

## All-Round Development of Human in Contiguous and Concentrated Poverty-Stricken Areas in China

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### Abstract

This thesis is based on the theories of sociology and Marxist human thought, selecting “poverty Wuling Mountain area”—one of China’s 14 contiguous and concentrated poverty-stricken areas as the object of empirical study, analyzes the major problems that exist in the man’s all-round development and examines the reasons. In this sense, the author offers policy recommendations which gives new perspective to conduct in-depth research in this field and provides new thought and method for the practical departments to give prominence to the man’s all-round development in the social construction.

**Key words:** Contiguous and concentrated poverty-stricken areas; Human construction; All-round development

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### INTRODUCTION

Restricted by natural, historical, ethnic, religious, social and political reasons, the poverty problem is still serious in the poverty stricken areas which covers 70% of the impoverished people in China, where the driving function of economic growth is weak, the conventional ways for poverty alleviation work slowly and the development cycle of poverty alleviation is longer. In order to fight the battle for poverty alleviation in the new period, the Chinese government has designated the 14 contiguous and concentrated poverty-stricken areas which cover 369.5 square kilometers of China—more than a third of the total land area, including nearly 200 million rural population (Xing & Ge, 2013), 128 million of them are impoverished people.



**Figure 1**  
Distribution Map of the 14 Contiguous and Concentrated Poverty-Stricken Areas in China

The designation of the contiguous and concentrated poverty-stricken areas is an important strategic plan of Chinese government in the new era; it is an

important measure to steadily promote industrialization, urbanization, agricultural modernization and the inclusive development. It is of great value to achieve China's political stability, national unity, frontier consolidation, social harmony, and ecological safety.

## 1. DATA SOURCES

In order to sort out the present situation of small towns in the contiguous and concentrated poverty-stricken areas, since July 2012, revolving around the problem of all-round development of people and the roots of poverty, the research group "The study of model for inclusive growth of poverty alleviation in contiguous and concentrated poverty-stricken areas"—a key project of State Social

Sciences Fund has visited and investigated more than 30 towns and villages in 12 districts of the poverty-stricken areas such as Yunnan, Guizhou, Guangxi, WuMengshan, and Wuling mountain areas on many occasions, 1000 grassroots cadres and the masses have been surveyed. This investigation altogether provides questionnaire 1000, 954 questionnaires—95.4% of the total number proved to be valid. 20 people were conducted in-depth interviews, 100 people participated in 12 small symposiums.

The data of the 954 questionnaires were entered into the Cronbach's (the coefficient is 0.866, above 0.7) of the software SPSS19.0, the test shows that the questionnaires has higher internal consistency and satisfactory stability, which means the research result has high credibility.

**Table 1**  
**Basic Sample Information**

Item	Option	The number of people	%	Item	Option	The number of people	%
Gender	male	546	57.2	Age	Under 18	39	4.1
	female	408	42.8		18-40	385	40.4
Residence	city	46	4.8		40-60	362	37.9
	town	109	11.4		60 and over 60s	168	17.6
Education level	countryside	799	83.8	Farming	471	49.4	
	Illiterate or semi-illiterate	175	18.3	Aquaculture	11	1.2	
	Primary school	264	27.7	Migrant workers in the city	104	10.9	
Uo	Middle school	264	27.7	Profession	Business people	74	7.8
	High School or Technical School	127	13.3	Unemployed	53	5.6	
	University or college	123	12.9	students	52	5.5	
	Master degree or above	1	0.1	others	189	19.8	

During the statistical analysis and qualitative research of the empirical data, the research group have also acquired lots of useful information by clarifying the latest achievements on poverty alleviation of contiguous and concentrated poverty-stricken areas based on the related core concepts and several major domestic authoritative data base, which lays theoretical foundation and empirical support to make exact judgment of the development situation in the poverty areas, analyze the problems and reasons, and construct a development path for poverty-alleviation.

## 2. ACHIEVEMENT AND PROBLEMS OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Over the past three decades of reform and opening up, the Chinese government has attached great importance to the poverty alleviation work, adhering to the principle of Human-orientedness, the government always put

people's subsistence and development high on agenda, many policies and regulations have been issued, a series of specific measures to realize nation's wealthy and prosperousness have been taken, poverty eradication has been accelerated, people's living standards have been improved greatly, the stability of the poor areas and even the whole society's harmony and unity of all ethnic groups has been impelled significantly. Many new anti-poverty models have been created, lots of new ideas and methods have emerged, new achievements has been made to get rid of poverty and develop the economy, by the end of 2012, the rural population in poverty below the poverty line had reduced from 94.22 million by the end of 2000 to 26.88 million by the end of 2010 ("China's rural poor population dropped 67340000 in decade", 2012). The poverty alleviation achievements have won over public opinions, and it has been highly recognized by the international communities by contributing "Chinese wisdom" to the global anti-poverty activities.

However it's clear to see that the task of poverty alleviation is extremely arduous in the current 14 contiguous and concentrated poverty-stricken areas. There are many problems which are most conspicuous in this regard: government policies are always in oscillation and the poverty-returning is common; the imbalanced power-checking mechanism leads to corrupt behaviors like embezzlement; the serious loss of young talents in rural areas results in the lack of bellwether of becoming rich; the wealth-balancing mechanism is not well developed and the gap between rich and poor is aggravated; difficulties in housing, medical care and school education matters vital to national well-being and the people's

livelihood still exist. In short, the poverty is caused not only by tough natural conditions, poor infrastructure construction and weak industry development, but also the backward social construction factors covering culture, health, sports, tourism, labor and employment, national education, science and technology, social security, community building and population & family planning. But more than 80% of the testees think that the contiguous and concentrated poverty-stricken areas is short of good leaders, people with knowledge and technology, and equal opportunities for personal development rather than resources and conditions.

**Table 2**  
**Poverty Conditions in Chinese Rural Area**

Year	Poverty line (Yuan/person)	Head count (ten thousand people)	Poverty incidence (%)	Year	Poverty line (Yuan/person)	Head count (ten thousand people)	Poverty incidence (%)
1978	100	25000	30.7	1998	635	4210	4.6
1984	200	12800	15.1	1999	625	3412	3.7
1985	206	12500	14.8	2000	625	3209	3.5
1986	213	13100	15.5	2001	630	2927	3.2
1987	227	12200	14.3	2002	627	2820	3.0
1988	236	9600	11.1	2003	637	2900	3.1
1989	259	10200	11.6	2004	668	2610	2.8
1990	300	8500	9.4	2005	683	2365	2.5
1991	304	9400	10.4	2006	693	2148	2.3
1992	317	8000	8.8	2007	785	1479	1.6
1994	440	7000	7.7	2008	1196	4007	4.2
1995	530	6540	7.1	2009	1196	3597	3.8
1997	640	4962	5.4	2010	1274	2688	2.8

Objectively, these problems are caused by many reasons. But that's largely because of the problem about "human". Thus in order to fight this anti-poverty battle, we must put the all-round development of human into a very important place. It is of great significance for "emancipate the productive forces, develop production, and eliminate exploitation and two opposing extremes" so that all the people are well-off. it also has a great effect on achieving the goal of respecting the person's corpus position, provoking people's initiative so that society development will serve and depend on people, achievements will shared by people.

### 3. MAIN COUNTERMEASURES

#### 3.1 The All-Round Development of Human Should Always be Placed on the Outstanding Position in China's Anti-Poverty Work.

Marx believed that "The nature of man is not a single individual, in the reality world; it is the sum of all social

relations"<sup>1</sup>. Early in the wartime, Mao Tse-tung also pointed out that "As long as there is a man in the world, any kind of miracle could be created" ("*Selected works of Mao Zedong*"). The problem of man's existence and development must be solved to arm people so as to make full play of human contribution, leading them to become a fully and developed person<sup>2</sup>. Thus in contiguous and concentrated poverty-stricken areas the government must always give priority to settling human-related problems, all development is about people, all the well-being is for people; Top-design and enforcement rules for "all-round development of human" must be made according to the basic requirement of social construction and the practical conditions of economic growth in the region. Both hard and soft environment that is in favor of shaking off poverty must be constructed so as to build up people's especially poverty people's strength and confidence to

<sup>1</sup> Marx, K., & Engels, F. (1972). *The Communist manifesto, Vol. 46* (2nd volume) (p.226). Beijing: People's Publishing House. (In Chinese).

<sup>2</sup> Marx, K., & Engels, F. (1972). *The Communist manifesto, Volume 3* (p.84; p.515). Beijing: People's Publishing House. (In Chinese).

pursue a better life, rich people's spiritual culture life as well; All kinds of existing or new platform should be used to listen to the public concerns and the voices of the poverty people, fully meet the reasonable needs of the masses, build consensus on poverty alleviation, move from the negative factors to the positive ones, inspire them to actively devote themselves to the great social practice to shake off poverty, improve their own "happiness index" in the process of creating and sharing wealth.

### **3.2 Strengthen the Construction of Morality and Culture in Poverty Alleviation**

National policy support, the joint efforts of all levels of government cadres and the broadest masses of the people's active participation are the key factors that determine the success of the poverty alleviation. Based on some surveys, the grassroots gave a very high appraisal of the central policy, but they have many views for some local cadres. One of the biggest complaints is that some cadres do not consider for the people, they practice jobbery and are not fair to the poor; a few even embezzle funds that are for poverty alleviation. The major reason that led to these problems is the loss of the mainstream "works for the public" and the construction of moral culture. Therefore, first of all, party committees and governments at all levels in contiguous and concentrated poverty-stricken areas must fully understand the importance of the moral and cultural construction in the key value system of socialism. The interaction of moral culture and mainstream values will exert broad influence on strengthening the cadres' ideological basis, regulating human behavior, mobilizing people's positive factors, stimulating human potential and vitality, forming an upward spirit power and spiritual bond of unity and harmony. Second, based on their particularities and the nature of the work, all the social organizations and institutions should transform the abstract concepts into moral guide through the construction of regulation culture. Third, the distinctive Chinese traditional morality and advanced social customs with its era intension should be fully exploited and internalized as the cultural self-consciousness for both the carders and the masses; a better social environment should be created by promoting righteousness and enhancing awareness of awe, the consciousness of social responsibility and mission to build the whole society should be strengthened to establish the mainstream and moral standard of helping the poor to alleviate poverty.

### **3.3 Strengthen the Social Consciousness of Human Identity**

Needless to say, it is a highly formatted and networked time today. Almost everyone is living in a different population space, from family, community, to mass organizations, industry associations, government and non-government agencies and public activity space. Different spaces give different identity and corresponding

responsibilities to people, which create conditions for the enhancement of human development and one's sense of identity, as well as establishment of the mechanism of self-management and self-restraint. Contiguous and concentrated poverty-stricken areas have their own particularity as a specific space, anti-poverty is a mission given by the history to everyone in the new era. Therefore, from the family to the community and then to the party and government organs, mass organizations, trade associations, etc. it is necessary to establish a space network of social activity to carry out the poverty alleviation policy, thus everyone between the nodes can consciously obey party disciplines and state laws, articles of association, ethical norms and family principles, everyone can take his social responsibility to help the poor, contribute to poverty alleviation. The information loop should be kept open so that the information from different space and identity can realize two-way or multi-directional flow, and a mechanism for monitoring each other can be established.

### **3.4 Intensify Efforts to Alleviate Poverty With Knowledge, and Create Favorable Conditions for Human's All-Round Development**

The old-fashioned concept and the lack of scientific knowledge and skills to get rid of poverty has been a key root causing the poverty. Therefore, first of all, a variety of media publicity should be employed so that middle and high school students can be organized to go to rural areas to help the masses analyze the causes of poverty, spread advanced ideas and boost confidence in poverty alleviation. Second, all levels of science and technology associations as well as various civil society organizations should be encouraged to aggrandize practical training, deliver the technology to the countryside, disseminate new knowledge and skills throughout the countryside and help the poor to improve skills to get rid of poverty. Third, the government should roll out policies to encourage the township and village to work with universities and research institutes to build up avenues of cooperation by combining cooperation of "government, enterprises, education, and research Institutes", introduce new technologies, products, and explore new ways of in-depth cooperation. Fourth, the government should actively foster and develop scientific and technological examples and associations as well as model villages so that they could become "incubators" for new ideas, new technologies and new achievements. Finally, earnestly focus on technical training of the professional talents in rural areas, the government should set aside an appropriate fund, sending a group of educated, quick minded, and innovative technical talents to study new agricultural technologies in universities and coastal areas so that they can enhance knowledge and develop new ideas to lead the poverty alleviation.

### **3.5 Speed up the Construction of Small Personalized Towns, and Ensure Basic Employment**

Highlight its unique features in nature, history, culture and national characteristics, developing green and low carbon industries according to the local conditions, are the engines to promote employment and guarantee service. First, focus on the development of intensive and professional ecological agriculture so that different towns and villages can have their unique products. Build deep processing base relying on local agricultural product and promote the development of agricultural by-products as well as its store and transport business so that we can extend industrial chain and build small towns' industry cluster. Second, through land trade system and compensatory mechanisms, support and encourage competitive enterprises participate in the economic construction of small towns, set up ecological agricultural industry park for intensive agriculture belt, livestock farming belt, and crop cultivation belt, establishing a model area of green life, green production, green consumption, green trade, green taxes, green audit and green education, building small scenic towns with unique characteristics. Third, develop specific tourist industry and health preservation cities relying on local natural and cultural resources. Fourth, implement the national "rural ecological industrial project" for small towns, assemble information technology, enhance the level of intelligence, provide favorable policies and tax benefits in fund-raising, management control, and talent training, build small towns of characteristic agriculture and industry to get more people out of poverty by productive employment.

### **3.6 Encourage Civil Society Organizations to Play a Leading Role in Poverty Alleviation.**

Practice has proved that civil society organizations in contiguous and concentrated poverty-stricken areas play a leading role in poverty alleviation campaign. Undoubtedly, their exemplary role will help bring more poor people out of poverty through hard work. First, the self-construction of civil society organizations needs to be strengthened to expand its influence through increasing its appeal and the poor's participation during poverty alleviation. Second, we must enhance each poor's self-hematopoietic capacity through regular cultural and educational activities. Third, build up a social network as one activist lead many ordinary people; give full play to every member in poverty reduction campaign.

### **3.7 Take Full Advantage of the Spread Function of Mass Media; Vigorously Create Pioneers of the Times in Poverty Alleviation Campaign**

A fine example has boundless power. In the journey of poverty alleviation, a number of advanced models have emerged, such as Yang Shanzhou—the former party secretary in Baoshan, Yunnan Province, the model in

new era, who led the local people plant trees and build forest farm in Da Liangshan area, creating over a hundred million assets and affects the whole society with his high virtue. From this field research, we learned that many much-loved grassroots cadres have been devoted themselves to the poor areas, but they are barely known by the outside and cannot fully lead their roles in poverty alleviation. Therefore, governments in contiguous and concentrated poverty-stricken areas should actively dig advanced models, making full use of print and electric media to widely promote the anti-poverty campaign and inject spiritual nutrients to the campaign. The various media should effectively perform their duties, creating more "era pioneer", "wealth model" and other typical characters with vivid language and popular form, focusing on grassroots and ordinary people in poverty-stricken areas, strengthening propagating, guiding people, educating people and influencing people with lofty sentiment and moral strength; constantly increase their responsibility and behavior ability of different social groups with moral cultures in schools, enterprises, families and society.

### **3.8 Strengthen Social Restraint, Establish and Improve Mechanisms for the All-Round Development of Human**

Peter. F. Drucker, the great master of management once argued that "any organization that wants to be successful must have its own theory of the business" (2009). Practice has proved that only living in a regulated society can people play their social roles and perform their duties more consciously. As the main battlefield of poverty alleviation in the new era, everyone especially the leading cadres in contiguous and concentrated poverty-stricken areas, should more consciously strengthen self-discipline and dedication, care for what people want, and do more practical things to bring the majority out of poverty. Second, in addition to strictly abide by state laws, different social organizations and institutions must have a strict system of rewards and punishments, and internalize it into the conscious action to help the poor out of poverty; Third, for the misbehaviors during poverty alleviation, subtle education, reprimand and punishment should be combined to alert people with vivid cases, educate people with real cases and infect people with positive roles, creating a healthy social atmosphere with social norms and institutional guarantee that can ensure the people's development.

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## **CONCLUSION**

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In addition to make in-depth exploration of all-round development theoretically and practically, humane care and good social environment are also very important. Every person, every organization, every social group need start from their own to fulfill their social

responsibilities as a member of society. The government and social organizations must put people's development in a prominent position, adhere to the policy that all development is about people, and all development for the people, accelerate the development of social programs, ensure and improve people's livelihood; strengthen the management of basic community services, consolidate the material foundation of social development; foster the growth of civil society organizations, improve social network and enhance the ability to serve the community; employ innovative management of social services, effectively maintain social stability and order, create a good environment with democracy and legal system and promote social equality and justice; strengthen the construction of the ideology and morality, forge a common spiritual home and lead social development with advanced culture; deepen the reform of social management system, enhance the power of social construction; coordinate

development and ensure the social construction is implemented. As long as the people's problems are solved, the harmonious society will be able to become a reality and the whole society will be full of vitality.

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