The Deep Poverty-stricken Areas Are the Key to Poverty Alleviation for China in the Future

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Abstract: The problem of deep poverty refers to the local poverty problem with obvious special regional characteristics. The deep poverty problem includes the deep poverty group and the deep poverty-stricken areas. The deep poverty-stricken areas generally refer to the set of ethnic minority areas, old revolutionary areas, ecological fragile areas. They are the extremely poor areas of high poverty incidence and deep poverty. With complex poverty causes, they are the typical "the poorest of the poor". The task of poverty alleviation in the deep poverty-stricken areas is heavy and difficult to tackle. So the deep poverty-stricken areas are the key points and the difficult points to get rid of poverty.

1. Introduction
In June 21, 2017, the chairman Xi Jinping went to Shanxi Province in China and investigated the mountainous areas of Lvliang. Lvliang mountains with barren land and poor living conditions belong to the typical place “which has no way of supporting its own inhabitants”. He discussed the measures for poverty alleviation in these areas and stressed that the task of poverty alleviation in the deep poverty-stricken areas is the top priority[1]. We must make sure that these poor areas live in a well-off society together with our country. This meant the policy makers put great emphasis on poverty alleviation in deep poverty-stricken areas.

2. The significance of tackling deep poverty problem
Since the implementation of poverty alleviation and development in the past 30 years, a total of 730 million poor people have been lifted out of poverty and the incidence of poverty has decreased by 93% in China.

China's poverty reduction program has contributed more than 70% to the global poverty reduction effort. In 1978, according to the rural poverty standard of 200 yuan per person (1978 constant price), the rural poverty population was 770 million, and the poverty rate of rural residents was 97.5%. At the end of 2016, according to 2300 yuan per person (2010 constant price), the rural poverty population was 43.35 million, the poverty rate was 4.5%. Also the infrastructure has improved, basic public service level has been stable, poverty alleviation mechanism has been constructed. The income development of rural residents in poor areas is higher than the national average. The outlook of economic and social development in poor areas improves significantly.
### Table 1. Date of the Rural Poor Population and Poverty Rate in China[^2]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Poor population (million)</th>
<th>Reduced poor population(million)</th>
<th>Poverty rate ( % )</th>
<th>Reduced poverty rate(%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>122.38</td>
<td>43.28</td>
<td>12.70</td>
<td>4.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>98.99</td>
<td>23.39</td>
<td>10.20</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>82.49</td>
<td>16.50</td>
<td>8.50</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>70.17</td>
<td>12.32</td>
<td>7.20</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>55.75</td>
<td>14.42</td>
<td>5.70</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>43.35</td>
<td>12.40</td>
<td>4.50</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

However, with the deepening of poverty alleviation, China's poverty reduction faces the deep poverty which is the most difficult to deal with. So the task of poverty reduction is also very arduous. Now, there are 14 national contiguous areas with special poverty. Eight nationality regions include Mongolia Province, Ningxia province, Xinjiang province, Tibet province, Guangxi province and 3 minority regions Guizhou province, Yunnan province, Qinghai province. These regions have total poor population of 14.11 million, accounting for 32.56% of the population in poverty. Most of the people who don’t get rid of poverty have deeper poverty and weak ability to develop themselves. The cost of tackling poverty is higher and more difficult in these deep poverty-stricken regions. A lot of poor households out of disaster, illness, marriage, housing situation can fall into poverty again. The new poverty problem will appear.

By 2020, we will build a well-off society in an all-round way. So we must ensure that the rural poor population gets rid of poverty under the current standard to solve regional overall poverty. The deep poverty-stricken areas are becoming the main battlefield of poverty alleviation in the next years.

#### 3. Characteristics of deep poverty-stricken areas

Deep poverty is mainly manifested in the lack of welfare on different scales and groups. This kind of integrity represents the poor status of the whole group. And it is related to the backwardness of the economic and social development of the whole region[^3].

**3.1 The degree of poverty is deep and the rate of poverty incidence is high**

The gap of income level between the poverty population in the poverty-stricken areas and in the country is large. And the proportion of the long-term poverty, that is, the intergenerational transmission of poverty, is large. The poverty population in six provinces is over 4 million, and the rate of poverty incidence is over 10%.

The per disposable income of rural residents in poverty-stricken areas is 8452 yuan, but, that is 23821 yuan for all people, only accounting for 35.8% of the national average level.

**3.2 Types of poverty are complex and phenomenon of poverty-returning occurs**

There are many kinds of poverty in deep poverty-stricken areas such as ecological poverty, social development poverty, disease poverty and so on. The first one is that the allocation in production factors of land, labor, capital, technology is not enough. The second one is that the social development is unbalanced, and the lack supply of basic public service facilities in deep poverty-stricken areas resulting in inequality phenomenon. The third one is that the poverty population from illness, disaster, education is big. The poverty population caused by illness accounts for 42% in the existing rural poor population.

**3.3 The geographical location is remote and the ecological environment is delicate**

Most of deep poverty-stricken areas are located in frontier areas and old revolutionary areas. These areas are located in remote areas, far from the central cities.

In deep poverty-stricken areas, for the remote location, the infrastructure bottleneck is still
obvious, the supply of basic public service is insufficient, industry vitality is not strong. These have seriously hindered the external contacts, resource flows and economic and cultural development. The backwardness of infrastructure leads to the weakness of industrial development and the unitary mode of economic development. The means of production are primitive and backward, and the economic benefits are low. At the same time, backward infrastructure leads to little scale of secondary industry and tertiary industry.

3.4 The quality of labor is low and the ways of income increase are few

The peasants in deep poor areas are backward in concept and conservative in behavior and they despise education. The whole poor population is short of education, and the population of illiterates is more. So these factors lead to deeper poverty in remote rural regions. The traditional old-fashioned values lead to the serious dependence of the peasants and greatly restricts the poverty alleviation in deep poverty-stricken areas. The single industrial structure, poor agricultural production conditions, weak ability to resist natural disasters, lower prices of agricultural products make the farmers improve the income level more difficultly in poor areas through the family business. Because of the poor industrial foundation and weak industrial structure in deep poor areas, the ways for the local employment are few. The labor skills and employment training of the impoverished groups restrict their own development, which makes it difficult to increase income.

4. Measures for solving deep poverty

With the deepening of poverty alleviation, the task of poverty alleviation is more arduous, the difficulty is bigger. So it needs more forceful measures to help the poor and get rid of poverty in the deep poverty-stricken areas.

4.1 Adopt unconventional measures and innovate the mechanism of poverty alleviation

Take the "precise mechanism + program + target + team" ideas. From poverty program, the target responsibility, system construction, path of poverty alleviation, funding, assessment and other aspects, we should make the unconventional measures in line with the development of the deep poverty-stricken areas to promote poverty alleviation and development work, also to provide a strong impetus for poverty alleviation. According to local conditions and precise measures, we can make good use of natural ecology, local customs and other resources to establish and improve a long-term mechanism for stabilizing poverty alleviation.

4.2 Raise capital input and widen path of poverty alleviation

We must deal with the relations between poverty alleviation and prosperity, poverty alleviation and regional development. We will explore new models for the use of poverty alleviation funds, such as asset gains, financial poverty alleviation, etc. And we will set up special funds for the development of the deep poverty-stricken areas to increase the financial support for these poor regions. The poor population realize poverty alleviation through industry and employment by raising the level of infrastructure, improving the industrial base, training labor skills for poor population and increasing population quality.

4.3 Refine the responsibility target and innovate the assessment method

Tackling poverty in deep poor areas is a protracted war. According to different reasons of poor household, we make the implementation of the project, clear the specific responsibilities, objectives, tasks and so on. The government should carry out the double assessment standards for poverty alleviation in deep poverty-stricken areas: to access achievement for assisting cadres and effect of poverty alleviation.

4.4 Deepen international cooperation and advocate universal poverty alleviation

The poor areas should carry out cooperation with international organizations, regional organizations
and non-governmental organizations, and expand cooperation with the international community in poverty alleviation. So we can widely strive for support to the deep poverty-stricken areas from all over the world. We should promote social organizations and individual citizens to actively care for and support the development of deep poverty-stricken areas, and create a pattern for the whole society to participate in the poverty alleviation.

References


