

China's Poverty Alleviation

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Abstract: Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, China's rural poverty alleviation has achieved periodical progress, creating a great miracle in the history of poverty alleviation, and becoming the first country to complete the Millennium Developing Goals of poverty alleviation in the United Nations. At present, we are in a critical period of winning the battle against poverty and decisively developing a moderately prosperous society in all respects. By precisely figuring out the hard course of poverty alleviation in China in recent decades, concluding the experience of poverty alleviation and defining the key points for advancing the poverty alleviation work in the future, we are sure to get rid of poverty in the countryside and carry out the strategy of rural revitalization better.

Keywords: Strategies for rural poverty alleviation; Targeted poverty alleviation

Publication date: April, 2020

Publication online: 30 April, 2020

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1 Analysis on the Historical Background of China's Poverty Alleviation

In the past 70 years since the founding of the People's Republic of China, China's poverty alleviation has achieved world-known achievements in both width and depth. At the beginning of the founding of the People's Republic of China (1949-1978), most of China's rural areas were in extreme poverty, the economy was relatively weak, the level of rural productivity was extremely low, and the task of poverty alleviation was very difficult. To change the status of poverty and backwardness in rural areas at that time, the Communist Party of China, represented by Comrade Mao Zedong,

conducted poverty-relief alleviation for the poor. This small-circle of poverty-relief alleviation basically solves the daily needs of the poor, but it cannot solve the problem at all. According to the standards of poverty level set by China in 1978, China's rural poor population was about 250 million at that time, accounting for 25.97% of China's total population^[1].

In the 1990s, China's rural poverty alleviation work entered a large-circle development. The State Council has successively established leading agencies for poverty alleviation work, formulated guidance for poverty alleviation, and determined a targeted mechanism for counties. In 1994, the "Seven-Year Priority Poverty Alleviation Plan" issued by the State Council adjusted the number of poor counties at the national level to 592, and proposed that it takes 7 years to solve the problem of food and clothing for 80 million poor people in rural areas across China. By the end of 2000, the goals of the "Seven-Year Priority Poverty Alleviation Plan" had been basically achieved, the number of rural poor people had been reduced significantly, and the problem of food and clothing for the poor had been basically solved.

In the 21st century, China's rural poverty level has gradually transformed from a state-level poor county to a village. The State Council promulgated the Outline of China's Rural Poverty Alleviation and Development (2001-2010) in June 2001. It proposes that the problem of food and clothing should be solved, the basic production and living conditions in poor areas should be improved, the quality of life and comprehensive quality of the poor should be enhanced, infrastructure construction and ecological environment in poor villages should be improved, and the economic, social and cultural backwardness in poor areas should be promoted, all of which can create conditions for achieving a moderately prospective country. With the promotion of the poverty

alleviation work, the rural poor population in China had fallen to 89.99 million by the end of 2012.

In the new period, based on learning the previous experiences of poverty alleviation, China's rural poverty alleviation work has entered a stage of targeted poverty alleviation (from 2013 to now). Under the guidance of the targeted poverty alleviation strategy, China's poverty alleviation work has achieved remarkable results. The rural poor population has fallen from 98.99 million in 2012 to 16.6 million at the end of 2018, and the incidence of poverty has also decreased to 1.7%^[2].

2 Problems and Solutions to Targeted Poverty Alleviation

2.1 Exclusion in the process of accurate identification

Throughout the process of targeted poverty alleviation, accurate identification is to solve the problem of who is to be helped in targeted poverty alleviation, and it is to identify the poor villages and poor households. This is the most important part in targeted poverty alleviation and is also the top priority. According to scholars' research in this field, the following problems are mainly concerned in the process of accurate identification.

(1) Exclusion of the scope

Due to the inevitable problems in the bureaucratic system, the determination of China's population of poverty alleviation is not identified based on scientific standards, but is assigned from top to bottom based on the results of the local government's estimates. The survey shows that the poverty index obtained by the sample is significantly lower than the actual number of local poor population. Some poor people are excluded from poverty alleviation policies because of some man-made controls.

(2) Regional exclusion

In 2013, we focused on the planning of regional development and poverty alleviation in contiguous and extremely poor areas. The goal is to integrate resources and promote the comprehensive economic development in extremely poor areas. However, the policy of centralized continuity led to the exclusion of some poor villages, and local governments could only include some relatively rich areas that did not need poverty alleviation at all. Other local governments are trying to highlight the effectiveness of local poverty alleviation. They selected some non-poor areas to motivate the poor people to carry out concentrated and continuous poverty alleviation strategies, resulting in continuous distribute.

(3) Exclusion during identification

Exclusion during identification refers to subjective exclusion and exclusion of local poor households after local governments of counties or towns and basic democratic self-governance obtain indicators of poverty alleviation. Exclusion during identification is divided into vicious exclusion and negligent exclusion^[3].

Vicious exclusion refers that the personnel of the relevant department responsible for poverty alleviation use their power to help their relatives and friends for personal gains. When the poor are identified at the county level, there is no supervision of the poor, so the reliability of the data and the impartiality of the executives cannot be guaranteed. In addition, it is common for senior leaders to designate poor villages. According to a survey of relevant data, 25% of the poor households did not even know why they were elected, which indicates that there is an man-made exclusion of some poor households in the precise identification process.

Negligent exclusion refers to the fact that many poor households lack awareness of poverty alleviation policies in the process, resulting in no declaration. In the case that they are not poor households without declaration, these poor people are excluded from poverty alleviation policies. In addition, according to the survey, in the process of democratic appraisal, the poor are often in a weak position in the process of democratic evaluation. In many villages, the phenomenon of designated poor households by village cadres violate the nature of democratic evaluation. In addition, due to administrative costs, the county-level poverty census cannot be carried out well in the administrative units at the villages. If people are sent by the local government to enter the village for investigation, there will exist a lack of understanding of local situations. If the poor households are directly designated by the village committee, elitism cannot be avoided, and the real poor group will be excluded.

2.2 Solutions to the problems in the accurate identifying process

To ensure the effective accuracy of the targeted poverty alleviation work, it is necessary to ensure that the poor are accurately identified. A scientific assessing method must be used, with data as a base and democratic evaluation as a supplement to conduct a comprehensive survey of the poor. Social forces and the third-party institutions are also introduced to supervise the poverty alleviation to ensure the effective realization of targeted poverty alleviation.

(1) The bottom-up measures for poverty identification

should be conducted based on the existing local government's calculation, including more publicity, so that more poor households can learn about the state's poverty alleviation policies and are willing to fight for their due rights.

(2) Create special audit posts for the identification of poverty alleviation qualifications, conduct regular spot tests and visits to the identification of poverty alleviation, and reduce the occurrence of vicious and negligent exclusion. It can be concluded from the following table that the National Audit Office of poverty alleviation work in 2018 has played a good supervising role in identifying poverty alleviation and its effectiveness. And the audit work should not only be carried out only in the central government, but also be conducted in local areas to ensure the accuracy and fairness of precise identification.

3 Critical points in China's future poverty alleviation work

The poor people in the rural areas will get away from poverty, all poor counties will be removed, and regional poverty will be resolved under the current standards of 2020. This is a periodical goal of poverty alleviation in China. So it is necessary to find the critical points of China's poverty alleviation work in the future and ensure that rural areas achieve sustainable poverty alleviation.

(1) Improve the system and capabilities of poverty governance. The first step is to improve the responsibility system for the top leaders in poverty alleviation. The five-level secretaries perform their respective duties, and promote the implementation of poverty alleviation. The second step is to improve the system for supervision and accountability. We will strictly manage the party throughout the whole process of poverty alleviation, carry out inspections, increase the intensity of special governance in poverty alleviation to strengthen the construction of cadres' style. The third step is to strengthen government's social coordination and improve the mobilization system for special poverty alleviation, industry poverty alleviation and social poverty alleviation. We will improve the "Trinity" pattern of poverty alleviation, industry poverty alleviation and social poverty alleviation, give full play to the government's leading role, integrate the market and society to work together, and promote social forces to participate in poverty alleviation.

(2) Consolidate the results of poverty alleviation

and prevent from returning back to poverty. First, we must set a long-term mechanism to prevent from returning to poverty, adhere to the policy of removing hats without removing duties, removing hats without removing policies, and removing hats without removing poverty alleviation to ensure that poor people can still enjoy various benefits from poverty alleviation after removing hats. Second, we must promote the industrial development in poor areas, persist in adapting to local conditions, develop special industries in poor areas, and improve the poor people's ability of self-development, implement the industry's developing model of leading enterprises + professional cooperatives + farmers, and lead the poor to explore a new way of employment, increase their income and become rich.

Integrate the poverty alleviation work in rural revitalization. The most difficult task of poverty alleviation in China exists in the rural areas, especially in the extremely poor rural areas. Therefore, helping rural poverty-stricken areas to alleviate poverty is the key to fulfilling our country's key task of poverty alleviation. It is necessary to take the targeted poverty alleviation a priority in implementing the strategy of rural revitalization, promote the integration and mutual promotion of poverty alleviation and rural revitalization, focus on applying the experience of poverty alleviation to the implementation of the strategy for rural revitalization, and promote the rural sustainable development. Therefore, we must take advantage of the rural areas to develop special industries and promote rural economic development, mobilize social forces to participate in rural rejuvenation, attract more social capital, and improve the rural developing environment; We should highlight the critical points, reflect the characteristics, promote the revitalization of the countryside, adhere to the dominant position of farmers, mobilize the farmers' enthusiasm and initiative to participate in rural revitalization, and stimulate the farmers' motivation to get rid of poverty and become rich.

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