

# Study on the Way of Disadvantaged Peasants Pursuing a Better Life

## -- Taking the Policy of Replacing Coal with Gas in Rural Areas as an Example

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### ABSTRACT

The year 2020 marks the conclusion of the 13th Five-Year Plan for building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. People have all moved out of absolute poverty and towards a well-off society. But in recent years, the government has issued a series of policies for rural farmers to pursue a higher quality of life. "Coal to gas" policy starting point is to improve the farmer's quality of life, but in the process of implementing a lot of problems emerge in endlessly, based on the rural policy of "coal to gas". This paper takes the rural "coal to gas" policy as an example, and discusses and analyzes the problems existing in the implementation process of this policy from the perspectives of rural areas, government and gas companies. As the quality of life of some rural residents is low, it cannot cope with the reality of inadequate development of residents. Therefore, this paper evaluates the quality of life of rural vulnerable residents and puts forward optimization countermeasures, aiming to provide basic help for improving the quality of life of rural vulnerable residents after the implementation of the policy of "coal to gas".

**Keywords:** *Disadvantaged farmers, the countryside, coal to gas.*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The protection of the atmospheric environment concerns the fundamental interests of the people, the sustained and healthy development of the economy, the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects, and the realization of the Chinese dream of national rejuvenation. With the deepening of Industrialization and urbanization in China, energy and resource consumption continues to increase, and pressure on air pollution prevention and control continues to increase. In order to effectively improve air quality, The State Council issued the Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Air Pollution (hereinafter referred to as the Air 10) in September 2013, making comprehensive arrangements for the prevention and control of air pollution. Drawing on the pollution control experience of developed countries such as the UK and the US, the Ten Rules specify measures to control small coal-fired boilers, adjust the energy mix, speed up the elimination of backward production capacity, and speed up the use of clean energy. 1 in 2016 the government put the control

air pollution in the rural areas, focus on rural areas actively promote "coal to gas", in 2017, launched the "coal to gas" project of complete coverage of clean energy heating, through the implementation of the policy, environmental quality improved significantly. However in addition to bringing convenience, comfort and the best years of environmental quality to the countryside, has the "coal to gas" program really improved the quality of life for disadvantaged farmers? This study is to investigate in the implementation of the "coal to gas" problems for the purpose, to local people life experience, put forward optimized measures to reduce energy consumption, further focus on rural energy upgrades in residents' attitude to environmental protection, psychological factors such as values and improve the clean energy use intention, way of life of accessibility policy research, The sustainable development of rural "coal to gas" plays an important role.

## **2. RESEARCH REVIEW**

### ***2.1. Research Status at home and abroad***

In terms of coal-to-gas and environmental pollution, there are many domestic studies, and the results are consistent: coal-to-gas can effectively reduce environmental pollution and improve air quality. Since the implementation of the rural revitalization strategy, more and more scholars have begun to pay attention to the improvement of rural living environment [1]. However, most of the existing literature focuses on the innovation of the improvement path and governance model of the improvement of the effect of human settlements, and few literatures focus on the improvement of the human settlements on the subjective well-being of farmers. In fact, compared with the ecological environment, the living environment is more closely related to the life of residents, and it is more practical to study the improvement of the living environment on the improvement of residents' subjective well-being.

The implementation of coal to gas in foreign countries is earlier, but the measures and intensity are different from that in China. "Smog" in Britain, serious air pollution, photochemical smog in Los Angeles, London, Germany in the '60 s environmental problem, the developed countries also has experienced the pain of atmospheric pollution, are also adopted a series of measures to prevent, they or set "smoke control area" or reduction or technical innovation, and so on, have achieved good results"[2]. However, there are great differences between the rural areas of these countries and those of China in both natural environment and social environment, so there are few references for foreign researches on "replacing coal with gas" in rural areas.

### ***2.2. Review Of Research At Home And Abroad***

Based on the academic propositions given by Chinese and foreign scholars, we can observe Analysis from the Perspectives of Mediating Effect of Farmers' Participation Willingness and Moderating Effect of Their Satisfaction with Government Subsidies that relevant personnel focus on the analysis of cogeneration and energy conservation and emission reduction, and evaluate the specific transformation activities of "replacing coal with gas". Local researchers put more emphasis on ecology, subsidies and enforcement effectiveness. In the northern countryside vigorously promote "coal to gas" at the same time, the lack of supply of natural gas, leading to a spate of "gas shortage" has brought new problems, radical "coal to gas" the real motivation behind the impulse is facing the huge subsidies stimulate and achievement, and accelerating overfulfilled task, such not only increased the government's financial burden, but also increased the burden of peasants' lives, As a result, farmers have

serious confrontational psychology in the process of implementing this policy.

On the basis of summarizing relevant literature and materials, the author uses field research means and relies on the standpoint of public policy to discuss the problem of disadvantaged farmers' use of coal instead of gas. Based on this, the author puts forward relevant measures to optimize local people's life experience and reduce energy consumption expenditure. It is important to pay more attention to the relationship between residents' attitude to environmental protection, values and willingness to use clean energy in rural energy upgrading.

## **3. PROBLEMS EXISTIN IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COAL TO GASFOR THE DISADVANTAGED FARMERS**

After investigation, it is found that, on the one hand, it is not uncommon for gas enterprises to frame the pipeline in the beam position of the villagers' gate or build it on the dangerous house, which is not beautiful but also brings security risks. Rural houses are scattered and in different directions, and there is no unified standard for infrastructure construction such as water and electricity, which brings some difficulties to the standardized installation of gas pipeline laying and gas facilities. At the same time, pipeline facilities and other municipal pipeline facilities are difficult to coordinate, outdoor pipeline to avoid collision and other problems. On the other hand, under the pressure of capital and policy, it is difficult for the local government to complete the gas household registration. The education of gas use and other safety knowledge has not been popularized at the same time of construction. Now most of the villagers who use gas for heating are women with low education level. If the operation process is not standardized, safety risks will double.

Burning natural gas takes high fees, on the one hand, the current "hollow village" problems loom large, most of the rural areas to low-income families and lost, alone in the lonely old man group, a lot of the old man's house is half of the soil pile, house whole heat preservation performance is low, can cause even heat source is adequate, house still keep heat, It is difficult to meet the winter heating demand. The renovation of dilapidated houses has already been a great burden for farmers, and they are eager for energy-saving renovation. On the other hand, farmers generally do not have retirement security, and they are used to low-cost coal for heating all year round. Through the use of natural gas for heating, we found that although there are national subsidies, from the perspective of subsidy intensity, the central subsidy intensity for the special funds for clean heating projects such as " coal to gas" shows a declining trend [3]. if the temperature of our heating equipment is adjusted to make the indoor temperature between 20-25 degrees, the cost

of a day is likely to reach more than 60 yuan. Households in China should spend no more than 2% to 3% of their disposable income on fuel, according to a national urban gas and Natural gas Utilization plan released earlier by the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development. During the four-month heating season in the north, it is normal to spend more than 8,000 yuan to maintain urban heating standards, while a 90-square-meter house in the city costs less than 3,000 yuan. High cost burden, resulting in many farmers are reluctant to install, installed also do not use.

The duty of the gas company is to serve the daily needs of the majority of the people, with a certain attribute of social responsibility, and achieve certain social benefits. By signing a contract with the government, rural areas have been provided with convenient heating. However, as a profitable company, gas companies are located in remote rural areas which are far away from the main urban areas, so the cost of facility construction and related maintenance is high, and the cost of equipment inspection and maintenance is high. Therefore, it is inconvenient to carry out emergency and rescue work in the first time, and rescue and rescue work cannot be carried out in time. Due to the lack of relevant guidance and experience, general installers without rural installation experience are difficult to carry out standard installation, which brings certain challenges to their technology, so that the cost of professional and experienced installers will increase.

#### **4. ANALYSIS ON THE CAUSE OF THE PROBLEMS EXISTING IN THE WEAK FARMER'S COAL TO GAS**

##### ***4.1. In The Countryside, The Main Reason Is The Low Income Of Farmers, Cannot Afford To Use It***

According to statistics, farmers' main income is mainly planting industry, according to the data show that in 2000, farmers have 900 million, per capita 2 mu, each family has an average of 10 mu of land, according to the per mu yield of corn 1000 jin, per mu revenue of 1900 yuan, farmers' average income is only 34,200 yuan. By 2021, the current number of farmers will have halved to a per capita income of 85,500 yuan [4]. If farmers can afford it, the cost and the structure of their houses can be effectively solved.

##### ***4.2. Research, planning, overall planning and other links are seriously inadequate***

According to an article published by The Oil Energy Network in 2020, China's total oil reserves at that time were about 165.4 trillion tons, while the ultimate recoverable oil resources were only about 16 billion tons and natural gas even less, at a maximum of 15 trillion

cubic meters. Although China is one of the richest countries in the world in terms of oil and gas resources by international standards, it consumes a huge amount of crude oil every year, about 260 million tons. With imported crude oil, domestic oil can last up to 80 years [5]. According to statistics, 70% of China's crude oil is now dependent on foreign imports, and it costs a lot to import oil every year. Now the large-scale conversion of coal to gas, "gas shortage" and other problems, will lead to new problems.

##### ***4.3. The gas company is eager for quick success and instant profits without considering the actual situation in the countryside***

Because rural residence is scattered, it is difficult to in terms of its installation and maintenance, and lack of organization and many small gas company rules and regulations, do not meet the high standards of gas using standard, just for the sake of interests, not long term considering the security problems of farmers, certain regulatory loopholes, also appears on market regulation made it takes. In rural areas, there are only two types of wall furnace and gas hood, so farmers have less choice space. In addition, the quality of heating equipment is uneven. Various manufacturers only assemble gas equipment simply, and there is no more guarantee for the final heating effect [6]. This will give businessmen who do not care about security efficiency to earn more opportunities.

#### **5. CONCLUSION**

To sum up, by analyzing the subjective feelings and objective observations on the quality of life of disadvantaged rural residents in the implementation of "coal to gas", this paper directly reflects the quality of life of farmers after the implementation of "coal to gas". After reasonable analysis, we can find that most disadvantaged rural residents will have a lower quality of life after coal is replaced with gas because of low income level, few sources of income and imperfect infrastructure. At the same time, this paper finds that the lack of overall planning by the government and the lack of experience of gas companies lead to the one-size-fits-all phenomenon. Therefore, in order to let rural vulnerable farmers harvest more happiness, satisfaction and security, this paper makes three suggestions as follows: exploring more channels to increase farmer's income; improving the life quality of farmers; strengthening poverty alleviation poverty.

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