112. Establishing the rural "Grass-roots basic information systems"

With the further development of *fanghuiju* activities, grass-roots basic information management and floating population management have become an important grass-roots fundamental task. How to use information technology to strengthen and improve basic information building, standardize and carry out well the management of "floating population" is one of the problems *fanghuiju* work needs to solve.[1]

First, background causes

After living in the village, through investigation visits, we basically mastered the various circumstances of the village, including the basic information about villagers' small group, villagers, poor households, mosques, religious figures, the village "two committees," party members, league members, reserve cadres, "four elderly" (*silao* 四老) personnel, religious masses, village police, auxiliary police, militia, key personnel, special masses, and the personnel transformed through education (*jiaoyu zhuanhua* 教育转化).[2] These materials and data concentrate a lot of the hard work of the staff, and are an important basis and starting point for the working group and grass-roots organizations to carry out mass work. In order to realize the systematic management of information related to village households; accurately reflect the actual situation of each farmer family and floating population; and carry out the integration of the work groups' tasks well at the same time; and for the unified planning and management of the complete village residency information (*zhu cun xinxi* 住村信息) we developed a "grass-roots basic information system" (*jiceng jichu xinxi xitong* 基层基础信息系统) in line with local realities.

Second, general idea of the basic information system construction.

We firmly grasped the crucial link of informationalization construction and application; utilized the current opportunity of "lifting the lid, dig behind the veil" (*jie gaizi, wa muhou* 揭盖子、挖 幕后) and the management and census of the floating population[3]; focused

---

[1] As the scholar Sam Tynen demonstrates, rural origin Uyghur migrants, or "floating" populations, were viewed as a key threat in need of "reeducation" by Xinjiang authorities, (https://press-files.anu.edu.au/downloads/press/n9354/pdf/ch08.pdf).

[2] "*Jiaoyu zhuanghua* is the Party's title for its "de-radicalization" or "de-extremification" work geared towards maintaining social stability or *weiwen* (维稳). Following a 2017 knife-attack near Hotan led by three Uyghur perpetrators, the XUAR Department of Justice issued a directive (https://www.prcleader.org/leibold) ordering the establishment of concentrated transformation centers (教育转化培训中心 or 教培中心) throughout Xinjiang focused on removing the 'malignant tumour' of religious extremism" (https://xinjiang.sppga.ubc.ca/glossary/).

[3] In at least some cases, the digging campaign refers to a process of digging up the soil in Muslim communities revealing the roots that can then be extracted by the shovels of the village teams. The origins of the campaign stem from a speech by Party Secretary Zhang Chunxian at the start of the People's War on Terror when he described a campaign of "lifting the lid, eliminate the nest, dig behind the veil" (揭盖子、端窝子、挖幕后): (https://archive.ph/qjclU). In 2016 new Party Secretary Chen Quanguo expanded on this, elaborating on the "digging" metaphor

on the situation as a while; integrated various basic information; gave full play to the overall synergy of information resources. At the same time, we gave full play to the application function of the information system, such as expressing solicitude to the "four elderly people," visiting poor households, the management of the "sent out people" (*waichu renyuan* 外出人员), the educational transformation (*jiaoyu zhuanhua* 教育转化) of the targeted households, and helping college students and so on.

Third, the realization of information system

1. The system's structure is simple, its operation is convenient, and its function is practical. The application and recording of the information system is mainly based on village level personnel. In view of the lower ability of village staff to operate computers, the operation of the system must strive to be as simple as possible; it must be easy to maintain and the information update must be as convenient as possible. To this end, the system uses Google Earth as a basic geographic information system (GIS), and is established by linking Excel or Word documents. By marking the geolocations of village boundary, roads, village committees, households and other landmark information on Google Earth; and through the linking feature of landmarks, Excel or Word documents are linked to landmarks. In this way a family's basic information can be easily displayed on the information system. Repeating the above operation, the whole village situation, and its topographic structure can be made absolutely clear through simple clicking operations.

2. Characteristics of the system**.** The system is an information system built on Google Earth. The variety of document data meet standardization requirements; the users can link office software and .bmp and .raw format documents to the information management system, which is convenient for users to apply and manage. Google geographic information is obtained from the Internet. After initially retrieving Google Geographic Information basemap, it can be disconnected from the internet, and it can be run independently under "physical isolation" (*wuli geli* 物理隔离) conditions; it can also be used under internal office server network connection mode; this can terminate its connection to the internet, so that the information system acquires reliability and safety. The classified secret level files of the information system can be stored in a mobile storage (USB flash drive) for plug and play use. The system can guarantee the unique characteristics and classified nature of the data. The data used in the

---

(https://web.archive.org/web/20170815101632/http:/cpc.people.com.cn/n1/2016/1110/c117005-28851317-2.html). Maisumujiang Maimuer, a religious affairs official, interpreted this as "break their lineage, break their roots, break their connections and break their origins" and "completely shovel up the roots of 'two-faced people,' dig them out, and vow to fight these two-faced people until the end" (https://web.archive.org/web/20190707104805/https://www.weibo.com/ttarticle/p/show?id=2309351000444139144631708028). Eventually it came to refer to mass investigation and evaluation campaign that led to the mass internment of so-called extremists, terrorists and separatists, and the "two faced" government workers who supported them. https://www.hrw.org/node/378448/printable/print

information system are standardized universal documents, and the user can modify, supplement, and change them at any time. The daily maintenance and update of system data is fast and convenient. The information system can include six levels of basic information and materials of households, village, township, county, city, and prefecture and the information can be enlarged, expanded and extended; the system is convenient for the upgrade and construction of a five-level information system of places ranging from the village to the region-level.

3. Strengthening data maintenance, ensuring the accuracy of information. For fixed landmarks in the village, basic information such as mosques, village committees, village police stations, roads, village boundaries can be surveyed and entered in detail when establishing the system. Additional information can be collected as needed during regular home visits. In this process, the work group must be required to enter households to carry out detailed surveys, and ensure the information data is accurate and practical, such as information about family population, identity cards, household registration, medical insurance, marriage certificate, and basic condition of families. When collecting information, cameras can be used at the same time to photograph original documents, and GPS positioning can be carried out. The information of each household must be eventually recorded in volumes, and there must be information relevant to family members, photographs, identity cards, mobility, livestock raising and the condition of the house. For key personnel, untrustworthy people (*bu fangxin renyuan* 不放心人员)[4], and other special groups, the work group must additionally record their organizational situation (*zuzhi tixi* 组织体系), their social network (*mailuo guanxi* 脉络关系), and details about their family members (*jiazu chengyuan jieshao* 家族成员介绍).

Fourth, the results achieved

This system effectively strengthened village-level management measures; materialized the fine management of various personnel; and raised the "two committee's" management level and capacity. At the same time, the system very conveniently solved the work group's problem of work cohesion; enabled a complete village residence information to be planned and managed in a unified manner; and prevented repetitive work during the work group's time of transition.

(***Xinjiang Meteorological Bureau work Group residing in Yolchi Village (Youleqi cun*** 尤勒其村***), Qizilsu Township (Kezileisu xiang*** 克孜勒苏乡***), Peyziwat County (Jiashi xian*** 伽师县***)***

---

[4] Individuals were put into three categories, the worst being "untrustworthy." Those who were put into this category were highly likely to be sent to detention camps (https://xinjiang.sppga.ubc.ca/chinese-sources/population-data-collection-forms/).