

# How to Effectively Improve the Poor People's Capacity for Poverty Alleviation

Shijie Ren

No. 1 International School of Qingdao, Shandong Province, China

**Abstract:** Poverty has been a world-wide issue. Due to the social disturbs caused by poverty, crime rates have risen, and diseases have spread. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the party and the country have attached great importance to poverty alleviation and led people to successfully create a path of poverty alleviation and development with Chinese characteristics, bringing more than 700 million people out of absolute poverty, and contributing to the world's poverty alleviation. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the state has promoted the targeted poverty alleviation, innovated poverty alleviation methods, and made new progress in the poverty alleviation work. Under the current economic model of precise poverty alleviation, effectively improving the capacity of the poor for poverty alleviation has become a top priority.

**Keywords:** Poverty population; Capacity for poverty alleviation; Targeted poverty alleviation

**Publication date:** April, 2020

**Publication online:** 30 April, 2020

**\*Corresponding author:** Shijie Ren, zhaogechong@xyzrgroup.com

## 1 Overview of China's Poverty

According to China's current poverty standard of 2300 yuan per capital in 2010, China's poverty population reached 77.39 million in 1978, and the incidence of poverty was 97.5%. However, by the end of 2018, the number of rural poor in the country had fallen to 16.6 million, and the incidence of poverty was 1.7%. This proves the tremendous progress that our country has made in alleviating poverty. At present, China's poverty population is mainly focused on the central region, the

western mountainous regions, and the southwest and northeast regions. Among them, poverty in the western region is particularly serious. There are several main causes of poverty in these poor areas, such as poor natural conditions, low quality of the population, rural hollowing out and lack of labour<sup>[1]</sup>.

## 2 Strategies for Improving the Capacity of the Poor People in China

In the past 70 years since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the party and the state have always adjusted, innovated and improved the poverty governance system in a timely manner in response to the latest development and problems in poverty alleviation. From the material assistance after the founding of the People's Republic of China to the persistence of development-oriented poverty alleviation after the reform and opening up, the poor people's spirit of self-reliance and hard work is promoted, and the combination of poverty alleviation with wisdom in the new era tends to rely on self-reliance to achieve poverty alleviation. The consciousness of getting rich has strengthened the main role of the poor in poverty alleviation while ensuring the poor people's basic life in different periods, and has improved the poor people's motivation to sustain developing. At the same time, the state has made it clear that it is important to guarantee the survival and developing rights of the poor, attaching importance to the combination of poverty alleviation with the regional development<sup>[2]</sup>.

### 2.1 Stimulate the poor peoples' self-willingness of poverty alleviation

China's poverty alleviation policies have brought immediate benefits to poor people, but some poor people have relied heavily on our country's subsidies.

It is particularly important to stimulate the poor households' desire to avoid poverty. To help the poor is to get rid of the laziness first. If the idea of self-poverty is not eliminated, the goal of getting rid of poverty and getting rich will be far in the future. Poverty alleviation cannot be carried out blindly, and the poverty alleviation mechanism needs to be improved, rather than blindly subsidizing the poor. By reflecting on the problem of being self-confident in poverty, some poverty-stricken measures that are almost "spoiling" have undoubtedly caused some poor people's laziness because of lacking aggressiveness.

With the strengthening of poverty alleviation in recent years, some places have paid tens of thousands of yuan in one condolence and provided discounted loans. In some places, to get rid of poverty in advance, the local government subsidize poor households at any cost. The lives of the poor households are satisfying, and they even cause the phenomenon of "desiring to be poor". Although these are local phenomena, they also fully demonstrate that a simple help regardless of fairness will not solve problems in poverty, but causes more social problems. In mobilizing the poverty-stricken households' enthusiasm for poverty alleviation, on the one hand, the government must pay attention to being fair and improve the mechanism to ensure the precise investment of various resources for poverty alleviation. On the other hand, more targeted measures must be adopted to stimulate the poverty-stricken households' willingness to alleviate poverty. For example, in the process of identifying poor households in Kangbao County, Hebei Province, villagers' representatives made assessments on spot. The neighbours in the neighborhood are like mirrors of other poor households. Such face-to-face evaluations are not only stressful but also motivating for the poor, and can effectively prevent the subsidies for poverty alleviation from being wasted. For another example, to change the poverty-stricken households' idea of "waiting for the resources", Hunan Shibadong Village conducted the selection of "five-star moral model", taking poverty alleviation as an important criterion for selection, and adopting the villagers' mutual evaluation system in the selection. The results were announced and they had to be publicized at the villagers' doors. Rural society is a typical society of acquaintances. The selection of "Five-Star Moral Model Households" has effectively inspired poor villagers to strive for higher and help themselves out of poverty. This method of using social psychology

to correctly guide the social atmosphere is effective and worth learning<sup>[3]</sup>.

## 2.2 Improve the capacity to alleviate poverty

It is not enough to have the ambition for poverty alleviation, and the intelligence for poverty alleviation is also necessary. A major goal of anti-poverty is to improve the quality of the labour. Improving the quality of the labour is also a necessity for alleviating inter-generational poverty. Therefore, investment in human capital is crucial. Education plays an irreplaceable role in the investment of human capital. National education-based investment in human capital is mainly manifested in basic education in poverty alleviation. For example, the Hope Project, which was launched in 1989, aimed to help children who are out of school in poor areas return to school. The Hope Project improved the backward school conditions in poor areas and reversed the fate of a large number of poor children. In addition to special public welfare careers, the country also has a comprehensive policy deployment in education and poverty alleviation, and "two exemptions and one supplement" is one of the representatives of the policies in educational poverty alleviation. Its main content is to exempt miscellaneous fees, book fees, and gradually subsidize the living expenses of boarders from poor families in the compulsory educational stage. The policy of "two exemptions and one supplement" was implemented in 2001. By 2009, the policy had benefited 150 million primary and secondary students. The "Government's Working Report" of 2017 proposed a unified "two exemptions and one supplement" policy for urban and rural compulsory students. The policy of two exemptions and one supplement will play a significant role in rationally allocating educational resources and promoting the balanced development of compulsory education.

In addition, skill training is also an important part in investing human capital. Professional technical guidance is a guarantee for poor people's skill training. The technical training team should provide professional training to the technical staff in the villages and provide technical training guidance based on the different technical needs of different poor areas and different poor people. At the same time, considering that the rural poor often have a low level of education, technicians in rural areas need to be trained in skills. They should try to impart the relevant professional knowledge in an easy way to understand based on local conditions, so that

the poor can master relevant professional technologies more efficiently. For example, the Hainan Provincial Trading Union Staff Training Center holds free training classes about maternal caring, where students from all over the province learn practical maternal caring skills. At present, 82 free maternal nursing skill training courses have been successfully held, training nearly 6,000 people. Helping the poor improve their ability is a requirement for targeted poverty alleviation and an inevitable choice to motivate poverty alleviation in poor areas.

### **3 Improve the survival and developing environment for poor households**

#### **3.1 Improve the developing environment**

A good living and developing environment is an important prerequisite and guarantee for poverty alleviation. Social tranquility, economic stability, and abundant opportunities are the elements that constitute a good environment for survival and development. The founding of New China provided a peaceful and stable environment for survival and development for the people throughout the country and eliminated the extremely backward production of the old society, liberating production forces. Since the reform and opening up, various reforms of economic system have been steadily advanced. Unreasonable production that have hindered the development of production forces have been continuously eliminated. The tremendous vitality of the social marketing economy with Chinese characteristics has provided great developing opportunities for various industries. While the country has greatly liberated and developed production forces, they have also developed rapidly. At present, the party and the state clearly regard development as the fundamental way to solve poverty in the new era. The state continuously promotes the optimization of the industrial structure in poor areas, attaches importance to industrial poverty alleviation, and greatly supports the industrial development in poor areas.

In recent years, high-quality industrial projects for poverty alleviation have emerged throughout the country. For example, Yihai Jiali Company's industrial poverty alleviation project in Wei County, Hebei Province, has been well conducted. In late December 2015, Yihai Jiali decided to jointly launch the "Love Millet" to purchase millet from the student's family of Guozhuangzi Village in Wei County at a price higher

than the market by 0.5-1 yuan. Farmers have greatly reduced their poverty. Guo Kongfeng, Chairman of Yihai Jiali, personally conducted a comprehensive inspection of Wei County, forming the basic model of Wei County's industrial poverty alleviation: Wei County not only has agricultural resources such as millet cereals and apricots, but also has a deep historical heritage, such as an ancient town, paper cutting, tree flowering and other cultural resources available for tourism development. Yihai Jiali will fully integrate its various resources and work closely with partners from all walks of life to strive to achieve the scaling, branding and industrialization of Wei County as soon as possible, while driving other industries to go forward. From the model of Wei County's industrial poverty alleviation, it can be seen that industrial poverty alleviation is a joint venture under the cooperation of governments, enterprises, farmers and other parties. The Wei County's model of poverty alleviation not only exerts the advantages of large enterprises in terms of capital, technology, brand, market, etc., but also enables them to accurately develop the Wei County's industry, thereby driving the whole society to overcome poverty and allow the poor households to enjoy industrial development. This model of industrial poverty alleviation is worth applying and promoting.

#### **3.2 Guarantee poor people's livelihood**

People's livelihood has always been an integral part in poverty alleviation. If development-oriented poverty alleviation is the main means of poverty alleviation, the policy is the fundamental guarantee for alleviating poverty. According to the National Bureau of Statistics, by the end of 2018, there were 16.6 million rural poor in China. The remaining poor people are located in more remote areas, have weaker viability, and have a higher proportion of poor people due to their disability. Developing poverty alleviation is difficult to play an effective role. Therefore, people's livelihood and poverty alleviation need to be coordinated<sup>[4-5]</sup>.

The Guidance on Winning in Poverty Alleviation for the Central Committee of the Communist Party in China and the State Council clearly states that poverty alleviation is not a way of guaranteeing the remaining poor people's life, but focusing on those who have lost their working capacity completely or partially and help them out of poverty. It proposes setting a comprehensive security system with social insurance, social assistance, social welfare systems as

the main way, and charity assistance as well as social workers' assistance as the auxiliary. Through these comprehensive measures, the quality of their life are guaranteed. Only by developing and guaranteeing the quality of their life, can we strengthen the capacity of the poor to alleviate poverty and become rich.

#### **4 Conclusion**

Poverty alleviation starts from the material assistance at the beginning of the founding of the People's Republic of China to the development-oriented poverty alleviation after the reform and opening up, and then to the combination of helping with poor people's will with helping with poor people's wisdom in poverty alleviation in the new era. The party and the country always consider poverty from a developing perspective, make timely adjustments and innovations in accordance with the changes in the poverty problem in China, and constantly improve the governance system of poverty

alleviation. While protecting the basic lives of the poor, it has also strengthened the poverty alleviation. The main role of poverty alleviation has significantly improved the motivation and capacity of poor people to alleviate poverty and become rich.

#### **References**

- [1] The Research Group of Anti-poverty in National Development Institute, Wuhan University. Strategic reflect on promoting healthy and sustainable poverty alleviation [J]. *Journal of Yunnan University Nationalities (Philosophy and Social Sciences)*, 2019, 36 (06): 40-47.
- [2] Li Q. Good job in rural party building and promoting poverty alleviation [N]. *Hebei Daily*, 2019-11-15 (007).
- [3] Lu BJ. Help in poor people's will and help in poor people's wisdom both stimulate the poverty alleviation [N]. *China Urban and Rural Financial News*, 2019-11-13 (A03).
- [4] Song MQ. The key to fighting poverty is to stimulate inner motivation [N]. *Economic Daily*, 2019-11-12 (009).
- [5] Gao JY. Taking multiple measures to poverty alleviation[J]. *The New Long March*, 2019 (11): 29-30.