

## Thoughts and Strategies for Improving the Quality of Eliminating Poverty in Deep Poverty-stricken Areas

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**Abstract:** Deep poverty-stricken areas are the key and difficult points to overcome poverty. We should ensure that the poor people in this area get out of poverty steadily without returning to poverty, and that their self-development ability is constantly strengthened. Developing conditions in poor areas are constantly improving, and improving the quality of poverty alleviation is the key. In view of the realistic factors that may restrict the quality of poverty alleviation in the deep poverty-stricken areas, such as the difficulty of stably increasing the income of the poor, the high vulnerability of poverty, the low level of public services, and the relative insufficiency of industrial support. The author advocates the opportunity of economic and social development and national policy support to improve the development potential of poverty-stricken areas by improving the level of social security and public services. Measures such as the development of special industries, gradually improve the local development, and enhance the self-development ability of the poor, so as to improve the quality of poverty alleviation.

### 1. Introduction

The decisive battle against poverty has entered the countdown stage. After more than six years of efforts, the production and living conditions in poor areas in China have been greatly improved. “The current standard has reduced the size of the rural poor by more than 80 million.” There is every reason to believe that the overall situation of winning the fight against poverty has been set [1].

While fully affirming the achievements of poverty alleviation, the Party and the state also timely adjusted their work focus and ideas according to the situation of poverty alleviation and fortification. On June 23, 2017, General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized at the conference on poverty alleviation and fortification in deep poverty-stricken areas that one of the priorities of poverty alleviation and fortification work in the future is to “focus on the study of strategies to solve deep poverty” [2]. Subsequently, the state promulgated the “Implementation Opinions on Supporting Poverty Alleviation in Deep Poverty Areas” to provide clear guidance on the concentrated attack in deep poverty areas.

Because the deep poverty-stricken areas are “regions with poor natural conditions, economic development, public services and people's livelihood level”, and have obvious regional and demographic characteristics” [3]. In short, the overall development foundation of the deep poverty-stricken areas is very weak, the self-development ability of the poor is relatively insufficient, and the unique cultural and religious factors in some ethnic areas also restrict the local poverty-stricken people to get rid of poverty. Based on the above factors, how to ensure the development foundation of deep poverty areas is steadily strengthened as the poverty alleviation is about to enter the final stage. The social security capacity is continuously enhanced, the poverty-stricken population is stable and poverty-stricken, and poverty-stricken people can not afford to return to poverty. The effectiveness of poverty alleviation can be tested, that is, it is particularly important to improve the quality of poverty-stricken areas.

## **2. Connotation Analysis of Poverty Elimination Quality**

On the definition of poverty, domestic academia generally accepted Amartya Sen's "multi-dimensional poverty" analysis framework, that is, poverty is not only an issue of economic income, but also involves the deprivation of viable capacity. Inspired by this, the state has clearly defined the poverty alleviation and exit criteria for poverty-stricken counties, poor villages and poor people when implementing the strategy of precise poverty alleviation. Among them, "two guarantees, three guarantees" is the standard for poverty-stricken people to get rid of poverty, while the exit of poor villages and poverty-stricken counties focuses on the decline of poverty incidence.

However, when analyzing the quality of poverty alleviation, we should pay attention to a series of rigid indicators, such as poverty-stricken counties, poverty-stricken villages and poverty-stricken people meeting the national poverty alleviation standards. From the perspective of development, the quality of poverty alleviation pays more attention to the steady growth of income of the poor, the improvement of the ability to withstand risks, and the enhancement of self-development ability. The improvement of the level of public services and the extent to which the development environment and development base have been improved.

## **3. Relevant Factors Restricting the Quality of Eliminating Poverty in Deep Poverty-stricken Areas**

According to the dimensions of poverty eradication quality measurement established above, the author will analyze the factors restricting poverty eradication quality in deep poverty-stricken areas and their specific impact one by one around these dimensions.

### **3.1 It is difficult to increase income steadily.**

In the deep poverty-stricken areas, the geographical environment mostly has the characteristics of "far, high, cold, big, rugged and edge" [4]. The harsh natural conditions have resulted in the widespread desertification and fragmentation of land, seriously restricting the large-scale development of agriculture, and there are very limited ways for local people to increase their income by relying on agriculture. The generally poor external environment in deep poverty areas has made the support of the poor through local development extremely limited. The dual impact of the natural environment and the social environment has made people's income-increasing channels narrower.

From the point of view of the poor themselves, the deep poverty-stricken areas often overlap with the ethnic areas in space, and the national culture and religious culture have far-reaching influence on the shaping of people's habits and attitudes towards life. The concepts of being in poverty, reluctant to sell and killing are deeply rooted in the hearts of some ethnic areas and the masses. Market awareness and commodity awareness are weak, and the lack of industrial support in deep poverty areas is also a limiting factor for the steady increase of local poverty.

### **3.2 Poor people are relatively vulnerable.**

The World Bank defines vulnerability as "the possibility of individuals or families facing certain risks and resulting in loss of wealth or quality of life falling below a socially recognized level due to exposure to risks" [5]. The most important reason for poverty is because of the deprivation of ability. The poor generally lack the ability to acquire and control wealth, education, medical care and other social resources. Therefore, they are in a relatively disadvantageous situation in society. In the face of natural disasters, diseases and other shocks, the poor often suffer from heavier losses and slow recovery. In the vicious circle of "fragility – poverty – more fragile – more poverty", it is difficult to get rid of poverty completely.

For the poverty-stricken areas and local people, the natural conditions are bad, the social security level is low, and the human capital of the poverty-stricken people is insufficient, social resources are scarce and so on. It is impossible to make fundamental changes in a short period of time, so that after the poverty-stricken areas are over, the situation will be faced with diseases, disasters, and

returning to poverty.

### **3.3 Low level of public service.**

The development level of social public services, including infrastructure, education and medical resources, is an important indicator to measure the degree of social development. After the country's precise poverty alleviation in the early stage, from the surface, the water, electricity, roads, communications and other infrastructure in the deep poverty areas have been significantly improved and improved. Compulsory academic affairs and basic medical care also have practical guarantees. However, while affirming the achievements, we must also be aware of the level of social public services in deep poverty areas, especially the main areas. There is still room for improvement from the quality level, and it is still possible to fall into the poverty trap caused by low quality" [6].

Specifically, in the areas of transportation, water conservancy, communication, education and medical treatment, the deep poverty-stricken areas have greatly improved compared with the past. However, in terms of function and quality, it still only meets the basic needs, and realizes the transformation from survival to development on how to connect with the external market. The gap is still evident compared to cities and other relatively developed rural areas in the country. In this case, once the country's policy support is weakened, deep poverty areas may face the possibility of falling behind again in the development process. In addition, with the development of the economy and society, the national poverty line standards will inevitably increase accordingly. If it is limited by the level of public services, the speed of development and the quality of development cannot keep up with the times, and the risk of regional and population falling into poverty again remains.

### **3.4 Industry support is relatively weak.**

Compared with other areas in China, due to the objective restrictions of natural environment and social conditions, the phenomenon of excessive dependence on primary industry in the industrial structure in the deep poverty-stricken areas has not been fundamentally reversed. Small-scale peasant economy is still the main means for local people to survive. As the country implements precise poverty alleviation, some enterprises have gradually begun to enter the local area, and large-scale industries are gradually taking root. It is foreseeable that the development of industrial enterprises will not only promote local development, but also create more employment opportunities for local people, which will bring opportunities for some poor people to get rid of poverty and increase income.

On the other hand, the common problem faced by the deep poverty-stricken areas and other poverty-stricken areas in China is that they are constrained by factors such as remote location and inconvenient transportation. Firstly, the number of enterprises actively stationed in poverty-stricken areas is still limited. Secondly, in the process of industrial poverty alleviation, the intensive processing of products is relatively inadequate and the industrial value chain is relatively short. In the future development process, the extensive processing industry will inevitably bear greater risks and pressures when facing market competition, which will also be a variable that must be considered in poverty-stricken areas. Under the background of the possibility of homogenous low-end competition in industrial poverty alleviation, deep poverty areas have to be vigilant.

## **4. Path Analysis of Improving the Quality of Eliminating Poverty in Deep Poverty-stricken Areas**

On February 14, 2018, General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized at the Symposium on fighting the hard battle against poverty that "fighting the hard battle against poverty in an all-round way should be carried out in accordance with the unified deployment of the Central Committee of the Party" [7]. We should give top priority to improving the quality of poverty alleviation, focusing on deep poverty-stricken areas and steadfastly advancing all kinds of work. The victory of poverty alleviation is in the hope that the governance ideas and strategies of deep poverty areas should be improved and adjusted in a timely manner"[5].The main problem to be solved by poverty governance is no longer the survival problem, but the sharing problem of development problems

and development results.” In other words, improving the quality of poverty alleviation in deep poverty areas and poor people will gradually become the focus of poverty alleviation work in the future. Based on the factors listed above that may affect the quality of poverty alleviation, the author puts forward ideas and strategies for improving the quality of poverty alleviation on the basis of further integration.

#### **4.1 Ensuring a steady increase in income sources for the poor.**

Steady income growth of the poor is one of the signs of improving the quality of poverty eradication in terms of income growth and sustainability of growth. At present, the income of the poor in our country is divided into two categories according to their main ways of use. First, “relief-based” income from government departments, such as subsistence allowances and basic medical insurance, is mainly used to meet the survival needs of poor people who have lost their ability to work or temporarily lack the ability to work. The second is “developmental” income to support the development of individuals or families of the poor, including government transfer payments, property income, and personal labor income.

According to the above classification criteria, there are two major aspects to ensure the steady growth of the income of the poor. Firstly, according to the improvement of the level of national economic and social development and the enhancement of national strength, we should gradually increase the financial expenditure on social security, basic medical insurance and compulsory education so as to ensure that those who are unable to work can maintain their basic livelihood. The second is to gradually explore and broaden the income channels of poor people in deep poverty areas, make full use of local resource endowments and industrial development, and create more employment opportunities or other ways to increase income for them.

#### **4.2 Take multiple measures to reduce the vulnerability of the poor.**

Reducing the vulnerability of poverty-stricken people in deep poverty-stricken areas and enhancing their ability to withstand various risks are inherent requirements for improving the quality of poverty alleviation. From a feasible point of view, reducing the vulnerability of the poor, improving the external environment, social policy and other objective factors can play a greater role. The concrete manifestations are as follows: Firstly, “establish risk and vulnerability early warning mechanism in the new poverty reduction strategy”[8]. The risks faced by the poor and the family come from many aspects such as the environment, policies, and economic situation. To this end, establishing a major risk warning mechanism is one of the effective measures to reduce the vulnerability of poverty. Second, improve the level of agricultural insurance, social security, and public services. For deep poverty-stricken areas: gradually establish a suitable agricultural insurance system to reduce the property losses caused by accidents and other accidents. Gradually improve the level of social security, and further improve the support capacity and quality of protection under the premise of focusing on coverage. Gradually improving the quality of education and medical care, especially the quality of preschool education and rural medical care, will undoubtedly be of great benefit to reducing the vulnerability of poverty. Third, strengthen the function of grassroots organizations to fill the social network cracks. The lack of social capital and human resources is a common problem for the poor and one of the causes of the high vulnerability of poverty. Therefore, it is necessary to give full play to the organizational functions of various grassroots organizations to help poor families and the poor to improve and extend their social network. Cultivate their awareness of participation in village affairs and group activities, help establish channels of willingness to express, thereby improving the social integration of poor families and realizing the accumulation of social capital and human resources.

#### **4.3 Give play to comparative advantages and enhance industrial support.**

In terms of specific strategies for poverty control, the measures that can really improve the self-development ability of the poor are industry, education and health care to enhance the self-development ability of the poor. Among them, the effect of industrial poverty alleviation is particularly remarkable. Improving the quality of poverty-stricken areas in poverty-stricken areas,

basing on local resource endowments, giving full play to comparative advantages, and developing characteristic industries are the key to realizing the development and upgrading of poverty-stricken areas in the future and the poverty-stricken population to stabilize poverty.

In terms of industrial development ideas, the following points are worthy of reference and reference for the deep poverty-stricken areas. Firstly, we should actively respond to national policies and explore the linking mechanism between Rural Revitalization and poverty alleviation. In 2020, the fight against poverty will come to an end. However, the development of rural areas, especially those with deep poverty, still has a long way to go. Under the background of immature market development and the lack of scale effect of industrial economy. Actively responding to this external force and striving for the support of national policies are still the priority strategies for regional development. Second, tap local resources, give play to comparative advantages, and actively develop characteristic industries. After entering the post-industrial era, with the development of the national economy and the continuous improvement of the income level of residents, the continuous upgrading of consumption, ecological health, national culture, pollution-free agricultural products will become more and more attractive to consumers. This is precisely the unique resource advantage of deep poverty areas. As the infrastructure of deep poverty-stricken areas, especially the traffic conditions, continues to improve, the conversion of resource advantages into economic advantages will become extremely feasible.

## 5. Conclusion

By 2020, it is the solemn commitment of the Party and the government to the people that all the poor people in rural areas will be lifted out of poverty and a well-off society will be built simultaneously with the whole country. From the perspective of long-term development, in the hope of poverty alleviation and victory, improving the quality of poverty alleviation in deep poverty areas is not only a summary of the poverty alleviation work in the early stage, but also a prospect and reflection on poverty management in the future.

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