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Factors that Affect Social Stability of Rural Areas in Ganzi District

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Abstract Through the sample investigation of Kangding County, Daofu County, Luhuo County and Xiangcheng County in Sichuan Province in 2010 and by combining the quantitative and qualitative methods, various kinds of indexes from the aspects of society, politics, economy and values in Ganzi District are analyzed, as well as the factors that affect the rural social stability of current Ganzi District area. The results show that rural areas of Ganzi District are stable on the whole, but the economic development level is backward; the social security measures are imperfect; disputes among rural residents still exist and most of them are economic disputes; the disputes among ethnics are mainly caused by religious belief; the autonomous situation of partial rural residents are bad and rural residents' evaluation on social justice is low. Therefore, it should establish and perfect relevant prevention and control mechanism.

Key words Ethnic groups, Rural areas, Social stability, China

As the saying goes "one should stabilize Kang before stabilizing the Tibet". The stability and development of Sichuan Tibetan area plays a major role in the stability of the Tibet and the whole nation. The Ganzi District is the main body of Kangba and it is located in the junction of Sichuan Province, Yunnan Province, Tibet and Qinghai Province and the second largest component part of Chinese Tibetan area and it is of great importance in terms of politics and military affairs. The stability of the rural areas is inevitable for maintaining the stability of Kang area, so the explanatory indexes of social stability are applied to analyze the influencing factors on rural social stability in Ganzi District. The analysis can promote the harmony and stability of local area, and provide targeted suggestions for promoting the healthy development of politics, economy and culture.

1 Data source and research method

1.1 Data source The statistics came from the survey on Kangding County, Daofu County, Luhuo County and Xiangcheng County of Ganzi District, Sichuan Province in 2010.

1.2 Research method By applying the method of combing quantitative research and qualitative researches; referencing the explanatory indicators of social stability framework issued by Shanghai *Indicator System of Social Stability* (2002)^[1], each indicator in terms of society, politics and values is researched to analyze the factors that affect the rural social stability of Ganzi District.

2 Results and analysis

2.1 Social dimensions

2.1.1 Social distance index. In the first place, the communication status of neighborhood Most people in Ganzi District are

Tibetans and few of them are Han, Yi and Hui People. The neighborhood relations involve different ethnics, so the neighboring relations are complex (Table 1).

Table 1 shows that the disputes among rural old residents are mainly economic disputes and the dispute frequency is low. The neighbor-to-neighbor assistance is relatively good, 97.6% respondent willing to help their neighbors. Local rural residents think that gathering inhabitation of different ethnics has small thing to do with mixed ethnic communication. The relational degree among different ethnics is generally well. 61.0% people surveyed said that they have not been treated unfriendly by people from other ethnics. Most rural residents think that no matter the same ethnic or other ethnics can be good neighbors. But many minority rural residents are dubious of other ethnic groups and do not want to further communication with people with other groups. It is the one of the hidden dangers of ethnic relations in social stable problems. In the investigation, the major reasons that cause disputes among ethnic group are religious belief and mutual disrespect. Among the two reasons, religious belief has occupied 35.8%. In recent years, the frequently happened group issues in Tibetan areas revealed that the religious problem is always one of the safety dangers in Tibetan area. Some illegal people even make use of the pious religious belief to destroy the safety and stability of China (for example "3.14" issue). Through investigation, it is known that many non-Tibetan rural residents mainly migrated from their ancestors. Although affected by their ancestors in terms of food, belief and some other traditions, they have melted into the local social mainstream groups. 98.4% of rural residents showed that the relations among different ethnic groups are very harmonious. The Ganzi District launches a gathering every year, which takes the village as the basic unit and integrates the activities of sleeping in the open air, singing, dancing and eating food. The activities have promoted the emotional exchange of local people and improved the neighboring relations. In the sec-

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ond place, the status of grass-root leaders and general cadres. The evaluation on grass-root cadres is the key factor that

weighting the effect of the leadership of grass-root cadres and launching the stable implementation of political measures.

Table 1 Neighboring communication status of rural residents in Ganzi District

%

Names of indexes	Distribution			
Impacts of collective inhibition of different nationalities on ethnic groups	Great impact 2.4	General impact 69.9	No impact 27.6	Unclear 0
Correlation degree of Different nationalities	Great 44.7	General 52.8	Bad 0.8	Unclear 1.6
Whether being treated Coldly by other nationalities	Yes 4.1	No 61.0	Unclear 34.9	
Whether rural residents Often have disputes frequently	Frequent 6.5	General 32.5	Nearly no 60.5	Unclear 0.8
Images on other nationalities Around	No difference 56.1	Difficult to communicate 13.8	Unclear 30.0	
Neighbors like to be chosen	The same ethnic 8.1	Acceptable 52.0	Unclear 39.8	
Whether the neighbors will Help when facing difficulties	Willing 81.3	Yes, but not very wiling 16.3	Unwilling 0.8	Unclear 1.6

Table 2 Communication status of leaders and general mass in Ganzi District

%

Names of indexes	Distribution		
Satisfactory	Very satisfactory	Basic satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Degree on village cadre correlation	43.9	49.6	6.5
Degree of cadres and the masses	care vey much	Do not care so much	Careless
Interest	43.9	48.8	7.3
Correlation among cadres and the masses	Care very much	Do not care so mush	Careless
	43.1	53.7	3.3

It can be seen from Table 2 the evaluation given by rural residents in Ganzi District on the satisfactory degree of local cadres and their performances in terms of connecting masses, caring masses and caring the interests of the masses.

2.1.2 Social security indexes. In the first place, new rural cooperatives. In 2005, since the launch of pilot in the second round new rural cooperative medical care system in Lvding County of Sichuan Province, 787 511 people have participated in the rural cooperative medical care in 2010 and the participating rate has achieved 92.66%.

In the second place, new rural pension insurance. In July 1st, 2010, the Ganzi District has implemented the new rural old age pension insurance. The old age pension insurance started relatively late, although more rural residents in Ganzi District willing to participate in the insurance, it is just at the experimental stage and some area has not launch the insurance, so the few people participated in the insurance.

2.1.3 Population and family index. In the first place, the situation of migration. There are few migrations in rural area, only 8.9% of them are more local farmers.

In the second place, divorce situation. Due to the local customs, the divorce rate in rural areas of Ganzi District is low. Taking Lvhuo County as an example, the divorce in rural area of the whole county does not surpass 20 cases.

In the third place, the staying phenomenon. The general staying phenomenon in Ganzi District is rare. The major reason is that most local residents choose to work in the local place and few people choose to work out and the phenomenon of gradually reduce from the local place to external place.

2.1.4 Parameter of social participation. In the first place, the situation of religious belief. The Ganzi District is the main body of Kangba Tibetan area and the religious atmosphere is dense and nearly the whole people believe in religion. In the 18 counties of the whole district, there are 515 Tibetan Buddhist temples and nearly forty thousands monks and nuns including living Buddha, lamas, jo-mo and so on, accounting for 4 % of the total population in the whole district. Every county has 28.6 temples on average. Among the temples, in eight counties including Daofu County, Lvhuo County and Ganzi County and so on, every county has 39.75 temples on average. The religious belief is an important component of culture in Ganzi District. The respect of local residents on living Buddha is respected in terms of society and economy, which has great influences on local daily production and living.

In the second place, the autonomy of rural residents. Rural residents' participation in rural autonomy is an important index for weighting whether the local political is democratic or not. Rural residents' participation in autonomy is an important way for ensuring rural residents' basic interests. According to the survey, a large majority of villages' committees in Ganzi District have launched rural residents' autonomy. 99.2% of rural residents show that the big issues in the village should be voted by the whole village. 95.9% of rural residents show that the election of the village committee is carried out according to the relevant laws and regulations. But some residents reveal that bribes still exist among some cadres.

2.2 Political dimension. With the researches on political dimensions, the explanatory indicators of social stability only con-

cern political transparent indicators, which are reflected on the frequency of regular report, open rate of village business and open rate of political businesses reported by people's representatives to electors in the electoral district. The available statistics show that the implementation situation of village businesses in Ganzi District is good, about 72.4% of rural residents say that village committees will publicize the decision of major issues of the village, but part of information they published are untimely and untrue.

2.3 Economic dimension

2.3.1 Economic total volume. Under the promotion of the advantaged factors of policies aiming to support agriculture, give preferential policies to agriculture and enrich farmers, the agricultural production situation of Ganzi District, as well as the production of animal husbandry is stable. The annual total grain yield in is 0.203 0 million t, with the growth rate of 6.8%. At the end of the year, there are 4.864 1 million livestock, with the growth rate of 0.8%; 0.229 7 million live pig, with the growth rate of 10.8%; the total production of meat is 0.091 9 t, with the growth rate of 2.8%; the production of milk is 0.115 8 t, with the growth rate of 1.0%^[2].

2.3.2 Index of living standard. In the first place, the per capi-

ta disposable income of rural residents. In 2009, the per capita net income of agricultural income and herdsman in Ganzi District was 2 228.7 yuan, the living expenses was 1 882.4 yuan. In 2010, the per capita average income was 2 744 yuan, 515 yuan more than that in 2009, with the growth rate of 23.1%. In successive nine years, the income of farmers and herdsman has realized a double-digit growth^[3]. Although the general situation of per capita disposable income of rural area in Ganzi District still has large gap with other areas, but the growth speed is rapid.

In the second place, the Engal coefficient. In 2009, the Engal coefficient of rural residents in Ganzi District was 62.2%, relatively poor, but comparing with the 75% before the reform and opening up, the living standard of local residents has improved greatly in recent years^[3].

In the third place, satisfactory degree of living standard. Generally speaking, local rural residents hold high evaluation on its living standard (Table 3). Rural residents' recognition degree on family living status, daily life order, market economy order and the care degree of the nation to minorities has reached 90%, especially the recognition degree on economic order has reached 100%.

Table 3 Rural residents' evaluation on living conditions in Ganzi District %

Names of indexes		Distribution		
Changes of family living conditions	Greatly changed	Better than formal situation	No improvement	Unclear
	37.4	55.3	0.8	6.5
Daily life order of local place	Very order	Basic order	No order	Unclear
	69.1	30.1	0.8	0
Economic order of local place	Very order	Basic order	No order	Unclear
	68.3	31.7	0	0
Cares Given by the government to local Ethnic groups	Very care	Relatively care	Indifferent	Unclear
	93.5	5.7	0.8	0
Social Development situation of Ganzi District 30 years After the reform and opening up	Faster and well	Relatively faster and well	Unobvious	Unobvious
	33.3	53.7	1.6	11.4

2.4 Comprehensive indicator of values

2.4.1 Evaluation on the relevant policies on national policy. According to the investigation, local residents' satisfactory degree on central governments' policies on ethnic areas has reached 99.2%, which indicates that they have high evaluation on the national relevant policies.

2.4.2 Evaluation on social equality and justice. As for Ganzi District, the differences among different ethnic groups are the causes leading to rural residents' evaluation on social equality and social justice. Through analyzing the major population of local residents—the Tibetan people analyzed the indicator of differences among other ethnic groups.

Table 4 The disparity evaluation of Tibetan people in Ganzi District on other ethnic groups %

Names of indexes		Distribution		
Disparity of self and other ethnic groups	Economy Political Language, custom, religion and other fields			
	4.1 2.4 93.5			

dence for rural residents evaluating itself and other ethnic groups. Some people think that the economic development opportunities in this area are unequal to that in other areas. 56.1% of investigators think that there is economic gap among local Han nationality and other ethnic groups. The major difference of the gap is the educational degree, which indicates that the minority people think that they do not have equal opportunities of accepting education like Han people.

Table 5 Rural residents' attitudes toward the disparity among Han Nationality and other nationalities %

Names of indexes		Distribution		
Income disparity degree of Han nationality and other nationalities	Great Yes, sight disparity	No	Unclear	
	23.6 32.5	41.5	2.4	
Disparities and reasons of the disparities	Career Educational accepted Others			
	8.1 34.1	8.1	49.6	

Table 4 shows that economic disparity is one of the evi-

3.4 Establishing and perfecting rural social security system

The slow growth of rural residents' consumption is largely due to the unhealthy and imperfect social security system^[7]. Therefore, the relatively perfect social security system in rural areas should be established as soon as possible to solve the rural residents' worries in medical care, education and old age security, and then the current consumption of rural residents can be stimulated. In the first place, the new rural cooperative medical care system should be continuously implemented. With the development of economy, the proportion of reimbursement of new rural cooperative medical care should be increased gradually to let medical care affordable for farmers. The administration on drug prices should be intensified to reduce the unnecessary circulation sections and cut down the high medicine prices. In the second place, rural old age insurance should be established gradually to eliminate rural residents' difficulties in old age insurance.

3.5 Vigorously expanding rural consumption and credit market

The government should vigorously implement the rural financial policy of "establishing rural credit guarantee mechanism, expanding the scope of rural effective guarantee, vigorously exploring and developing rural diversified credit products; positively expanding the credit market of housing, car and rural consumption". The residential consumption of rural residents in Liaoning Province always keeps close relations with economic growth. In 2008, among the consumption of rural residents in Liaoning Province, the expenditure on dwelling is second only to the expenditure on food. Therefore, the financial department should issue the rural credit preferential policies, for example

(From page 45)

3 Conclusion

The research shows that, in general, the rural areas of Ganzi District are relatively stable, but there are still many problems in terms of society, economy, politics and values. In the first place, the general state of economic development is backward, which is the basic reason that hinders the development of various social factors and the key point that affect social stability. In the second place, the social security measures are imperfect and the protection on social weak groups and poor people still need improving. In the third place, the disputes among rural residents still exist and most of the disputes are economic disputes. The disputes among people from different ethnic groups are mainly caused by religious belief. In the fourth place, the autonomy of rural residents in some parts of Ganzi District is bad with low open rate of village businesses and corruption. In the fifth place, rural residents' evaluation on social justice is low.

Rural areas in Ganzi District should solve these problems as soon as possible, especially the religious belief, which is the major reason that causes the disputes among different ethnic groups. Religious problems are the principal problems that affect the stability of local place. In view of the instability factors that affect social stability, the relevant prevention and control system should be established and perfected to com-

expanding the scope of mortgage and elongating the repayment period. The key is to enlarge the credit expenditure on rural houses, cars, refrigerator, color TV and some other consumer durables, so as to let rural residents improve residential situation through loan and further promote the development of rural building materials, decoration and transportation to increase rural residents' consumption level.

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prehensively supervise and maintain the peaceful and stable development of the stability of rural areas in Ganzi District.

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