non-profit organizations play an essential role in monitoring and ensuring the fairness and transparency of social security systems. They often focus on tracking the use of public funds, ensuring that resources are allocated equitably and effectively. For instance, some non-profits are dedicated to overseeing the distribution of social welfare benefits, ensuring that funds reach the intended beneficiaries, especially vulnerable and marginalized groups. This oversight helps ensure that resources are not misused and that the social security system operates in a transparent manner. Furthermore, non-profits often assess the effectiveness of policy implementation by evaluating whether social security programs are achieving their intended goals. They regularly report their findings to the public, highlighting areas for improvement and making recommendations for policy adjustments. This form of accountability helps maintain public trust in the system and encourages continuous improvements based on real-world data and community feedback. By offering independent oversight, non-profits help ensure that the social security system remains responsive, efficient, and fair, ultimately contributing to the well-being of society at large [4].

2.3. The Alignment Between Non-Profit Organizations and Social Security

Non-profit organizations and the social security system share a deep alignment in their goals and functions, making non-profits an essential component of the social safety net. The primary aim of the social security system is to maintain social fairness, provide basic livelihood protection, and promote social stability. Non-profit organizations, on the other hand, are dedicated to public welfare and mission-driven service to society, which directly aligns with the values of the social security system. The flexibility, innovation, and unwavering focus on vulnerable groups demonstrated by non-profits enable them to play a vital supplementary role in strengthening and expanding the reach of the social security system. One of the most significant ways in which non-profit organizations complement the social security system is by filling gaps left by government and market actors. Governments, constrained by limited resources and often slow to respond to emerging needs, are unable to address the full spectrum of social demands, especially those related to marginalized and underserved populations. Similarly, the profit-driven nature of the market often leads to the exclusion of certain groups whose needs do not present a lucrative opportunity [5]. Non-profits, however, with their primary focus on public good and social mission, are able to directly address these shortcomings. Their strong presence within local communities enables them to deliver targeted services where they are most needed, particularly in areas such as healthcare, elder care, education, and social welfare. For example, many non-profit organizations run medical aid programs in remote areas, providing free healthcare services such as vaccinations, check-ups, and access to essential medicines. In the field of education, non-profits often operate schools or tutoring programs for children from low-income families or marginalized ethnic groups. These services help bridge the gap in public services, ensuring that vulnerable populations receive the care and attention they need to improve their lives. Moreover, non-profit organizations also play an indispensable role in the formulation and implementation of social security policies. Given their close connection to grassroots communities, non-profits have a unique understanding of the challenges and needs faced by vulnerable populations. Through research and advocacy, non-profits gather data and insights from those directly affected by social issues, providing invaluable evidence for the improvement of social security policies. By engaging in policy dialogues with government bodies, non-profits are able to advocate for policies that address the real, on-the-ground needs of marginalized communities. For example, they can highlight gaps in access to social services or advocate for the expansion of programs to include underserved populations. In addition to policy advocacy, non-profit organizations also play a critical role in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of social security policies [6]. By providing oversight, they ensure that resources are allocated fairly and that policies are being executed effectively. Some non-profits focus on tracking the use of social security funds, ensuring that these resources reach the intended beneficiaries, particularly vulnerable groups such as the elderly, children, and individuals with disabilities. Furthermore, by evaluating the impact of social security programs, non-profits help identify areas for improvement, making recommendations for adjustments to ensure that policies remain responsive and equitable. The alignment between non-profit organizations and the social security system is thus clear. Both share the fundamental goal of improving the lives of vulnerable individuals, ensuring social equity, and promoting sustainable social development. By working together, non-profits and social security systems can create a more inclusive, efficient, and responsive system that meets the needs of all members of society.

3. Non-Profit Organizations' Specific Roles in Social Security

3.1. Providing Social Security Services

One of the core roles of non-profit organizations within the social security system is the direct provision of various essential services. Compared to the government and market-driven entities, non-profits have a unique ability to respond quickly and effectively to

emerging social needs, providing more targeted and innovative services [7]. This flexibility is particularly significant in areas like healthcare, education, elder care, and social assistance, where swift action and adaptability are critical. In the healthcare sector, non-profit organizations play a vital role in addressing the shortage of public medical resources, particularly in underserved regions. Many non-profits establish charitable clinics and mobile health units to deliver medical services to communities that lack adequate healthcare facilities. They also provide essential services like vaccination programs, preventative care, and health education to improve public health outcomes. For example, numerous non-profit medical institutions focus on delivering healthcare to remote areas, offering free medical check-ups, diagnostic services, and essential medications to economically disadvantaged families. These efforts are particularly important in regions where government-provided healthcare infrastructure is either limited or overwhelmed by demand. Additionally, during public health crises, non-profit organizations are often among the first to mobilize. Their swift response capabilities, such as organizing fundraising efforts, coordinating volunteers, and distributing emergency supplies, enable them to provide timely medical aid and psychological support [8]. This responsiveness ensures that vulnerable populations receive critical care, reducing the overall impact of emergencies on public health. In the education sector, non-profit organizations also play an essential supplementary role, especially in addressing the educational disparities faced by marginalized communities. Many non-profit educational institutions focus on providing equal educational opportunities for impoverished children, ethnic minorities, and individuals with disabilities. These organizations work to ensure that education is accessible to all, regardless of socio-economic background. For instance, some non-profits donate textbooks, establish scholarship programs, and offer tutoring or after-school support to underprivileged students. These initiatives help reduce educational inequality and ensure that disadvantaged students have the same opportunities for academic success as their more privileged peers. In some cases, non-profits also offer vocational training and adult education programs, aiming to empower individuals with the skills needed to secure better employment opportunities. Through such interventions, non-profit organizations contribute significantly to social mobility, helping to break the cycle of poverty and enabling more people to achieve their full potential. By addressing these critical needs in healthcare and education, non-profit organizations are integral to improving the overall well-being of society, filling gaps that might otherwise remain in the social safety net [9].

3.2. Promoting Policy Advocacy and Public Participation

Non-profit organizations in the social security system play a crucial role not only as service providers but also in driving policy advocacy and fostering public participation. Acting as a bridge between society and policymakers, non-profits support policy optimization and implementation through policy research, information dissemination, and public mobilization, thereby enhancing the fairness and sustainability of the social security system. In terms of policy advocacy, non-profit organizations, with their in-depth understanding of grassroots needs, are able to provide practical recommendations to governments and legislative bodies. For example, through social research, non-profits can identify the gaps and deficiencies in existing social security policies, advocating for necessary adjustments and improvements. Additionally, non-profit organizations often utilize methods such as publicly releasing research reports, hosting seminars, and organizing policy discussions to effectively communicate expert knowledge and grassroots perspectives to decision-makers, providing scientific evidence and practical references for social security policy formulation. Non-profits also ensure the fairness and transparency of the social security system by monitoring the policy implementation process. Some organizations focus on tracking the use of social security funds, ensuring that resource allocation follows fair principles and benefits vulnerable groups. Moreover, non-profit organizations assess the effectiveness of policy implementation and report their findings to the

public through open channels, encouraging policy adjustments and improvements based on feedback and evaluation. This form of oversight plays a critical role in maintaining accountability and ensuring that the social security system delivers its intended outcomes.

3.3. Building Collaborative Networks

Another crucial role that non-profit organizations play in the social security system is acting as key nodes in collaborative networks, connecting governments, businesses, communities, and other social forces to promote multi-party cooperation in addressing complex social issues. These collaborative networks not only integrate resources and improve efficiency but also lay a solid foundation for the diversification and sustainable development of the social security system. The unique advantage of non-profit organizations in building collaborative networks stems from their neutrality and flexibility in society. On the one hand, non-profits can act as bridges, coordinating the interests and demands between the government and businesses. For example, in the field of healthcare, non-profit organizations often collaborate with the government to develop policy frameworks and with businesses to provide technical support and financial investment, thereby ensuring the efficient implementation of policy goals. On the other hand, non-profits can mobilize community power to address gaps in service delivery, particularly in areas where government and business presence is limited, ensuring that social security policies truly benefit grassroots groups. In practice, non-profit organizations build collaborative networks through various methods. They often leverage their expertise and experience to initiate social security projects that involve multiple stakeholders, promoting resource sharing and information exchange. In the area of elder care, some non-profits have established "integrated medical and care" models, collaborating with hospitals, communities, and nursing homes to create a system that covers both medical and care services, ensuring a more comprehensive and coordinated approach to elder care. This kind of collaboration fosters a holistic support system that enhances the efficiency and reach of social security services.

4. Advantages and Challenges of Non-Profit Organizations' Participation in Social Security

Non-profit organizations have unique advantages within the social security system, effectively addressing the shortcomings of both government and market structures. However, their participation also faces a range of challenges. Understanding these advantages and challenges is crucial for further promoting the role of non-profits in social security and improving relevant policy support.

4.1. Advantages

First, the flexibility and adaptability of non-profit organizations give them a significant advantage in responding to social needs. Compared to government and market actors, non-profits typically make decisions and take actions more quickly, allowing them to respond flexibly to complex and changing social issues. For example, during a public health crisis, non-profits can quickly organize volunteers, donate supplies, and provide emergency services, effectively filling the gaps in public services during a crisis. Second, the diversity of non-profit organizations' target groups enables them to engage deeply with communities and provide tailored services for vulnerable populations. Non-profits often focus on marginalized groups such as the poor, the elderly, individuals with disabilities, and ethnic minorities, whose specific needs are often overlooked by government and market systems. By closely interacting with these groups, non-profit organizations can better understand their needs and provide more targeted and human services. Additionally, the public welfare nature of non-profits enhances their credibility and trustworthiness, which is vital in the social security system. Since their primary objective is to serve

the public good rather than generate profit, non-profits tend to gain trust from both service recipients and the general public, which strengthens their capacity to mobilize resources and deliver services effectively. This trust enables them to play a more prominent role in policy advocacy, as stakeholders are more likely to support initiatives that prioritize the public interest.

4.2. Challenges

Despite these advantages, non-profit organizations face several challenges in their involvement in the social security system. One major challenge is limited financial resources. Unlike government institutions, which have stable funding sources, non-profits often rely on donations, grants, and fundraising efforts, which can be inconsistent and insufficient to support large-scale or long-term projects. This dependency on external funding limits their ability to plan and execute sustained, impactful social security initiatives. Another challenge is the lack of formal recognition and integration within the broader social security system. While non-profits contribute significantly to social welfare, their role is often underappreciated, and they are not always included in policy discussions or decision-making processes. This lack of formal recognition can hinder their ability to influence policy or secure institutional support. Additionally, non-profits face challenges related to capacity and expertise. While they may excel at addressing local needs, they often lack the technical expertise or institutional infrastructure required for large-scale social security operations. This can affect the efficiency and scalability of their services, making it difficult for them to extend their impact beyond specific communities or issues. Lastly, the issue of sustainability remains a significant challenge. Many non-profits struggle to maintain consistent operations due to fluctuating funding, changing leadership, or shifts in public interest. This instability can undermine the long-term impact of their social security efforts, limiting their ability to contribute to the sustained development of the social security system. Understanding these advantages and challenges is essential to creating an environment where non-profit organizations can maximize their potential within the social security system, ensuring their contributions are both effective and sustainable.

5. Enhancing the Role of Non-Profit Organizations in Social Security

To enhance the role of non-profit organizations in social security, it is essential to strengthen institutional support and policy guarantees. The government should provide a clear legal framework and policy guarantees to ensure stable participation by non-profits in the social security system. By establishing and improving relevant laws and regulations, the government can clarify the roles and responsibilities of non-profit organizations within the social security framework, ensuring that they operate legally and compliantly. Additionally, the government should offer necessary financial support through policies such as special funds and tax exemptions to help non-profits address resource shortages. These supports can reduce the operational costs of non-profits, allowing them to allocate more resources to social security services, thereby improving service quality and expanding coverage. At the same time, strengthening the organizational capacity and professional level of non-profit organizations is key to enabling their more effective participation in social security. Non-profit organizations should focus on improving their management capabilities and enhancing the professionalism of their staff to ensure efficient operation when providing social security services. This includes training staff and volunteers to ensure they have the necessary professional knowledge and skills, as well as optimizing internal management processes to improve service efficiency and effectiveness. By establishing robust evaluation and feedback mechanisms, non-profits can better monitor and improve their work, continuously enhancing the precision and sustainability of their services. Beyond internal capacity building, non-profit organizations should also strengthen external collaboration. By forging partnerships with government agencies, businesses,

and other non-profits, they can leverage additional resources, expand service coverage, and share knowledge. Multi-party collaboration can create a more comprehensive and resilient social security network, where non-profit organizations act as vital connectors, fostering synergy between different sectors and enhancing the overall effectiveness of social welfare programs.

6. Conclusion

Non-profit organizations play a crucial role in the social security system by providing flexible and efficient services, advocating for policies, and building collaborative networks, effectively complementing the shortcomings of both government and market systems. However, they still face multiple challenges in their development, including resource limitations, lack of policy support, and public awareness issues. To further enhance their role in social security, the government should strengthen institutional support for non-profit organizations, providing necessary funding and policy guarantees. At the same time, non-profits themselves need to improve their management capacity and professional expertise. Through multi-party collaboration and continuous innovation, non-profit organizations can better meet social needs and contribute to the improvement and sustainable development of the social security system.

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