

# *A Probe into the Present Situation and Causes of Peasants' Psychological Poverty*

—A Case Study of Wulian Town, Jiange County, Sichuan Province

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**Abstract**—Psychological poverty refers to a series of negative changes in personality characteristics and mental health caused by economic poverty and other reasons, such as mental confusion and psychological confusion. In order to explore the current situation and influencing factors of farmers' psychological poverty, this study adopts the method of field investigation, and goes deep into the poverty-stricken rural areas of China, Wulian Town, Sichuan Province, for investigation. Through questionnaire design, field research, case interviews and data processing, it is concluded that peasants' conservative and dependent psychology is more serious, and there exist certain anxiety and inferiority psychology. It is also verified that the older the age is, the stronger the psychological poverty is, and the four factors, namely, cultural level, income, education level of children, and satisfaction degree of village committee governance, are negatively related to psychological poverty. Based on this result, this paper also puts forward corresponding countermeasures and suggestions to solve the problem of farmers' psychological poverty.

**Keywords**—psychological poverty; precise poverty alleviation; social governance; peasant group

## I. INTRODUCTION

At present, there are still some rural areas whose economic level is extremely backward in China. Their traditional habits and long-term gap between urban and rural areas and material backwardness make a series of psychological problems such as inferiority and conservatism of some farmers gradually appear, which is called psychological poverty in academia.[1] Our country is in a critical period of complex and changeable social transformation. The material and psychological poverty of farmers has become an important issue deserving attention. In this paper, the psychological poverty of farmers as a starting point to study the rural problems in China is a realistic way.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

### A. Research Status

In recent years, with the widespread concern of the community about mental health, the problem of mental poverty has gradually become a new concern of scholars, but its total amount is not much, it is still in the stage of development. Especially, the research on peasants' psychological poverty is

very few. Psychological poverty is still a field to be developed. The main aspects of scholars' research on psychological poverty are as follows:

Some researchers care about the psychological poverty status, causes, effects and Countermeasures of poor students and left-behind children.[2] At present, the main research object of the phenomenon of psychological poverty in China is still the students and left-behind children. The countermeasures are mostly focused on the construction of educational countermeasures and systems, and the psychological poverty of other groups is less involved.[3]

The other researchers discussed the psychological poverty problems in underdeveloped areas. Underdeveloped areas mainly refer to the central and western regions and rural areas. The main research topics are He Renwei's Research Progress on the Formation Mechanism of Rural Poverty in China and the Framework Construction of Poverty Research;[4] Li Yuanyuan's Research on the Psychological Adaptation of Migrant Workers' Poverty Psychology and Urban Integration: A Case Study of Beijing;[5] Wang Luozhong's Psychological Poverty of Farmers: Social Impact and Governance Measures. [6] Among them, the research object of Wang Luozhong's "Peasants' Psychological Poverty: Social Impact and Governance Measures" is the problem of peasants' psychological poverty, which provides the main literature support for the development of this study.

### B. The Deficiencies of Existing Research

Generally speaking, in recent years, great progress has been made in the study of "psychological poverty" in China, and the research in this field is increasing gradually, especially in the study of psychological poverty among college students and left-behind children.[7] However, there are still some shortcomings in the study of psychological poverty.

First, as far as the object of study is concerned, the object of study on "psychological poverty" has great limitations. At present, more than 80% of the literature on the subject of "psychological poverty" has been retrieved, while the literature on left-behind children is less, and the articles on peasant groups are scarcer. At present, there are only a few kinds of literature on the psychological poverty of peasant groups, which have great limitations on the scope of the group.

Secondly, the inadequacy of the research on farmers' psychological poverty is also reflected in the fact that most of the research methods are based on theory and lack of empirical research, especially the lack of in-depth research for a certain region. Therefore, the conclusions of this kind of articles are also lack of data support, low persuasion, and lack of practical guidance.

In view of the existing research, on the basis of reading the literature and summing up the experience, this research group has opened up a relatively new research group of farmers, to make up for the shortcomings of the past, to conduct in-depth practical research, to master direct data, and to draw the research conclusions of the research group.

### III. QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGN

The questionnaire for the current situation of farmers' psychological poverty and its influencing factors mainly includes three aspects: quotation, questions and answers (the main body of the questionnaire), and thanks. Among them, the main content of the questionnaire is divided into two parts, five small parts, the first part is the basic situation of farmers, which also contains the information that the subject group conjectures may affect the degree of psychological poverty of farmers; the second part is the subject of psychological poverty of the subject group, which is reflected in four aspects in the theoretical construction of the subject group. The research group divides the measurement of psychological poverty into four psychological measurements. Four small parts are measured with 2-3 questions respectively. The answer is set as different choices, the degree increases or decreases in turn, in order to reflect the strength of a certain psychology.

In order to ensure the reliability and validity of the questionnaire, based on extensive reading of the literature and referring to the relevant scales, the research team developed a questionnaire for farmers' psychological poverty, referring to well-known scales at home and abroad, including the Cattell 16 Personality Questionnaire (16PF), the Self-Rating Anxiety Scale (SAS) and other psychological measurement scales, which has considerable reliability and validity.

### IV. DATA ANALYSIS

#### A. The Present Situation of the Dimensions of Peasants' Psychological Poverty

##### 1) Conservative psychology

According to the digitization process of the questionnaire, the lower the score, the more serious the conservative psychology is. From the results, we can see that the conservative psychology of farmers is relatively serious, because the highest score of the research group is 6 points. In this absence, serious conservative psychology and general conservative psychology (score 2-4 points) account for the majority, which is in line with the survey of the research group. Compared with other psychological status quo, it belongs to a more serious situation. But it can also be seen that the lowest score (2 points), the most conservative only accounted for 7.6% of the sample, conservative psychology is very serious

situation is still relatively small. Most people are above the general dimension.

##### 2) Dependence Psychology

From the statistical results, we can see that, in general, the dependence of farmers is more serious - 106 people scored below 4 points, accounting for 53.5% of the sample population. The lowest score (i.e. 2 points) means that only 13 people have the strongest psychological dependence, accounting for 6.6% of the sample population, and the highest score (i.e. 6 points), i.e. 27 people are the least conservative, accounting for 13.6% of the sample population. Most of the scores are 3, 4 and 5 points.

##### 3) Anxiety Psychology

From the statistical results, we can see that in general, the anxiety of farmers is not too serious - only 25 people scored 7 points or more, accounting for 12.6% of the sample number, which can be regarded as the most serious anxiety. The scores of 5 and 6 were not serious anxiety, accounting for 46% of the total.

##### 4) inferiority Psychology

From the results we can see: Generally speaking, the inferiority complex of peasants is not serious, and the majority of them are in the general inferiority complex - 126 people with scores of 4 or more, accounting for 63.6% of the sample population. Four of them are absolute advantages. Although most of them are not extreme inferiority complex, their inner inferiority complex still exists and they feel that they should be treated equally between urban and rural areas. There are only 22 people, which deserve our attention. In the interview, we can also feel that the traditional concept of inferiority of farmers still affects farmers' psychology. They do not have enough knowledge of their own value, and their awareness and strength of protecting their own rights and interests are relatively weak.

#### B. Causes of Peasants' Psychological Poverty

##### 1) Regression Analysis

In order to further determine the impact of various factors on psychological poverty as a whole, the research group conducted a further regression analysis. The research group adopts the method of quantitative analysis, calculates the four psychological scores, calculates the total score of psychological poverty according to the positive and negative scores, "psychological poverty = conservative psychology + dependent psychology + (12-anxiety psychology) + (8-inferiority complex)", and then carries on the regression analysis to the psychological poverty and each factor separately, to see its correlation significance. The following table is drawn (see Table I for details).

Statistically, sig < 0.05 is very significant. In Table I, we can see that besides gender and the number of children and the popularization of knowledge of village committees, there are significant correlations between the factors investigated by the research group and psychological poverty. Among them, their own cultural level and the total income are the most significant. The research group cannot help but draw the conclusion that the economic poverty and ideological deficiency of farmers.

Lack and low cultural level are the most significant factors affecting farmers' psychological poverty. The educational status of children is significant at the level of 0.1, and children have a greater impact on parents. Although it is indirect, it also reflects its importance. The significant age group can draw a conclusion that the younger generation is gradually moving towards a better direction. It shows that economic development and progress benefit the rural areas, and that the farthest places they have visited can show farmers' vision and rights. As far as the recognition of the outside world is concerned, it has a significant impact on the psychological poverty, and for the village committees, the grass-roots management organization of peasants, their governance status directly affects the severity of the psychological poverty of peasants, which provides valuable advice for the government to help peasants conduct good psychological guidance.

TABLE I. REGRESSION SIGNIFICANCE OF INFLUENCING FACTORS OF

Factors	B	Sig.
(Constant)	16.471	0
Gender	0.098	0.226
Age Group	-0.347	0.036
Number of Children	0.184	0.492
Educational Level of Children	0.309	0.058
Cultural Level	0.508	0.007
Experience of Going Out	0.435	0.042
Total Income	0.234	0.026
Village Government Governance	-0.558	0.044
Knowledge Popularization	0.06	0.767

## 2) One-way ANOVA

Through correlation matrix and regression analysis, the research group has identified several specific factors affecting farmers' psychological poverty. In order to determine the level of certain factors at different levels, the research group further explores and adopts one-way ANOVA. Look at the specific mean above different levels.

The subject group tested the variance homogeneity of the variables needed, and all of them were homogeneity, so one-way analysis of variance could be carried out.

From the mean chart, we can see that the more unsatisfactory the governance perception of village committees is, the lower the score of psychological poverty is, that is, the more serious the psychological poverty is. The general trend between total income and mental poverty is linear, which is consistent with the previous analysis of the subject group. Material shortage will lead to farmers' inferiority, anxiety and psychological poverty. In the interview, the subject group concluded that when farmers compare with urban residents, the most important part of the comparison is money, making less money is their self-esteem.[8] The main source of inferiority psychology. There is a typical linear relationship between cultural level and mental poverty. It can be seen that the cultural level has a great influence on mental poverty. In the conclusion of the previous topic group analysis, the children's

educational status is not completely linear, and can be analyzed clearly by means of the graph. Generally speaking, it is still a linear trend. Generally speaking, the better the children's educational status, the lower the level of psychological poverty, the general trend is unchanged.

## V. CONCLUSIONS

### A. The Present Situation of Peasants' Psychological Poverty

Peasants' psychology of conservatism and dependence is more serious. Farmers have a certain degree of conservative psychology, which shows that the traditional planned economy still has a serious impact on farmers. The phenomenon of dependence and inertia is a weakness of farmers. Farmers rely heavily on the government and have a weak sense of ownership. Farmers have certain anxiety and inferiority complex. Farmers' anxiety is not too serious, which shows that although there is a gap between urban and rural areas, society and farmers themselves are gradually improving, farmers can get a certain sense of security and self-realization in the city. Farmers' inferiority complex is not very serious, but it still exists. In the process of social development and change, peasants are greatly impacted by the outside world, which leads to a certain inferiority complex.

### B. The Influencing Factors of Peasants' Psychological Poverty

The older the age, the more serious the psychological poverty of farmers. The older the peasants are, the greater the degree of psychological poverty. The older the peasants are, the more they are influenced by conservative ideas, the more conservative mentality they have. At the same time, with the development of the modern economy, the psychological poverty of the new generation of peasants has improved significantly.

The higher the level of education, the lower the psychological poverty level of farmers. Cultural level has a great influence on farmers' psychological poverty. The higher the cultural level, the lower the farmers' psychological poverty. There is a great difference between illiteracy and primary schools, far more than between primary schools and universities, which provides a reliable basis for the country to promote education in poor areas, especially basic education.

The higher the income level, the lower the psychological poverty level of farmers. Psychological poverty is mostly caused by economic poverty. The material shortage will lead to farmers' psychological inferiority, anxiety and other psychological, and then psychological poverty.

The educational status of children has a positive impact on farmers' psychological poverty to a certain extent. The educational status of children has a certain impact on farmers' psychological poverty. Generally speaking, the better the educational status of children, the lower the general trend of psychological poverty.

The higher the satisfaction of village committee governance, the lower the psychological poverty level of farmers. Satisfaction with village committee governance and knowledge

popularization affects farmers' dependence psychology. The more dissatisfied with village committee governance and knowledge popularization, the stronger its dependence psychological performance, thus strengthening the degree of psychological poverty. As the grass-roots autonomous organization of farmers, village committee plays an important role. The level of governance has a great impact on farmers' psychology.

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