

The Paths of Poverty Alleviation of Rural Residents in Ethnic Areas

---Take Guizhou Province as an Example

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Abstract: Thanks to the national policy of targeted poverty alleviation, which in Guizhou ethnic areas has achieved remarkable results, but there are still between absolute and relative poverty. In order to get rid of poverty, we use the method of field investigation, deeply understand the current situation of poverty of Guizhou rural residents, analyze the causes, and strive to find effective methods and paths to solve it. It is found that absolute poverty is not completely eliminated, the source of per capita income is single, the industrial development is backward, and the level of public service is not high, which are the difficulties that restrict the poverty alleviation of rural residents in Guizhou. Therefore, the paper puts forward some strategies to optimize the poverty alleviation of rural residents in Guizhou, which can improve the living standards there.

1. Introduction

In order to solve poverty, many policies and arrangements have been put in place, which has led to a large reduction of the poverty-stricken population and a gradual improvement of people's living standards. Targeted poverty alleviation is an example. Targeted poverty alleviation started in rural areas. The poverty alleviation strategy of "work for relief" implemented in 1978, the national poverty alleviation plan of August 7th formulated in 1996, and the important idea of "targeted poverty alleviation" proposed in November 2013 are all aimed at improving the living standards of rural areas.^[1] Although the country has made great achievements in targeted poverty alleviation, the state still needs to implement a good connection between targeted poverty alleviation and Rural Revitalization. This is particularly important for the rural areas in Guizhou, as there are still in absolute poverty.

This article aims to find out the way to solve the problem of rural poverty in Guizhou and improve the level of life standard. Based on the reality of rural areas, through field research, we find and analyze the deep causes and essence of their poverty, and to solve them. Which make the rural residents who can achieve a better life and increase the farmers' Well being levels. In 2016, the state issued the opinions on the establishment of poverty exit mechanism, which pointed out the goal of poverty alleviation. Which expected criteria for the exit of poverty-stricken villages and counties are: In principle, the incidence of poverty in poverty-stricken villages should be reduced to less than 2% (in the western region to less than 3%), and the incidence of poverty in poverty-stricken counties should be reduced to less than 2% (in the western region to less than 3%).^[2] However, according to the data (shown in table 2-1), some rural areas in Guizhou are still in the state of absolute poverty. This contradiction makes humankind who are concerned about poverty alleviation in rural areas of Guizhou, because the development of rural areas in Guizhou cannot keep up with the pace of national development. Therefore, it is necessary to study this problem.

For the study of poverty, academia has always maintained a warm state, because in any corner of the world, as long as there are mankind, there is poverty, but the types and dimensions of poverty are different. In recent years, it is appropriate to use field research and control experiments to study poverty, and then put forward strategies such as increasing the information sources of the poor, reducing their responsibilities appropriately, and expanding the rural market appropriately (Abigit

Banerjee and Esther Duflo, translated by Jing Fang,2013).[3]According to the data obtained, it is meaningful to use empirical research methods to study and evaluate poverty alleviation, so that poverty can be significantly reduced over time (Ren Biyun, Chen Xi,2019,Du Xingyang, Yang Qicheng et al 2019,Zheng Ruiqiang, Wang Qiang et al 2019).[4][5][6]Poverty is not a single problem. To eliminate poverty, it needs to be studied with other related issues, and poverty alleviation can be driven by more developed Inclusive Finance, more equal income and more efficient economic development (Liu Jinquan and Bi Zhenyu,2019,Li Jianjun and Han Xun,2019,Zhao Lei and Wu Yuan,2018).[7][8][9]This study combines the domestic and foreign effective methods to solve the problem of poverty, summarizes and analyzes them,and uses the method of field research to find out the targeted measures to solve the rural poverty in Guizhou, and make the rural residents can get rid of poverty and achieve a better life.

2. Poverty Situation of Rural Residents in Guizhou

2.1 The Definition of Poverty.

Poverty has rich meanings and is a dynamic development process. On the whole, the understanding of poverty at home and abroad has experienced from single dimension poverty to multiple dimension poverty,[10]from absolute poverty to relative poverty, from objective poverty to subjective poverty,[11]from income poverty to capacity and rights poverty.[12][13][14]In the process of poverty evolution, any kind of poverty is extremely important for the poor.To overcome poverty, we need to solve the problem of it in multiple dimensions. For a long time,the definition of poverty mainly focused on the understanding of Amartya·Sen on the concept of poverty: Poverty is not only more than just income below average, but also a manifestation of lack of ideas or rights. Poverty in the concept of income can be measured and evaluated with money. However, poverty is often related to politics, economy, culture, system, etc, and difficult to measure.For the study of poverty, some scholars specially constructed poverty and related indexes to measure the degree of human development, including the degree of poverty. For example, Forster (1984) constructed FGT index to measure poverty,[15]Ren Biyun and Chen Xi (2019) constructed inclusive financial development index to test the nonlinear effect of Inclusive Financial Development on poverty alleviation.[4]Because of the complexity and diversity of poverty, it is affected by many different factors. The current international definition of poverty is given by the United Nations, the world bank and other international organizations. That is to say, the family income is lower than the international or national poverty standard level, so that it is difficult to maintain the most basic living needs. The concept of poverty in this paper mainly refers to the meaning of income, and the level of family income is absolutely or relatively lower than the national average level.

2.2 Incidence of Poverty.

The incidence of poverty is the best indicator of poverty. According to aimed to the opinions on the establishment of poverty exit mechanism issued by the state. However, in the table 2-1,it is show that in the current context, there is a certain gap between the alleviation of rural poverty in Guizhou and the goal set by the state, and the poverty reduction rate of rural residents in Guizhou has not reached the minimum level set by the state. Although compared with other developed areas, Guizhou has insufficient geographical advantages, poor natural conditions and backward economic development level, it is still the vision of improving the quality of life of rural residents in Guizhou to get rid of poverty.

Table2-1. Incidence of rural poverty in Guizhou

year	Rural poor (ten thousand people)	Incidence of rural poverty (%)
2005	265.74	7.9
2006	254.63	7.5
2007	216.14	6.5

2008	585.38	17.4
2009	555.3	16.5
2010	418	12.1
2011	1149	33.4
2012	923	26.8
2013	745	21.3
2014	623	18
2015	493	14
2016	402	11.6
2017	280.32	7.75
2018	148.14	4.29

Data source: Statistical bulletin of national economic and social development of Guizhou Province.

2.3 Forms of Poverty.

At present, although absolute poverty continues to decrease, there are still some absolute poor human being in rural areas of Guizhou. and they live in hard conditions. On the whole, absolute poverty and relative poverty coexist. On the one hand, it can be seen from table 2-1 that the poverty rate in Guizhou has not fallen below the target set by the state, indicating that there are still some absolutely poor rural population. On the other hand, because the poverty line is defined by the state which according to the basic living standard of the country, some rural poor people, even though they have reached the minimum poverty standard of the country, still they have relative poverty compared with the more affluent men, which generally shows that the basic life is guaranteed, but they have not achieved a high quality of life.

3 The Dilemma of Restricting Poverty Alleviation of Rural Residents in Guizhou

3.1 Absolute Poverty is not Completely Eliminated.

Some of the rural residents in Guizhou have got rid of the shackles of poverty with the efforts of the state and themselves, but some of them are still in a state of absolute poverty, with a low living standard and a weak sense of happiness. First of all, this is mainly because the rural areas of Guizhou are located in the west, the transportation infrastructure is backward, and the level of public services is not up to date. Secondly, most of the rural residents in Guizhou are engaged in extensive production activities of the primary industry, and their production conditions are strongly constrained by the natural environment. Some of the critical population out of poverty have a high probability of returning to poverty due to unpredictable events (disaster, disease, etc.). In addition, there is also the reduction and disappearance of migrant opportunities caused by business failure or cyclical economic changes, which leads to a significant decline in migrant income in poverty. For relative poverty, it is a dynamic socio-economic process, and the standard of poverty measurement is also a dynamic. Therefore, each delineation of the poverty line will cause changes in the scale of the poor population.

3.2 Single Source of per Capita Income of Rural Households in Guizhou.

Table 3-1 Per capita disposable income of rural households

year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Per capita disposable income of rural residents[yuan]	5434	6671	7387	8090	8869
Wage income[yuan]	2573	2521	2897	3211	3636
Family business income[yuan]: among	2356	2643	2879	3116	3285
Primary industry	1820	1978	2077	2037	1951
The secondary industry	96	97	159	157	217

The tertiary industry	440	569	643	922	1118
Transfer income[yuan]	427	1436	1527	1696	1856
Property income[yuan]	78	71	84	67	92

Data source:Guizhou statistical yearbook.

Due to the backward transportation infrastructure and lack of information sources in rural areas of Guizhou Province, it is easy to make human to believe the wrong things.^[3]Due to the low level of education, material and human capital, residents cannot achieve professional and diversified technical employment, the income level is not high.According to the survey and the data collection on the per capita disposable income of rural households in Guizhou, it is found that the source of the per capita income of rural households in Guizhou is relatively single, mainly from wage income, family operating income and transfer income, and the specific data is shown in table 3-1.Although wage income is one of the sources of rural households, it is relative to those families which with younger people, but for the older households, the income is very small or even not, and they can only rely on farming or receiving transfer payments from the government or society to maintain the basic living standard. Therefore, the singleness of income source of rural residents has caused certain obstacles for them to escape poverty and hindered the improvement of their living standards.

3.3 The Industrial Development in Rural Areas of Guizhou is Relatively Backward,and the Level of Public Service is not High.

Guizhou's rural areas are relatively remote, with low accessibility. The industrial development is greatly restricted by the natural environment. The main farming method is extensive agricultural production. The operation of industrialization is not realized, and the proportion of the first industry in the family operating income is the largest, as shown in Figure 3-1.As the development of the primary industry fails to realize modern operation, the development of its agriculture is mainly affected by the natural environment, which has great uncertainty for the harvest. Moreover, through investigation, it is found that the land in the rural areas of Guizhou is relatively barren,and the crop harvest is relatively deficient. Only one season of rice can be planted a year, and the grain harvest is less, which only can basically guarantee the basic life of the whole family life, the opportunity is small, or even impossible if you want to get rich through agriculture. Moreover, in today's stage, the level of infrastructure (education, medical care, etc.) in rural areas is relatively underdeveloped. Compared with the more developed areas, rural residents do not enjoy high-quality public services, their living standards are not high, and their happiness index is low.

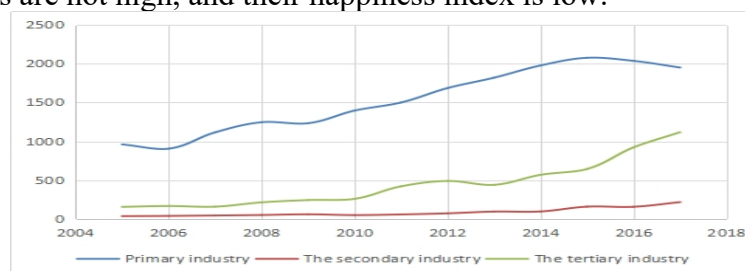


Figure 3-1. Proportion of rural residents' family operating income in Guizhou

4 Optimizing the Paths Choice of Poverty Alleviation for Rural Residents in Guizhou

4.1 Further Strengthen Infrastructure Investment and Construction.

Zhou Li (2006) believed that poverty could not be adjusted automatically through market mechanism, and that government should intervene properly and solve inequality with inequality,^[16]and transfer more income distribution or redistribution to the poor, so as to the rural resident get rid of poverty and achieve common prosperity. Although the government's mechanism to deal with poverty is external, the remote location of Guizhou's ethnic minority areas, and the low accessibility of transportation, network, information,etc.,good free competition cannot be achieved. Therefore, this external force is indispensable. In order to solve the problem of poverty, the first

thing that we need to do is to further strengthen infrastructure construction and ensure that the most basic market conditions can be guaranteed.

Zheng Changde(2018)^[17]pointed out that after 2020,the situation of economic underdevelopment in ethnic areas has not changed, poverty still exists, and it is more multidimensional poverty. Under the co-existence of multi-dimensional poverty, if Guizhou rural residents want to achieve a better life, they must further increase the rate of getting rid of poverty. At present, the infrastructure in Guizhou rural areas has been greatly improved, however some sections have been built with highway, with few cars pass by, and there is no public transport vehicle, local residents enjoy less public goods. The communication network is not stable and the information transmission is not convenient. The industry is dominated by traditional agriculture with backward development. Therefore,the state should invest more funds and energy in the infrastructure construction of Guizhou rural areas to improve the backward rural development status.

4.2 Government and Villagers Should Work Together To Increase the Development of Industrial Chain.

For the rural residents of Guizhou who live in multi-dimensional poverty, due to the wide range and great difficulty of poverty, in order to get rid of poverty completely, they need the support of the government, and rely on the local villagers. Only with the joint efforts of the villagers and the government, can they overcome poverty. In addition to increasing the construction of rural infrastructure in Guizhou, the government can also help Guizhou rural residents to get rid of poverty by upgrading the development mode of traditional agriculture and by "giving people and fishing". Due to the restriction of economic conditions, the education level of rural residents living in remote Guizhou is low, and they can't realize the occupation with high skills, high degree of specialization or diversification. However, we can expand the industrial development by realizing the form of industrial upgrading, so that the rural industry can form a chain, and Guizhou rural residents can learn the skills of industrial development in specific practice (the form of learn by doing). This kind of learning effect is not only fast and effective, but also can improve human capital. Specific steps:1.According to the geographical advantages of Guizhou's beautiful mountains and rivers, comparative advantage industries such as tourism, nationality culture industry, ecological health industry, and animal husbandry can be developed.2.In combination with the strategic deployment of rural revitalization, we should increase the investment in rural construction, play full the role of village and group leaders, correctly transmit the national policy opinions to rural, and make good use of relevant policies to provide basic conditions for rural development, and reduce the uncertainty of future industrial development.3.The rural residents with local prestige, good reputation and insight are elected as villagers' representatives to carry out investment promotion activities, introduce some enterprises that can develop in rural areas, and further increase the employment of rural residents in Guizhou. The government encourages rural residents to start businesses, and gives some subsidies to stimulate their enthusiasm, so as to promote income growth and achieve stable poverty alleviation.

4.3 Improve Comprehensively Education Ability and Level.

Most of the rural areas in Guizhou are located in remote areas, with inconvenient transportation and low level of infrastructure. In this context, the external blood transfusion function may be effective. However, if we want to achieve long-term sustainable and high-quality economic development, we need to invest in education in rural areas and vigorously develop the education industry in rural areas. Because education is an effective way to improve the accumulation of human capital, to improve the level of productivity and promote the increase of income, and this kind of education can take many forms, such as formal school education, vocational education, apprenticeship education, training, etc. Only by fully investing in the education industry can we block the inter-generational transmission of poverty. Education also has spillover and externality effects. Family put on education to promote them to train their children to become a smart young generation. These methods to improve income and promote the development of rural areas is effective, and drives local residents to develop a better life. In addition, to increasing their own

knowledge, education can also contribute more wisdom to families and village groups, thus alleviating local poverty and promoting local economic development.

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