

Original Paper

Research on the Governance Mechanism of Information Poverty in Ethnic Border Areas from the Perspective of Relative Poverty

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Abstract

The elimination of poverty as the primary goal has always been an important content that the governments of all countries pay great attention to. Over the past few decades, China has made remarkable achievements in poverty alleviation. The targets of poverty alleviation in the new era have been fulfilled as scheduled. However, it should not be ignored that with the resolution of absolute poverty in China, poverty control in the new era has become more strategic and long-term. Many problems have become the focus of poverty management in the “post-poverty era”, such as relative poor group replacing absolute poor group as the main body of poverty, preventing the group that has been lifted out of poverty from returning to poverty and preventing the occurrence of new poverty. This paper takes Chongqing southeast “national long-term governance mechanism of the border region information poverty” as the research object, focusing on poverty after the crucial information poverty on “the new absolute poverty and has Chinese out of poverty group”, the influence of the ultimate goal is to block Chinese border region phenomenon caused by poor information, strengthen poverty crucial achievement, realize common prosperity.

Keywords

Relative Poverty, Southeast Chongqing, Information Poverty, Governance Mechanism

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1. Introduction

On the basis of the millennium development goals, the United Nations adopted the 2015-2030 sustainable development agenda with 17 sustainable development goals as the core. Poverty eradication as the primary goal has always been an important content of great concern to governments all over the world. Over the past few decades, China’s achievements in poverty eradication have attracted worldwide attention. The goal and task of poverty alleviation in the new era were completed on schedule. Under the current standards, all rural poor people were lifted out of poverty, all poverty-stricken counties were removed, and the task of poverty alleviation and relocation in other places was fully completed. Absolute poverty and regional overall poverty were eliminated, which played an important role in promoting China’s economic development, political stability, national unity and social harmonious development. However, it can not be ignored that with the solution of the problem of absolute poverty in China, the poverty governance in the new period is more strategic and long-term. It is still facing many problems, such as the relative poor groups replacing the absolute poor groups as the main body of poverty, preventing the groups that have been lifted out of poverty from returning to poverty and preventing the occurrence of new poverty. It has become the focus of poverty governance in the “post poverty relief era”. At present, the material poverty in ethnic border areas has been effectively eliminated and alleviated, but the disadvantages such as lack of information and unimpeded information already exist. In this regard, the Fourth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee clearly proposed to “resolutely win the battle against poverty, consolidate the achievements of poverty eradication, and establish a long-term mechanism to solve relative poverty”. Therefore, taking the Southeast Chongqing Ethnic Border Region as the research sample, this paper studies how to consolidate the achievements of poverty alleviation and build a long-term governance mechanism to solve information poverty, which is of great significance to China’s anti-poverty strategy in the new era.

2. Literature Review

2.1 *The Concept of Information Poverty and Its Influencing Factors*

Poverty is usually divided into absolute poverty and relative poverty. Relative poverty refers to a living state in which individuals are excluded from the normal level due to the lack of ability or resources to participate in social activities under specific social constraints, which makes it difficult for them to reach the living standard recognized by the society (Townsend, 1962). According to Townsend, in a society that eliminates absolute poverty, there will still be a gap between the rich and the poor, and the greater the gap between the rich and the poor, the more obvious the difference in relative poverty. Oscar Lewis put forward the concept of “poverty culture” in 1956. The theory holds that, compared with other social strata, the poor follow significantly different habits in family maintenance, living style and upgrading choice. Although they lose their status in key social institutions, they still hold the consciousness of being willing to poverty and lack of resistance, and lose the motivation and willingness to struggle. Information poverty includes two aspects: one is the state of absolute information poverty and shortage, and the possession, utilization, infrastructure construction and information-based services of information are in the state of absolute poverty; The second is relative information poverty, that is, the “digital divide” between urban and rural areas or regions, which mainly reflects the information differentiation between different classes or groups. Since the 1970s, domestic scholars began to study “information differentiation” and “information poverty”. Foreign scholars prefer to study the “digital divide”. While domestic scholars attach importance to the study of “digital divide”, they also did some research on “information differentiation”, “information inequality” and “information poverty” based on China’s national conditions (Zhou Wei et al., 2021; Tang Peiwen et al., 2020; Fan Xiaoyu, 2020).

The influencing factors of individual falling into information poverty include not only internal factors such as the individual characteristics of poor families, but also external factors such as economic growth and regional environment. Specifically: (1) internal cause perspective. From the perspective of human capital, some scholars have recognized that education level is the key influencing factor for the information poor to improve their information literacy (Xie Huichang, 2020); Some scholars also analyze the causes of information poverty from the perspective of material capital: due to inconvenient transportation and backward infrastructure, information poverty such as information blocking, information failure, information lag and information distortion (Feng Xian et al., 2018; Zhu Qiubo et al., 2019). Information poverty is coupled and interacted with local industrial development, public services, infrastructure construction and grass-roots governance, resulting in path dependence of economic and social development and poverty locking. At the same time, due to cross language and cross-cultural barriers, extremes and differences in information needs, weak self-development, lack of public policies and other factors, ethnic minorities lead to information poverty (Sun Jie et al., 2019; Li Gang et al., 2017). (2) External perspective. Affected by their socio-economic status, farmers in poor areas are at a great disadvantage in information acquisition and application, resulting in the emergence,

expansion, re emergence and re expansion of “information gap”, and information poverty is inevitable (P. J. Tichenor, 1970; n. kazman, 1975); The economic conditions of the information poor, such as personal information assets and information purchasing power, also directly affect the information poverty (Dong Hongpeng, 2013; Zhao Ping, 2015). Other scholars believe that information is shared. Without policy intervention, people will obtain corresponding information according to their own needs and maintain the original ecological living conditions. If it is not artificially controlled, there will be “information island” and other phenomena. Therefore, national institutions should ensure the production, transmission, sharing and opening of information resources in the form of law (Shi Wenxiang et al., 2019; Zhou Xuan, 2019).

2.2 Identification and Governance of Information Poverty

The identification of information poverty is the premise of governance. Wathmanel seneviratne (2004) investigated the information needs of farmers in Sri Lanka and concluded that farmers’ information needs are divided into two main aspects. In addition to providing farmers with information in time, farmers should also have a reliable official channel to upload information. May J D (2012) and others innovated the standard of digital poverty, considered it from multiple dimensions, and compared it with traditional economic poverty and asset poverty. According to different participants, the governance of information poverty can be divided into three categories: government governance, social organizations and farmers themselves. (1) Government governance. Ophuls (1973) believed that since poverty is a public affair, it should be governed by a mandatory government. The ideal form of government governance corresponds to the bureaucratic structure proposed by Weber, which is manifested in the weak incentive of higher-level government to lower-level government. However, due to the information asymmetry between the superior and subordinate governments, problems such as “inspection and response” and “grass-roots collusion” may occur to delay the process of poverty governance (Wang Gang & Bai Haoran, 2018). The dissemination of information must require a certain carrier. The lack of rural information dissemination equipment and insufficient construction funds lead to the lack of information dissemination channels. In view of this, the government should give sufficient financial support to rural development and construction, focus on strengthening the construction of rural independent communication facilities and provide diversified information dissemination media (Zhou Wei & Wang Xinrui, 2021). (2) Social organizations. Ostrom (1990) put forward the theory of autonomous governance and polycentric governance, which is different from the traditional government governance and private governance. Olson put forward the theory of collective action. Sandel proposed communitarianism. (3) Farmers’ self-governance. Rural information dissemination should continue to increase investment in rural education, improve farmers’ sense of participation and acquisition in the process of information dissemination, and make them become practitioners of information dissemination (Zhou Wei, 2021).

3. Evaluation of Existing Research

In general, domestic and foreign literature provides a good theoretical reference and logical starting point for the research of this paper, and provides methodological reference for the paper. However, the research on poverty at home and abroad mainly focuses on the identification and governance of absolute poverty, while the identification and governance of information poverty do not touch much; From the perspective of research, scholars' research on poverty mainly focuses on universal problems, while there are few studies on Poverty Governance in ethnic border areas; In terms of research methods, it mainly focuses on randomized controlled trials and field investigation, and there are few quantitative research methods by constructing evaluation system. Based on this, the paper intends to break through the above limitations and propose a long-term governance mechanism for information poverty in relatively poor areas by using evaluation methods, which is of great practical significance for solving the "three rural" problems, promoting agricultural and rural modernization, strengthening grass-roots social governance, implementing the Rural Revitalization Strategy and improving farmers' income and living standards.

4. Research Design

Taking "the long-term governance mechanism of information poverty in Ethnic Border Areas" as the research object, this paper focuses on the impact of information poverty on "the occurrence of new absolute poverty and the return of poverty-stricken groups" after poverty alleviation, mainly involving the following research contents:

(1) Current situation research: investigation and governance of information poverty in Ethnic Border Areas from the perspective of relative poverty.

① Investigation on the current situation of information poverty in Ethnic Border Areas from the perspective of relative poverty. Investigate the current situation of relative poverty in ethnic border areas, analyze the possible return to poverty and the risk of new poverty due to information poverty, and explore whether the cause of this phenomenon is accidental or structural poverty. ② Field investigation, case analysis and comparative study on the current situation of information poverty governance in Ethnic Border Areas from the perspective of relative poverty. Conduct field investigation on the relative poverty governance in ethnic border areas, such as returning to poverty and new poverty due to the obstruction of information access; This paper makes a case study on the government's information poverty alleviation ability, the pattern of social organizations participating in the joint construction and sharing of poverty alleviation, and the information literacy of the poor in ethnic border areas; This paper makes a heterogeneity analysis and comparative study on the ways and differences of information poverty governance between the southeast border area of Chongqing and different villages in the eastern coastal area and ethnic border area.

(2) Evaluation research: the identification of information poverty and the construction of governance ability evaluation index system in Ethnic Border Areas from the perspective of relative poverty.

① Information poverty is identified and measured. Based on theoretical analysis and literature review, the identification and measurement method of Multidimensional Poverty, A-F method, is used to identify and measure information poverty. On the basis of identifying information poverty, it accurately targets the information poor groups, so as to prevent the information poor groups from returning to poverty and the occurrence of new poverty. It advocates a multidimensional poverty governance system with the participation of the government, social organizations and poor groups, so as to realize the new pattern of jointly building and sharing poverty reduction. ② Construction of evaluation index system of information poverty governance ability in Ethnic Border Areas from the perspective of relative poverty. Combined with the field survey data, build a scientific and reasonable evaluation system of information poverty governance level, select the indicators from the three dimensions of government level, social organizations and poor groups, and build the evaluation index system of information poverty governance in ethnic border areas through entropy weight method, analytic hierarchy process, TOPSIS Model and other methods. ③ Analysis on the causes of information poverty and governance problems in Ethnic Border Areas from the perspective of relative poverty. Through the construction of the evaluation system of information poverty governance level, we can identify and find the size of the return to poverty risk and the probability of new poverty risk in the poverty-stricken areas in Southeast Chongqing, then identify and analyze the problems existing in information poverty governance, and further explore the causes of governance problems.

(3) Countermeasure research: the construction of information poverty governance mechanism and policy support in Ethnic Border Areas from the perspective of relative poverty.

① Construction of long-term governance mechanism of information poverty alleviation in Ethnic Border Areas from the perspective of relative poverty. By tracing the problems found in the governance and the causes, build a long-term governance mechanism of information poverty. On the one hand, build a blocking mechanism for the return of poverty-stricken groups to prevent structural poverty and establish a bottom-up guarantee mechanism; On the other hand, build a blocking mechanism for the occurrence of new poverty, narrow the income gap between urban and rural areas, and maintain social harmony and stable development. ② Build a policy guarantee mechanism for the long-term governance of information poverty in ethnic border areas. On the basis of combing the policy objectives, clarify the policy logic, formulate the policy content, construct the strategic framework of diversified and coordinated governance of the government, social organizations and poor groups, and design the operation mechanism, management system, system and organizational guarantee of the information poverty governance strategy.

5. Research Significance

Theoretical significance: (1) this paper combines the social governance of sociological research paradigm with the relative poverty governance of economic research paradigm, explores the special laws of poverty governance in Ethnic Border Areas from a new perspective, and further expands the vision of poverty research; (2) strengthen poverty outcomes and rural revitalization of crucial is the crucial poverty after the country's important strategic deployment, prevent has Chinese out of poverty group and new occurrence of absolute poverty is to consolidate the inherent requirement of anti-poverty engines results, information poverty alleviation management research to provide rural revitalization and relatively poor organic fusion theory experience, help to deepen the Xi Jinping, general secretary of poverty alleviation.

Practical significance: (1) specific problems of information poverty in ethnic border areas can be found in time and the performance of information poverty governance in ethnic border areas can be truly measured through field investigation and evaluation system construction of information poverty governance level in ethnic border areas; (2) By evaluating the performance of government governance, market governance and governance of the poor, policy suggestions are provided to change the current problems of government information transparency, market mechanism is not smooth, and the relative poor households lack of participation in information poverty governance in ethnic border areas; (3) The information poverty governance level evaluation system established in this research can provide a measurement standard for the poverty governance level in ethnic minority areas, and popularize the results to the relatively poor areas across the country.

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