

Research on the Adjustment of Poverty Control Strategies in the Middle and Late Stages of Poverty Alleviation

Wang Shiyu

College of Law, Sichuan Agricultural University, Ya'an City, Sichuan Province 625014, China

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Abstract: The work of getting rid of poverty has gradually entered the stage of decisive battle and decisive battle. The number of rural poor people and the incidence of poverty in China have reached a record low. Under the premise of winning the fight against poverty, it is a foregone conclusion. In addition to the need to continue to pay attention to the problem of poverty alleviation of the remaining poor, the next step should be to pay more attention to the quality of poverty alleviation. The poverty alleviation work in poor villages and non-poor villages should be promoted in a coordinated manner, the endogenous power of the poverty-stricken population should be stimulated, the effective connection between the precise poverty alleviation strategy and the rural revitalization strategy should be explored, and the current poverty alleviation strategy should be adjusted in due course, so as to jointly ensure the smooth realization of the goal of all poor areas and poor people entering an all-round well-off society by 2020.

1. Introduction

By the end of 2018, the number of rural poor in the country had decreased from 98.99 million at the end of 2012 to 16.6 million, and the incidence of poverty fell from 10.2% in 2012 to 1.7% [1]. In view of this, there is every reason to believe that by 2020, the elimination of absolute poverty in the rural areas of the country will ensure the smooth realization of the goal of building a well-off society in an all-round way. As poverty eradication efforts enter the sprint period of “overcoming difficulties and pulling out villages”, the rest are all tough bones that are hard to chew, making poverty reduction more difficult and costly. Correspondingly, the poverty control strategy in the middle and late stages of the anti-poverty campaign should be adjusted in a timely manner with the change of conditions and situations so as to highlight the fairness and pertinence of the anti-poverty work.

2. The Background of Adjustment of Governance Strategies in the Middle and Late Stages of Poverty Alleviation

2.1 Winning the battle to fight against poverty is a foregone conclusion

With the implementation of the precise poverty alleviation strategy and the in-depth promotion of the poverty alleviation work, the poverty situation in rural areas has fundamentally improved. First of all, in terms of the absolute number of the rural poor, the remaining absolute poverty population is currently less than 16.6 million, down 83.23% from the 2012 statistics, and more than 82.39 million people have successfully emerged from poverty. Secondly, judging from the incidence of poverty, the current incidence of poverty in rural China has dropped from 10.2% in 2012 to 1.7%, which is a remarkable achievement for a developing country with the largest population in the world. Finally, from the analysis of the effectiveness of poverty reduction, through the in-depth implementation of poverty alleviation, the vast rural poverty-stricken areas in the past in infrastructure, public services, industrial development and many other aspects have been greatly improved. The development of countryside and agriculture has renewed its vitality. The channels and ways of stabilizing poverty eradication and increasing income of the poor are more diversified, and their sense of attainment and happiness have also been significantly improved.

2.2 Relative poverty is still relatively obvious

Relative poverty reflects imbalances in development and imbalances in distribution [2]. While fully affirming China's achievements in poverty reduction, we must also maintain a clear understanding of the fact that relative poverty is still relatively prominent: First, the phenomenon of uneven urban-rural development has not been fundamentally reversed, as shown in the infrastructure and public between urban and rural areas. The gap between services and other areas is still large. Under the premise that the household registration system is gradually loosened, the rural youth labor force population continues to flow into the city, and the problem of relatively insufficient development of rural areas in the central and western regions has not been completely improved. Second, although the growth rate of farmers' income is slightly higher than that of urban residents in general, the problem of widening income gap between urban and rural residents has not been effectively alleviated due to low starting point and low stability of growth [3]. Whether it is the lack of stamina brought about by population movement or the widening income gap between urban and rural residents, the main reason lies in the imbalance of development between urban and rural areas, which is often an important external factor leading to relative poverty in rural areas and farmers.

2.3 Relative poverty is still relatively obvious

Since the implementation of the precise poverty alleviation strategy and the poverty alleviation program, China has rapidly formed a series of more scientific and efficient poverty alleviation measures in the rural poverty alleviation work. However, with the deepening of poverty alleviation work, some problems are gradually exposed. First, China's rural poor are widely distributed in poor and non-poor villages, and nearly half of them are distributed in non-poor villages. Due to the relatively limited resources and funds for poverty alleviation, in order to ensure the effectiveness of poverty alleviation, the early poverty alleviation projects, funds and staff focused on poor villages, which greatly improved the development of poor villages. However, on the other hand, this policy difference also leads to the lack of attention to non-poor villages and the unbalanced development between poor villages and non-poor villages. Secondly, due to the tight time, heavy tasks and high requirements of poverty alleviation, some local governments are eager to achieve poverty alleviation in the process of promoting poverty alleviation. As a result, some poor people relied heavily on policy support to get rid of poverty, which lacked stability and sustainability and had a high risk of returning to poverty. Thirdly, under the idea of pressure-based poverty alleviation, we should face the assessment requirements from the central and higher governments. In order to smoothly complete the task of poverty alleviation and ensure that the poor people recognize the results of poverty alleviation, local governments have almost responded to the demands of poor households. To a certain extent, this has raised the appetite of some poor households, and even appeared the phenomenon of "policy feeding lazy people". When poverty alleviation is regarded as "welfare" by some people, their willingness to get rid of poverty will be greatly reduced.

3. Thoughts on the Adjustment of Poverty Control Strategies in the Middle and Late Stage of the Poverty Eradication and Struggle

3.1 Focus on the fairness of poverty alleviation

Poor counties, poor villages and the poor population are the key targets and target groups in the early anti-poverty work. As the majority of poor counties and villages have been successfully lifted out of poverty, the poverty alleviation thinking should be adjusted accordingly. As mentioned earlier, the poor are widely distributed between poor and non-poor villages. Therefore, in future poverty alleviation work, the non-poor villages which had paid less attention in the past should be paid enough attention, otherwise, poverty alleviation resources should be concentrated on the poor villages. While promoting the rapid development of poor villages, it will cause new imbalances in the development of poor villages and non-poor villages. In addition, with the

decreasing number of absolute poverty population, another special group - “marginal poverty population” must also attract the attention of all sectors of society. “Marginal Poverty Population” refers to the part of the population whose income level is slightly higher than the national poverty line standard but not included in the poverty alleviation target. In terms of income level and self-development ability, the “extinguishing poor population” has high vulnerability to poverty. In the event of serious illness or natural disasters, it is easy to fall into poverty. Winning the fight against poverty and fighting for victory, the total number of rural poor people in the country is decreasing. It is necessary for the government and all sectors of society to appropriately tilt the poverty alleviation work to the “marginal poor” and minimize the number of newly added poor people through early prevention and active intervention.

3.2 Focus on strengthening social poverty alleviation

Poverty governance is a systematic, long-term, and comprehensive project. The biggest advantage of China's poverty reduction experience is that there is a ruling party and government with strong organizational mobilization capabilities and resource integration capabilities. This is also a key factor in our fight against poverty. After 2020, the absolute poverty situation in rural China will be basically eliminated, but due to the existence of relative poverty, poverty management is still one of the priorities of future rural work. As we all know, to eliminate poverty, the organization and mobilization of the government in the short term can have a good effect, but to combat poverty. In addition to playing a good government role, the role of the market and society must be fully mobilized. Guiding market participants to participate in poverty governance can not only exert its vitality in arranging poverty alleviation resources, but also promote its charitable spirit. All kinds of social organizations participate in poverty alleviation and development and social assistance with their flexible and efficient advantages, which can make up for the defects of the government's professional deficiency in some aspects [4]. In short, in the future poverty alleviation work, a good institutional environment should be created for the participation of the market, society or other subjects in poverty alleviation and development, and policy support should be given to their participation in poverty alleviation work from the aspect of institutional mechanisms. This is not only conducive to alleviating the pressure of the government itself on poverty alleviation, but also a useful practice in building a pattern of “big poverty alleviation” among the government, the market and society.

3.3 Stimulate the endogenous motive force of poverty alleviation

The formation of poverty is not only influenced by various irresistible objective factors, but also by the “ideological poverty” of the poor. On the one hand, some people fall into poverty due to serious illness, disaster and other objective factors. After a short-term poverty eradication is hopeless, they will become depressed and lose their enterprising spirit and willingness to take the initiative to shake off poverty. On the other hand, due to the influence of family environment and the lack of education for a long time, some people even regard poverty as their personal destiny, not only willing to poverty themselves, but also allowing this negative thought to form intergenerational transmission among family members. Finally, a few people regard poverty alleviation as the responsibility of the government, even bargaining with government staff on the grounds of “helping the government to complete the task of poverty alleviation”. When their unreasonable demands are not met, they often force local cadres to submit to the norm by visiting and other unconventional ways. Essentially, the common ground of these three phenomena is that some poor people always lack courage and motivation to get rid of poverty. Affected by this, if they can not solve their “ideological poverty” problem and stimulate their endogenous motive force for poverty alleviation, other poverty alleviation measures will be difficult to work.

4. Difficulties in the Adjustment of Poverty Control Strategies

4.1 Difficulties in the Adjustment of Poverty Control Strategies

The key to China's success lies in the ruling party and government. This concept has been deeply rooted in the hearts of the people. It is undeniable that China's outstanding achievements in poverty alleviation and development work also confirm this view once again. The ability of political mobilization and resource allocation of the Chinese government is incomparable to that of any other country. It can eliminate absolute poverty in the vast rural areas in a few years, help tens of millions of people out of poverty, and ensure the timely realization of the goal of building a well-off society in an all-round way. It relies on the super organizational and personnel resources allocation capabilities of the Chinese government.

While fully affirming the contribution of the Chinese government to poverty reduction, we must also realize that with the gradual formation of the modern poverty management system, new requirements have been put forward for China's poverty alleviation and development work. On the one hand, in the process of poverty alleviation and development, the government needs to actively adapt to social development and changes in the situation, adjust and change working ideas in time, better play the role of macro-control and policy guidance, and play the role of “the helmsman”. On the other hand, since the solid implementation of poverty alleviation, the improvement of infrastructure and industrial basic conditions in the vast rural poverty-stricken areas has also created a better business environment for market players such as agricultural products planting, processing enterprises and tourism enterprises. At the same time, the social problems faced by the above-mentioned areas in the development process, such as left-behind children and empty nest elderly, also provide a broad space for various social organizations to play their own roles. The key to building a “great poverty alleviation” pattern involving the government, the market and the society is that the government needs to play a leading role, creating favorable conditions for the market and social organizations, and even individual citizens to participate in the development of poverty-stricken areas through preferential policies such as taxation and employment. They actively guide and effectively supervise local activities, and fully mobilize the enthusiasm of various entities to participate in the above-mentioned ways. When the government, market and social organizations work together to reduce poverty, they can reduce the cost of government poverty management, and further improve the scientific and professional level of poverty alleviation and development work.

On the other hand, the market and social organizations are relatively less involved than the government's positive behavior in poverty alleviation and development. The reason is that on the one hand, the fight against poverty is a tight time and the task is heavy, and the resource integration ability and organizational mobilization ability of the poverty alleviation subject are extremely high. Under the current conditions, the market or social organizations are obviously not sufficient to undertake this important task. Therefore, the government's own advantageous position and the mission requirements of poverty alleviation determine that the government must play a leading role in the current poverty alleviation work. On the other hand, for a long time, our government has been playing an all-round “parent” role, which has squeezed the space for the market and social organizations to play their role independently. Especially under the premise that the civil society is not yet developed, the government has doubts about the effect and ability of the market and social organizations to participate in poverty alleviation and development independently.

4.2 The convergence mechanism between precise poverty alleviation and rural revitalization needs to be improved

According to the work arrangement of the Chinese government, the work of poverty alleviation will come to an end after 2020, but the existence of relative poverty means that China's poverty alleviation and development work will continue to advance. After 2020, China's poverty alleviation and development work will focus on eliminating absolute poverty and narrowing the gap between the rich and the poor, and paying attention to the development difficulties of the relatively poor.

The 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China proposed a strategy for rural

revitalization. This is another major strategic decision of the central government on the work of the three rural areas following the strategy of precision poverty alleviation. General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized during the inspection in Sichuan: “The implementation of the rural revitalization strategy, the foundation and the premise still need to win the fight against poverty and win the battle.”[5] Accurate poverty alleviation is the key to poverty alleviation of the rural poor. Strong agriculture, beautiful countryside and rich peasants are the objectives of rural revitalization. Accurate poverty alleviation and poverty alleviation have laid the necessary foundation for rural development, and provided the necessary guarantee for the rural poor to overcome their living difficulties and integrate smoothly into rural development. From the perspective of policy design, the industrial development and rural culture involved in the strategy of Rural Revitalization are closely related to poverty alleviation through industry and education. However, at present, there is relatively little research and practical experience on the relationship between precise poverty alleviation and rural revitalization, especially the lack of exploratory results on how to effectively link the two, which is also one of the areas that need to focus on and break through in poverty management strategies in the mid-and late stages of poverty alleviation. In the process of rural revitalization, how to ensure that the poverty-free or “marginal poor” can participate in rural construction smoothly and how to benefit steadily from it is also a question that needs to be considered and answered in depth.

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