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# Research on Rural Public Service System Based on the Data of "The Eleventh Five-Year Plan"

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**Abstract** Rural public service is the services provided to rural residents to fulfill the needs of agricultural production, development of rural economy and improvement of peasant's living standard. Improving rural public service system is good for promoting the development of rural economy, enhancing the quality of peasant's living standard, narrowing the gap between rural and urban areas and constructing socialistic harmonious society. Currently, our rural power grid construction can meet the essential needs of economic and social development in rural areas. Rural water conservancy structure also fulfills the needs of agricultural production and peasant's life. Rural traffic condition has an obvious improvement. Education, culture, medical care and other public services all have a general enhancement. However, comparing to the city, rural public service system still exists some problems including imperfect infrastructures, low-quality education and medical treatment, low-level living environment and so on. Therefore, it is needed to establish a long-acting system of rural public service to boost the reform of rural basic education, improve the facilities of rural medical treatment, promote the reform of rural cooperative medical service, enhance the management of rural governance and improve the quality of rural life and environment.

**Key words** Rural Public Service, Infrastructure, Cooperative Medical Service, China

Rural public service is the services provided to the rural residents to fulfill the needs of agricultural production, development of rural economy and improvement of peasant's living standard. It includes rural water conservancy, power grid construction, construction of rural education, culture and medical infrastructure, rural transportation construction and so on. Over the thirty years since reform and opening up, along with the improvement of national economic development level, the system of rural public service has already established and been in strongly support for agricultural development and improvement of peasant's living standard. Since the Sixteenth CPC National Congress, the Central Government has requested to coordinate urban and rural economic and social development and carry out policy of "Giving More, Taking Less and Loosening Control" in rural areas. The rural public service has strengthened a lot<sup>[1]</sup>. The Twelfth Five-Year Plan puts forward that, to ensure and improve people's life, it is necessary to establish a perfect basic public service system. And the improvement of rural public service system is of the top importance. Constantly promoting the establishment of high-level and high-quality rural public service system is the right way and the important guarantee of establishing socialistic new countryside. It has a great significance to make continuous improvement of our rural public service system.

## 1 The significance of improving rural public service system

**1.1 In favor of promoting rural economic development and improving peasant's living standard** Along with the

support of a series of policies supporting agriculture and benefiting farmers, especially the measure of exempting agricultural tax, rural economic development level has got a great improvement. But there is still a big gap between urban and rural areas. An important reason is the behindhand rural public service system. Improving rural public service development level can improve the rural infrastructure and developmental environment. It is also in favor of increasing agricultural development level and attracting more investment. The imperfection of rural public service is also the factor of low living standard of rural residents. Inconvenient transportation, bad condition of medical service, defective middle-and-primary educational facilities and shortage of cultural facilities all lead to low peasant's living standard in a long term. Promoting constant improvement of rural public service system is the important way of solving the above problems.

**1.2 In favor of narrowing the gap between urban and rural areas** Our country is the typical dual economic structure of urban and rural areas. In recent years, the peasant's income has a big increase, but the gap between urban and rural areas still presents an extensive trend. In order to narrow the gap, it is necessary to put the development of agriculture, village and peasant into the overall planning of the whole national economy, implement the policy of industry regurgitation-feeding agriculture and city supporting village, gradually change the dual economic structure of urban and rural areas to realize the integrated development of rural economy and society, make the urban and rural residents enjoy the fruit of reformation and realize the sustainable development of agricultural and rural economy. Moreover, establishing good public service system is good for accelerating the overall planning of urban and rural areas. According to the estimate, the effect of the gap of public service between urban and rural areas on the gap of real income per

person is 30% – 40%<sup>[2]</sup>. If considering the different public services, the gap of real income between urban and rural residents is five to six times. At present, the public service demand from rural residents increases rapidly, but the supply capacity of public service hasn't got corresponding improvement, it greatly affects the improvement of the level of overall planning of urban and rural areas. Therefore, it needs to adopt measures to push the improvement of offer capacity of rural public service and promote the perfection of rural public service system.

### 1.3 In favor of constructing socialistic harmonious society

Our national economy grows rapidly since reform and opening up. People's living standard also increases constantly. Due to the constraint of region, economic developmental environment and resources, rural economic and social development is still in a weak status. Most of the peasants haven't fully enjoyed the fruit of national economic growth. A key step of constructing harmonious society is promoting the supplying level of rural public service, improving rural infrastructure facilities, enhancing the condition of rural education, medical care and hygiene. Making progress of improving rural public service system is the inevitable requirement of constructing socialistic and harmonious society.

## 2 Current situation of rural public service system in our country

### 2.1 Rural power grid can meet the basic needs of rural economic and social development

Since the New China Founded, our country has started to establish and improve rural power grid and promote the power supply level. To the year of 2006, power supply region of state grid has realized getting electricity in every county. The power-on-rate of countryside, village and household respectively reaches 99.9%, 99.8% and 99.4%. The rural electric power construction realizes a historic leap<sup>[3]</sup>. During the "Eleventh Five-Year Plan", the government has arranged a special fund to support the transformation of rural power grid and electric power construction, solved the electricity problems of more than 30 million people, decreased 35 billion yuan electric charge of peasants every year, realized the same electric charge between urban and village, the peasant's burden gets relief,

### 2.2 Rural hydraulic structure guarantees the basic water need of agricultural production and living

During the "Eleventh Five-Year Plan", we have solved the water security of 0.216 billion people. The central government invests 59 billion yuan, the local government counterparts fund is 41.8 billion yuan, the peasant water demand for living has got guarantee. From 1998 up to now, continued establishment of counterparts of large irrigated area and water saving renovation project have been invested 47.5 billion yuan, 417 large irrigated areas have been transformed, the irrigated areas has increased and recovered 1.86 million hm<sup>2</sup>, 8.93 million hm<sup>2</sup> irrigated area has been improved; In the key canal system of the project, the water utilization parameter reaches 0.53, annual newly increased water saving capability is 15.8 billion m<sup>3</sup>. The water need of agricultural irrigating has been guaranteed<sup>[4]</sup>.

### 2.3 Rural transportation has been changed obviously

Since 2006, our country has carried out the "Five years Hundred Billion yuan" project, rural highway has stepped into rapid grow period which is the largest-scale in the history. In the "Eleventh Five-Year Plan", the newly constructed and transformed rural highway is 1.2 million km. All villages and townships meet the requirements in the whole country are accessible by asphalt (cement) roads, all the villages meet the requirements in East and Middle areas are accessible by asphalt (cement) roads. In the west areas, most of the villages meet the requirements are accessible by highway. The national rural highway mileage reaches 3.445 million km, the newly increased mileage is 0.5397 million km, the rural transportation condition has improved obviously<sup>[5]</sup>.

### 2.4 Rural education, culture, medical and other public service has improved in generally

During the "Eleventh Five-Year Plan", the finance has already invested 458.8 billion yuan in security mechanism reformation of rural compulsory education funds. In the budget, the proportion of rural compulsory education funds in the whole investment of rural compulsory education has increased from 67% in 1999 to 93% in 2009 since the tax reform. Rural free compulsory education has been popularized. Nearly 0.13 billion rural students enjoy the policy of exempting tuition and fees and free textbooks. The net enrollment rate of primary school in our country reaches 99.5%, the gross enrollment rate of junior high school reaches 98.5% which is closed to average of developed countries<sup>[6]</sup>.

The goal of "cultural station in every township" has almost realized. The central finance has threw 3.2 billion special fund to support the stricken counties in middle areas and the "Every village has radio and television" construction in the villages with more than 20 electricity accessible households. The villages with more than 20 electricity accessible households have already realized radio and television accessible. By the end of 2009, the amount of county-level public libraries in the whole nation are 2491, the covering rate reaches 87.16%; county-level cultural centers are 2862, the covering rate reaches 100%; township (street) cultural stations are 38736, the covering rate reaches 94.8%; village cultural rooms are 209600, the covering rate reaches 34.2%<sup>[7]</sup>.

Rural hygiene condition has got big improvement. The medical and health service system covers city townships and villages have improved gradually. The central government has invested accumulative total of 58.84 billion yuan special funds. Establish nearly 2000 county-level hospitals, 23000 health clinics in towns and townships, more than 20000 village health care rooms. The insured people of new-type rural cooperative medical service reach 0.835 billion, the insured rate reaches 95%. The financing level and the compensation ratio of hospital cost have improved on. The security level also has steady improvement<sup>[8]</sup>.

## 3 The existed problems of rural public service system in our country

### 3.1 Imperfect infrastructure

The funds of rural infrastructure in our country have a narrow sourcing channel. Most cap-

ital derives from government finance. There isn't any third-party capital, like private capital, foreign capital and other social capital. However, the investment of rural infrastructure from government finance is limited. So that, agricultural production is still in traditional agricultural era which is "Depend on the Climate", the resistant capability from natural disaster is bad. Many villages still haven't running water, the peasant's living standard can't be guaranteed. On the other hand, the governments of some areas are not only the investors but also the managers of rural infrastructure. They are lack of supervision, so as to arise the situation of ectopic government service functions. It is not good for the improvement of rural public service.

**3.2 Educational and medical condition causes people's concern** Comparing to the city, rural basic education, especially nine-year compulsory education, is still weak. The quantity and quality of rural teachers can't meet the demand of rural basic education. Quantitatively, many rural areas are lack of teachers. One rural teacher should afford times or ten times students than that of urban teacher; Qualitatively, the educational background of many rural teachers are vocational, senior high school or even junior high school, the comprehensive quality is not high. Moreover, many rural teachers don't want to be in rural areas. They want to be transferred to townships. It affects the quality of rural basic education. On the medical and health care, although there are many township hospital, They are not believed by rural residents due to the shortage of capital, facilities and talents. It makes some township hospitals idle. After the implement of the "new type of rural cooperative medical care system", to a certain extent, the people's anxiety has been solved. But, according to the low reimbursement rate, the problems of difficulty and high cost of getting medical treatment haven't been solved basically.

**3.3 Rural living environment haven't got practical improvement** Since the construction of socialistic new countryside, rural ecological environment has got a great improvement. However, the living standard still hasn't changed a lot. In many villages, the water after fertilization and irrigation flows directly to the underground without being processed. And most of the source of drinking water in rural areas is the underground water, it results in insecurity of drinking water. The natural generated rubbish, such as straw, livestock excrement and so on, are usually disposed by burning and landfill. It is easy to cause air pollution and breed mosquito and insect, so as to affect rural resident's health. The living supporting facilities in rural house are still insufficient. Construction of running water and natural gas pipe network is slow. Firewood and straw are still the main living energy. The people and livestock even have the difficulty of drinking water in some remote rural areas.

## 4 Countermeasures and suggestions of improving rural public service system

**4.1 Establishing a long-term mechanism of rural public service** The key reason of weak rural infrastructure and imperfect educational and medical level is few input from government, so establishing a long-term mechanism of rural public

service is very important. For this, firstly, it is needed to strengthen rural finance construction. Central and provincial government should constantly increase the finance support to the rural areas and decrease income-turn-over proportion of county and township government. The supporting focus should be placed on the underdeveloped areas in the middle and west areas and minority areas, increase the input of rural transportation, electricity facility, water conservancy, education, medical treatment and cultural facilities. Secondly, county and township government should pay main attention to develop county economy and rural economy. Promoting rural public service system could not only rely on central and provincial government finance. It should positively make the finance cake bigger, with combination of local resource and regional strength, strive to develop rural service industries such as characteristic agriculture, rural tourism, rural logistics, try hard to cultivate dominant industry, attract investment actively and breed tax source. Finally, strengthen the supervision to guarantee the funds of rural public service using in the right place. Establish supervision committee of rural public service funds with main member of rural residents, strictly prevent the corruption, rural image project and face project.

**4.2 Continuing to push the rural basic educational reform** Besides implementing the relevant policy of rural basic education from central government, every province and city should increase policy supply according to the local social economic development situation and developmental level of rural basic education, further strengthen the input of rural basic education, improve rural school building, increase the rural teaching environment, ensure on-time salary of teachers and constantly improve the treatment of rural teachers. The county finance should take out a certain proportional capital as the special subsidy of rural teachers to improve rural teacher's living standard. It also needs to boost publicity, change the employment idea of graduates, incite graduates to participate into the rural basic education, encourage graduates to support the rural basic education of their own hometown.

**4.3 Improving rural medical facilities and promoting rural cooperative medical reform** The government should enhance the finance of township hospital and improve the quality of medical facilities, hold the activities of excellent medical talents of provinces and cities going to the towns and villages at regular intervals to help township hospital improve medical treatment level, increase the on-the-job training of the doctors of township hospitals to improve their medical skills and energetically carry out new type rural cooperative medical system. Central and provincial government should gradually increase finance input to stabilize the participation of new type rural cooperative medical system from rural residents and increase their trust, hold the free medical treatment activity for rural residents at regular intervals, change the wrong idea of "ailments don't see the doctors, serious illnesses don't dare to see the doctors", stick to the basic drug system, decrease the price of commonly used drugs and strengthen drugs supervision.

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high; the operation quality of non-agricultural production of farmers in the comparatively developed regions is high; the working quality of agricultural production of farmers in the comparatively developed regions and underdeveloped regions is higher than the working quality of non-agricultural production of

farmers in the comparatively developed regions and underdeveloped regions; the working quality of non-agricultural industries of farmers in the developed regions is higher than the working quality of agricultural production.

**Table 5 The composite evaluation result of the working quality of farmers in terms of second-class factors**

Regions	Physical quality	Educational quality	Operation quality of agricultural production	Technological quality	Operation quality of non-agricultural industries
Underdeveloped regions	0.076 4	0.000 1	0.524 1	0.052 1	0.285 8
Comparatively developed regions	0.241 8	0.500 0	0.325 4	0.142 0	0.540 9
Developed regions	1	0.712 9	0.162 5	1	0.305 1

**Table 6 The composite evaluation result of the working quality of farmers in terms of first-class factors**

Regions	The working quality of agricultural production	The working quality of non-agricultural industries
Underdeveloped regions	0.182 8	0.124 7
Comparatively developed regions	0.375 7	0.265 8
Developed regions	0.650 6	0.784 5

## 4 Conclusion and enlightenment

To sum up, in the regions with backward economic developmental level, the farmers are more inclined to be engaged in agricultural production, while in the regions with relatively high economic developmental level, the farmers are more inclined to be engaged in non-agricultural production. Often the farmers who depend on agricultural production and operation cannot be lifted out of poverty and backwardness, and the farmers who are at adept at non-agricultural production and operation are more capable of casting off poverty and backwardness.

The working quality of farmers in Jilin Province is the epitome of the working quality of farmers in China. In the light of the evaluation analysis of the working quality of farmers in regions

with different economic developmental levels in Jilin Province, the working quality of farmers is closely related to the level of economic development. Given that the level of economic development in China is extremely uneven, and the gap between the poor and the rich is too large, the urgent priority of constructing new village is to coordinate urban-rural development, and to offer preferential policies and capital for the villages with backward economic development level.

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### 4.4 Strengthening the transformation of rural environment and improving environmental quality of rural living

The county and township government should strengthen the publicity of transforming rural environment, according to the practical condition, proceed in reasonable plan, establish transformation group and increase the political level. It can also boost the finance sourcing. In the meantime of take full use of government finance, adopting various methods to increase the capital supply. For example, through the money collection of rural residents, centralizedly install running water pipe, gas (natural gas) pipe, flush toilet, wide band, etc. for every household.

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