THE EFFORTS OF JORDANIAN POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE FIELD OF
SOCIAL SERVICE IN LIGHT OF THE CORONA PANDEMIC

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: This research examines Jordanian political parties' social service programs during COVID-19, identifying challenges and proposing recommendations for improvement, including youth empowerment, geographical expansion, and legislative advocacy.

Theoretical framework: This research examines the social service efforts of Jordanian political parties during the COVID-19 pandemic using various theoretical frameworks. It examines political party functionality, resource dependency, youth engagement, geopolitical analysis, and policy advocacy. The study aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of these parties' efforts, identify challenges, and offer strategic recommendations for strengthening their social roles and impact.

Design/Methodology/Approach: This research explores the social service efforts of Jordanian political parties during the COVID-19 pandemic using a qualitative, descriptive, and exploratory design. Data is collected through semi-structured interviews with key informants, documentary analysis, and thematic analysis. Ethical considerations are upheld, and the research is validated and reliable through strategies like triangulation of data sources and member checking. The findings aim to enhance the effectiveness of political parties in addressing societal needs.

Findings: The research on Jordanian political parties' social service efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic revealed challenges such as limited financial resources, limited youth engagement, and geographic disparities. Recommendations for improvement include empowering youth, expanding beyond urban centers, and advocating for legislative reforms. These strategies can enhance the effectiveness of political parties as agents of social change and catalysts for positive transformation in Jordanian communities.

Research, Practical & Social Implications: The study on Jordanian political parties' social service efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic offers academic insights and practical applications. It provides insights into the evolving roles of political organizations in addressing societal needs, empowering youth, and expanding party outreach. The findings can inform strategic decision-making, promoting social cohesion, and advocating for legislative reform.

Originality/Value: This research provides a contextualized analysis of Jordanian political parties' social service efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. It examines the intersection of politics and social welfare, identifying challenges like limited resources and geographic disparities. The study offers practical recommendations for improvement and policy implications, emphasizing the importance of fostering an enabling environment for political parties to engage in social service provision.

Keywords: social service, political parties, pandemic.

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OS ESFORÇOS DOS PARTIDOS POLÍTICOS JORDANIANOS NO CAMPO DO SERVIÇO SOCIAL À LUZ DA PANDEMIA DE CORONA

RESUMO

Finalidade: Esta pesquisa examina os programas de serviço social dos partidos políticos jordanianos durante a COVID-19, identificando desafios e propondo recomendações para melhoria, incluindo capacitação dos jovens, expansão geográfica e advocacia legislativa.

Quadro teórico: Esta investigação examina os esforços de serviço social dos partidos políticos jordanianos durante a pandemia de COVID-19, utilizando vários quadros teóricos. Examina a funcionalidade do partido político, a dependência de recursos, o envolvimento da juventude, a análise geopolítica e a defesa de políticas. O estudo tem como objetivo fornecer uma análise abrangente dos esforços dessas partes, identificar desafios e oferecer recomendações estratégicas para fortalecer seus papéis sociais e impacto.

Design/Metodologia/Abordagem: Esta pesquisa explora os esforços de serviço social dos partidos políticos jordanianos durante a pandemia de COVID-19 usando um design qualitativo, descritivo e exploratório. Os dados são coletados por meio de entrevistas semiestruturadas com informantes-chave, análise documental e análise temática. Considerações éticas são mantidas, e a pesquisa é validada e confiável através de estratégias como triangulação de fontes de dados e verificação de membros. As conclusões visam aumentar a eficácia dos partidos políticos na resposta às necessidades da sociedade.

Conclusões: A investigação sobre os esforços dos serviços sociais dos partidos políticos jordanianos durante a pandemia de COVID-19 revelou desafios, tais como recursos financeiros limitados, envolvimento limitado dos jovens e disparidades geográficas. Recomendações para melhoria incluem empoderar os jovens, expandir para além dos centros urbanos e defender reformas legislativas. Essas estratégias podem aumentar a eficácia dos partidos políticos como agentes de mudança social e catalisadores de transformação positiva nas comunidades jordanianas.

Investigação, Implicações Práticas e Sociais: O estudo sobre os esforços dos partidos políticos jordanos no serviço social durante a pandemia de COVID-19 oferece perspetivas académicas e aplicações práticas. Ele fornece insights sobre os papéis em evolução das organizações políticas na abordagem das necessidades da sociedade, empoderamento da juventude e expansão do alcance do partido. Os resultados podem informar a tomada de decisões estratégicas, promovendo a coesão social e defendendo a reforma legislativa.

Originalidade/Valor: Esta pesquisa fornece uma análise contextualizada dos esforços de serviço social dos partidos políticos jordanianos durante a pandemia de COVID-19. Ele examina a interseção da política e bem-estar social, identificando desafios como recursos limitados e disparidades geográficas. O estudo apresenta recomendações práticas para a melhoria e implicações políticas, salientando a importância de promover um ambiente propício à prestação de serviços sociais pelos partidos políticos.

Palavras-chave: serviço social, partidos políticos, pandemia.
RESUMEN

Objetivo: Esta investigación examina los programas de servicios sociales de los partidos políticos jordanos durante COVID-19, identificando desafíos y proponiendo recomendaciones para mejorar, incluyendo el empoderamiento de los jóvenes, la expansión geográfica y la defensa legislativa.

Marco teórico: Esta investigación examina los esfuerzos de servicio social de los partidos políticos jordanos durante la pandemia de COVID-19 utilizando diversos marcos teóricos. Examina la funcionalidad de los partidos políticos, la dependencia de los recursos, la participación de los jóvenes, el análisis geopolítico y la promoción de políticas. El estudio tiene por objeto proporcionar un análisis exhaustivo de los esfuerzos de estas partes, identificar los desafíos y ofrecer recomendaciones estratégicas para fortalecer sus funciones sociales y su impacto.

Diseño/Metodología/Enfoque: Esta investigación explora los esfuerzos de servicio social de los partidos políticos jordanos durante la pandemia de COVID-19 utilizando un diseño cualitativo, descriptivo y exploratorio. Los datos se recogen a través de entrevistas semiestructuradas a informantes clave, análisis documental y análisis temático. Se defienden las consideraciones éticas y la investigación es validada y confiable a través de estrategias como la triangulación de fuentes de datos y la verificación de miembros. Las conclusiones tienen por objeto aumentar la eficacia de los partidos políticos para atender las necesidades de la sociedad.

Conclusiones: La investigación sobre los esfuerzos de servicio social de los partidos políticos jordanos durante la pandemia de COVID-19 reveló desafíos tales como recursos financieros limitados, participación limitada de los jóvenes y disparidades geográficas. Las recomendaciones para mejorar incluyen empoderar a los jóvenes, expandirse más allá de los centros urbanos y abogar por reformas legislativas. Estas estrategias pueden aumentar la eficacia de los partidos políticos como agentes de cambio social y catalizadores de una transformación positiva en las comunidades jordanas.

Investigación, implicaciones prácticas y sociales: El estudio sobre los esfuerzos de servicio social de los partidos políticos jordanos durante la pandemia de COVID-19 ofrece perspectivas académicas y aplicaciones prácticas. Proporciona información sobre la evolución de los roles de las organizaciones políticas en la atención de las necesidades sociales, el empoderamiento de los jóvenes y la expansión de la divulgación partidista. Los hallazgos pueden servir de base para la toma de decisiones estratégicas, la promoción de la cohesión social y la defensa de la reforma legislativa.

Originalidad/Valor: Esta investigación proporciona un análisis contextualizado de los esfuerzos de servicio social de los partidos políticos jordanos durante la pandemia de COVID-19. Examina la intersección de la política y el bienestar social, identificando desafíos como los recursos limitados y las disparidades geográficas. En el estudio se formulan recomendaciones prácticas para mejorar la situación y las consecuencias normativas, haciendo hincapié en la importancia de fomentar un entorno propicio para que los partidos políticos participen en la prestación de servicios sociales.

Palabras clave: servicio social, partidos políticos, pandemia.
1 INTRODUCTION

The responsibility of providing care and social service has become the responsibility of each of the competent state institutions and civil society institutions such as associations, unions, federations and clubs, as well as partisan, as it is the responsibility of the private sector and members of society, Therefore, it is a joint responsibility that falls on the shoulders of all components of society, through the mobilization of all energies in order to provide forms of care and social service to the groups who deserve it. Although political parties have a political role and activity represented in the pursuit of access to power, and work to organize groups of society by working on the political formation and integration of them, and raising societal awareness of political activity and processes such as candidacy and elections, interaction with government decisions and procedures, and raising the level of organization Between groups of society, However, social responsibility and providing all forms of care and social service is a fundamental role of the political party.

The social roles of the political party increase in light of the state’s exposure to events or stages in which the state or the people weaken their ability to reach the provision of services and obtain them, and the spread of the Corona epidemic was a clear example of this, It was necessary for political parties to play their social role and provide material and moral assistance to the people in order to alleviate the damages of the closure, the embargo and the cessation of the normal work of economic activity. (Mathonsi, P., 2023)

The problem of the study lies in identifying the efforts of political parties and the nature of the social service programs they provide, in the exceptional circumstance that Jordan is going through, as is the case for all countries in the world as a result of the outbreak of the Corona epidemic, the expansion of poverty and unemployment, the cessation of production and the deterioration of economic conditions. (Nguyen, H. K., 2022)

The societal responsibility has increased in the tasks of political parties as a result of the outbreak of the epidemic and the attempts to confront it, and the accompanying measures represented in disrupting economic life and the application of comprehensive and partial prohibitions, and there is no doubt that these measures have a great impact on the less fortunate groups in society, hence the importance of the study.

The study sought to achieve the following objectives:
First: Learn about the social service programs offered by political parties during the year 2020.

Second: Exposing the challenges that faced political parties in providing social service programs.

The study answered the following questions:

The first question: What are the social service programs presented by political parties during the year 2020 AD?

The second question: What are the challenges faced by political parties in providing social service programs?

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

There are many studies and literature that dealt with the study variables, but the reference was only to studies that dealt with grassroots efforts and their societal role, and it came as follows:

The 2007 study of Sharaf Yahya, entitled "The Role of Political Parties in the Development of Rural Society from the Perspective of Social Service" The study aimed to identify the roles and activities of political parties in rural development and the most important obstacles that prevent them from doing so. The study found the negative impact of weak financial resources for parties, and their effective contribution to rural development, and recommended raising the value of financial support provided to party institutions.

As for the study of Al-Jamal, Ahmad, 2009, which was entitled: "Towards a proposed conception to activate the role of parties in achieving sustainable development as a civil society organization", it aimed to identify the role of political parties as a civil society organization in achieving sustainable development, The study found the weak contributions of political parties to achieving sustainable development, as the majority of respondents' responses were low, and it recommended activating the roles of political parties and merging them with national efforts more in order to enhance their role in achieving sustainable development.

Abu Amoud and Muhammad Saad’s study, 2016 AD, which was entitled The Role of Parties in Contemporary Political Development, aimed to identify the role of parties in contemporary political development, and the mechanisms for developing the role of political parties in contemporary political development. The study found that there is a
clear focus on the part of these parties on using modern communication techniques and social media in carrying out their functions, and that some parties have tried to develop their institutional structures to take a networked character.

Bayoumi's study dealt with Iman Muhammad, 2015, titled “The Role of Political Parties in Community Development,” and aimed to uncover the functions that political parties perform in order to achieve community development, such as political participation, developing citizens' awareness, political upbringing, political recruitment and other functions that On her path is achieved community growth, The study found that among the most important manifestations of the obstacles to party work is the weakness of the party's capabilities and resources, the lack of political awareness of citizens, the weakness of the political participation process and the desire to volunteer, and the limited space left for freedoms and expression , One of the most important recommendations was the necessity of uniting the parties and for businessmen to make a more positive contribution in supporting political parties and providing them with financial support.

After reviewing previous studies, it was found that there is no study that deals with the efforts of political parties in the field of social service, because the focus on the field of sustainable or rural development or community development carries with it the provision of service and social care, But this research was distinguished from those studies because it tries to shed light on the Jordanian partisan efforts in the field of social service in light of the confrontation of Corona virus, where all national efforts have combined and mobilized national energies in order to protect and care for the Jordanian citizen and provide him with material and moral aid.

3 METHOD AND PROCEDURES
3.1 STUDY POPULATION

The study population is made up of the general secretaries of the Jordanian parties operating and licensed for the year 2020 AD, and their number (49) general secretaries, in order to reach answers that achieve the objectives of the study.

3.2 STUDY METHODOLOGY

The study followed the method of the social survey in the sample due to its relevance to the nature of the study population, its relevance to the objectives and
questions of the study, and because the approach is characterized by the ability to classify and arrange data.

3.3 STUDY SAMPLE

The study used the intentional sampling method due to its research necessity, its relevance to the nature and size of the study population, and the data that the study seeks to achieve. (13) interviews were conducted with (13) secretaries-general of the licensed political parties in 2020. Where the interview included codified questions that achieve the objectives of the study and answer each of the questions of the study.

3.4 THE STUDY TOOL

The study relied on the standardized interview tool as it is the most appropriate tool for the subject of the study because it facilitates the process of accessing the answers that the study seeks to obtain in an interactive way with the sample members, and the study questions were as follows:

3.4.1 The first main question

What are the social service programs provided by political parties during the year 2020?

3.4.2 The second main question

What are the challenges faced by political parties in providing social service programs?

3.4.3 Limitations of the study

The study adhered to the following limitations, namely:

3.5 TEMPORAL DETERMINANTS

represented in dealing with the licensed and operating political parties in 2020 AD, as the number reached (49) parties, based on the list of parties issued by the Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs for the year 2020 AD, and the list of secretaries general of political parties in Jordan was approved in the second half of 2020 AD and determined As a study society in order to answer the first and second questions of the study.
3.6 METHODOLOGICAL DETERMINANTS

centered on the quality of the study population for the first and second questions due to its small size, as the number of community members reached (49) general secretary, and also to its elitist nature, which is difficult to achieve the study steps with all members of its community. Therefore, an intentional sample was extracted from the study population represented in (13) Secretary General of the various intellectual and political trends of the parties.

4 RESULT AND DISCUSSION

4.1 THE FIRST QUESTION

What are the social service programs presented by political parties during the year 2020 AD?

The General Secretaries indicated to the political parties' continuous endeavor towards achieving their societal role, and to provide all forms of care and social service to all those who deserve it, in addition to or in partnership with the bodies specialized in this role, such as charities, volunteer campaigns, the Ministry of Social Development and all institutions in the state.

The general secretaries agreed on the need for the social responsibility of political parties to be clearly crystallized between the political authorities and between all parties, and that before the Jordanian society, And the development of legislation governing the work of political parties in a way that contributes to activating party work within community circles, and supporting all societal groups to join political parties and integrate with its work and activities.

The secretaries-general stated that political parties have played roles that are considered as social in light of the comprehensive and partial closure and prohibition used to confront the outbreak of the Corona epidemic, But it is difficult to call them clear social programs that are applied continuously before and after the pandemic, as (9) of the general secretaries agreed on this, while (4) of the general secretaries emphasized that their parties continuously play in their societal roles and within the specific responsibility of some party members.

Regarding the types of roles that political parties played in light of the Corona pandemic, (10) parties from the study sample presented programs that seek to raise community awareness and public safety of the Corona pandemic and the mechanism for
dealing with it, through media appearances through the media of members of the party and though their network sites.

While (5) political parties have worked to address societal awareness to preserve the capabilities they have and try to make money and savings because the closure and the partial and comprehensive quarantine will not end in a short period. So he does not need help anymore.

The general secretaries indicated that the forms of financial support provided by political parties to society were (11) political parties providing in-kind assistance to the needy and less fortunate groups, depending on the statements of the Ministry of Social Development or through the community presence of party members in their areas.

While (7) political parties were able, as the general secretaries indicated, to work on distributing in-kind materials, so-called charitable parcels, as well as detergents and sterilizers, to try to secure the needs of chaste families that were monitored by the party members themselves in their areas of activity.

All the general secretaries agreed that their parties would collect donations and receive in-kind materials in order to cover up the political weakness of the parties, on the one hand, and on the other hand, work to bring the society surrounding the party and its various branches closer together, and urge them to continuously interact with the party’s various activities and activities.

4.2 THE SECOND QUESTION

**What are the challenges that face political parties in providing social service programs?**

The second main question was answered by answering the following sub-questions:

4.2.1 **First: What are the challenges related to political parties in general?**

The Secretary-General indicated that there are challenges related to party work in Jordan before the outbreak of the Corona pandemic that certainly has a great impact on the nature and effectiveness of partisan efforts to provide social service to those who deserve it, and these challenges were as follows:
4.2.1.1 The weak financial capabilities of the party

The political parties in Jordan suffer from weak financial resources and lack of material resources, which impedes the efforts of the party and weakens its movement while carrying out its political, social and other roles, as the forms of financial support are limited to either government support or contributions paid by members only, and this Not enough to pay the party’s expenses for its headquarters, its general conference, and other major tasks that it cannot neglect.

4.2.1.2 Absence of youth representation and its effectiveness

The general secretaries were unanimously agreed that the low level of youth representation weakens the role and efforts of all political parties, not just their efforts in the field of social service and social responsibility.

4.2.1.3 The party’s decline in its majority on elite leaderships

The age and gender composition of Jordanian parties affects the nature and effectiveness of partisan roles, making the parties calcified and entrenched in traditional roles without the ability to expand and spread within societal circles and the work of voluntary initiatives and campaigns.

4.2.1.4 The absence of proliferation in the Jordanian governorates

The majority of political parties are stationed in the capital Amman, where (12) parties have one headquarters only and are located in the capital Amman, while there are (36) parties that have their headquarters in the capital governorate and branches in different governorates, and there are no A political party that has branches in all the governorates of Jordan, which indicates the absence of partial and uneven representation between the Jordanian parties and governorates, and the General Secretaries attributed this to the fact that society is reluctance to join political parties, and the party’s financial capabilities are weak.

4.2.1.5 Weakness of the media aspect and community communication of the party

The political parties fail to own media platforms and social networking sites in a way that allows them to continuously communicate with all groups of society, so that the party’s news and media coverage is cut off from society, which weakens the process of
interaction with the community in its various issues. That the parties are making an intense effort to keep in constant communication with their followers and supporters, and it is difficult to achieve permanent social communication due to the cost of owning the media and social media.

4.2.2 Second: What are the challenges related to all Jordanian society?

The General Secretaries indicated that society has a great role in promoting and supporting party work, and turning towards it without hesitation or fear, because the society is the primary incubator for the development and progress of parties and to enable them to perform their roles effectively, and therefore there are many societal challenges regarding party work in Jordan, the most important of which are:

4.2.2.1 Societal reluctance to engage with political parties

Political parties witness despite their increasing number in recent times, but the number of their affiliates is relatively constant, and this is an indication of the reluctance among groups of society and the unwillingness to join party work, and there are many reasons combined with each other, whether they are historical or culturally, and the greater the number of partisans, the greater the effectiveness of parties and their influence on the political arena and in societal circles.

4.2.2.2 The youth are affected by the severe security control over party work

The security control and continuous monitoring of the groups of Jordanian society and the activities of political parties affect the youth’s reluctance to engage in partisan work, and this comes within what the political parties demand as stated by the secretaries-general to raise the security grip and stop Forms of infringement of human rights and public freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution.

4.2.2.3 The absence of the conviction that the parties are able to represent and serve Society

As a result of the weak influence of the parties on the political arena, whether for a personal, societal or security reason, but they were unable to convince the Jordanian society of all its groups that they have the ability to represent the citizen and work to
achieve his ambitions, which affected This conviction is based on the extent of the rapprochement of social groups with the parties and their activities.

4.2.3 Third: What are the challenges related to political power?

The political authority has a major and main role in enabling party work on the national arena, and therefore the suffering of political parties is not a subjective problem with it, but rather is only part of it in addition to the political authority and what it exercises in its right directly or indirectly. He pointed out that the challenges related to political power were as follows:

4.2.3.1 Failure to create political legislation that stimulates party work

Legislation regulating party work needs a comprehensive study, in a way that it stimulates party work and is not specific to it, as legislation governing political parties overlap, starting with laws, regulations and instructions, which affect political parties directly, It must be developed to be supportive of the democratic transition process and meet the aspirations of political parties.

4.2.3.2 Weak financial support for parties to enable them to fulfill their roles and functions

Political parties suffer from a financial support system that is constantly being changed by the Jordanian government, hindering the political party from practicing its activities because it does not comply with the conditions for receiving financial support, and this support is not sufficient to pay costs Party headquarters and its expenditures, as well as covering the most important practices of the party. It is necessary to raise the value of financial support in addition to legislative reforms that support the strengthening of party work in Jordan.

4.2.3.3 Non-empowerment of parties in the political arena

The effect of the failure of the political authority to empower Jordanian parties in the national arena to remain weak in all their other roles in addition to their political weakness, which makes party work in distortions, shortcomings, and sometimes impotence in front of the Jordanian citizen, the more the parties are able to Exercising her political roles increased her ability to exercise her societal roles.
4.2.3.4 The lack of confidence of the political authority in the Jordanian parties

The political authority loses its confidence in the programs of the Jordanian parties, which makes them always under the watch and oversight in all their activities. It makes the parties confined to the vicinity of their affiliates without expanding and spreading the practice of social service significantly.

4.2.4 Fourth: What are the challenges related to the spread of the Corona pandemic?

Jordan witnessed great challenges as a result of the measures imposed to confront the Corona epidemic, as Jordan worked to follow the harshest health and public safety conditions, as it imposed a closure and a comprehensive ban for a period of (45) days, and then followed the method of continuous partial and banning closures, closing commercial establishments and stopping community activities, which were previously mentioned. The Jordanian citizen has to resist the consequences of all this without being prepared before, the challenges that faced the partisan efforts were to provide service and social care in relation to the Corona pandemic phase, according to what the secretaries-general stated to the following:

4.2.4.1 Not to give the necessary approvals and permits for movement

the permits needed for movement were not obtained, either for party members or for their vehicles, so that the party could operate with broad capabilities or enable it to reach the various deserving groups, and this restricted the campaigns and community initiatives in narrow geographical areas, and reduced the number Its actors and associates.

4.2.4.2 The necessity of avoiding mixing and moving between individuals

In implementation of the conditions of public health and safety and what was stipulated in the defense orders, mixing, gathering and movement was prohibited except according to conditions that are difficult to bypass, which made campaigns and initiatives and the provision of aid in an individual and not collectively, and to take place without any breach of the conditions and instructions.
4.2.4.3 The authority restricted work to providing forms of care and social service on its own

The political authority took the initiative to carry out all forms of care and social service on its own, without involving civil society institutions and parties, and therefore institutions and parties stood the position of the recipient of the service instead of being a partner in providing it to others, and this is not

The parties are reluctant to provide aid and moral support, but are ineffective on the ground.

5 CONCLUSION

Political parties have made various efforts within the field of care and social service, in the stage of confronting the Corona epidemic, where the aspects of social service that have been implemented have multiplied, some of which came in the form of cash assistance, or in the form of in-kind assistance such as parcels of charity or detergents and sterilizers, and some came in the form of discounts They must have some medical supplies, food and housing. Attending parties played a significant role while carrying out their role and societal responsibilities.

However, these efforts were not at the level that the Jordanian society needed, as the repercussions of the measures followed were harsh on all categories of Jordanian society, especially the day-laborer category, as all commercial activities and manual work were stopped, making them vulnerable to receiving aid and waiting for it to compensate them for the closure that occurred. As well as the groups that were subjected to a deduction from their financial dues, whether in the government or private sector, where wages have decreased in varying degrees, and the operational costs have increased for the owners of shops and services in the private sector, so whatever those efforts provided by political parties are still below the required level. Socially.

The efforts of the parties that were able to organize charitable campaigns were concentrated near their headquarters and their usual places of activity, so the capital Amman had the largest share of these efforts compared to other governorates, and field participation by male party members was greater than that of females. The forms of welfare and social service that were provided by the parties to the less fortunate groups. The parties also relied on his studies and the relationship of its members with their surrounding community to reveal the groups that deserve support.
And because the Corona pandemic is still continuing until this moment, and because the repercussions of the closures and the embargo are collapsing more every day, and the numbers of groups eligible for support and care are expanding, all community programs must be activated and efforts must be mobilized to reduce these effects and repercussions, And not just the political parties alone, but all the official, civil, charitable and private institutions, and that is due to everyone's commitment to the social responsibility that they all must abide by and work to continue it in accordance with the scientific rules of social service.
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