Exploration and Analysis on the Idea of Targeted Poverty Alleviation in the New Era

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Abstract. The idea of targeted poverty alleviation fully shows the theoretical innovation and practical innovation of road for poverty alleviation with Chinese characteristics. It meets the needs of dynamic development of socialistic poverty alleviation and development with Chinese characteristics in the new era, indicates the direction of poverty governance by the party and the government, and has significant actual sense, practical value and role of guiding thinking.

Keywords: new era, targeted poverty alleviation, actual sense, guiding role

1. Introduction

Report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China proposed to be determined to win the battle against poverty, and continuously make new achievements when building a moderately well-off society in an all-round way. The Central Economic Working Conference listed "targeted poverty alleviation" as one of the three tough fights in the next three years. This is not only the solemn commitment of the Party Central Committee centered on General Secretary Xi Jinping to people across the country, but also the target and task of the whole country and the whole society. The idea of targeted poverty alleviation in the new era is another important idea of achieving common prosperity, and another major achievement of theoretical development of localization of Marxism in China. It fully shows the theoretical innovation and practical innovation of road for poverty alleviation with Chinese characteristics. Comrade Xi Jinping pointed out: "Poverty alleviation and development has become so successful today. Targeted poverty alleviation is the most important. It determines success or failure." Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, Comrade Xi Jinping paid much attention to poverty alleviation and development, went to poverty-stricken areas for many times for investigation, made a series of important speeches about poverty alleviation and development work, profoundly expounded the major theoretical and practical problems of poverty alleviation and development in the new era, formed the strategic thinking about poverty alleviation and development with abundant connotation, profound thought and a complete system, and defined the direction and task of poverty alleviation.

2. Research Overview of the Idea of Targeted Poverty Alleviation in the New Era

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, General Secretary Xi Jinping proposed many new conclusions and new requirements from the strategic perspective of the overall development of the party and the country based on the practical development of poverty-stricken areas; profoundly expounded many important problems, such as who would be supported, who would provide support, how to support and how to measure; and gradually formed his idea of poverty alleviation. The academic circle talked in depth about and studied his idea, and made a lot of research achievements. Summarizing these research achievements is of great significance for having a correct and deep understanding of and implementing Xi Jinping’s idea of poverty alleviation. The main content and ideological connotation of Xi Jinping’s idea of poverty alleviation is the focus of study and explanation in the academic circle and of the media. According to the number of subjects included in Xi Jinping’s idea of poverty alleviation, the existing research viewpoints can be divided into three-subject theory, four-subject theory, five-subject theory, six-subject theory, seven-subject theory, etc. Among main characteristic studies about Xi Jinping’s
idea of poverty alleviation, Liu Yisheng and Xu Cailing summarized four features of Xi Jinping’s idea of poverty alleviation. First, stick to the socialistic anti-poverty road. As Xi Jinping emphasized, poverty is not socialism. If poverty-stricken areas are poor, this situation is not changed and people’s living standard is not improved for a long term, it does not show the superiority of the socialist system in China and it is not socialism. Second, continue to emphasize the leading force of the government in poverty alleviation. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the Party Central Committee with Xi Jinping as General Secretary not only included poverty alleviation in the "four overall" strategic layout and the 13th Five-year Plan as main content, but also increased investment in poverty alleviation and provided preferential policies to poverty-stricken areas and low income families on the premise of more economic downward pressure, and strengthened the construction of the poverty alleviation team by strengthening the leadership responsibility system. Third, consider the all-round development of human being as the value orientation. Xi Jinping emphasized that intelligence and ambition should be focused on first for poverty alleviation. We should pay attention to not only material poverty alleviation, but also spirit poverty alleviation. When the poverty alleviation of material and spirit is realized, it is the real poverty alleviation. Fourth, based on the inheritance of anti-poverty thought of Marxist system, continue to insist on considering system reform and anti-institutionalized poverty as the important measure of poverty alleviation, especially abolishing the urban-rural dual system. [1] Wang Hui proposed three features of Xi Jinping’s idea of poverty alleviation from the perspective of philosophy of thinking method. First, the distinct thinking of materialistic dialectics. Xi Jinping pays much attention to the dialectical unification relations of global and local, long term and short term, and pressure and power. Second, the firm stand of historical materialism. Xi Jinping’s idea of poverty alleviation contains deep mass consciousness. He believes that people are the power of social development of human being and the main power of poverty alleviation. The mass line should pass through the poverty alleviation. Third, scientific epistemological approach of dialectical materialism. In the process of poverty alleviation, Xi Jinping pays much attention to investigation, and he is realistic and pragmatic. [2] At present, the study and exposition of Xi Jinping’s idea of poverty alleviation has become a hot topic in the academic circle. A batch of high-quality academic papers appeared, and a lot of research achievements were made. However, because it has been studied for a short time, it is to be explored. Few research achievements have been made, which are mainly policy interpretation and media publicity. The academic circle should do more work on studying, and study it systematically from many aspects. There is much general description and little individual analysis. Especially there are few achievements of deep study on an aspect of Xi Jinping’s idea of poverty alleviation.

3. Analysis on the Mechanism of Idea of Targeted Poverty Alleviation in the New Era

In a sense, in the new stage of “difficulty overcoming” of poverty alleviation in China, whether “real poverty alleviation” can be the key to poverty alleviation work is the important manifestation of whether party members and cadres practice the fundamental purpose of the party. “Eliminating poverty, improving people’s livelihood and achieving common prosperity is the essential requirement of socialism”, the important manifestation of the superiority of socialism, and the inevitable requirement of building a moderately well-off society in an all-round way and realizing socialist modernization.

(i) Formation and evolution of idea of targeted poverty alleviation in the new era. Comrade Xi Jinping paid attention to poverty and poverty alleviation in China for a long term, proposed a series of methods for poverty alleviation, and formed his own idea of poverty alleviation. In the late 1980s, Comrade Xi Jinping paid attention to poverty in the investigation in Mindong, believed that the poverty-stricken area was like a “weak bird” compared to developed areas, and proposed that “the poverty-stricken area should not have poor concept, the weak bird could fly first and the poor could become rich first”. Comrade Xi Jinping went to the countryside to do a lot of investigations for
many times. According to the typical experience in investigations, for a series of problems in the extensive poverty alleviation, to achieve the target of building a moderately well-off society in an all-round way by 2020, he proposed the major strategy of targeted poverty alleviation at the right time in a scientific manner. This part traces the ideas of targeted poverty alleviation proposed by Comrade Xi Jinping from Yanchuang to Zhengding, Ningde and Beijing, such as “intelligence and ambition should be focused on first for poverty alleviation” and “target poverty alleviation”.

(ii) Logical system and value of times of Xi Jinping’s idea of targeted poverty alleviation. Xi Jinping’s idea of poverty alleviation is formed and developed in the practice of solving the poverty problem in China, and becomes mature and increasingly improves when we scientifically answer the key questions such as who would be supported, who would provide support and how to support. There is no doubt that in the new era the idea of targeted poverty alleviation has value of times from many aspects, but it can be summarized from aspects of theory and practice. As most of the existing studies illustrate at the domestic level, this part will explain this problem from the perspective of global poverty reduction in the world.

(iii) Design of the system and mechanism of innovative targeted poverty alleviation of Xi Jinping. First, the responsibility system of targeted poverty alleviation is implemented, the letter of responsibility is signed at different levels, targets and tasks are decomposed and achieved at different levels, and the construction period is arranged in a reverse manner. Second, the poverty alleviation action plan of “four batches” is implemented, and the targeted poverty alleviation is effectively promoted. Third, the great poverty alleviation mechanism participated by the whole society. Comrade Xi Jinping pointed out: “Poverty alleviation and development is the common responsibility of the whole party and the whole society. Forces of the entire society should be mobilized and gathered for extensive participation. The trinitarian “great poverty alleviation pattern” in which special poverty alleviation, industrial poverty alleviation, social poverty alleviation and other forces and measures are combined and support each other should be insisted on. By forming the great poverty alleviation pattern with participation of the whole society, integrating various social subjects, forming the interaction effect, building a close relation with the subject supported, and forming the “one-to-one”, “many-to-one”, “one-to-many” and “many-to-many” linked pairing support mechanism, poverty alleviation resources can be integrated and the problem of poverty alleviation can be solved.

4. The Guiding Role of Targeted Poverty Alleviation in the New Era

Xi Jinping’s idea of targeted poverty alleviation is the product of thoughts and theories of specific practice of poverty alleviation and development in China at present. It meets the needs of dynamic development of socialist poverty alleviation with Chinese characteristics in the new era, and indicates the direction of poverty governance by the party and the government in a period of time in future.

(i) The idea of targeted poverty alleviation in the new era is an important guideline for poverty governance by the party and the government. Since the reform and opening-up, the poverty alleviation work in China has made great achievements. However, as the number of remaining poverty-stricken population in China is still large, and most of them are distributed in remote mountain areas, stone mountain areas, cold regions, endemic areas, regions inhabited by ethnic groups, border areas and old revolutionary base areas, the concentrative and large destitute areas are formed in some places. These areas have bad natural living environment, inconvenient traffic, poor production and living infrastructure or high difficulty in poverty alleviation. Xi Jinping proposed the idea of targeted poverty alleviation to concentrate resources and do big things with the socialist system, and help poverty-stricken areas and people in financial difficulties to get rid of poverty as scheduled and become rich. For countless problems in the previous poverty alleviation and development work such as inaccurate target and poor effect, targeted poverty alleviation adopts the “one-to-one” poverty alleviation strategy and really implements poverty alleviation. Nowadays, targeted poverty alleviation is implemented everywhere. Led by the government with the extensive
participation of the whole society, the poverty alleviation is implemented for villages, households and people. Targeted poverty alleviation has become a systematic and specific theoretical system, and the guiding thought for poverty governance by the country.

(ii) Targeted poverty alleviation is the policy guarantee for poverty-stricken areas to build the "last kilometer" for well-off realization. Whether all the existing rural poor population can get rid of poverty by 2020 is the most important indicator to measure the building of a moderately well-off society in an all-round way. The target has been established. Practical policy measures are required to serve as guarantee. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, Xi Jinping proposed targeted poverty alleviation, and eliminated poverty and led people to march towards well-off with forces of the whole nation. This was unprecedented. On the conference on poverty alleviation and development of the central government held at the end of 2015, main responsible persons of 22 provinces and regions in the midwest made a military pledge about poverty alleviation, and promised to win the battle of poverty alleviation and ensure that an all-round well-off society would be built as scheduled. This practice was unprecedented. Targeted poverty alleviation is the key action to ensure that all the people march towards the well-off society together. By unity and cooperation, we are expected to build a moderately well-off society in an all-round way.

(iii) Targeted poverty alleviation vividly shows the concept of all-round development centered on people. “Allowing people to live a good life is the starting point and foothold of all our work.”[3] Getting rid of poverty is the biggest practical issue concerning people's livelihood at present in China, and the biggest honor in the process of realizing the rejuvenation of China by the Chinese Communist Party. Since the reform and opening-up, the country has been engaged in development of economy and improvement of living standard of people. However, some people in financial difficulties still have not solved the problem of food and clothing in China, and they always expect to get rid of poverty and become rich. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, Xi Jinping specially emphasized that eliminating poverty, improving people's livelihood and realizing common prosperity was the essential requirement of socialism and the important mission of the party.[3] He proposed targeted poverty alleviation to fulfill his promise with actual action, allow every person with financial difficulties to get the support he/she deserves, allow people to have more sense of happiness and gain in the development, allow all the poverty-stricken areas and poverty-stricken population to completely get rid of poverty, realize equal right of people and common prosperity, show the original idea of people-oriented of the socialist society, and pursue the ideal happy life together.

Xi Jinping emphasized a basic idea in several speeches, which was allowing all the people to share all the achievements of reform and development, and preventing people in financial difficulties from falling behind in the process of social development. Targeted poverty alleviation opens a path to improve people's well-being and promote social equality and justice, increases socialism’s ideological understanding about common prosperity, and becomes the latest ideological achievements on the road of poverty alleviation of Chinese style under the background of new era.

5. Conclusion

Xi Jinping emphasized that overcoming poverty and achieving prosperity finally had to be realized by people in financial difficulties through hardworking. There's no mountain higher than people and no road longer than feet. We should focus on showing the spirit of grassroots cadres and masses, and ask them to take action passionately, and change the poverty and backwardness by hardworking. We should mobilize forces of the whole society to extensively participate in poverty alleviation.It should be said that poverty alleviation is the responsibility of the whole society. We must make concerted efforts to promote the socialization of poverty alleviation work in a sustainable manner. By innovating the targeted work pattern, the guiding role of the government and the role of market mechanism should be given full play to, and the great poverty alleviation and development pattern promoted by the government, market and society should be developed. By
further market-oriented reform, the social creativity should be developed. The government should continuously work hard to create the environment for poverty alleviation. Relevant policies should be improved through study, the social poverty alleviation service platform should be established, and various enterprises, social organizations, individuals and other social forces should be encouraged and guided to actively participate in the poverty alleviation and development. Policies should be introduced to attract various resource elements of the society to flow to the poverty-stricken areas. The government should increase investment in poverty alleviation and development, streamline administration and delegate power to the lower levels, change its functions, make the top-level design of poverty alleviation and development, create a good environment for market subjects, attract various resource elements to flow to poverty-stricken areas and various market subjects to invest in and do business in poverty-stricken areas, build the great poverty alleviation and development pattern promoted by the government, market and society, and work hard to build a moderately well-off society in an all-round way and realize the great rejuvenation of Chinese nation.

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