

## Anti-poverty Research in China's Deep Poverty Areas

Yaowen Cui <sup>1, a</sup>, Hongxing Lan <sup>2, \*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Economics, Sichuan Agricultural University, Chengdu, 611130, China

<sup>2</sup>School of Business, Sichuan Agricultural University, Chengdu, 611130, China

<sup>a</sup>Semon410@163.com, <sup>b</sup>aymy1993@163.com

\*Corresponding author

**Keywords:** poor area, depressed, countermeasure.

**Abstract:** This paper summarizes the research on poverty measurement, poverty alleviation, poverty alleviation performance evaluation and anti-poverty countermeasures in deep poverty areas. It summarizes the poverty causes in deep poverty areas mainly due to poor geographical environment, lack of institutional supply, lack of public services, lack of human capital, social exclusion is serious, and it is imperative to adapt to local conditions and make precise decisions. In China's existing anti-poverty research in deep poverty areas, there are imbalances between quantitative and qualitative research, polarization between theoretical and empirical research, clear distinctions between independent research and cross-disciplinary research, and it is expected that there will be more innovative in research methods, theoretical guidance, and interdisciplinary interaction in the future.

### 1. Introduction

Poverty is a worldwide problem, and poverty eradication has become a long-term goal of all countries in the world. At present, the main difficulty in tackling poverty in China is deep poverty, which is the official term in our country. However, foreign term is often called Long-term poverty or Extreme poverty. With regard to deep poverty, the United Nations and the World Bank have set a standard for the world: the global poverty line, which refers that the daily income of less than \$1.25 per person is the extreme poverty. Although poverty is usually measured economically, the study finds that deep poverty is actually multidimensional. Domestic scholars have different definitions of the concept of deep poverty, but there are still some basic common features. In general, the essence of depth is absolute poverty, which is the result of long-term accumulation and precipitation of multidimensional poverty. Deep poverty has the characteristics of multi-dimension, long-term period and intergeneration, and it has strong regional characteristics. For this reason, the worldwide research on deep poverty is mostly based on regional perspective. China's deep poverty-stricken areas at the national level mainly refer to “three districts and three states”, namely Tibet, Tibet in four provinces, four states in southern Xinjiang, Liangshan Prefecture in Sichuan, Nujiang Prefecture in Yunnan, Ningxia Prefecture in Gansu, and poverty-stricken provinces with more than 18% of poor counties and poverty-stricken villages with a poverty rate of more than 20%.

Research on anti-poverty in deep-poor areas at home and abroad is countless. From the research theme, the main focus is to study and explore the status quo characteristics, poverty-reducing mechanism and poverty reduction path in deep poverty areas. As a result, this paper reviews the poverty measurement, poverty alleviation, poverty alleviation performance evaluation and anti-poverty measures in deep poverty areas, and introduces the status quo, causes, effects and countermeasures of deep poverty in China, and summarizes experience on the poverty alleviation in deep poverty areas to provide theoretical guidance for solving the problem of deep poverty.

## **2. Poverty measure in deep poverty areas**

Poverty measures are developed in parallel with the concept of poverty. With regard to poverty measurement, it has gone through the process of developing from a single-dimensional poverty measure with income as the main measure, to a multi-dimensional measure of poverty including capacity, health, education, and opportunity. Early studies on multidimensional poverty in foreign countries mainly focused on material life and quality index. After that, Sen first defined the poverty from a multidimensional perspective. In 1987, Haeners constructed the first multidimensional poverty index, a study of poverty assessment from the two dimensions of income and leisure, rather than only income as a research indicator. In order to reflect poverty more completely, scholars have also constructed a poverty measurement system from other logical frameworks. In addition to basic needs, they also include social exclusion, inequality and vulnerability. In May 2007, Sabina Alkire and James Foster of the Oxford Centre for Poverty and Human Development (OPHI) developed a multidimensional poverty measurement method based on Sen's Feasibility Deprivation Theory, which referred to as the A-F method, and is widely used internationally. Compared with foreign countries, domestic scholars pay more attention to the exploration and practical application of multidimensional poverty measurement methods. Based on the regional traits of deep poverty in China, domestic scholars mostly consider the comprehensive situation of the region, using statistical yearbooks, poverty monitoring and other macro data to measure, and the measurement methods are mostly used by the A-F method and the FGT index. Besides, the measurement indicators also failed to form a unified standard, but based on the particularity of the study area, appropriate selection according to local conditions. With the advancement of poverty alleviation in China, especially since the 18th National Congress, "Chinese-style poverty alleviation" has gradually formed Xi Jinping's poverty reduction thinking with "precision" method. The "precision" thinking has also been formed throughout the country. And the availability of micro-big data has boosted the micro-dimensional multi-dimensional poverty research and further promoted the development of poverty reduction.

## **3. Poverty factors in deep poverty areas**

The first step in addressing poverty is to better understand the root causes of poverty. The complexity of deep poverty determines that it is often the result of a combination of factors, and is directly related to the unreasonable governance and unfair distribution of public wealth. Foreign studies on the causes of deep poverty can be roughly summarized into two perspectives, one attributed to the poor themselves and the other to the negative impact of the external environment. Among them, the influence of factors such as race, education, disease, discrimination and behavior are based on the former argument, and the latter argument focuses on geography, institutions, investment, public services and external shock and other factors. China's deep poverty-stricken areas integrate history, religion, and border defense issues. with economic, social, ecological, and civilized factors intertwined. In general, the poverty-reducing factors can be summarized into the following five aspects.

(1) Poor geographical environment. Deep poverty-stricken areas are limited by their innate natural capital shortage and lack of resource carrying capacity. The ecological environment is extremely fragile, the traffic is extremely inconvenient, and the economic foundation is extremely weak. At the same time, the geographical environment, as a regional externality constraint, has the characteristics of being difficult to intervene. Under the dual superposition of congenital development constraints and external post-intervention constraints, the constraints of natural resources will increase the vulnerability of poverty in deep poverty areas, leading to an increase in the rate of returning to poverty.

(2) Lack of institutional supply. Due to its special national history, humanities and customs, and other factors, the poverty-stricken areas have obvious characteristics of poverty persistence and intergenerationally, which has formed a high standard and high requirement for the external system. The imperfection of the system makes the elites benefit more in the process of resource allocation,

which leads to the further increase of relative poverty.

(3) Lack of public services. Under the joint effect of weak internal hematopoietic capacity and insufficient external blood transfusion capacity, the supply of various public services in deep poverty areas presents many imbalances, which are concentrated in the lack of medical and health equipment and funding, leading to extreme poverty in poor areas due to illness and poverty. At the same time, the limited supply of resources restricts the effective demand of poor subjects for public services, and constitutes a reverse push for the construction of public services.

(4) Lack of human capital. In the deep poverty-stricken areas, due to the low overall education level and the lack of human capital, the endogenous motivation is insufficient. The phenomenon of "poor education" is common, and its poverty shows persistence and intergenerationally. At the same time, education in deep poverty-stricken areas has difficulties such as equipment shortage, lack of talents, low quality of education, and long-term effect cycle, which further limits the formation and promotion of the self-development ability of poor people in deep poverty areas.

(5) Serious social exclusion. Deeply impoverished areas are mainly distributed in remote mountainous areas and ethnic minority areas. The poor groups in these areas have cultural and commercial ruptures of modern ethics. In addition, affected by factors such as language and customs, it is difficult for poor groups to integrate into society, thus weakening the efficiency of poverty reduction for their migrant workers.

#### **4. Performance Evaluation of Poverty Alleviation in Deep Poverty Areas**

The poverty alleviation performance evaluation is based on the actual implementation effect and benefits of the poverty alleviation policy. It uses scientific and reasonable methods to judge the extent what the policy achieves the expected goals and the forward-relevant effects of policy implementation on other industries and fields. The research on poverty reduction performance evaluation mainly discusses three aspects: evaluation content, influencing factors and evaluation methods.

From the assessment content, the World Bank believes that the content of anti-poverty performance assessment should include relevance, goal achievement, effectiveness, sustainability, institutional development impact, target completion, World Bank participation, lender participation degree.

From the perspective of influencing factors, domestic scholars are based on regional poverty, cutting from different perspectives, and innovatively building a performance system for deep poverty and poverty alleviation, such as the perspective of modern civilized lifestyle, the perspective of precise poverty alleviation and the perspective of vulnerability. It can be seen that China's deep poverty-stricken areas have not yet formed a comprehensive and systematic anti-poverty assessment index system, and research on poverty alleviation performance is still in an active exploration stage.

From the perspective of assessment methods, the research methods for poverty alleviation performance assessment are based on quantitative analysis, supplemented by qualitative research methods. Quantitative research methods mainly use analytic hierarchy process, factor analysis, multiple linear regression and empirical models based on statistical and econometric analysis.

#### **5. Anti-poverty countermeasures in deep poverty areas**

The fundamental goal of economic development is to reduce poverty. In 1965, Schultz called in his article "Poverty Economics" that economists should incorporate the theory of poverty into the field of economic research and establish a theoretical discipline that specializes in poverty--poverty economics, and established poverty governance and anti-poverty research. Foreign scholars have conducted research from a theoretical perspective. The existing classic anti-poverty theory can be broadly divided into three categories: the development economics faction that emphasizes the important role of economic growth in combating poverty; the welfare economics faction that focuses on the important role of government and its fiscal redistribution in combating poverty; the Marxist

theory of poverty that aims at getting rid of poverty by establishing a socialist system to get rid of poverty.

Domestic research on anti-poverty in deep poverty areas is mostly based on practice. With regard to the path selection of accurate poverty alleviation in deep poverty areas, scholars generally advocate local comprehensive measures for poverty alleviation and development, and build a number of poverty alleviation plans. Aiming at the different poverty-stricken factors in deep poverty areas, mainly through the immigration relocation and ecological compensation methods to deal with the harsh and fragile geographical environment; by promoting institutional innovation, improving the supervision system to deal with the inherent defects of the system supply; By issuing education subsidies and improving employment training to cope with scarce human capital; By strengthening the customs and building rural civilization to respond to social exclusion.

## 6. Summary and outlook

In the deep poverty areas, due to their poor natural environment, lack of institutional supply, lack of public services, lack of human capital, and serious social exclusion, their poverty has strong dependence and intransigence. This paper summarizes the research on poverty measurement, poverty alleviation, poverty alleviation performance evaluation and anti-poverty countermeasures in deep poverty-stricken areas. The comprehensive analysis shows that under the pattern of poverty alleviation and poverty alleviation, “Chinese-style poverty alleviation” has matured. However, the research models and research experiences of poverty-stricken areas with the characteristics of “deep poverty” still lack, mainly reflected in the following aspects:

(1) Imbalances in the proportion of quantitative and qualitative research. At present, the research on poverty alleviation in deep poverty areas is mainly concentrated on the qualitative level, while the quantitative research is relatively small, leading to the lack of persuasiveness in anti-poverty policy recommendations, which is not conducive to the formulation and implementation of government policies.

(2) Polarization between theoretical and empirical research. The existing research in China has bottom-up features. The anti-poverty research based on the reality is very rich, but the upper theoretical design is rarely involved. The top-level design needs to be improved, which is not conducive to the construction of the overall anti-poverty framework.

(3) Distinctions between Independent research and cross-disciplinary research. The study of poverty involves many fields, and the disciplines are heterogeneous and interactive. The current research tends to be independent research, but the research on the connection and common support between different disciplines is less, which is not conducive to building overall poverty alleviation pattern of the discipline.

In addition, the overall research field of anti-poverty in deep poverty areas still has problems such as general homogenization, insufficient deep analysis and strong thinking dependence. It is expected that the focus of future research will shift to the following areas:

(4) In terms of research methods, quantitative research will gradually fill the gap in the market. After the market of qualitative research is saturated, anti-poverty research will gradually expand from qualitative analysis and simple statistical analysis to quantitative analysis at the measurement level, further enhancing the logic and persuasiveness of its research conclusions, and providing effective experience on anti-poverty research in deep poverty areas to provide guidance and technical support.

(5) In terms of research comments, theoretical research will gradually become a research hotspot. China's anti-poverty research has always had first pilot re-promotion and post-practice theory. On the basis of practical research to achieve quantitative change, it is necessary to realize the qualitative change of theoretical analysis and further improve the theoretical framework and top level of anti-poverty research in deep poverty areas, designing and building an anti-poverty system with Chinese characteristics.

(6) In terms of research nature, the integration of disciplines will gradually lead the research trend.

In the case that multi-dimensional analysis and comprehensive governance are becoming the norm, anti-poverty research will seek common ground while reserving differences on the basis of the heterogeneity of research objects, and further strengthen the interactivity and coupling between disciplines, and increase economics, ethnology and society. At the academic level, we will carry out multi-level, multidisciplinary and multi-dimensional three-dimensional deep research.

## References

- [1] Bourguignon F, Chakravarty S R. The Measurement of Multidimensional Poverty [J]. Delta Working Papers, 1998, 1(1):25-49.
- [2] Council O D. Measuring the condition of the world's poor: [M]. Published for the Overseas Development Council [by] Pergamon Press, 1979.
- [3] Sen A. Poverty and Famines: An Essay on Entitlements and Deprivation [M] Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1982.
- [4] Hagenars A. A Class of Poverty Indices [J]. International Economic Review, 1987, 28(3):583-607.
- [5] Alkire S. Choosing Dimensions:The Capability Approach and Multidimensional Poverty[J]. Social Science Electronic Publishing, 2007, 76(5):89-119.
- [6] Stella C. E. Anyangwe,Chipayeni Mtonga,Ben Chirwa. Health Inequities, Environmental Insecurity and the Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Case Study of Zambia[J]. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health,2006,3(3).
- [7] Churchill S A, Smyth R. Ethnic Diversity and Poverty[J]. Monash Economics Working Papers, 2016, 95:285-302.
- [8] Krueger A B, Malečková J. Education, Poverty and Terrorism: Is There a Causal Connection [J]. Journal of Economic Perspectives, 2003, 17(4):119-144.
- [9] Bloom D E, Canning D, Sevilla J. Geography and Poverty Traps[J]. Journal of Economic Growth, 2003, 8(4):355-378.
- [10] Sindzingre A. The Multidimensionality of Poverty: An Institutional Perspective [M]// The Many Dimensions of Poverty. Palgrave Macmillan UK, 2007:52-74.
- [11] Ahmed, Akhter U. The world's most deprived [J]. 2007.
- [12] Myrdal G. Economic theory and under-developed regions [M]. Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1957.
- [13] Behrendt C. At the margins of the welfare state: social assistance and the alleviation of poverty in Germany, Sweden and the United Kingdom [J]. 2017.