



The Phenomenon of Rural “Overthinning” and Its Influence on Rural Governance

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Abstract. In the process of urbanization, rural areas, especially in remote mountainous areas, are declining. The loss of labor force caused by “excessive thinning”, the unreasonable utilization of rural resources, the hollowing of left-behind villages shake the stability of grass-roots governance and further lead to the difficulties of grass-roots governance. Through research and research, the causes of general and type significance are explored and the many difficulties brought by the phenomenon of “excessive thinning” in rural areas are analyzed, which are dealt with through the reconstruction of the corresponding governance path.

Keywords: Rural · overthinning · rural governance

1 Introduction

In recent years, the number of cities is increasing and the scale is expanding, while the number and scale of rural areas are declining. The two are inseparable as a whole. Driven by the market economy, urban development has become a trend. Urbanization makes the rural population and resources flow to cities continuously, and the polarization becomes more serious, which has become a general rule in the process of urbanization.

Since the reform and opening up, the implementation of the household contract responsibility system has effectively improved the labor productivity, and the agriculture has gained new vitality. The state has adopted corresponding policies to reduce the constraints on the labor force and the corresponding agricultural resources. The lack of rural development and attraction leads to the flow of rural labor force and families, and the phenomenon of rural “neglect”.

This phenomenon is mainly as: rural own resources cannot be make full use of, population loss, old, weak, disease, residual rural, rural funds, education, social services and other development resources into not develop, not effective supplement and full development, insufficient economic power, difficult to support rural development for a long time. It is an early Japanese scholar who studied the phenomenon of excessive neglect. It proposed that “ the so-called excessive neglect area refers to the area where it is difficult to maintain certain living standards due to the obstacles and difficulties of social population reduction” [1].

Scholar Iai gave a new definition of the phenomenon: “The problems caused by the movement of the fierce population to the city. We call the problem of geographical population reduction the problem of overdensity relative to the problem of over-density. Overthinning is regarded as a difficult state of maintaining a certain standard of living due to population decline” [2].

2 Conceptual Definition and Theoretical Basis

2.1 The Definition of Rural “Overthinning”

“Excessive thinning” exists as a replacement process of village society in production and living fields. The criterion depends on whether labor and rural resources, especially land resources, can be rationally allocated. The decrease of rural labor force, agricultural production and operation activities and other phenomena belong to the rural “excessive thinning” phenomenon.

2.2 The “Core-periphery” Theory

Canadian scholars John Friedmann through research found that the process of spatial development planning in developing countries, a set of give priority to with spatial development planning theory system, “core-peripheral” theory, the theory that: through in a regional space purposeful growth pole, using the polarization effect to develop the rapid economic growth, finally through the diffusion effect, drive the development of backward areas around the economic growth. Regional economy will go through the process of unbalanced development first and then to balanced development [3]. For rural areas, local resources should be integrated, and resources should be poured into market towns and villages with superior geographical locations and good development potential by means of investment and accumulation of advantageous industries, so as to promote their rapid development and drive the development of the whole region through resource radiation.

3 The Generation Mechanism of “Overthinning” Phenomenon in Rural Areas

3.1 Urban-Rural Dual Structure

Urban-rural dual structure refers to the social development state of the two economic sectors in the opposite development of industry and agriculture and the opposite development of urban and rural societies in the process of industrialization in developing countries. Compared with developed countries, China’s urban-rural dual structure is a typical malignant urban-rural dual structure. In recent years, in the process of China’s development, with different focus and priorities on heavy industry, light industry and agriculture, heavy industry acts as the focus of development, squeezing and occupying the development space and available resources of agriculture and light industry. Heavy industry expansion needs a lot of financial support to maintain operation, agricultural surplus value is oversqueezed, become the source of funds for heavy industry development, industrial development drives the economic development, improve people’s living standards at the same time.

3.2 Movement of Population

Marketization accelerates the speed of population flow, the establishment of the market economic system, and the market distribution rules give people more life choices. Farmers can choose labor methods except farming with their own physical strength and technical advantages, and make a living and produce migrant workers. The pace of urbanization is accelerating, and there is too much gap between urban and rural areas in social security, infrastructure and public services. In order to better survive and develop, farmers are far away from their hometown and move to cities. The development levels and stages vary in different regions. Township enterprises, especially in less developed areas, have scattered layout, lagging information, high cost and low income, and even seek economic development at the expense of the environment, which violates the concept of sustainable development. The connection between man and land is the most important content in the rural economic and social relations. Farmer’s dependence on land determines that the rural normal order is stable. This stable state can only be broken by huge social changes caused by extreme poverty and insurrection. This stable state is supported by a series of stable rules: “Since the family is the basic unit of production and living, there is an orderly family order with different ages and genders; A family is formed by families connected by blood and a set of family rules is established.

4 Analysis of the Causes of “Overthinning”

4.1 “Overthinning” Status Quo

The loss of population is serious, a large number of labor loss, the old, weak, sick and residual phenomenon is serious, agricultural production activities are responsible for the left-behind personnel, production efficiency is low, land resources can not be fully utilized, thus breeding the emergence of support obligations and rural governance problems. The ownership of cultivated land in villages is chaotic, the unapproval of cultivated land is illegal to build houses, and the phenomenon of cultivated land occupied by houses is serious. “The most basic connection between villages and villagers has been destroyed, the social connection of villages has been reduced, the collective consciousness of villages and villagers has decreased, the sense of cooperation and ability have decreased, and the rural society has suffered serious organizational decline” [4]. “Rural governance refers to the process of using public authority to construct village order and promote village development. It can also be called village governance, or village governance” [5].

4.2 The Cause of the Phenomenon of “Excessive Thinning”

Lack of natural resources or not fully utilized, high mountains and far roads, which restrict the development of villages, the transportation is not convenient. After attracting investment for tourism development, the investment capital chain is in a state of shut-down, and the tourism supporting facilities are not perfect. It is difficult to attract tourists without bright spots, and it cannot drive the rural development. In contrast, geographical

location is an important factor restricting development, and the influencing factors such as climate conditions have little influence under the same conditions [6].

The cultivated land can not be effectively used, the amount of cultivated land and the quality of soil quality, whether the cultivation method is reasonable all determine agricultural production and operation. Terrain, precipitation, the choice of planting crops and the choice of mechanical planting methods are all problems that villagers and village leaders need to consider. It is difficult for enterprises to make effective investment. After checking the local situation, they will weigh it and choose other villages with the same natural conditions but more convenient transportation conditions for cooperation.

Due to the restriction of natural and social conditions, remote rural areas with serious “over-thinning” phenomenon are poor in resources and low income of villagers. Such rural areas are often the focus of poverty alleviation. It is the duty of the government to help poor rural areas and promote the increase of farmer’s income. As a public good, it must be provided by the government. The government often arranges poverty alleviation work according to its own preferences, but rarely takes into account the real situation or the real needs of rural poor people. Poverty alleviation behavior is prone to variation and deviation from the established goals. Especially the poverty alleviation work as after the assessment indicators of the achievements of local officials, subject to the official term length of time, most need long-term poverty alleviation effect has the contradiction, local officials tend to inevitably to short-term effect of poverty alleviation project, or projects tend to be large economy, with the actual needs of rural poverty alleviation object most. As a result, most poverty alleviation projects are “blood transfusion” projects with short-term results, while few “hematopoiesis” projects are conducive to the long-term development of villages and help villagers improve their ability and level of wealth. The long-term development of poor rural areas that need long-term efforts to achieve results is even put aside. Moreover, due to the scarcity of poverty alleviation resources, there are various differences between the central government and local governments, between local governments at the same level, and between governments at higher levels and lower levels in terms of their own preferences and the interests of their respective departments, so there must be a problem of competition and game. In the process of competition and game, poverty alleviation resources are often distributed and consumed in a distorted way.

5 The Influence of the Phenomenon of “Overthinning” on Rural Governance

“Rural governance is the process of using public authority to construct village order and promoting village development. It can also be called village governance, or village governance” [7]. The phenomenon of rural population outflow as the main content has brought problems and challenges to rural grassroots governance, impacted the fundamental position of agriculture in economic development, and affected the development and transformation of rural economy.

5.1 The Main Body of Rural Governance is Missing

Survival and development are issues that everyone has to consider. How long can the beautiful vision of building the countryside can support the elite class last, which also leads to the lack of rural governance subjects [8]. “The modern rural governance reform, with villager’s self-governance, has at least three requirements for ordinary villagers: material living conditions, cultural and educational foundation, and enthusiasm for participation” [9].

5.2 Democratic Management is Tangible Without Reality

Cadres take completing the assessment task as the main goal, and the legitimacy and democracy of the administrative process are seriously missing. The phenomenon of “overthinning” in rural areas “shortens the game chain of villagers and reduces their expectations of long-term cooperation possibilities in the future” [10]. “Regional communities composed of families or families will form a complete set of community management rules, thus forming a network of collective-based rules, keeping the traditional countryside calm and peaceful” [11]. From the perspective of rural governance norms such as the implementation of democratic election, decision-making and management, there is a conflict between form and essence, and democracy is on the surface but has not been implemented [12].

6 Propose

6.1 Small Town Construction and Driving Role

Rural areas are affected by the radiation of big cities, and the radiation of resources drives the development of rural economy to some extent, and provides development opportunities and conditions. Rural urbanization and citizenization develop rapidly [13]. Some rural areas are far away from the cities, and the location reasons are affected and limited by the development situation of the neighboring cities themselves. Most of the relatively backward rural economy, belongs to the thread development is slow, development focus on the county rather than rural, the county bigger and stronger, attract talent, retain talent, realize population accumulation, the rural from the influence of “thinning” traction, avoid the adverse effects of transition, into the normal track of urbanization.

6.2 Introduce Capital to Solve the Problem of Retreating from the Outflow Population

The constraints of household registration and land system, the transformation of social identity is not immediate. To ensure the smooth integration of farmers into urban society, enhance their confidence in life, solve the problem of survival and development of migrant workers through the compensation principle of land withdrawal, and ensure their future life. In the compensation principle, the survival and development problems of migrant workers after land withdrawal are fully taken into account, so as to achieve

a higher compensation that can fully guarantee the future of farmers, ensure the smooth integration of farmers into urban society, strengthen farmer's trust in future life, and fully guarantee their future life. As for the standard of compensation, it should not only be calculated by the land transfer income, but should be measured by the discount of the future expected land income, so that the initial cost of citizenization for those who move from rural areas to cities can be "settled" in cities.

First, we will raise the income level of rural migrant workers. From the perspective of the government's macro policy on income distribution, the wage income of workers, especially front-line workers, should be increased to reflect the "more work, more gain". By increasing the income growth ability of migrant workers, their consumption ability will be improved, and the dignity of migrant workers in urban life will be shaped eventually. The second is to enhance the carrying capacity of cities. Under the leadership of the government, we should increase the investment in the citizenization of farmers, strengthen the supply of urban public goods, and provide public services that meet the basic needs of rural migrant workers. Third, we will innovate the urban management system. Break the dual management system that divides urban and rural areas, reform the household registration system, social security system and vocational training system, realize the integration of urban and rural areas, ensure that migrant workers enjoy the same welfare security and social rights as urban residents, so that they can smoothly integrate into urban society. With the process of urban-rural integration and the implementation of the urban-rural unified household registration system, along with the implementation of rural health care, housing provident fund, insurance and other welfare, the identity difference between "farmers" and "city people" will gradually dissolve, and the phenomenon of "migrant workers" in the current context will surely become history.

7 Conclusion

The phenomenon of rural "over-thinning" is a common representation of rural development problems, and the form of "over-thinning" phenomenon is manifested in all aspects. In the process of rural governance, we should find solutions to the phenomenon of "neglect", through two different perspectives of urban and rural areas, people living in rural areas can enjoy the achievements of new rural development, enhance the capacity of cities, create a fair social environment, eliminate the impact of different social identities, and adhere to the "humanistic care". Clearly realize that "excessive thinning" is both an opportunity and a challenge, in the background of rapid economic development, thinking about its significance of "regeneration".

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