



The Experience and Enlightenment of Anti-poverty Governance in Rural India

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Abstract: Anti-poverty governance is a worldwide problem. Foreign experience in rural anti-poverty governance is helpful to examine the rural poverty problem in developing countries around the world and to explore a new governance paradigm. Taking India's rural anti-poverty governance policy as an example, this paper gives focuses on revealing and summarizing India's typical experience and advantages in poverty governance through literature comparison. The study finds that the anti-poverty governance in rural India has formed a network pattern based on agriculture, funding, participation of social subjects, specialized poverty alleviation institutions and legislative guarantee. These typical experiences have certain experience enlightenment and knowledge accumulation for the global developing country rural anti-poverty governance.

Keywords: poverty, governance experience, revelation

1. Research background

India is the largest country in the South Asian subcontinent, which is also a unified multi-ethnic country composed of more than 100 ethnic groups. As one of the four ancient civilizations, Indian civilization has made a great contribution to world civilization. But as India was colonized by the British for about 200 years, the colonists continued to squeeze the Indian peasants, making their lives very difficult. The all-Indian civil service system established by the British in India allowed the power of central administration to extend to the most remote villages. Since then, the isolation of Indian farmers was broken, and the colonists were constantly exploited and oppressed. The new taxation system adopted was based on expected output and collected cash tax by individual units, forcing Indian farmers to be involved in the market economy without any preparation. As a result, many people fell into severe poverty.[1]

Due to the tireless efforts of the Indian people, India gained independence in 1947 after more than 200 years of colonial rule. However, at this time, India had fallen into an extremely serious poverty crisis, with 80% of the population relying on agriculture for production and life. Under such a difficult background, the Indian government constantly introduced anti-poverty policies and a series of rural anti-poverty governance reform measures.

Poverty in India is mainly manifested with rural poverty, among which food shortage is the most important, followed by unfair treatment of women and children. Due to the huge population base of India, the number of rural population is also very large, which brings great difficulty to the anti-poverty governance of the Indian government. The severity of rural poverty also leads to urban poverty. The largest slum in India is located in Mumbai, which is also the largest slum in Asia and the second largest slum in the world. The existence of these slums makes the urban development of India also face many thorny problems. In response to the poverty situation in India, the Indian government has formulated several five-year plans, mainly to promote economic growth and narrow the gap between the rich and the poor, social equity and other aspects of the target. Over the next few years, several planning instruments were developed around these objectives, with different focuses.

From India's independence to the present seventy years of development, the poverty situation in India has been effectively improved. In recent years, India's GDP has increased significantly, and the population living in cities has also increased. However, there are still more than 300 million people living in absolute poverty in India, and the gap between the rich and the poor is widening with the economic growth. The task of anti-poverty governance by the Indian government is still very difficult.

2. Anti-poverty policies and measures of the Indian government

After independence, India gave initial priority to a short-term increase in food production to overcome a period of severe food shortages. In the early 1990s, India began to carry out bold reform and opening up, put aside the previous planned economy system, reduced the government's intervention in the economy, and turned the economy from a semi-

closed and semi-controlled economy to a market mechanism. India's economy grew rapidly and became the fastest growing economy second only to China.

After the 21st century and after the reform and opening up, India has achieved rapid development in foreign trade, with an increase of nearly 20-40 times in the amount of commodity imports and exports compared with the 20th century, making India occupy a very important position in global trade. After independence, India was unable to guarantee people's basic living needs due to extremely backward economic development. The poverty problem was fully manifested in the following aspects: a large number of poor population and a wide gap in poverty; unfair treatment of women and children; the influence of ethnic religion on social stability and serious unemployment. Therefore, the Indian government began to lead the people to fight against poverty. Different leaders focused on different anti-poverty measures. Mahatma Gandhi believed that the social status of the poor should be improved first, and then the economic status should be improved.

Nehru believed that tackling inequality was the most important part of tackling poverty. He put forward the slogan of "Eliminating Poverty and Achieving Social Justice", which was put into practice to some extent in the following five-year plans. Under the guidance of the anti-poverty goals of various governments, the Indian government has mainly adopted the following policies and measures:

2.1 Land reform and the Green Revolution

In India's pre-independence land system, the poor peasants could not obtain adequate means of livelihood due to the extensive exploitation of the middleman landowner. The Nehru government prioritized the development of agricultural production and land reform in its first five-year plan, which mainly eliminated middleman landlords. Legislation was also enacted to regulate the land rent rate and consolidate tenancy rights to protect the interests of tenant farmers and related land holding ceiling. The land beyond the limitation was expropriated by the government and distributed to farmers with little or no land. The land reform provided a certain amount of land to the landless and less landless peasants, guaranteed the basic livelihood of the poor peasants, and also changed the nature of land to some extent. However, the land reform this time failed to achieve the expected effect. It was a moderate reform and the intermediary system was not completely abolished, and the intermediary system still existed in a few states.

In the process of abolishing middlemen, the government pays a large amount of compensation to middlemen, and most state governments allow landlords to take back the leased land for self-cultivation, which leads to a large number of landlords still occupy part of the land in the name of self-cultivation. Landlords and rich peasants generally held real power in the countryside, so the law on maximum land rent was not enforced. In view of these circumstances, India's land reform did not change the original land ownership structure, so it could not effectively improve the poverty situation in rural areas.

In the mid-1960s, due to the continuous outbreak of famine in rural India, the Indian government implemented a new strategy for agricultural development, namely the Green Revolution, to solve the food problem. The environmental adaptability of agriculture should be enhanced through the introduction of high-yielding seeds and investment in fertilizers and water conservancy.

In rural credit, the government has increased financial subsidies for agricultural production, established state-owned grain companies, and implemented the price support policy for agricultural products. In some areas with relatively complete infrastructure, the government has strengthened agricultural research and education activities, actively promoted some agricultural modernization techniques, and increased grain output. The Green Revolution could solve the problem of food supply in rural India to some extent, but on the whole, it did not achieve the desired effect. As the Green Revolution was mostly carried out in the better-developed rural areas, the beneficiaries were mostly landlords and rich peasants, which further widened the gap between the rich and the poor in rural areas.

2.2 Public distribution system

The public distribution system means that the government controls part of the fair-price stores to ensure that people can buy daily necessities at a reasonable price. These inexpensive stores mainly supply necessities such as sugar, wheat and kerosene. In addition, the Indian government guarantees that a fixed amount of grain can be allocated to the poor every month through the procurement of grain companies, which to some extent ensures the stability of farmers' production and life and improves the conditions of the poor.

However, there are also many problems in the public distribution system. First, there is no scientific and clear identification of the service objects of distribution. The poor should be in the scope of distribution objects, but if the non-poor are included, the coverage of non-distribution supply will be in an excessively wide scope, making great pressure in the food supply. Thirdly, the cost of food companies in the whole process of procurement and distribution of food is at a considerably high level, and because the distribution price is low, the difference is subsidized by financial funds, which adds

great pressure to the national finance.

2.3 Plan for comprehensive rural development

In 1979, the Indian government embarked on a large scale on the Integrated Rural Development Program, whose main purpose was to improve the living and working conditions of the truly poor in rural areas. The plan mainly includes providing certain subsidies and loans to the landless and small poor farmers, providing them with some seeds and fertilizers necessary for agricultural production at preferential rates, increasing technical input to poor areas, and attaching importance to local education and training as well as infrastructure construction.

In the increase of rural employment opportunities, the pressure on rural employment has been eased to a certain extent through the establishment of some small-scale industries and handicrafts. The comprehensive agricultural development plan has been well implemented in the seventh Five-Year Plan. The number of poor rural population, including women, has been on the rise, and more and more government financial funds have been tilted towards rural areas, resulting in improved social equity[2].

2.4 Improvement of education and social security

Since India's independence, the government has been constantly exploring the development of basic education, from the education elite group at the beginning of independence to the establishment of national capacity to the strategic position of primary education as a national priority. In 2001, India carried out the universal basic education plan, and revised quality basic education as the basic right of every child into the revised constitution, indicating that the Indian government recognized the importance of education for national development and poverty control. In its fifth five-year plan, the government had introduced a minimum demand plan. The program is designed to provide subsidized needs protection for the poor. The plan includes the improvement of the rural environment, the construction of rural health facilities and housing for the landless population. Since 1995, the National Social Assistance Program has been implemented in India. The program involves several sub-projects and explores and implements pension, disability pension, family welfare, pension assistance and other aspects. In 2005, India launched the National Rural Health Plan and adopted the Rural Medical Mission Plan, which focused on maternal and child health. A large number of medical supplies and medical talents have been sent to poor areas, and a rural medical and health system has been gradually established.

3. Typical experience of anti-poverty governance in India

From the date of independence to the present, India has been constantly exploring the way of rural poverty governance. No matter in terms of economic development or political status, the appearance of Rural India has undergone considerable changes. It can be summarized and summarized as follows.

3.1 Strong support for agricultural productivity

At the beginning of India's independence, farmers were mostly devastated by famine, which was fundamentally caused by extremely low agricultural productivity. Later, under the background of the booming population in rural areas, the improvement of agricultural productivity was the primary problem to be solved in India. Therefore, the Green Revolution proposed by the Indian government was imperative. The original goal of the Indian government's "*Green Revolution*" was to solve the problem of farmers' lack of food and increase the supply of food to solve the rural unrest caused by famine. However, this movement did not achieve the expected results. In some areas with poor environmental conditions and lack of technical level, the Gospel brought by the "Green Revolution" could not be obtained. Agricultural productivity in some areas is still very low. Confronting such situation, the public distribution system implemented by the Indian government began to penetrate into these rural areas with harsh natural environment, in some arid desert tribes and some mountain discount stores to provide local farmers with necessities cheaper than other distribution system stores. In 1989, the central government provided 80% of its financial support to ensure the implementation of the Jawaharaj employment Program in rural villages, and selected 60% of the lower-caste tribes in rural areas, which improved the poverty situation in rural areas to some extent. These measures speak volumes about the extent to which the Indian government recognises the need to increase agricultural productivity, a priority in tackling rural poverty .

3.2 Precise investment of funds

As a developing country, India's economy has improved comprehensively in recent years. However, due to the exploitation and exploitation by colonialists before independence, India's shallow economic foundation determines that it should take into account the overall financial layout while solving the problem of rural poverty. As a result, India has made many positive attempts to accurately identify the poor. Among the major implementation projects of poverty reduction

design in India, the rural Integrated Development Project has some achievements in accurate identification of the poor[3].

First, the recognition of the poor was conducted by the government as the main body. Conducting household surveys among farmers whose annual household income is below a certain amount as stipulated by the government. In addition to examining whether the household's annual income meets the requirements, it will also check the amount of assets of the household. The result of the check will be the overall ranking of the village, and the villagers committee will report the ranking to the Residents' Development Committee, which will be published after the examination and verification after determining the families to be subsidized, and relevant subjects will properly discuss which aspects of industrial projects should be carried out by them according to the actual situation of each family, and then give certain loans and subsidies according to the selected projects. In the selection of projects, some project groups will be designated according to the different project groups, in the group to discuss loan rules and other cooperation points needed in the business process, strengthening the cooperation and participation of all households.

3.3 Participation of multiple subjects

In India's rural anti-poverty governance, in addition to the central government, the federal government, banks and other subjects involved, non-governmental organizations, self-help groups, international organizations, citizens, panchayat, etc., are the main forces fighting poverty. Governments at all levels play a leading role in poverty control in India. The Indian government has played a huge role in anti-poverty policies, strategic plans and financial funds. The World Bank has also contributed greatly to the fight against poverty in India, providing necessary support in terms of loans, management and policy advice. There are also numerous self-help groups in India, such as rural women's self-help groups, which are developed on the basis of the non-governmental microfinance system and with the help of the Indian government, non-governmental organizations and banks. These organizations provide necessary platforms for the development of rural women. Through study and the establishment of small groups, rural women can participate in production and management activities to a certain extent, improve the status of women in society, and promote social equity.

Panchayat in India is an autonomous organization formed on the basis of villages. Panchayat plays a very important role in poverty alleviation. The implementation of many poverty alleviation plans and indicators of the government requires panchayat to participate in the precise selection and matching of the supported objects. India's non-governmental organizations is an important force in the process of poverty alleviation, such as mother Teresa association for poverty alleviation, Indian farmers association for the advancement of organization, etc. These NGOS have a certain degree of independence and vary in size. Poverty alleviation projects are widely distributed. NGOS can be seen in the education of women, care, employment, agriculture and scientific research, and these organizations are an indispensable force in the fight against poverty in India.

3.4 Specialized poverty alleviation institutions and legislative guarantees

The Indian government has set up special poverty alleviation agencies in urban and rural areas, such as the Ministry of Rural Development in rural areas and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation in urban areas. These two specialized poverty alleviation agencies have clear responsibilities and are specialized in managing the deployment and implementation of major anti-poverty projects. So far, the Ministry of Rural Development has been responsible for the rural employment guarantee program, housing program, etc. , which was committed to eliminating rural poverty, and constantly exploring effective ways to tackle rural poverty. There is an inevitable connection between rural poverty and urban poverty in India, and there are also differences. Therefore, the establishment of specialized poverty alleviation institutions is conducive to the scientific and rationalization of poverty control policies and measures in India.

India's unemployment problem is very serious. In addressing this problem, the Indian government has used a variety of economic policies to address it. The government has carried out a number of development plans, which in essence want to improve the ability development of the poor population through government assistance so as to solve the problem of local labor employment in rural areas, and to some extent guarantee the basic living needs of the vulnerable population. In the employment of floating population, the Indian government implemented the *National Rural Employment Guarantee Act* in 2006, and successively issued relevant regulations to assist the further implementation and implementation of the Act. *The Act* gave farmers the right to employment for the first time. The central government and the federal government formulated the National Rural Employment Project. The basic life of farmers was further guaranteed and consolidated by law[4].

4. Inspiration of India's anti-poverty experience to other developing countries

Most countries in the world and India are developing countries with a large population and a certain number of rural poor. Despite differences in basic national conditions, we can also get some inspiration from India's poverty governance model and experience since independence.

4.1 Correct understanding of the main role of government in poverty alleviation

From the perspective of India's poverty alleviation path, the Indian government has been playing a role as the main body of poverty alleviation.[5] Poverty governance is multi-dimensional governance, which is related to the interests of a country in many aspects. Once it is not properly handled it is easy to cause social instability. Therefore, the government must play a leading role in poverty governance. Governments in developing countries should be more is a major responsibility to ensure the basic life of the poor. The government should increase research and deployment, issue a series of relevant policies and legal documents, integrate poverty governance into the overall national development plan, and fully understand the inherent problems of rural poverty and find solutions by improving the system and mechanism of rural administration. Since poverty problems mostly occur in the rural areas of the world, we should attach importance to the sense of responsibility of the most grass-roots government and give it the necessary power reasonably. Rural poverty governance is an arduous and difficult task, which cannot be effectively solved only by government financial funds. Therefore, for developing countries, multi-subject participation is also a choice conforming to the development of the times.

4.2 Strengthening social security

Before the realization of economic development in poor areas, it is extremely urgent to improve the security work in poor areas. Economic development can not be achieved in a short period of time. Therefore, while helping the poor people get employment and other opportunities, we should strengthen the social security in poor areas from all aspects to enhance the happiness of poor people. The Indian state of Kerala is home to a large number of poor people. But the government is pursuing high growth in social indicators, not just economic ones. Therefore, Kerala has the highest social indicators in India, while the crime rate is the lowest in the country, which truly realizes the goal of people's happiness against the background that it was surrounded by numerous free resources. The inspiration of Kerala to the poor areas in the world's developing countries is that even though most of the poor areas cannot achieve rapid economic growth in the short term, they can still give the poor people the life happiness they need from other social indicators. Although most countries have made good achievements in poverty control, the rural social security system is still not perfect. In rural areas, the risk of "poverty due to illness" and "poverty due to illness" has seriously affected the normal life of poor people.

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