

# How Does the Comprehensive Social Public Participation Affect Perceptions of Social Justice?

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## Abstract

**This study reveals the complex effects of the government service perception and different types of the comprehensive social public participation on the comprehensive perception of social justice and its sub-dimensions through OLS regression. Specifically, we find that the government service perception exhibits extremely significant and robust positive effects in all models. At the same time, the impact of different types of the comprehensive social public participation on perceptions of social equity shows significant variability. Rights advocacy participation demonstrates a negative effect in the model of the sense of legal and opportunity equality. This finding that suggests we need to further examine and optimize the advocacy mechanisms. The negative role of communication engagement in all sub-dimension models reveals the inadequacy of information transfer and communication mechanisms in building social trust. In contrast, the positive effect of community participation in the model of the sense of legal and opportunity equality highlights the positive role of communities in promoting social fairness, while the overall positive effect of electoral participation, although weakly significant in some sub-dimensions, suggests the potential value of the electoral system in enhancing the sense of social fairness.**

## Keywords

**Comprehensive Perception of Social Justice, comprehensive social public participation, government service perception.**

## 1. Introduction

In the context of social change, the main contradiction in Chinese society has transformed into the contradiction between the growing needs of the people for a better life and the unbalanced and inadequate development. The issue of social equity in the new era has further aroused people's attention to the sense of social equity [1]. Enhancing the people's sense of social justice and meeting their needs for fairness and justice are of great significance to the maintenance of social harmony and stability, as well as to social development and construction. In fact, the influence factors of social fairness and how to promote social fairness have been a topic of academic discussion. Subjective and objective influences such as socioeconomic status, relative deprivation, social cognition, and subjective social class have been discussed in the literature. In terms of social public participation, current research focuses on the impact of micro-areas, but the impact of generalized social public participation behaviors on the sense of social equity has rarely been explored by scholars. Social public participation, i.e. institutionalized political participation, refers to the actions of ordinary citizens who participate in political life through a variety of legitimate means to influence the composition, mode of operation, operating rules and policy processes of the political system [2]. As one of the most basic rights and freedoms enjoyed by citizens, comprehensive social public participation is also one of the most important aspects that reflect the building of democracy, the democratization of politics and social equity.

Therefore, exploring the factors of comprehensive social public participation that affect the sense of social fairness is of great practical significance and theoretical value for promoting the orderly political participation of the people and advancing the modernization and development of the country.

This paper will build on existing research and use data from the national sample survey CSS2019 to develop an analysis of how comprehensive social public participation behaviors affect the sense of social justice. This study divides comprehensive social public participation behavior into four aspects, namely, rights advocacy participation, communication engagement, community participation and election participation, and discusses the sense of deserved socio-economic equity, the sense of needs-based social equity, the sense of legal and opportunity equality and the comprehensive perception of social justice respectively[3]. In addition, based on the analysis of how various types of social public participation behaviors play a role in the sense of social equity, this study will further explore the role of the government service perception on the sense of social equity.

## 2. Literature review

### 2.1. Sense of social equity and factors influencing it

The concept of social justice has been a topic of interest in various fields, including social policy, education, and leadership. Delve into the actions of school leaders in promoting socially just practices, highlighting the practices of principals from the United States and Sweden. Mitchell explores how service-learning experiences contribute to students' understanding and commitment to social justice, using sensemaking theory to unpack students' conceptualization of justice[4]. Thompson touches on the evolving perspectives on social justice, particularly among younger evangelicals, highlighting the ongoing debates surrounding social justice issues in various contexts. These studies collectively contribute to the understanding of social justice and its implications across different disciplines.

Three explanatory theories have been developed in the current domestic research on the sense of legal and opportunity equality: socioeconomic status, relative deprivation, and social cognition [5]. Socio-economic status from the micro level, the theory that socio-economic status has a significant impact on the residents' sense of social equity, the higher the socio-economic status, the higher the residents' sense of social equity [6]. The theory of relative deprivation suggests that when residents evaluate the fairness of the distribution of social resources, it does not depend entirely on objective socio-economic status, but to a large extent on the sense of relative deprivation generated by social comparisons [7]. The greater the sense of relative deprivation, the lower the resident's sense of social justice. Social cognitive theory suggests that the formation of residents' sense of social justice is closely related to residents' social cognition, the higher the level of social trust, the higher the sense of social justice among residents[8].

The academic community on the sense of legal and opportunity equality of social public participation behavioral influencing factors to network behavior, economic behavior, social support behavioral factors are mostly. Culmination theory suggests that people who are more exposed to mass media behaviors are more inclined to identify with the social world portrayed by the media. Zhu Bin, Dare Miao, and Lulu Li explore this theory further, arguing that the "gatekeeper" effect of today's online media is weaker, and users can get more information about social inequality from it. On the one hand, it increases the degree of social inequality perceived by Internet media users and reduces people's sense of legal and opportunity equality; on the other hand, Internet media users reduce their sense of relative deprivation through downward comparisons, thus increasing their sense of legal and opportunity equality [9]. The findings of Ma, Yongqiang and Ma, Baobin indicated that housing pressure can not only negatively affect the sense of social fairness, but also can indirectly affect government trust through the sense of

social fairness [10]. In addition, Sui Xiaodong and other scholars showed that physical activity participation directly improves the sense of social fairness of the residents [11].

In summary, the current academic analysis of various types of social public participation behavior is still in the stage of analyzing the influencing factors of specific micro-behavior. Therefore, this study tries to explore the impact of comprehensive social public participation behaviors, especially political participation, on residents' sense of social justice.

## 2.2. Comprehensive Social Public Participation

Social public participation is a classic topic in political science research and an important element of political modernization. At a narrow level, social public participation refers to political participation, which scholars mainly regard as political behaviors such as participation in voting and election activities, and at a broader level, political interest, participation in discussions and debates, including various online and offline public sphere behaviors, etc., are all regarded as political participation [12]. Political participation includes activities such as elections, participation in political parties, access to government workers, and so on. Some researchers have classified political participation into two-dimensional types: formal and informal, institutionalized and non-institutionalized, conventional and unconventional, or three-dimensional types, such as high-institutionalized, low-institutionalized and non-institutionalized, based on the criteria of legitimacy, degree of institutionalization, and inside and outside the system [13]. There are also researchers who focus only on certain types of political participation. The former tends to simplify the analytical functions and connotations of the nature of political participation by simply categorizing the complexity of the social structure and individual behavioral choices embedded in it; the latter fails to systematically present a full picture of what is socio-political participation. Therefore, a systematic and organic combination of the two is necessary. This paper takes the political-social characteristics behind different types of comprehensive social public participation as the basis, and constructs four types of political participation, namely, rights advocacy participation, communication engagement, community participation, and electoral participation.

## 3. Research hypotheses

In explaining distributive justice, Michelbach found that people tend to hold four principles—equality, deservingness, need and efficiency—that are now recognized. Domestic researchers have attempted to measure the Chinese public's sense of social fairness by combining the Western academic typology of fairness with Chinese cultural elements. Drawing on Mill-er's concept of social contextual pluralistic justice, Wei Li categorizes the structure of the sense of social fairness into three types: economic fairness, security fairness, and political fairness, in terms of the richness of social life [14]. Lin Jian and Xiao Tang categorize the sense of social fairness into three types: entitlement, need, and equality [15]. In this paper, we will continue to follow this categorization: the sense of deserved socio-economic equity, the sense of needs-based social equity and the sense of legal and opportunity equality corresponding to the economic, social security, and political spheres respectively. Accordingly, this paper defines the sense of social fairness as: the perception or evaluation that arises when individuals apply different norms of fairness to understand the fairness of different social situations. So this study begins with the following overarching hypothesis:

H1: There is a significant positive effect between the comprehensive social public participation and the comprehensive perception of social justice.

Existing research on the relationship between perceptions of social justice and political participation has been conducted mainly at the individual level on the culturalist path. Just-World Theory (JWT) suggests that people have a "belief in a just world" and that people will

engage in pro-social behaviors to enhance their sense of fairness. Thus, in this theoretical context, it is possible that political activities have a contributory effect on the sense of social justice. Based on the above discussion and delineation of socio-political participation and sense of social equity, this study further proposes the following hypotheses:

H2b: There is a significant positive effect of the communication participation on the comprehensive perception of social justice.

H2c: There is a significant positive effect of the community participation on the comprehensive perception of social justice

H2d: There is a significant positive effect of electoral participation on the comprehensive perception of social justice.

At the same time, according to the theory of relative sense of deprivation, members of this society, when judging the social fairness situation, will start from the two dimensions of reflexive fairness and horizontal fairness, choosing a specific object for comparison. The stronger the sense of relative deprivation, the lower the residents' sense of social justice. Residents who have experienced rights advocacy participation behaviors are more likely to experience fluctuations in the perception of social fairness due to the impairment of their own rights, which in turn creates a sense of social unfairness. Therefore, compared to residents whose rights have not been compromised, residents who have experienced advocacy participation have a stronger sense of relative deprivation, which tends to lead to a lower subjective sense of fairness. Accordingly, this study has the following hypotheses:

H2a: There is a significant negative effect of rights advocacy participation on the comprehensive perception of social justice.

The government service perception refers to the overall effectiveness of the political system (especially the government) in governing society, and the subjective evaluation of political performance by the public is the perception of political performance. Although the political system does not contain only the government, as the main component of the political system, it has the closest connection with the people in real life, so the people prefer to use government performance evaluation instead of political performance evaluation. It can thus be argued that a sense of political performance can be largely replaced by a sense of government performance. At the empirical level, citizens' political participation can, to a certain extent, enhance the performance of government governance or improve the political governance of the government[16]. At the empirical level, the electoral participation of urban and rural residents has a significant positive impact on the evaluation of political performance, in other words, residents who have voted in elections have a higher level of satisfaction with the work of the government, the satisfaction with basic social services, and the overall satisfaction with public services than those who have not participated in elections[17].Based on this, this study hypothesizes that there is a positive correlation between the government service perception and the perception of social justice:

H3: There is a significant positive effect of the government service perception on the comprehensive perception of social justice.

H3a: There is a significant positive effect of the government service perception on the sense of deserved socio-economic equity.

H3b: There is a significant positive effect of the government service perception on the sense of needs-based social equity.

H3c: There is a significant positive effect of the government service perception on the sense of legal and opportunity equality.

## 4. Methodology

### 4.1. Data sources

The study utilizes data from the 2019 Comprehensive Survey of Social Conditions in China (Chinese Social Survey, or CSS); the CSS series is a database resulting from a large-scale, nationwide, continuous sample survey implemented by the Institute of Sociology of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, and is also recognized by academics as being of reliable survey quality. The survey used PPS probability sampling and household questionnaire interviews, covering 596 villages (neighborhoods) in 149 cities (counties and districts) in 31 provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government), interviewing more than 11,000 urban and rural households, and recovering 10,283 valid questionnaires. Since this paper examines how political participation affects the sense of social justice, the samples that answered "not applicable" and "refused to answer" in the key variables of political participation and the sense of social justice were excluded, and 9,846 valid samples were obtained in the end.

### 4.2. Selection of variables

#### 4.2.1. Dependent variable

The comprehensive perception of social justice is a multidimensional and complex psychological and social phenomenon, the formation of which is deeply influenced by multiple factors such as individual social status, economic status, educational background, social experience and macro-social environment. Existing studies have developed a series of rigorously validated measurement tools, aiming to build a comprehensive and scientific assessment framework. Researchers also have widely used self-report scales, through questionnaires and statistical methods, and to construct overall sense of fairness variables through the method of factor analysis. By weighting and summing the indicators according to certain criteria, a comprehensive unfairness indicator is obtained. This paper adopted subjective sense of fairness as a key indicator, and quantitatively assessed the subjective well-being of the study participants through direct questioning. Specifically, we asked the following question: "Your evaluation of the overall fairness and equity of the current society" The question utilizes a scoring system of 1-10 points, where higher scores indicate higher levels of satisfaction. At the data processing stage, we recoded and reclassified the raw data in order to show the levels of satisfaction more clearly and to facilitate subsequent analysis. We combined the scores of 10 and 9 into the category of "very satisfied", 8 and 7 into the category of "satisfied", 6 and 5 into the category of "fair", 4 and 3 into the category of "dissatisfied", and 2 and 1 into the category of "unsatisfied". The "unsatisfactory" category was created by combining 8 and 7 points, the "satisfactory" category by combining 6 and 5 points, the "fair" category by combining 4 and 3 points, and the "very unsatisfactory" category by combining 2 and 1 points.

The paper dissects social justice perception into three dimensions: the sense of deserved socio-economic equity, examining the fairness of job market operations and wealth distribution; the sense of needs-based social equity, highlighting the balance of meeting basic needs, health, and social safety; and the sense of legal and opportunity equality, focusing on equal rights and political participation. Each dimension is rated from 1 to 5 for fairness, with scores summed for analysis.

#### 4.2.2. Independent variables

In this study, "comprehensive social public participation" is the core independent variable, and its multidimensional character deeply reflects the breadth and depth of civic activities. Specifically, this variable covers four core dimensions: rights advocacy participation, focusing on the assertion and maintenance of rights, which is a direct manifestation of citizens' active defense of their own rights and interests; communication engagement, emphasizing the

exchange of information and the construction of social consensus, which is an important way for citizens to participate in social dialogue and promote the formation of consensus; community participation, focusing on the connection and governance of the local society, which demonstrates the vitality and contribution of citizens' participation in the governance of the society on a micro level; electoral participation, which is directly related to the process of democratic decision-making and power distribution, which is a key way for citizens to exercise their rights and influence policy making in the political field. Community participation, focusing on local social connection and governance, demonstrates the vitality and contribution of citizens' participation in social governance at the micro level; and electoral participation, which is directly related to the process of democratic decision-making and the distribution of power, and is a key way for citizens to exercise their rights in the political sphere and influence policymaking. These dimensions are precisely measured by a quantitative rating system ranging from 1 to 5, which together constitute a key analytical framework for analyzing the dynamics of social change, assessing the growth trajectory of civil society and the deepening of political participation. In addition, the government service perception variable, as another important dimension of analysis, comprehensively measures citizens' satisfaction and trust in government services through a series of multiple indicators. This variable covers 13 key issues, including the provision of medical and health services, the improvement of the social security system, environmental protection and pollution control, the protection of civil and political rights, the maintenance of social security, the effectiveness of anti-corruption and integrity promotion, administration in accordance with the law and the fairness of law enforcement, economic development and income growth, the promotion of employment and the enhancement of opportunities, the transparency of government information disclosure, the awareness of and responsiveness to government services, the optimization of the allocation of educational resources and education equity, and the safety and security of food and drugs. Each question adopts a scoring system of "-2 to 2 points", increasing from "very inconsistent" to "very consistent", and by adding up the scores of each question, a comprehensive quantitative assessment of the government service perception. This design not only reflects citizens' intuitive perception of the quality of various government services, but also provides an important basis for an in-depth understanding of the government-citizen relationship and an assessment of the effectiveness of government governance.

#### **4.2.3. Control variables**

The control variables mainly cover the basic demographic characteristics, socioeconomic status, and occupational status that affect an individual's sense of fairness. First, for basic demographic characteristics, sex was coded as a binary variable as male (1) and female (0). Age was further refined into three age groups: young (18-35 years old, coded as 1), middle-aged (36-60 years old, coded as 2), and old (over 60 years old, coded as 3). Political identity was also taken into account as a binary control variable, classified on the basis of whether or not one was a party member, with party membership being assigned a code of 1 and nonparty membership being coded 0. Considering the impact of education level on the sense of social equity, and given the remarkable changes in China's education system and the wide distribution of education levels, we refine it into five levels: elementary school and below (coded as 1), middle school (coded as 2), high school or vocational high school (coded as 3), undergraduate degree (coded as 4), and postgraduate degree and above (coded as 5). In addition, we also considered rural-urban affiliation, with the household type partitioned into a dichotomous variable of rural (coded 0) versus non-rural (coded 1). In terms of distinguishing the nature of work, we classified the types of work into institutional work (coded as 1, covering party and government organs, people's organizations, the military, state-owned and state-controlled enterprises, and state/collective institutions) and extra-institutional work (coded as 0), based on the core characteristic of whether or not they are affiliated with an institutional unit. In addition, we introduced

subjective socio-economic status as a three-categorical variable to measure respondents' perceived socio-economic status by combining the upper and upper-middle strata to form the upper stratum (coded 1), keeping the middle stratum unchanged (coded 2), and combining the lower-middle stratum and lower stratum to form the lower stratum (coded 3). All control variables were processed, see Table 1 for details.

Table 1 : Basic information about variables

Variable	Categories/Coding	Mean (SD) /total
Dependent variable		
Sense of social justice (score:1-5)	Sense of Deserved Socio-Economic Equity	3.27 (1.00)
	Sense of Needs-Based Social Equity	3.33 (0.93)
	Sense of Legal and Opportunity Equality	3.64 (0.95)
	Comprehensive Perception of Social Justice	3.58 (0.97)
Independent variable		
Social public participation (participate=1)	Rights Advocacy Participation	0.04 (0.18)
	Communication Engagement	0.09 (0.29)
	Community Participation	0.09 (0.29)
	Electoral Participation	0.32 (0.47)
	Comprehensive Social Public Participation	0.14 (0.19)
Government service perception (score: -2 ~ 2)		0.67 (0.78)
Control variable		
Gender (male=1)		0.42(0.49)
Hukou (City = 1)		0.69 (0.46)
Work (Within the system = 1)		0.08 (0.28)
CPC (member=1)		0.10 (0.3)
Age group	Youth	2602
	Middle age	2557
	Old age	2094
Education	Primary school and below	3243
	Middle school	3212
	High school	1806
	University	876
	Postgraduate	996
Class	Upper class	735
	Middle class	4198
	Lower class	5172

## 5. Results

In the control variable baseline model regression results shown in Table 2, we used ordinary least squares (OLS) to analyze the effects of several control variables, such as socioeconomic factors and party membership, on the comprehensive perception of social justice. Party membership and gender have a significant positive effect on the sense of social fairness

( $\beta=0.100, p<0.01$ ;  $\beta=0.112, p<0.001$ ), which suggests that the sense of social responsibility and ethical standards accompanying party membership keep the sense of social fairness at a better level, and that females show a higher level of social fairness compared to males. However, the effect of household type (Hukou) on the sense of social fairness is not significant ( $\beta=-0.005, p>0.05$ ), implying that the direct role of the hukou system in shaping individual's sense of social fairness has diminished in the current social context. In terms of education level, although middle school, junior high school and senior high school all showed a negative impact on the sense of fairness; however, university degree played a positive role in the sense of social fairness. As for the age factor, the older group held a more positive attitude towards the sense of social fairness compared to the younger and middle-aged groups ( $\beta=0.148, p<0.001$ ), while the difference between the middle-aged group and the younger group on the sense of social fairness was not significant ( $\beta=-0.002, p>0.05$ ). Similarly, the effect of job type on the perception of social fairness between the middle-aged group and the young people did not show significance in this study ( $\beta=0.047, p>0.05$ ), which may imply that the differences in job systems did not directly lead to significant differences in individuals' perceptions of social fairness, or that this effect was masked by other, more significant variables. Social class status, on the other hand, significantly affects perceptions of social fairness, with individuals of middle social class status showing lower perceptions of social fairness compared to those of low social class status ( $\beta=-0.092, p<0.05$ ), and those of high social class status showing lower perceptions of social fairness ( $\beta=-0.417, p<0.001$ ), which may be related to differences in access to resources, social status, and distribution of power among different social classes.

Table 2: Control Variables Benchmark Model Regression OLS

	Model 1
	Comprehensive Perception of Social Justice
CPC	0.100** (0.034)
Gender	0.112*** (0.020)
Hukou	-0.005 (0.024)
Education (Ref. group: Primary school)	
Middle school	-0.049+ (0.025)
High school	-0.049 (0.032)
University	0.008 (0.044)
Postgraduate	-0.008 (0.046)
Age group (Reference group: Youth)	
Middle age	-0.002 (0.027)
Old age	0.148*** (0.034)



Tizhi	0.047 (0.038)
Class (Reference group: Upper class)	
Middle class	-0.092* (0.038)
Lower class	-0.417*** (0.038)
Constant	3.771*** (0.054)
<i>N</i>	9846
<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>	0.043

Standard errors in parentheses;+  $p < 0.10$ , \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$

In Model 2a, we delve into the impact of advocacy participation on the comprehensive perception of social justice. The results show that advocacy participation has a negative impact on the comprehensive perception of social justice. Model 2b analyzes the role of communication engagement on the comprehensive perception of social justice. The results of the analysis show that the coefficient of communication engagement is -0.157 and is highly statistically significant ( $p < 0.001$ ). Surprisingly, communication engagement was found to have a negative effect on the comprehensive perception of social justice; in other words, for every unit increase in communication engagement, the comprehensive perception of social justice would be significantly reduced by about 0.157 units. In contrast, both community participation and electoral participation had a positive and significant effect on the comprehensive perception of social justice. Model 2c shows that the coefficient for community participation is 0.103 and is highly statistically significant ( $p < 0.001$ ). This finding underscores the importance of community as the core of social cohesion, and that community participation significantly enhances residents' perceptions of overall social equity by enhancing their sense of belonging, fostering mutual support and trust among neighbors, and providing a platform for solving everyday problems. In Model 2d shows that the coefficient for electoral participation is 0.163 and is highly statistically significant ( $p < 0.001$ ). This finding highlights the important role of political participation in shaping the public's sense of social equity. Electoral participation not only enhances citizens' sense of political efficacy and democratic satisfaction, but also conveys a message of social fairness and justice through the electoral process itself, thereby significantly enhancing the public's comprehensive perception of social justice.

Model 3 assesses the influence of four participation types on social justice perception. Advocacy participation's coefficient is -0.015, insignificant, suggesting a weak impact. Communication engagement's coefficient is -0.188, significantly negative, aligning with Model 2b. Community and electoral participation show stable positive effects, with coefficients of 0.090 and 0.153, respectively, consistent with Models 2c and 2d.

Table 3 : Impact of type of participation on the Comprehensive Perception of Social Justice

	Model 2a	Model 2b	Model 2c	Model 2d	Model 3
Rights Advocacy and Participation	-0.016 (0.051)				-0.015 (0.053)
Communication Engagement		-0.157*** (0.033)			-0.188*** (0.034)
			0.103***		0.090***

Community participation			(0.021)		(0.022)
Electoral Participation				0.163*** (0.034)	0.153*** (0.035)
Control variables	controlled	controlled	controlled	controlled	controlled
Constant	3.771** (0.054)	3.781** (0.054)	3.763** (0.054)	3.761** (0.054)	3.768** (0.054)
<i>N</i>	9846	9846	9846	9846	9846
<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>	0.043	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.050

Standard errors in parentheses;+  $p < 0.10$ , \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$

Model 3 refines social justice perception into three aspects: deserved equity, needs-based equity, and legal equality. Advocacy participation and communication engagement negatively affect deservedness and needs-based equity, suggesting biases in messaging and understanding. However, electoral participation positively influences deservedness, enhancing trust and satisfaction with the political system. Community participation positively impacts both needs-based equity and legal equality, indicating its role in meeting residents' needs and promoting fairness. These findings highlight the importance of community and public participation in fostering social cohesion and equality.

Table 4: Impact of Participation Type on the Sense of Deserved Socio-Economic Equity, the Sense of Needs-Based Social Equity, and the Sense of Legal and Opportunity Equality

	Model 3a	Model 3b	Model 3c
	Sense of Deserved Socio-Economic Equity	Sense of Needs-Based Social Equity	Sense of Legal and Opportunity Equality
Rights Advocacy Participation	-0.153** (0.055)	-0.142** (0.051)	-0.176*** (0.052)
Communication Engagement	-0.211*** (0.036)	-0.196*** (0.033)	-0.308*** (0.034)
Community Participation	0.034 (0.023)	0.057** (0.021)	0.149*** (0.022)
Electoral Participation	0.140*** (0.037)	0.146*** (0.034)	0.156*** (0.035)
Control variables	controlled	controlled	controlled
Constant	3.535*** (0.056)	3.783*** (0.052)	3.647*** (0.053)
<i>N</i>	9846	9846	9846
<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>	0.035	0.039	0.035

Standard errors in parentheses;+  $p < 0.10$ , \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$

We attempted to add the government service perception to the comprehensive social public participation to explore the impact on the comprehensive perception of social justice. First, in Model 4a, we separately examined the effect of the comprehensive social public participation on comprehensive perception of social justice. The results showed that the comprehensive social public participation had a significant positive effect on comprehensive perception of social justice ( $\beta=0.146$ ,  $p<0.01$ ). This finding emphasizes the important role of civic engagement in shaping perceptions of social equity, and may reflect individuals' understanding and identification with social issues during the engagement process, as well as the sense of empowerment and belonging that comes from the engagement itself. In order to further reveal

the complex causes of the comprehensive perception of social justice, we introduced the government service perception as a new independent variable in Model 4b and found that it had a highly significant positive effect on the comprehensive perception of social justice the government service perception. This finding underscores the centrality of government service quality in the construction of public perceptions of fairness, and may be linked to public trust in government capacity, satisfaction with the equalization of public services, and agreement with the effectiveness of policy implementation. Finally, Model 4c further refines the understanding of the factors influencing the comprehensive perception of social justice by including both the independent variables of the comprehensive social public participation and perception of government services. The results of this model show that both maintain a significant positive influence.

Table 5: Impact of the Government Service Perception on the Comprehensive Perception of Social Justice

	Model 4a	Model 4b	Model 4c
	Comprehensive Perception of Social Justice	Comprehensive Perception of Social Justice	Comprehensive Perception of Social Justice
Comprehensive Social Public Participation	0.146** (0.051)		0.119* (0.047)
The Government Service Perception		0.497*** (0.011)	0.497*** (0.011)
Control variables	controlled	controlled	controlled
Constant	3.763*** (0.054)	3.336*** (0.050)	3.330*** (0.050)
<i>N</i>	9846	9846	9846
<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>	0.044	0.199	0.200

Standard errors in parentheses;+  $p < 0.10$ , \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$

Finally, this paper further refines the variables to explore the specific impacts of the government service perception and different forms of the comprehensive social public participation such as advocacy participation, communication engagement, community participation, and electoral participation on the comprehensive perception of social justice and its three sub-dimensions. First, the government service perception had an extremely significant and robust positive effect on the comprehensive perception of social justice and its sub-dimensions in all models ( $\beta$ -values ranged from 0.482 to 0.565,  $p < 0.001$ ). This result not only reinforces the centrality of the quality of government services in shaping the public's sense of social equity, but also provides further evidence that improving the level of government services is important for promoting social equity. Second, regarding the different forms of civic engagement, the data reveal the complexity and variability of their impacts. While the impact of rights-based participation is not significant in the model of the sense of deserved socio-economic equity, it shows some negative trends in the models of the sense of needs-based social equity ( $\beta = -0.073$ ,  $p > 0.05$ ) and the sense of legal and opportunity equality ( $\beta = -0.106$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ), with the latter, in particular, reaching a statistically significant level. In contrast, community participation demonstrated a significant positive effect in the sense of legal and opportunity equality model ( $\beta = 0.088$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ). In addition, electoral participation also demonstrated a positive effect in several models, particularly reaching statistically significant levels in the comprehensive perception of social justice ( $\beta = 0.074$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) and the sense of legal and opportunity equality ( $\beta = 0.066$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) models.

Table 6 : Impact of the government service perception, type of the comprehensive social public participation on the comprehensive perception of social justice

	Model 5a	Model 5b	Model 5c	Model 5d
	Comprehensive Perception of Social Justice	Sense of Deserved Socio-Economic Equity	Sense of Needs-Based Social Equity	Sense of Legal and Opportunity Equality
Government Service Perception	0.493*** (0.011)	0.482*** (0.012)	0.554*** (0.011)	0.565*** (0.011)
Rights Advocacy Participation	0.047 (0.048)	-0.093+ (0.051)	-0.073 (0.045)	-0.106* (0.046)
Communication Engagement	-0.046 (0.032)	-0.073* (0.033)	-0.038 (0.029)	-0.146*** (0.030)
Community Participation	0.037+ (0.020)	-0.018 (0.021)	-0.003 (0.019)	0.088*** (0.019)
Electoral Participation	0.074* (0.032)	0.063+ (0.034)	0.057+ (0.030)	0.066* (0.031)
Control variables	controlled	controlled	controlled	controlled
Constant	3.335*** (0.050)	3.111*** (0.053)	3.297*** (0.047)	3.151*** (0.048)
<i>N</i>	9846	9846	9846	9846
<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>	0.200	0.170	0.247	0.240

Standard errors in parentheses;+  $p < 0.10$ , \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$

## 6. Discussion and conclusions

This study reveals the complex effects of the government service perception and different types of the comprehensive social public participation on the comprehensive perception of social justice and its sub-dimensions through OLS regression. Specifically, we find that the government service perception exhibit extremely significant and robust positive effects in all models, suggesting that public satisfaction with the quality of government services is an important factor in shaping their sense of social justice. This finding not only emphasizes the critical role of government services in promoting social equity, but also further corroborates the social exchange theory's discussion of the relationship between resource exchange and trust building. At the same time, the impact of different types of the comprehensive social public participation on perceptions of social equity shows significant variability. Rights advocacy participation demonstrates a negative effect in the model of the sense of legal and opportunity equality. This may be related to the imperfections of the current advocacy mechanisms or the negative experiences in the advocacy process. This finding that suggests we need to further examine and optimize the advocacy mechanisms to reduce their potential negative effects. The negative role of communication engagement in all sub-dimension models, on the other hand, reveals the inadequacy of information transfer and communication mechanisms in building social trust and emphasizes the importance of improving communication channels and mechanisms. In contrast, the positive effect of community participation in the model of the sense of legal and opportunity equality highlights the positive role of communities in promoting social fairness, while the overall positive effect of electoral participation, although weakly significant in some sub-dimensions, suggests the potential value of the electoral system in enhancing the sense of social fairness.

From the perspective of social exchange theory, the positive correlation between the government service perception and perceptions of social fairness profoundly reflects the dynamic balance between resource exchange and social identity. Under this framework, the services provided by the government are regarded as a kind of "social commodity", and in the process of enjoying these services, the public not only satisfies its own needs, but also forms a positive evaluation of the fairness and efficiency of the government at the psychological level.

Social capital theory reveals to us the deeper reasons for the impact of different types of the comprehensive social public participation on the sense of legal and opportunity equality. Community participation and electoral participation can have a positive impact in modeling the sense of equality and fairness because they help to build and maintain social networks and trust, which are key elements of social capital. Community participation strengthens strong ties among residents by promoting mutual assistance and cooperation among neighbors, forming a community based on shared interests and values. In contrast, the negative impacts of advocacy participation and communication engagement may reflect the fact that these forms of participation are in some ways ineffective in contributing to the accumulation of social capital, and in some cases may even exacerbate social divisions and mistrust. In addition, social conflict theory provides a useful perspective for understanding the negative impacts of communication engagement. Especially when the mechanism for defending rights is imperfect, the rights advocacy participation is more likely to trigger social conflicts and discontent, thus weakening the public's perception of and identification with equality. Therefore, optimizing the mechanism for defending rights and ensuring the fairness and transparency of the process of defending rights is the key to reducing its negative effects and promoting social harmony.

Based on the above findings, we make the following recommendations: First, the government should continue to upgrade the quality of its services to meet the growing needs and expectations of the public, thereby enhancing the public's sense of social justice. Secondly, the communication mechanism should be improved to ensure that information on government policies and services is accurately conveyed, so as to enhance the public's trust in and support for the government. At the same time, it encourages and supports diversified forms of the comprehensive social public participation, especially community activities and election voting, so as to enhance the public's sense of social responsibility and participation. The study also examines the public participation in social and public affairs, especially community activities and election voting, in order to enhance the public's sense of social responsibility and participation. However, this study also has certain limitations. The selection of variables in this study may not be comprehensive enough, and more relevant variables can be explored in the future to improve the research model. Moreover, this study is a cross-sectional study, which cannot reveal the long-term dynamic relationship between the variables, and a longitudinal study can be considered in the future in order to gain a deeper understanding of their long-term effects.

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