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Urban-rural Integration Based on Regional Economic Integration——A Case of Jiuquan – Jiayuguan Areas of Gansu Province

YANG Fang^{1*}, WANG Xue-ding², SONG Hua-long²

1. Ningxia Institution for Scientific Developmental Strategy and Information, Yinchuan 750001, China; 2. Lanzhou Branch of China Academy of Sciences, Lanzhou 730001, China

Abstract The relationship between urban-rural integration and regional economic integration is summarized in the paper. Based on the fact, it expressed the necessity and realistic meaning of pushing forward the urban-rural integration process synchronously during Jiuquan – Jia yuguan (abbreviate: Jiu – Jia) areas economic integration. The current degree of the urban-rural integration of Jiu – Jia was analyzed by index calculation, and the related conclusions were obtained. Besides, the development concepts and the key works to accelerate the process of Jiu – Jia urban-rural integration were suggested. The results show that the overall level of urban-rural integration in Jiuquan and Jiayuguan is higher than the average level of Gansu Province, but the urban-rural economic development and social development lose the balance and the dual structure is prominent. In the end, three developmental patterns for accelerating the developmental process of urban -rural integration are put forward. Firstly, the government should find the key of the current work and coordinate the construction of infrastructure. Secondly, rural economic industrialization should be promoted. Thirdly, the urbanized social management should be promoted.

Key words Jiu – jia area, Regional economic integration, Urban-rural integration, China

"Optimizing developmental structure and promoting the coordinate regional development and urbanization" is one of the sixteen major points put forward in the developmental outline (draft) of Chinese Twelfth Five – Year Plan. It clearly pointed out that the government should implement the overall development strategy and major function area strategy; construct the advantage complementary form of regional economy; clearly locate the functions of main bodies; high effectively use the national space; construct the regional development layout of harmonious development between human and nature and gradually realize the equalization of basic public service in different areas. Jiuquan City and Jiayuguang City (the following JiuJia is short for the two cities) locate in the west part of Hexi Corridor in Gansu Province. They are the cities with relatively dense economy and population, as well as important cities in the Longhailan economic belt. Promoting the economic integration of regional economy in Jiuquan City and Jiayuguan City is a crucial measure for implementing the regional developmental strategy of "led by the central cities, motivated by two wings, developing in groups and promoting as a whole" of the Provincial Commission and Provincial Government of Gansu Province. At the same time, promoting the developmental process of urban-rural integration of the area is one of the important contents. In the paper, the relations between urban-rural integration and regional economic integration are analyzed, as well as the necessity of regional urban-rural integration of Jiuquan and Jiayuguan and its developmental process. The developmental thought pattern and working highlights of urban-rural integration in JiuJia area are put forward.

1 The relations between urban-rural integration and regional economic integration

Urban-rural integration means fully display the advantages and functions of urban and rural areas with a certain area to realize reasonable distribution and double flow of productive elements in a certain area. The joint development of the primary, the secondary and the tertiary industries integrates the urban-rural life style, living condition, thought pattern, social economy and ecological environment and forms the urban-rural relations which are characterized by "mutual support, complement, motivation, promotion and mutual success". The urban and rural areas should be constructed into the unity which is interdependent and mutual promotion to finally reach the overall harmonious and coordinating development of urban and rural areas.

Regional economic integration refers to the economic community with large scale formed by multiple administrative areas in economic system. Regional economic organization, in its essence, is to improve the efficiency of resource allocation on the basis of region. The necessary conditions for realizing the aim of eradicating all the barriers in the free flow of commodity and productive elements in the integration area and root outting the discrimination policy and behavior in the pretext of regional boundary; the central cities in the region should have relatively strong comprehensive economic power; high integration degree and the reasonable profits distribution mechanism among regions.

Urban-rural integration focuses on the coordinating development within the administrative area, while the regional economic integration lays much stress on mutual and coordinating development among regions in different administrative scope. Thus, urban -rural integration is the prerequisite and basis of regional economic integration. Beside, urban-rural integration should realize transportation integration, market integration, industrial integration, system integration, space integration and so

cial civilization integration and some other strategic targets and strategic highlights. It is the core content and practical tasks of regional economic integration, so urban-rural integration and regional economic integration have close internal relations^[1].

2 Analysis on urban-rural Jiujiia area

2.1 Fundament for urban-rural integration in Jiujiia area

Promoting the Jiujiia regional economic integration is an important part for implementing the developmental strategy of "led by central cities, motivated by two wings, developing in groups and promoted as a whole" in Gansu Province, while urban-rural integration is one of the important contents of Jiujiia regional economic integration. According to the *Developmental Plan of Jiujiia Economic Integration*, in the process of promoting economic integration, the principles of urban-rural coordination development should be insisted to accelerate the construction of central government and display the leading role of it to facilitate new socialist countryside construction; eliminate urban-rural dual structure and establish the long-term mechanism of coordination development of motivating agriculture by industry, motivating countryside by cities and urban-rural coordinate development to promote the equalization of urban-rural basis public service.

In the first place, the urbanization level of Jiayuguan is high, in theory; the urban civilization level has achieved 100%. Facilitating urban-rural integration of Jiujiia area can expand the urban civilization of Jiayuguan City to rural areas in Jiuquan City and speed up the urban-rural integration developmental process of Jiuquan City.

In the second place, Jiayuguan City has strong industrial power and strong capability of "industry support agriculture", so it can effectively redeem the weak industrial basis of Jiuquan and incomplete industrial system, so as to motivate the developmental process of agricultural industrialization; facilitate rural surplus labor transfer; enhance farmers' income and improve agricultural productive efficiency.

In the third place, Jiuquan has vast land, abundant miner-

al resources, relatively developed agriculture and rich rural labors, so it can solve the developmental crisis of mineral resources decline faced by Jiayuguan City to enhance the aftereffects of urban development of Jiayuguan City to optimize and upgrade industrial structure to realize the practical significance of sustainable development.

Generally speaking, Jiujiia area has already had the conditions of eliminating the material situation and external environment of urban-rural dual structure. Especially with the gradual improvement of urbanization level, the gap between urban-rural living levels has been shrunk and the urban infrastructure construction and township development have been accelerated. The further development of urban-rural integration is conducive to accelerating developmental process of regional economic integration; to facilitating the construction of central cities in Longhailan economic belt; speeding up urbanization level and process of constructing a moderately prosperous society of the whole Jiujiia area. On the basis that China has entered the developmental stage of motivating agriculture by industry and motivating countryside by cities, in the important period of endeavoring to break through urban-rural dual structure and forming the urban-rural economic social development new layout, the development of urban-rural integration has become an important content of regional economic integration of Jiujiia area.

2.2 Progress of regional urban-rural integration of Jiujiia area

Combined with relevant research results, the world urbanization practice, unified evaluation standard of Gansu Province, the quantitative analysis on urban-rural dual structure is conducted on Jiuquan City and Jiayuguan City by selecting urbanization level, dual structural comparison coefficient, difference coefficient of urban-rural residents' income, difference coefficient of urban-rural residents' Engel coefficient, so as to further judge the realization degree of urban-rural integration^[2-3].

Through calculating^[4], the specific results and relevant grades of indexes in Jiuquan City and Jiayuguan City in 2009 can be seen on Table 1 and 2.

Table 1 The index evaluation results of urban-rural dual structure

Area	Urbanization level	Dual comparison coefficient	Income gap coefficient of urban and rural residents	Disparity of the Engel's coefficient of urban and rural residents	%
Jiayuguan City	90.32	6.9	46.00	9.60	
Jiuquan City	58.02	38.33	46.77	1.93	
Gansu Province	32.65	10.54	24.98	3.50	
The whole nation	46.59	19.23	30.00	4.50	

Through analyzing the related developmental stage of each index, the analysis on the realization degree of urban-rural integration of Jiuquan City and Jiayuguan City can be seen as follows^[5]:

In the first place, urban population is increasing and the urbanization degree is increasing annually (Fig. 1) and the development of urbanization is stably promoted, so the cities have the basis for stepping into urban-rural integration.

In the second place, the dual comparison coefficient that reflects the urban-rural economic integration still laid in the primary and secondary stage of urban-rural integration, which in-

dicated that gap of the labor productivity between agricultural department and non-agricultural development was large and the urban-rural dual economic structure was obvious.

In the third place, the gap between urban and rural residents' income level was still large and stayed in the primary stage of urban-rural integration with disparity coefficient smaller than 50% of urban-rural residents' income, but they are all higher than the average level of Gansu Province and that of the nation.

In the fourth place, the disparity degree of urban and rural residents' living conditions in the two cities was narrowing grad-

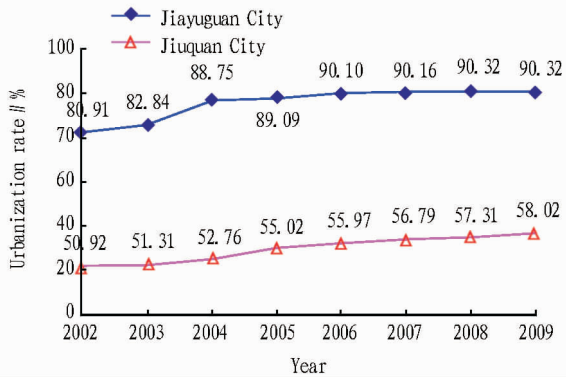


Fig. 1 The changing situation of urbanization rate in the previous years of Jiuquan City and Jiayuguan City

ually (Fig. 2). The disparity degree of urban and rural Engel Coefficient indexes Jiuquan City was kept in a relatively stable scope in the near two years and has satisfied the demand of the highest stage of urban-rural integration. But the disparity of Jia-

yuguan City was obviously higher than that of Jiuquan City, and the development was unstable. The disparity degree of urban and rural residents' Engel Coefficient has decreased to 2.75% in 2008 (the basically completion stage of urban-rural integration), but, in 2009, the coefficient has increased to 9.6% (the transitional stage) with huge fluctuation.

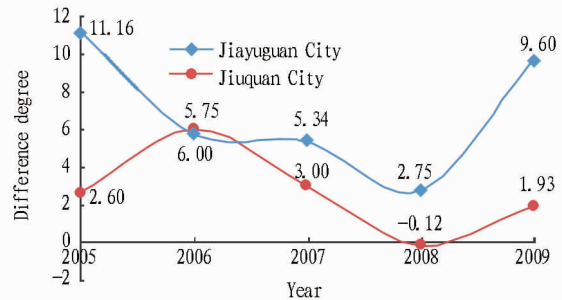


Fig. 2 The changing situation of disparity of the Engel's coefficient of urban and rural residents in the near five years

Table 2 Grade of each evaluation index of Jiuquan City and Jiayuguan City

Grades	Urbanization level	Dual comparison coefficient	Income gap coefficient of urban and rural residents	Disparity of the Engel's coefficient of urban and rural residents
V completion of urban-rural integration	▲			★
IV basic completion of urban-rural integration	△			◆ ●
III later transitional period from dual structure to urban-rural integration	★			
II former transitional period from dual structure to urban-rural integration	☆ ◆ ●	★		▲
I the tempo of urbanization is slow and stays in the dual structure state		▲ ◆ ●	★ ▲ ◆ ●	

Note: ★, ▲, ◆, ● represent Jiuquan, Jiayuguan, Gansu Province and China respectively; ☆, △ represent the actual urbanization rate of Jiuquan and Jiayuguan respectively.

In the fifth place, the potential non-urbanization problems are eminent. If severely obey the non-agricultural population to calculate the urbanization level, it can be seen from the above analysis, the actual urbanization level of Jiayuguan City was 79%, but Jiuquan City had only 35%. If the urbanization process of the two cities is determined by the levels, the Jiayuguan has come to the completion stage while Jiuquan City still lay in the former transitional period.

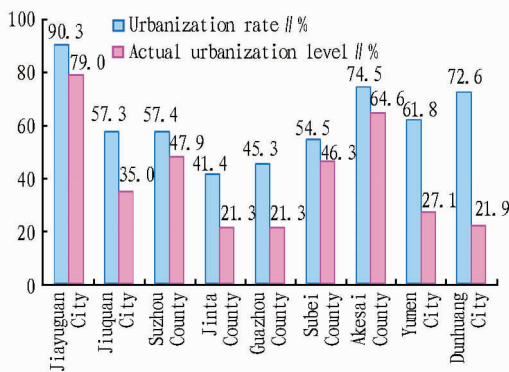


Fig. 3 Comparison of urbanization rate of Jiuquan and Jiayuguan to the actual urbanization level of them

It can be seen from the above analysis that the overall urban-rural integration level of Jiuquan City and Jiayuguan City was higher than the average level of Gansu Province, but the urban-rural economic and social development was unbalanced seriously and the urban-rural dual structure was prominent. In 2009, the two indexes that reflect the urban-rural dual structure of the two cities have achieved the level of third grade or above, but the two indexes that reflect the urban-rural dual economic structure still lay at the primary and secondary level. The imbalance between urban-rural economy and social development indicates that the urban-rural integration of the two cities tends to formation. The urbanization of rural population is the major driving factor that facilitates the overall urbanization of the two cities. At the same time, the urbanization quality of Jiuquan City and Jiayuguan City is low and there is a large gap between the connotation and level of urban-rural integration.

3 Developmental thought pattern and working highlights of regional urban-rural integration of Jiuquan City and Jiayuguan City

3.1 Developmental thought pattern In the current process of promoting the regional urban-rural economic integration of Jiuquan City and Jiayuguan City, three stages should be mutually promoted. The comprehensive supporting reform in six aspects

including spatial layout, industrial development, infrastructure construction, social undertakings development, employment and social security and ecological environment construction, will be completed. On the basis of the primary formation of developmental layout of regional urban-rural economic integration of Jiuquan City and Jiayuguan City, the urban-rural integrated infrastructure, industrialization of rural economy, urbanization of social management, and equalization of public services are realized basically^[6].

The first stage ranges from 2010 to 2011. On the first stage, the urban-rural integration development of core area (central cities in Suzhou District – Jiayuguan) should be further promoted. The overall urbanization level should achieve 70% or above (so far, the urbanization rate is 69.5%), the urban-rural integration process is promoted by urban civilization. The average net income of farmers should come to more than 7 000 yuan. The disparity coefficient of urban and rural residents' income has increased from 44% and 46% in 2008 to 46%. The nearby rural infrastructure construction and ecological environment should be further improved to let every villages get access to TV, broadcast, telecommunication and roads and materialize the perfect equipment of rural education, culture, hygiene and information network.

The second stage ranges from 2012 to 2015. In the stage, the urban-rural integration of central cities in Suzhou District – Jiayuguan City should be basically completed and each index should attain the evaluation standard of complete stage. At the same time, other two cities and four counties of Jiuquan City should be motivated to achieve the standard of later transitional stage from urban-rural dual structure to urban-rural integration.

The third stage ranges from 2015 to 2020. The development of Jiuquan City and Jiayuguan City should complete urban-rural integration to achieve the demand of "productive development, rich life, civilized village, clean village appearance and domestic management" to realize the overall development of rural economic construction, rural political construction, rural cultural construction and the overall ecological civilization development of rural social construction.

3.2 Major working highlights

3.2.1 Coordinating the construction of infrastructure. Coordinating urban-rural development of Jiuquan City and Jiayuguan City and accelerating urban-rural integration should adopt forceful measures and increase input to coordinate the integration construction of urban-rural infrastructure and public service according to the principals of urban-rural mutual construction, urban-rural network and urban-rural share of infrastructure con-

struction in the two cities. Through expanding urban and township infrastructure equipments to rural areas, rural areas will be covered in public services and the smooth flow of urban-rural elements should be ensured.

3.2.2 Promoting rural economic industrialization. The government should coordinate urban-rural integration development and take the development of distinctive agriculture as the breakthrough point and optimizing structure, improving quality, widening fields and increasing employment as targets to realize the concentration from industry to industrial park, from villages to central villages, from land to scale operation and from urban residents' leisure tourism to rural area. The intensity on taking industry to motivate agriculture and city to motivate village should be increased to materialize the agricultural scale production, intensive operation and try to improve the added value of agricultural and sideline production to form the industrial structure of distinctive agricultural of "one town, one industry, several villages, one brand".

3.2.3 Promoting the urbanization of social management. The government should intensify the agricultural supporting intensity on education, culture and hygiene and gradually establish the rural service mechanism led by urban resources. The employment service system should be unified and rural social security system should be perfected to accelerate urbanization of rural social management and realize the harmonious development of urban-rural social undertakings.

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