

# *Literature Review on the Spirit of Poverty Alleviation*

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**Abstract:** This article focuses on "the spirit of poverty alleviation" that was put forward at the 2021 National Poverty Eradication Summary and Commendation Conference. Methods of online and offline surveys are adopted in this paper to comb and summarize related research achievements from different perspectives at home and abroad and to provide a theoretical basis for in-depth thinking of "the spirit of poverty alleviation". Deficiencies are also discussed.

## 1. Introduction

At the 2021 National Poverty Eradication Summary and Commendation Conference, the significant proposition of "the spirit of poverty alleviation" was put forward. It was theoretically summarized as "unity of the top and bottom, fighting to the best of one's ability, precision and pragmatism, pioneering and innovation, overcoming obstacles and meeting the needs of the people". The concept has attracted the attention of scholars at home and abroad. Although the term "the spirit of poverty alleviation" has not been put forward for a long time, and there are relatively few direct research results on the spirit of poverty alleviation in the academic world, there is a wealth of research results related to the spirit of poverty alleviation. This article mainly sorts out these existing research achievements to provide a theoretical basis for a more in-depth understanding and investigation of the "spirit of poverty alleviation".

In the review of foreign research, three perspectives are considered, including theories on poverty based on different disciplines, anti-poverty practices based on various national situations, and China's experience of poverty based on different concerns and demands.

In the review of domestic academia, related research on the historical evolution of poverty reduction, anti-poverty theory, precise poverty alleviation strategies, the significance of poverty eradication, the conception and connotation of the spirit of poverty alleviation, and the Post-Poverty Era are summarized.

In addition to the above statement, deficiencies in the present research are also discussed in the last part of this article.

## 2. Review of Foreign Research

This paper adopts a method of combining online and offline surveys to summarize foreign research results. Online mainly rely on Google Scholar, Open Access Library (OALib), Web of Science China Knowledge Network peripheral literature library, Wanfang Zhisou and other

platforms, searching with keywords of poverty, elimination of poverty, poverty reduction, poverty alleviation, elimination of poverty, poverty reduction, paths out of poverty, poverty alleviation spirit, poverty alleviation spirit etc. Through continuous search, we found that there are very few achievements in foreign countries that directly study the "poverty alleviation spirit" or discuss China's poverty alleviation from the perspective of the Chinese spirit, and foreign academics have not yet carried out targeted and systematic research and argumentation in this regard. However, this does not mean that foreign countries have not carried out research related to the theme, nor does it mean that we can ignore or neglect the relevant foreign research results. On the contrary, the research results of foreign scholars on poverty and anti-poverty theories, poverty alleviation work in their own countries, international poverty alleviation exchanges and China's poverty alleviation experience provide a solid theoretical basis, comparative object, international dynamics and other perspectives for this study. Specifically, foreign research achievements on "anti-poverty" mainly focus on the following aspects.

## 2.1 Theoretical research on poverty based on different disciplinary perspectives

Politically, in his book *The Road to Slavery*, Friedrich August Hayek, a famous British political philosopher and the founder of neoliberalism, discussed the right to survival of disadvantaged groups. In his view, the nature of competition in the market, the complexity of the social structure, and the suddenness of unforeseen events bring about an existential crisis for the disadvantaged. Under the influence of these uncontrollable elements, it is only right that governments everywhere should protect the disadvantaged groups to get out of poverty from a humanitarian point of view. Otherwise, the public's sense of justice will be hurt, which is against the morality of the Nation. He suggests an active national anti-poverty response that prevents the occurrence of poverty at the institutional level, circumvents the dependency mentality of those who are covered and provides the space and time to utilize the initiative of the poor subjects to get out of poverty.

Economically, Adam Smith, a British economist, explained "poverty" and "wealth" from the perspective of the value of labour, taking the amount of dominant or purchased labour as a defining factor. He pointed out in his *Inquiry of the Nature and Causes of National Wealth* that relative poverty manifests itself in the lack of the necessities of life, which are appropriate to a particular time and social development, and without which, one cannot lead a decent life. By illustrating, he argues for a change in elite thinking in the late 18th century associated with ending poverty, and it is regarded as the first poverty enlightenment.

Sociologically, Henry Mayhew conducted interviews with the poor of London and the different labour groups, through which he collected a great deal of first-hand material to write *London Labour and the London Poor*. He attempted to classify all the poor of the metropolis into three stages: those willing to work, those unable to work, and those unwilling to work. In his study of poverty, he argued that absolute poverty was an objective social reality and an exact material deprivation. From 1889 to 1903, Charlens Booth carried out a longitudinal survey around the issue of poverty in the eastern region and wrote a 13-volume survey *Life and Labour of the People in London*, and classified the criteria of absolute poverty according to income.

Ethically, in 1997, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) put forward for the first time the concept of the "Human Poverty Index" (HPI), which takes the identification of poverty out of the single income indicator and includes knowledge, life expectancy, decent living, and other factors in the poverty evaluation system. In addition, the Human Development Index (HDI) is used to measure the happiness of citizens of various countries from the perspective of life satisfaction and to examine the average achievements in three areas: health, education and economic development. In the 2000/2001 edition of the World Development Report, the World Bank

considers "poverty as a state of deprivation of well-being" to be poverty in a broader context, where "well-being" includes material well-being and cultural and political well-being. The term "deprivation" describes the causes of poverty and possible anti-poverty measures. By 2004, the World Bank initiated to improve the functioning of services throughout society to meet the needs of the different groups of the poor.

## **2.2. Research on anti-poverty practices based on different national situations**

In terms of poverty governance in developed countries, some American scholars believe that the causes of poverty in the United States are diverse and will change accordingly with the development of society and that poverty in the United States at present is mainly because of unfair education and employment opportunities, which makes the U.S. government pay extra attention to the effectiveness of its policies in avoiding poverty, focusing on improving the education level of the poor, especially their children, and their work skills, and preventing the inter-generational transmission of poverty.

In terms of poverty governance in developing countries, Thailand scholar Pornpen Vora Sittha (2012) calculates the relationship between economic growth, poverty indicators and governance indicators through Pearson correlation. [1] The results show that poverty reduction in Thailand has been achieved through populist policies with low governance quality rather than through economic growth. Osabohie Romanus et al. (2021) examined the impact of youth participation in agriculture as a primary occupation on income and poverty in Nigeria using the Heckman two-stage model and propensity score matching (PSM) method using data from 683 systematically selected households. [2] The results show that the gender of the youth and their determination to stay in agriculture significantly increases the likelihood of youth participation in agriculture as a primary occupation.

## **2.3. Research on China's experience of poverty**

United Nations Secretary-General Guterres says that China has created favourable conditions for the world to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and that China's experience in poverty reduction can provide useful reference for other developing countries. Siddharth Chatterjee, the United Nations Resident Coordinator in China, points out that China is a significant reference for other developing countries in eradicating poverty. Thomas Jackson, the international development expert of the United Nations Industrial Development organization, looks forward to extensive and in-depth exchanges and cooperation with China through field visits, skills training and other means. Piero Conforti, an expert from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), believes that China, as the world's largest developing country, has made a remarkable achievement in eradicating poverty comprehensively in a space where regional differences are distinct. The World Bank, in its report China Systematic Country Diagnostic (2018), argues that China has not only seen rapid economic development but also made unprecedented achievements in human history in eradicating poverty.

## **3. Overview of Domestic Research**

Poverty, a problem that appeared with the emergence and development of human beings, has always been of great concern to Chinese academics. Especially since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) implemented the national strategy of precise poverty alleviation, it has attracted extensive attention from scholars and set off a wave of research on the problem of poverty and its elimination. The main research spots are as follows.

### **3.1. Research on the historical evolution of poverty reduction**

#### **3.1.1. Stage division based on the history of poverty reduction**

Han & Yu (2021) review the 100-year anti-poverty history of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and divide its historical periods into the following categories: revolutionary poverty alleviation (germination stage: 1921-1949), "blood-letting" relief poverty alleviation (pioneering stage: 1949-1978), "blood-creation" reform poverty alleviation (development stage: 1978), and "reform" poverty alleviation (development stage: 1978-2000), "Developmental" Comprehensive Poverty Alleviation (Deepening Amount Short: 2001-2012), and Scientific Precision Poverty Alleviation in the New Era (Improvement Stage: 2021-present). [3] Wen et al. (2021) divide the history of poverty reduction in China from the perspective of national economics, with the first stage: the land reform in the early 1950s, which eliminated the "absolute poverty" of the vast majority of peasants; and the second stage: the 1960s-1970s, the country's industrialization process took place at the expense of "poverty for all"; the third stage: the 1980s, rural poverty eradication on a large scale; the fourth stage: the 1990s, poverty exacerbation by the increased burden on peasants and the bankruptcy of urban enterprises; and fifth stage: the twenty-first century, strategies for precise poverty alleviation and rural revitalization conducted to eradicate absolute poverty. [4]

#### **3.1.2. Division of tasks based on the history of poverty reduction**

Based on the characteristics and tasks of poverty alleviation in different periods, Hou & Yang (2021) divide the Chinese history of poverty alleviation into the following stages: 1949-1977, broad poverty alleviation under the planned economy; 1978-1985, institution-led poverty alleviation and development; 1986-2000, poverty alleviation and development to solve the problem of subsistence; 2001-2010, poverty alleviation and development to consolidate subsistence; 2011-present, the poverty alleviation and development stage of building comprehensive well-being. [5] According to Wang et al. (2021), in the century since its establishment, the CPC has always adhered to the original heart and mission of seeking happiness for the people and rejuvenation for the nation, profoundly grasped the reality of China's national conditions and the needs of the people, and gone through four anti-poverty stages, and formed a genealogy of the CPC's anti-poverty ideology that is systematic and complete and advances with the times. [6]

### **3.2. Research on anti-poverty theory**

#### **3.2.1. Attribution based on the causes of poverty**

Poverty patterns are similar, but the causes of poverty are different. There are some commonalities behind a series of complex reasons, which can be classified into various dimensions, including internal and external causes, controllable and non-controllable, subjective and objective, etc., constituting the fundamental causes of the state of poverty together. Some scholars believe that irrational systems lead to poverty. According to Liao et al. (2002), poverty results from the inequality of resources, opportunities and benefits among different regions, groups and individuals due to the distribution system, employment system and security system. Some scholars believe that spiritual deprivation results in some poverty. [7] According to Liu & Yang (2019), spiritual poverty refers to the fact that the poor masses are lagging behind the mainstream mode of material production of society in terms of their spiritual state, value orientation, thinking concepts, moral level, psychological quality, etc., due to the external objective conditions and their subjective reasons; it is essentially a result of the lack of subjectivity of the individual, and it is the intrinsic mechanism and practice that restricts and governs the individual behaviour and social activities of

the poor masses from the inner level and practical patterns. Some scholars believe that a special natural environment contributes to some poverty.[8](2021) argues that poverty is a structural problem endogenous to the process of modernization and development, caused by the asymmetry between system benefits and system costs. [9]

Some scholars believe the subject's poor quality results in poverty. Li et al. (2007) analyse the vulnerability of farm households from six aspects, including human assets, natural assets and physical assets, and argue that the lack of human capital is the direct cause of the vulnerability of farm households. Some scholars believe that unexpected burdens make poverty. [10]Liu et al. (2021) use the FGT index to measure poverty due to illness expenditure before and after medical insurance compensation for the rural poor in the eastern, middle and western regions of China, simulating the poverty reduction effect of medical insurance under different compensation ratios. [11] Yao & Xie (2021) explore the measurement method of poverty-causing health expenditures and its standards, providing rationale and methodological ideas for the practices of defining households that are poor due to illness in China. [12]

### **3.2.2. Based on the theoretical basis of poverty alleviation**

Research on Western anti-poverty theory: Cai (2017) argues that the American economist Easterly talks about the two major tragedies of the global poor, and the world only knows that hundreds of millions of people around the world are in a state of extreme poverty, but very often avoids talking about the problem of the developed countries that have invested large sums of money in anti-poverty for decades, but with little effect. How to face and reflect on the global anti-poverty "tragedy" proposition can help us better understand the challenges in the face of the world economy. [13] Sun (2020) argues that the "trickle-down effect" theory of traditional Western economics, which emphasizes rapid economic development to drive and help poor people out of poverty, has a certain degree of scientific validity. However, the theory has limitations, especially in developing countries, and it is not adaptable and targeted when encountering a high-speed and low-quality economic growth model, which makes it difficult for the poor to reduce poverty by themselves. The "poverty-friendly economic growth" model can change high-speed growth into high-quality growth, thus reducing poverty fundamentally. [14]

Research on Marxist anti-poverty theory: Zhou (2021) combs the history of Western anti-poverty thought from three aspects: the anti-poverty path of economics research, the ownership-style anti-poverty critique and the philosophy reflective anti-poverty examination, identify the modernity flaws in it and concludes that Marxist anti-poverty thought is the most important and scientific theoretical resource for the modern anti-poverty cause. It is not an external critique, i.e. a critique of private property itself, but an internal critique of the social mechanism of capitalism, which provides theoretical guidance and practical heights for anti-poverty in the new era and is deeply embedded as a theoretical form in the whole process of China's modernization and development. [15]

### **3.2.3. Research on the existing dilemma based on returning to poverty**

Research on the inherent dilemma of anti-poverty. Zhong (2016) believes that the idea of viable ability poverty effectively makes up for the shortcomings of the traditional view of income poverty and is a breakthrough in precision poverty alleviation under the new normal. [16] Precision poverty alleviation also faces contradictions and obstacles from the political system, the social environment and the policy itself in order to put the concept of viable ability poverty into practice. According to Cao & Hou (2018), new problems have emerged in the process of helping people out of poverty, for example, spiritual poverty like insufficient motivation to take the initiative to get out of poverty,

lack of skills, and the seriousness of the idea of "waiting and relying on the need to do something". [17] Hu & Zeng (2020) argue that ambition is the key internal factor for rural people to get rid of poverty and become rich, and adopt the ordered pro-bit model to test the impact of poverty on the level of rural people's ambition by using the CFPS micro-data empirical evidence and analyse the relationship between rural poverty and the failure of ambition from the perspective of people's poverty and shortness of ambition. [18] Liu & Han (2020) argue that rural spiritual poverty in the post-poverty eradication era manifests itself as a thinking dilemma that mainly features poverty of ambition and poverty of intellect among relatively poor people because their spiritual demands are unfulfilled, which outwardly manifests as an undesirable lifestyle with a lack of spiritual life. It is determined by material poverty and is also related to factors such as farmers' feasibility, traditional view of poverty, and anti-poverty policies. [19]

Research on the external dilemma of anti-poverty. He & Liu (2015) argue that in the context of new urbanization centred on human beings, China's urban poverty governance can be broken through by strengthening the value objectives of poverty governance, establishing inter-subjective role structures, relying on residence permits to promote the reform of the household registration system, and improving the social risk management system. [20] Wang & Wang (2016) argue that China's local explicit government enhance poverty governance capacity according to the new governance objectives and construct requirements. But in reality, it still faces the constraints of a series of factors, such as institutional safeguards, financial support, insufficient specialization and systematic poverty governance capacity. [21] Wang et al. (2020), through a case study approach, conclude that political mobilization and legitimacy mechanism, resources and social responsibility, the institutional structure of co-construction and sharing, and mutual help and win-win externality are the initial impetus, internal foundation, process elements, and outcome elements of multi-dimensional synergistic poverty alleviation in the spirit of poverty alleviation, respectively. Only by continuously stimulating the factors of external benefits, strengthening internal incentives, deepening institutional construction, and safeguarding external benefits can we ensure its sustainability and effectiveness. [22] Hao (2021) for how to block China's anti-poverty population from returning to poverty for the second time, we should work on the re-creation of infrastructure space, a re-creation of industrial space, re-creation of service space, re-creation of institutional space, re-creation of human resources space and other aspects. [23]

### **3.3. Research on precise poverty alleviation strategies**

#### **3.3.1. Based on the main force of precise poverty alleviation**

Zhang (2016) believes that there is a loophole between "helping the truly poor" and "really helping the poor" in the work of precise poverty alleviation, and that it is necessary to stimulate the self-generated poverty eradication efforts of the poor people to lay a good foundation for the "post-peak-perfect era" poverty alleviation work. [24] According to Wang (2017), the premise of precise poverty alleviation is to identify the true poverty, mainly through the Poverty Alleviation Office and village cadres target and verify the poor villages, poor households, and the poor population. But because of various subjective and objective reasons, there is often the phenomenon of "aiming inaccuracy" in the process of locking up the poor objects, which, to a certain extent, hinders the advancement of precise poverty alleviation. [25]

#### **3.3.2. Based on the main methods of precise poverty alleviation**

Xu (2020), based on the "sample" practice, believes that accurate poverty alleviation should be knowing ahead of others and being brave enough to take up the mission, planning in advance to

stimulate the endogenous power, and acting fast without looking back. [26] Yang & Li (2020) believe that taxation, as a vital means of raising fiscal revenue, regulating the economy and adjusting income distribution, is an important policy tool for poverty alleviation. China's tax policy to support poverty eradication is effective, but there is enough room for improvement. [27] Li (2021) believes that in industrial poverty alleviation, to maintain the sustainability of rural development, the synergistic governance of the three forces of the government, the market and society is a necessity. [28] Wang (2020) believes that we should give full play to the precise drip irrigation effect of monetary policy tools, tailor the service model to specific needs based on enterprise policy, tailor innovative products to order agriculture based on "single" lending and tailor the implementation path of preferential policies based on the situation. By building a financial industry chain for poverty alleviation, assisting economic transformation and upgrading, improving rural financial infrastructure, and building a harmonious financial ecological environment, the development of inclusive finance will help fight poverty. [29] According to Tan (2021), the high-quality development of financial poverty alleviation is in line with the long-term goal of precise poverty alleviation, improves the "poverty-benefiting" nature of poverty alleviation funds, and is an institutional arrangement and policy tool for solving the problem of relative poverty and the return to poverty, and can effectively solve the problems of imbalance of financial poverty alleviation funds in China's post-poverty alleviation era, and the lack of the ability of the poor population to self-development. [30]

### **3.4. Studies on the significance of poverty eradication**

#### **3.4.1. Based on the significant value of poverty eradication**

Li (2021) combines his poverty alleviation practice and theoretical research to write the book *The End of Poverty*. By citing a large number of international and domestic real-life cases and using easy-to-understand narrative language, he discusses the root causes of poverty and the importance of poverty eradication. By telling the story of poverty eradication in deeply impoverished villages, he derives the micro-process of China's victory in poverty eradication and argues for China's political and institutional advantages. [31] From the perspective of political economy, Lv (2006) explains that the existence and deterioration of poverty are unjust and anti-development, which will lead to some people being unable to enjoy their legitimate rights or even being marginalized due to the unfair distribution of social resources. Therefore, the elimination of poverty is necessary and feasible, and the state must help the poor, narrow the gap between rich and poor, and eliminate poverty. [32]

#### **3.4.2. Based on the code of victory in the fight against poverty**

According to Wang (2020), the development of the anti-poverty road with Chinese characteristics has made great achievements and accumulated valuable experience through changing the concept of poverty alleviation, optimizing the pattern of poverty alleviation, sinking the target of poverty alleviation and adjusting the goal of poverty alleviation. [33] According to Zhang (2021), by following the practical logic of poverty reduction on the socialist road, China has created remarkable miracles and demonstrated the significant advantages of the socialist system with Chinese characteristics. [34] Yan & Wang (2020) believe that it is necessary to give full play to the institutional advantages of the Party's leadership of everything, strengthen the institutional construction, improve the education system, stimulate the endogenous motivation of poverty eradication continuity, build an all-encompassing national anti-poverty mechanism, and jointly help expand the pattern of great poverty alleviation. [35] Liu (2017) stresses that accurate poverty

alleviation needs to fully stimulate the endogenous motivation of the poor people, adopt various methods such as education and guidance, benefit drive, etc., to help them set up the value of hard work to become rich and mobilize their enthusiasm, autonomy and creativity to lead a better life. [36] According to Huang (2020), the CPC has led the Chinese people to adapt to the law of poverty evolution, and aim to achieve common prosperity, through different periods of strategic policies. The road to poverty reduction with Chinese characteristics has been gradually formed. [37]

### **3.4.3. Based on the multi-dimensional significance of poverty alleviation**

According to Chen (2021), the battle against poverty highlights the systemic advantages of socialism with Chinese characteristics in terms of comprehensive leadership of the Party, concentration of power to do great things, and large-scale cadre cultivation, which are both special in terms of "Chinese characteristics" and universal in terms of common values of mankind, and is the source of confidence in the global significance of China's poverty reduction efforts. [38] Zhang & Dong (2021) believe that, after eight years of sustained efforts, the battle against poverty has been won, accumulated important experience, enriched the Marxist theory of poverty governance, demonstrated a sense of purpose, governance capacity, and institutional superiority, and contributed Chinese wisdom to global poverty governance. [39] Peng (2021) believes that the battle against poverty is an epoch-making achievement of human anti-poverty, marking that China has delivered an excellent answer sheet, honored a solemn promise, formed a great alarming sound, and contributed a set of governance program. [40]

## **3.5. Research on the conception and connotation of the spirit of poverty eradication and attack**

### **3.5.1. Based on the conception and formation of the spirit of poverty eradication and attack**

Chen & Zhang (2023) believe that the spirit of poverty eradication constructs by several factors, including the theoretical origin of Marxist anti-poverty ideology, the practical foundation of poverty alleviation and development in China over the years, and the excellent traditional culture of the Chinese nation, which has provided rich nutrients for the formation of the spirit of poverty eradication. [41] Deng & Zhang (2023) believe that the spirit of poverty alleviation, which is formed in the process of poverty alleviation, inherits the spiritual gene of the spiritual genealogy and thus belongs to the spiritual genealogy and adds contemporary connotations to genealogy. The spirit of poverty eradication enriches and develops the spiritual genealogy of the CPC based on inheritance, and contributes to the development and promotion of the spiritual genealogy of the CPC. [42]

### **3.5.2. Based on the basic connotation of the spirit of poverty eradication and attack**

The great spirit of poverty eradication has been forged and formed by "working together, fighting with dedication, being precise and pragmatic, pioneering and innovative, overcoming difficulties, and living up to the people's expectations". Bi et al. (2022) believe that the spirit of poverty eradication formed in the great practice of carrying out poverty eradication is a spirit system with a complete structure that is rich in connotation, rigorous in structure, profound in meaning and inspiring. [43] Luo & Fang (2022) believe that the unity of the top and bottom and the sharpness of the battle reflect the strength of the country and the will of the nation; precision and pragmatism, pioneering and innovation reveal the winning formula of poverty alleviation governance; and overcoming the difficulties and meeting the people's obligations highlight the mission and responsibility of the Communists. [44] According to Wang (2022), the spirit of unity of



the whole nation and community in fighting with all their strengths highlights the advantages of China's socialist system; the spirit of practicality of precision and pragmatism, pioneering and innovation inherits the excellent spirit of the Chinese nation; the spirit of responsibility of overcoming obstacles and meeting the people's obligations embodies the original mission of the communists. [45]

### **3.6. Research on the Post-Poverty Era**

#### **3.6.1. Overview of relevant contents based on the post-poverty eradication era**

Lv & Wen (2021) argue that the shift from poverty eradication to rural revitalization should be based on the actual situation of the locality and should be good at tapping and applying the wisdom of the basic masses to stimulate the intrinsic motivation of rural self-management, self-development and self-support. [46] Wu et al. (2020) construct an expected poverty probability model based on the expected poverty theory and explore from the perspective of poverty vulnerability in the post-poverty eradication era. Two measures should take to ensure that urban families can achieve comprehensive well-being in tandem with each other, namely, to enhance the endogenous motivation of the families to get rid of poverty and to strengthen the macro-guarantees of the region. [47] Chen (2020) argues that from a forward-looking perspective, the theory, measurement standards, and governance countermeasures of relative poverty in academia will be a hot topic of discussion. [48]

#### **3.6.2. Based on the effective connection between the results of poverty eradication and rural revitalization**

Wan (2020) believes that in order to consolidate the results of China's poverty eradication, poverty alleviation and development work should be transformed in four aspects: the form of governance will shift to the construction of a long-term mechanism, the target of governance will transit to relative poverty, the experience of governance will integrate into the system of livelihood protection, and the target of governance will gradually adjust to the integrated governance of urban and rural poverty. Positive efforts will be made in eight areas: setting the relative poverty line, preventing the risk of social assistance and relief, accurately identifying the poor population, promoting the "one body, two wings" policy, improving the social security system, upgrading national education, consolidating the effectiveness of poverty eradication in deeply impoverished areas, and expanding social welfare services. [49] Sun et al. (2021) argue that during the transition period of consolidating and expanding the results of poverty eradication, it is necessary to explore an anti-poverty strategy that is compatible with modernization and development, with basic public services, industry and employment, green development, state support and social participation as the main tools, and that poverty eradication measures targeting absolute poverty need to be gradually adapted to regular support measures targeting relative poverty. [50]

### **4. The current state of research assessment**

By systematically combing, summarizing and analyzing the research results related to the spirit of poverty alleviation by scholars at home and abroad, it is not difficult to find that the poverty problem, due to its characteristics such as epochal, complexity and universality, has always been a research area of concern to different disciplines. There are many related research results, especially in economics, management, agronomy and other aspects. These research results have laid a solid foundation, broadened the research horizons, provided ideological resources, and paved the academic context. However, it should also concern that if the existing research results are placed in

terms of "spirit of poverty alleviation" for a comprehensive review, there are still certain deficiencies, specifically in the following aspects.

In the essence of poverty, the study of material poverty and spiritual poverty is relatively poor. On the one hand, the problem of poverty, as an objective existence that accompanies human beings, is at first mainly defined as the lack of people's material means of living. As people's living standards continue to improve, their concern for the spiritual dimension has risen, bringing it into the category of poverty measurement. Despite the evolution and extension of the criteria for measuring "poverty", due to the inertia of existing cognitive thinking, academics tend to focus only on the material dimension of poverty when studying the nature of poverty. On the other hand, spirituality, as a relatively abstract existence, is difficult to perceive, objectively evaluate and accurately assess through quantitative and concrete means. Therefore, it is difficult to research it, not only to find appropriate research arguments but also to prove it through data, charts, cases and other strong arguments. This makes it easy for some scholars to ignore the "spiritual" and focus only on the "material" when studying the issue of poverty so that the existing research results focus mainly on the study of poverty at the material level.

In terms of mapping out ways to reduce poverty, the focus has been on material poverty alleviation, and attention to spiritual poverty alleviation has been relatively weak. The question of how to eradicate poverty is not only a big challenge that all people need to think about together, but also a key question that needs to be answered well. Based on China's reality, winning the battle against poverty does not mean poverty no longer exists, but only that the stage of eradicating absolute poverty has been completed. The standard of measurement for "absolute poverty" is the poverty line, which refers to whether economic income reaches the minimum cost of goods and services necessary for people's basic survival under certain conditions of time, space and stage of social development. In this context, academic discussions on ways to reduce poverty tend to focus on how to raise the economic income level of poverty targets. Scholars from different disciplinary backgrounds tend to highlight their disciplinary characteristics and strengths as much as possible during the research process, with political science focusing on designing, interpreting and publicizing policies and systems from the perspective of policy systems; economists focusing on expanding from the perspective of fund integration, industrial development, financial support and economic assistance; and sociologists appealing for social support and exploring from the perspectives of social insurance and social relief. Only a few scholars from the background of pedagogy and Marxist theory focus on "spiritual poverty", believing that an essential reason for the poverty of poor people is that they are not educated and intelligent enough and that they lack the will and ambition to escape poverty. It is also proposed to strengthen the education of poor people and their children to prevent the inter-generational transmission of poverty and to form a mechanism for blocking the return of poverty; to strengthen the cultivation of the aspirations of poor people, to eliminate the negative mentality of "waiting, relying and wanting", to strengthen the will to get rid of poverty, and to stimulate the endogenous motivation to get rid of poverty on one's own.

Generally, because the "spirit of poverty alleviation" is a new spiritual pattern, academic research on it is still in its infancy. The number of research results is small, and the form of the results is relatively single, which mainly in the form of journal articles. Besides, practices in teaching and learning about the spirit of poverty alleviation are insufficient. These research deficiencies deserve to be further explored, improved and solved.

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