

Model, Methods and Effect Consolidation: Implementing the Right to Development by Poverty Reduction

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Poverty eradication is the fundamental goal of implementing the right to development. The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has made poverty eradication a top priority among the 17 goals. Adopting human rights-based approach is essential for poverty eradication. Combining with its unique political system and national conditions, China has proposed a strategy of “targeted poverty alleviation”, established characteristic poverty reduction models, tools and methods, as well as formed distinct experiences, which can be summarized as follow.

1. Model: The Practical Path of Poverty Reduction

China's model on poverty alleviation can be called as: “1+1+8”. The first “1” is an idea of poverty reduction, changing from “blood transfusion” to “blood production”. The second “1” is a strategy of “targeted poverty alleviation”. “8” means eight kinds of poverty alleviation methods. First, alleviating poverty through financial assistance: to provide capitals for the poor through financial transfer payments, and to support the development of the poor through new financial instruments and platforms innovated by banks, securities, and insurance companies. Second, alleviating poverty through industrial development: to introduce projects or featured industries that are conducive for development into the poor areas. Third, alleviating poverty through technology, including providing the poor with technical assistance, technical knowledge training, compulsory license of intellectual property, technical investment, and developing expertise tailored to specific poor areas or poor people. Fourth, alleviating poverty

through human resources management: to pair each government official with a poor household and to establish one-on-one work records of aiding actions. If the poor households cannot get rid of poverty, they cannot be decoupled. The goal here is to ensure that nobody is left behind. Fifth, alleviating poverty through education: compulsory education is available to all the poor people and a normalized practical technical training mechanism is established in poor areas. Sixth, alleviating poverty through “Internet Plus”: to empower the poor to establish internet development platforms and to develop e-commerce. Seventh, alleviating poverty through ecological protection: to balance the relationship between environmental protection and development by giving compensation to the residents in ecological reserves that are not suitable for development. Eighth, alleviating poverty through resettlement: to relocate poor people in extremely harsh geographical regions to the areas suitable for living, in order to help them get rid of poverty.

2. Human Rights-based Methods

(1) Who is the right holder?

Formulating the national standards for absolute poverty and ensuring that no one is left behind through precisely targeted poverty alleviation. China's poverty line in 2010 was an annual per capita income of 1,274 yuan, rising to 3,000 yuan in 2016, more than doubled in five years. The specific method of poverty identification can be summarized as “two public notifications, one comparison and one announcement”, which is divided into seven steps, including voluntary application by poor farmers, evaluation by villagers' congress, notification, report to the township government for review, re-notification, and report to the county poverty alleviation office for review, announcement.

(2) Who are the obligors?

The obligors of poverty alleviation should include “government + community + company + society + private sector”. There are two kinds of situations: First, the government, the community, and the company are legal obligor, and must take the mandatory obligations of poverty alleviation as stipulated by the law (e.g., Article 5 of the Company Law stipulates corporate shall take the social responsibility). Second, social organizations, civil society, and volunteers and philanthropists are also the

obligors of poverty alleviation, who are responsible for a voluntary rather than a legal obligation. However, the law stipulates that such voluntary obligations, once promised by the parties in public interest donation or program, have legal effects and become mandatory obligations.

(3). Clarifying the content of the rights.

The overall goal of poverty alleviation is to steadily achieve the goal of “two kinds of no-worries and three kinds of guarantees” for poverty alleviation by 2020 (e.g., no worries about food and clothing, compulsory education, basic medical care and housing security). From the perspective of human rights, the right to reduce poverty can be classified into two categories: The first is substantive rights, including the rights to food, clean drinking water, housing, health and education. The second is procedural rights, including the rights to know, participation, decision-making, supervision, access to justice and so on.

In order to evaluate the implementation of rights and obligations, six evaluation standards are established, which can be divided into six types of categories: “living conditions”, “economic income”, “labor ability”, “educational burden”, “social security” and “aid effects”, and a total of 25 specific indicators. Calculated by the total score of 100 points, the scores of these six types of categories are 25 points, 20 points, 20 points, 10 points, 5 points, and 20 points.

(a) Evaluation of living conditions (score: 25 points)

Evaluating content and scores	Standard for evaluation	Standard values
Housing conditions (6 points)	Brick-concrete house	6 points
	Brick-tile house	3 points
	Adobe house	2 points
	Dangerous house above level D	1 point
Per capita housing area (6 points)	50 square meters or more	6 points
	20-30 square meters or more	3 points
	Below 20 square meters	1 point
Household	Good (more than 4 medium and high-end consumer	5 points

consumption (5 points)	goods such as color TV, refrigerator, washing machine, motorcycle, shower, etc.)	
	General (more than 2 medium and high-end consumer goods)	3 points
	Poor (1 or no medium and high-end consumer goods)	1 point
Transportation conditions (3 points)	Road passing group of village is hardened	3 points
	Road passing group is not hardened	2 points
	No road passing group	1 point
Drinking water conditions (2 points)	Having centralized supply of safe drinking water	2 points
	Having safe drinking water but supplied not in a centralized way	1 point
	Having difficulties of getting safe drinking water	0 point
Electricity consumption conditions (3 points)	With rural power network reconstruction	3 points
	Without rural power network reconstruction	1 point

(b) Evaluation of economic income (score: 20 points)

Evaluating content and scores	Standard for evaluation (Last year's per capita)	Standard values
The area of farmland and woodland under management (4 points)	Farmland above 50 acres or woodland above 80 acres	4 points
	Farmland 20-50 acres or woodland 40-80 acres	3 points
	woodland below 3 acres or woodland below 10 acres	2 points
Benefits of featured industries (4 points)	Above 20000 Yuan	4 points
	10000-20000 Yuan	3 points
	5000-10000 Yuan	2 points
	No benefits or below 1000	0 point
Benefits of labor economy (8 points)	Above 80000 Yuan	8 points
	15000-30000 Yuan	6 points
	5000-15000 Yuan	4 points
	Below 5000	2 points
Subsidy income (4 points)	Above 2000 Yuan of grain and	4 points

(Various subsidies such as grain subsidy, ecological forest subsidy, subsistence allowances, and veteran benefit and placement)	ecological forest subsidies	
	1000-2000 Yuan of grain and ecological forest subsidies	3 points
	Below 1000 Yuan of subsistence allowances and veteran benefit and placement)	2 points
	No subsidy	0 point

(c) Evaluation of labor ability (score: 20 points)

Evaluating content and scores	Standard for evaluation	Standard values
Number of labor force in family population (5 points)	Above 3	5 points
	2	3 points
	1	2 points
	0	0 point
Health status (10 points)	All family population are healthy	10 points
	Main labor force are healthy	6 points
	Main labor force have illness, some of them lose labor ability	4 points
	Family members with disabilities or perennial illness	2 points
Labor skill (5 points)	Higher labor skills	5 points
	General labor skills	3 points
	Poor labor skills	2 points

(d) Evaluation of educational burden (score: 10 points)

Evaluating content and scores	Standard for evaluation	Standard values
Educational burden (10 points)	Below 1000 Yuan	10 points
	1000-5000 Yuan	8 points
	5000-10000 Yuan	4 points
	Above 15000 Yuan	2 points

(e) Evaluation of social security (score: 5 points)

Evaluating content and scores	Standard for evaluation	Standard values
Social security (e.g., rural pension insurance, medical insurance, and subsistence allowances) (5 points)	Participating all	5 points
	Participating 2	3 points
	Participating 1	2 points
	Participating none	0 points

(f) Evaluation of aid effects (score: 20 points)

Evaluating content and scores	Standard for evaluation	Standard values
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The specific projects (e.g. Dewdrop Project); 2. Dangerous house renovation; 3. Subsistence allowances; 4. Critical illness insurance; 5. Immigration relocation; 6. Poverty alleviation through tourism; 7. Poverty alleviation through industrial development, financial poverty alleviation, social endowment and so on; 8. Other kinds of social security (20 points) 	Getting all kinds of aid	20 points
	Getting 6 or more kinds of aid	15 points
	Getting 4 kinds of aid	10 points
	Getting no aid	0 point

(4). Assessing the implementation of obligations: the specific methods of this assessing process include self-evaluation of liability subject, evaluation of poor households, cross-evaluation between subjects across regions, and independent evaluation by third parties.

(5). Supervision: All-round monitoring and supervision of the use of poverty alleviation funds, the implementation of poverty alleviation projects, and the practical effects of poverty alleviation. A supervision system consisting of seven types of supervision is established in order to enhance the joint force and effectiveness of supervision, which includes inner-party supervision, supervision by the people's congress, democratic supervision, administrative supervision, judicial supervision,

audit supervision, social supervision, and public opinion supervision.

(6). Accountability: Strictly pursuing accountability for inaction, abuse, and violations that occur during poverty reduction. Establishing a highly centralized accountability organization system with “the State Council Leading Group for Poverty Alleviation and Development” as a specialized agency, urge the government to assume state responsibility, and safeguard the human rights of the poor through state responsibility.

In sum, there exist five types of accountability

(a). Party discipline accountability:

The "Regulations on Accountability of the Communist Party of China" adopted on July 8, 2016 stipulates eight kinds of accountability for leading cadres of the party, including notification, defamation, suspension pending inspection, adjustment of duties, resignation, demotion, dismissal, and disciplinary action.

Among them, for disciplinary action, according to the provisions of Article 8 of the "Regulations of the CPC on Dealing with the Violations of Party Disciplines", it is divided into the following five categories: warnings, serious warnings, removal from Party posts, probation with the Party, and expulsion from the Party.

For example, in Article 117, if a "vanity project" or "political performance project", because of blindly borrowing, launching new projects and wasting manpower and money, has caused the great losses to the state, collective or mass property and interests, the person directly responsible and the person responsible for the leadership shall be given warnings or serious warnings; if the circumstances are serious, they shall be given the disciplines of removal from Party posts, probation with the Party, and expulsion from the Party.

(b). Administrative discipline accountability: According to the "Civil Service Law" and some other laws, government officials, due to violations of discipline, should be investigated for administrative responsibilities, including notification of criticism, warnings, serious warnings, demerits, major demerits, demotions, downgrades, dismissals, and expulsions.

(c). Supervisory accountability: In March 2018, China passed a new constitutional amendment and the "Supervisory Law", which made major reforms of the country's political system and newly established the fourth state organ outside the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. This organ is the supervisory committee, which is responsible for supervising the corruption of all public authorities and their staffs.

(d). Criminal accountability: The "Criminal Law" stipulates four kinds of crimes related to poverty alleviation: corruption, bribery, malfeasance, and infringement. It means that following behaviors should be investigated for criminal responsibility according to the law. One is the acts of corruption and misappropriation of poverty alleviation funds and disaster relief funds and materials. The other is the inaction and abuse during poverty alleviation which have caused major losses.

(e). Civil accountability: Poverty alleviation by the private sector and civil society is a voluntary act, but once it makes an effective commitment such as a charitable donation, the commitment has legal force and must be implemented. Otherwise, it should be responsible for the payment or enforcement of duties according to the "Civil Law".

3. The consolidation of poverty alleviation achievements

How to prevent repoverty after poverty alleviation? The specific measures can be summarized as follows:

(1). to establish a long-term monitoring and repoverty warning system and to implement a dynamic management on the poor.

(2). to strengthen the construction of rural grassroots governments and social organizations, and to strengthen the government and society's follow-up visits and assistance responsibilities for people who have been lifted out of poverty.

(3). to strengthen the assessment and supervision system for poverty reduction, and to incorporate the return-to-poor rate into the cadres' performance evaluation system in

order to prevent short-term behaviors.

(4). to continuously promote poverty alleviation through industrial development, to upgrade the construction of infrastructure and to increase the developmental potential of the groups in poverty-stricken areas who have been lifted out of poverty.

(5). to deepen land reform in rural areas; to permit the right holders who have a right to use resources, for instance land, to become shareholders; to develop various forms of stock cooperation and to increase the asset income of the poor group.

(6). to stabilize support policies, to continue the policies, projects and aids of poverty alleviation on targeted people, although they have already been out of poverty.

(7). to strengthen vocational training, to continuously cultivate the capacity of the groups who have been out of poverty and to stimulate their endogenous vitality.

(8). to devote efforts to developing education, to prevent intergenerational transmission of poverty and to realize sustainable poverty alleviation.

(9). to change some old customs to prevent repoverty because of “Li”, “marriage” and “gamble”.

(10). to strengthen the social security system to prevent repoverty due to “illness” and “disaster”.

The following is the roadmap of how the early warning mechanism and countermeasures work for repoverty:

