

Research on the Long-term Effective Mechanism for Alleviating Relative Poverty

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Abstract

The comprehensive alleviation of poverty embodied by the realization of a comprehensive well-off society is only a comprehensive alleviation of absolute poverty under the current standards. It does not mean a complete elimination of poverty. As long as society is developing, stratification is inevitable. Social stratification will inevitably lead to uneven distribution, and wealth gaps are inevitable. After building a moderately prosperous society in an all-round way, China still must attach importance to alleviating relative poverty.

Keywords

Relative Poverty; New Development Stage; Absolute Poverty; Mitigation Mechanism.

1. Introduction

In 2015, the Communist Party of China made it clear that by 2020, it will achieve the goal of building a well-off society in all respects, ensuring that the rural poor will be lifted out of poverty under China's current standards, and all impoverished counties will be decapitated to resolve overall regional poverty. In order to achieve the above-mentioned goals, the central and local governments have invested a lot of resources and adopted various measures to tackle poverty and targeted poverty alleviation, and have made great achievements. The current situation is good. Although it has been affected by the new crown pneumonia epidemic since 2020, due to China's unique national advantage of a game of chess and concentrated efforts to do major events, China has better controlled the spread of the epidemic, and the resumption of work and production is proceeding in an orderly manner, and China has become the world's largest The only major economy that has achieved positive economic growth this year. Under such circumstances, China will surely be able to build a moderately prosperous society in all respects as scheduled. However, the comprehensive alleviation of poverty embodied in the realization of a comprehensive well-off society is only a complete elimination of absolute poverty under the current standards, and does not mean complete elimination of poverty. As long as society is developing, stratification is inevitable. Social stratification will inevitably lead to uneven distribution, and wealth gaps are inevitable. Therefore, the realization of a well-off society in an all-round way is only to get rid of absolute poverty. After building a moderately prosperous society in an all-round way, China is on the road of building a modern and powerful socialist country, and still must pay attention to poverty.

2. The Basic Connotation of Relative Poverty

There have always been researches and discussions on relative poverty. The discussion was about concept definitions, measurement standards, governance methods, etc. Standing at a new historical starting point, the positioning of relative poverty in China's rural revitalization strategy has become increasingly prominent.

The emergence of poverty is closely related to social differentiation and stratification. First of all, poverty is not just an economic problem. In essence, poverty is a complex political and economic process. This is because there has always been no fixed measurement standard for poverty. In different stages of historical development, the standard for poverty has also been constantly changing. The theoretical understanding of poverty is also constantly changing. At the beginning, some scholars put forward the theory of resource elements, thinking that poverty is divided according to the degree of personal control of material resources. Later, some scholars put forward the theory of system attribution. They believed that poverty not only refers to low income and insufficient consumption, but also refers to the lack of opportunities and abilities such as education, medical care, and housing. Tilt upward to underdeveloped areas. Some people now believe that poverty does not only refer to these, but also emphasizes the "relative deprivation" of individuals in society due to vulnerability, lack of voice, and social exclusion. It can be seen that it is difficult to define the criteria for determining poverty. At most, it can only set a goal in a relatively short period of time. Due to the development of society, the development of society will inevitably lead to some people having more resources and more abilities than others, and social differentiation is inevitable. As long as society is dividing, it will be difficult for poverty to disappear. Objectively speaking, the poverty standard is subjective. The transition from absolute poverty to relative poverty is the inevitable result of economic and social development to a certain stage. "Relative poverty" pays attention to the distribution of development achievements and social well-being among all members of society. It is of great significance for optimizing national income distribution, improving social class relations, ensuring people's happy lives, and promoting healthy economic development.

3. The Main Characteristics of China's Relative Poverty

At a new historical starting point where China has already eliminated absolute poverty, it is necessary to in-depth study of Long-term mechanisms for solving relative poverty on the basis of consolidating the results of poverty alleviation. Compared with absolute poverty, relative poverty has the characteristics of secondary, multidimensional, and mobility, and it also exists in the protection of special groups.

3.1. Secondary

Relative poverty is secondary poverty caused by economic and social transformation. The secondary nature of relative poverty is raised relative to the original nature of absolute poverty. It means that relative poverty is mainly due to the transitional zone of social development as compared to absolute poverty due to inborn disadvantages such as geographical location and natural resource conditions. The coming social differentiation inevitably led to some groups becoming relatively poor groups. Regarding primary poverty, my country's previous wet and wet precision poverty alleviation policy has been greatly resolved. As for relative poverty, due to different reasons and structural factors, it is difficult to find a way to alleviate relative poverty from the poverty alleviation program in poverty alleviation. Only in conjunction with the rural revitalization strategy, adjustments can be made from the perspective of a more macroscopic system and mechanism. In order to alleviate relative poverty.

3.2. Multidimensionality

Poverty, as a complex political and economic process, has Multi-dimensional characteristics. It is different from absolute poverty, which is only measured by income level as a single dimension. Relative poverty also includes Multi-dimensional measures such as education, medical care, housing, and sanitation. In rural areas, problems such as difficulty in going to school and seeing a doctor still exist, and the quality of life is unstable and cannot be effectively guaranteed. The problem of multidimensional poverty is also very prominent in cities,

especially for migrant workers and urban low-income groups, who are relatively deprived of many aspects such as welfare, medical insurance, education, and social integration. From the perspective of dimensions, relative poverty mainly stems from two aspects: objective social causes and subjective feelings of the poor, which can be specifically divided into four situations. The first is force majeure factors such as natural disasters and major accidents; the second is market factors such as social changes and industrial changes; the third is public service factors such as educational resources, medical care, and housing conditions; the fourth is social exclusion factors such as "relative deprivation" caused by no right to speak. The interaction of these objective reasons and subjective feelings is one of the main characteristics of relative poverty. All of the above are not caused solely by income, but the result of a combination of various factors. More overall planning and coordination of infrastructure, public services, and social security are needed.

3.3. Urban and Rural Mobility

Encouraging farmers to go out for work is an important way to reduce poverty in China, and migrant workers have played an important role in the fight against poverty. There will also be a risk of returning to poverty. The disposable income of migrant workers is actually very low, and it may be a low-income group in cities. First, the living conditions of migrant workers are obviously struggling. Although the wages of migrant workers are higher than those of non-migrant workers, and even higher than local migrant workers, on the one hand, they bear higher cost of living in the city, on the other hand, they have to bear the burden of supporting the elderly, raising children, and paying for round-trip transportation. Second, there is insufficient livelihood security for migrant workers. Under the current conditions, most farmers have not entered the social security system of living cities, and their social security rights in rural areas cannot be enjoyed in cities, which makes them uncertain and insufficient in safety in living cities. Third, according to the 2019 migrant worker monitoring survey report, the total number of migrant workers in China reached 290 million, an increase of 2.41 million over the previous year. Among them, the proportion of migrant workers over the age of 50 has increased year by year in the past five years; the average age of migrant workers is 40.8 years, an increase of 0.6 years from the previous year, and the average age is getting higher and higher. In the case of insufficient protection system, the ability to resist risks is weaker. Under the guidance of the rural revitalization strategy, the attractiveness of rural areas will be increased, more employment opportunities will be provided, farmers will be attracted to return to their hometowns to start their own businesses, and poverty caused by urban-rural migration will be reduced. In the long run, the lack of sustainability of migrant workers also means that the rural areas lack industrial support and jobs.

3.4. Special Groups

The special poor group refers to the old, weak, sick, and disabled groups that need to be protected by policies that are "unemployed to support and unable to get rid of poverty". Compared with other groups, their "poverty" is a manifestation and can be weakened by policy intervention. Elimination, "difficulty" is the root cause, and it is difficult to get rid of it in the short term. For special groups, once policy care is weakened, their living conditions will drop sharply. As China's aging population becomes more serious, the relative poverty of such special groups cannot be ignored. First, this type of group lacks a mechanism for continuous income increase. At present, their income is mainly derived from government subsidies, and there is no independent channel for obtaining income. Second, such groups lack multiple safeguard mechanisms. At present, China has not yet established a complete social assistance system for such special groups, and the related medical and health security system is not sound. It is difficult for some special groups to obtain special assistance.

4. China's Governance Dilemma in Alleviating Relative Poverty

Taking into account the reality of poverty governance in China, accurately grasping the governance dilemma existing in China's relative poverty is the basic requirement for alleviating relative poverty.

4.1. The Relative Poverty Evaluation System is Absent, and it is Difficult to Identify Secondary Poverty Groups

The multidimensional nature of relative poverty makes it very difficult to identify poverty. As China's relative poverty will exist for a long time, a relatively complete evaluation system and identification system are needed to establish a Long-term mechanism for alleviating relative poverty. At present, China has not taken a path that suits China's national conditions on the road of alleviating relative poverty, and still adopts the measurement method of absolute poverty governance. For example, the statistical monitoring of Liaoning Province still focuses on economic aspects such as income and support, and does not involve living conditions, life opportunities, social rights and other aspects. On the one hand, the relevant departments have insufficient understanding of relative poverty. On the other hand, it is mainly because China does not have enough research on the evaluation system and identification standards in the field of relative poverty, and cannot provide reference for relevant departments. The current evaluation system in China mainly has the following problems: First, the evaluation objects are not accurate enough, the data used is relatively old, and they cannot fully cover the objects that need evaluation. Second, the multidimensional poverty index has not been paid attention to.

4.2. Insufficient Endogenous Motivation for Poverty Governance and Weak Awareness of Participating in Market Competition

Although China has made important achievements in poverty management, from the actual point of view in China, poverty alleviation does not help aspirations, the idea of "waiting and relying" is serious, and the poor people's determination to change themselves is insufficient. There are mainly the following manifestations: First, some poor households are clearly in good health, but they do not have a strong sense of employment. They have weak employment enthusiasm and initiative, and are unwilling to get rid of poverty through labor. Such poor households are greedy for policies and do not think about making progress, hoping to rely solely on the country to become prosperous. The second type is that some poor people do not fully count on the country, but due to lack of culture and lack of confidence, they believe that it is difficult to get rid of poverty by their own abilities, and they do not have sufficient knowledge of their own abilities. On the other hand, there is also the idea of relying on the country as much as possible in their thinking. This idea has wiped out their fighting spirit for poverty. And to alleviate relative poverty, the endogenous motivation of the poor is the fundamental method. For poor people who have no sense of competition, ideological education must be strengthened for them, so that they understand from the bottom of their hearts that hard work is the only way to happiness. In addition, in actual actions, it is necessary to shift from "teaching people to fish" to "teaching people to fish" to stimulate their own endogenous motivation and establish a sense of self-reliance. The development of this awareness will undoubtedly be a difficult task, and it will also become an important challenge to alleviate the problem of relative poverty.

4.3. The Sport-style Poverty Alleviation Model is Obvious, and the Poverty-stricken Groups have Weak Ability to Resist Risks

In some places, income is the only indicator of poverty alleviation, without considering the poverty alleviation indicators in education, medical care, and health, etc., poverty alleviation has been turned into "digital poverty alleviation." With the gradual deepening of poverty alleviation, various departments of the state have designated targeted assistance to poor

villages. With counterpart support in terms of funds, personnel, and projects, such political mobilization and administrative methods have effectively promoted China's progress in poverty alleviation. However, such a mechanism also has drawbacks. On the one hand, excessive sports-based poverty alleviation deviates from its purpose as a supplement to conventional poverty alleviation, and cannot integrate various resources well, resulting in administrative idling. On the other hand, this kind of handrail section lacks model sustainability and policy coherence. After the aid model is evacuated from the poor villages, the conditions of the poor villages are likely to fall back. In addition, under this movement-style poverty alleviation model, poor groups cannot make progress in their own abilities, and their ability to resist risks is still weak. This requires the transformation of the country's poverty alleviation work from sports-based poverty alleviation to routine governance. Therefore, in the new stage of development, China's top priority is to pay attention to the contradiction between sports poverty alleviation and the overall promotion of poverty alleviation, pay attention to the new changes in the new situation, and formulate relief that meets the requirements of the times after the relative poverty has been basically eliminated. Relative poverty institutional mechanism.

4.4. The Imbalance of Urban and Rural Development is not Sufficient, and the Standards for Alleviating Relative Poverty are Inconsistent

The unbalanced and inadequate development of urban and rural areas is one of the important problems in alleviating relative poverty in China. First, the gap between China's urban and rural subsistence allowances still exists. According to the query on the website of the Ministry of Civil Affairs, in the fourth quarter of 2020, the average standard of China's urban subsistence allowance (8136 yuan per person per year) is 1.36 times the average standard of rural subsistence allowance (5,962 yuan per person per year). The average standard of rural subsistence allowances is significantly lower than that of urban subsistence allowances. Although it is much smaller than the 1.44 times in the fourth quarter of 2018, our urban-rural integration construction is still insufficient. In addition, there is a large gap in the subsistence allowance between different provinces and cities in China. Even if they are also entitled to the rural subsistence allowances, there is a huge gap between the standards and things. For example, in the fourth quarter of 2020 in Shanghai in the east (14,880 yuan per person per year), the standard of rural subsistence allowance is 3.3 times that of Gansu (4506 yuan per person per year). It can be seen that China's relative poverty also has the problem of imbalance and insufficiency. In addition to the subsistence allowance standard, China's urban-rural development imbalance is also prominent in terms of income: First, the income gap between urban and rural residents has gradually widened. Although the incomes of Chinese residents have been rising in recent years, the gap between the average income of urban residents and the average income of rural residents has shown a gradually widening trend. Second, the income gap between urban residents has gradually widened. Third, the income gap among rural residents has gradually widened.

5. New Path to Alleviate Relative Poverty in the New Development Stage

Long-term work can achieve stability and Long-term success. The new poverty pattern requires new poverty alleviation strategies. The work of alleviating relative poverty is a Long-term and arduous task. It needs to be based on the current new development stage, continue to innovate in light of China's actual conditions, and establish a Long-term mechanism for alleviating relative poverty.

5.1. Build a Multi-dimensional Poverty Standard System that Meets China's Economic Development

The formulation of new standards for relative poverty is a prerequisite work for alleviating relative poverty. It is urgent to study a Multi-dimensional poverty standard system that meets the level of economic and social development in my country. First, in terms of economic income, surplus income needs to be considered. The poverty of a family cannot be measured by income alone. Some families spend a lot of money due to education, medical treatment and other reasons. Although their income is not low, they cannot make ends meet. Therefore, the surplus income of the poor must also be taken into consideration. Alleviate relative poverty by increasing employment and income. Second, in the dimension of social development. Need to consider basic education equity, medical equity, social integration and other aspects. In the previous battle against poverty, we solved compulsory education, basic medical care, and housing security. In the phase of alleviating relative poverty, what we should consider is the level of social development of the poor in all aspects. Third, in terms of the ecological environment, new development concepts need to be incorporated into the relative poverty standard system. People are now increasingly demanding clean drinking water, healthy food, and a beautiful environment. The environment is the people's livelihood, and we must look at the issue of relative poverty from a Long-term perspective. This is also an inevitable requirement for us to achieve socialist modernization. Of course, in addition to these dimensions, we should also keep in touch with the poor and listen to their needs and suggestions in a timely manner. Only by solving their eager expectations can they truly meet the requirements of socialist poverty alleviation with Chinese characteristics.

5.2. Build a Comprehensive Poverty Governance Mechanism that Spans the Duality of Urban and Rural Areas and Separate Departments

As mentioned above, the conflict between the fragmentation of urban-rural poverty alleviation and management measures and the current national recommendations for urban-rural integration has become increasingly prominent. There is an urgent need to build a comprehensive poverty governance mechanism for urban-rural integration and change the duality of urban and rural areas. Only the original framework of separate establishment can break the divide and rule of urban and rural poverty. It is necessary to fully realize that breaking the urban-rural dual structure and promoting the integrated development of urban and rural areas is the key to China's comprehensive poverty management. Specifically, we can start from the following aspects: First, with the support of the rural revitalization strategy and regional development strategy, strengthen rural infrastructure construction, improve rural public equipment, pay attention to narrowing the gap between people's income and living standards, and strive to narrow the gap. People's sense of happiness, security, and satisfaction can be improved through the construction of industrial parks, urbanized communities, and some agricultural science and technology parks. Second, in the context of the country's high-quality promotion of equalization of public services, promote the integration of urban and rural social security, and gradually reduce the gap between urban and rural minimum living standards. It can be done mainly by integrating the differences in household registration status between urban and rural areas, the differences in social security between urban and rural areas, and the differences in public services between urban and rural areas. Third, under the full play of the leadership of the party committee and the coordination of all parties, establish a coordinated policy system, an urban-rural integration work system, and a mobilization system with extensive participation to provide a strong system guarantee for the construction of urban-rural integration.

5.3. Establish a Comprehensive Risk Early Warning and Prevention Mechanism to Prevent the Return to Poverty

Relative poverty is only faced after absolute poverty is resolved. Therefore, an important prerequisite for dealing with relative poverty is to prevent the return of poverty. In this regard, preventing the return to poverty is also an important task in my country's Long-term mechanism for alleviating relative poverty. It is necessary to establish a multi-channel and omni-directional poverty return prevention mechanism and the most stringent evaluation system. We should start from the following aspects: First, analyze the elements of returning to poverty based on the actual situation of rural revitalization and social development in my country, systematically summarize the types of return to poverty, and provide scientific basis for the prevention and early warning mechanism of poverty return; Second, according to the factors that lead to the return of poverty and the type of return to poverty Carry out research and provide different response strategies according to local conditions; third, the specific element standards, the types of poverty reduction, and the response strategies provided must be in line with reality and cannot be divorced from reality. Specifically, we can start from the following aspects: First, comprehensively sort out the types of risks that lead to poverty and return to poverty. Specifically, it can be divided into income-based risks, guarantee-based risks, and development-based risks. Second, improve channels for unblocked reporting of issues. Adhere to the method of "combination of different sections" to report issues, report to farmers and village committees, review and approve by county-level units, and implement dynamic management. Third, establish a fast and efficient problem reporting mechanism. Local governments should form a left-right coordination and up-and-down linkage mechanism with other units, regularly map out the poverty alleviation situation, and report problems to relevant departments.

5.4. Establish a Poverty Governance Strategy that Meets the Development Needs of Special Poor Groups

In the era of my country's building of a moderately prosperous society in an all-round way, the survivability of poor groups has gradually given way to the multidimensional needs of development. Poverty management should not be limited to the bottom line principle of "not worrying about food and clothing", but appropriate poverty management should also be adopted. The strategy meets the development needs of special poor groups, so that they have the right and ability to enjoy development results and development opportunities. It is necessary to abandon the previous sports-type and development-type poverty alleviation, and replace it with drip irrigation-type precision poverty alleviation to alleviate the relative poverty of special groups. First of all, for the "old", explore a new model of family and community joint care for the elderly based on "Internet +", which can not only achieve that children can care about their parents without being at home, but also meet the needs of the elderly for home care and provide a lot of job opportunity. Second, for the "weak", consider the combination of material and spiritual methods to urge lazy people to create a better life with their own hands. Through a series of targeted assistance measures, they cultivate their production skills and stimulate their morale in life. Third, for "disease", encourage the service model of "treatment of disease in the hospital and rehabilitation management in the community", improve the establishment of community rehabilitation institutions, so that patients with mental illness can receive better rehabilitation training outside the hospital. Fourth, improve the social security policy for the "disabled", and provide appropriate skills training and employment assistance for the disabled.

6. Conclusion

The State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China issued a white paper entitled "Poverty Reduction in China: Poverty Reduction in China" on April 6th. It stated that by 2035, China will further alleviate relative poverty and take solid steps towards common prosperity. Under the new situation, China's relative poverty governance is a Long-term systematic project, which must be combined with the rural revitalization strategy. On the basis of a correct understanding of the basic connotation of relative poverty, grasp the main characteristics of relative poverty, and formulate governance strategies to alleviate relative poverty in light of China's economic and social development.

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