



Building Rural Women's Livelihood Poverty Reduction Capacity: Implications, Theoretical Basis and Social Environment Exploration

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Abstract. Women play a unique role in family and social life and are important guardians of the continuation and inheritance of civilization. Women's development is the driving force behind the development and progress of modern society. The strategy of poverty reduction in rural women's livelihood capacity is of great significance, and the poverty reduction of women's livelihood capacity also faces multi-dimensional social environmental constraints such as social stereotypes. Improving the livelihood capacity of rural women is not only the core of women's development, but also the key to the governance of relative poverty in rural areas, and it determines the sustainability of rural revitalization.

Keywords: Women's livelihood capacity · Relative poverty · Gender bonus · Empowerment

In ethnic minority areas of Sichuan Province, the implementation of the targeted poverty alleviation strategy has promoted the extensive participation and effective interaction of rural women, and the livelihood capital of rural women has been generally improved and the livelihood capacity of rural women has been continuously improved. From the perspective of rural women's livelihood capacity, this paper analyzes the strategic significance of rural women's livelihood capacity poverty reduction, constructs the theoretical basis for poverty reduction of rural women's livelihood capacity, and explains the social environment facing the improvement of rural women's livelihood capacity, so as to serve the consolidation of poverty alleviation achievements and the implementation of rural revitalization strategy in Sichuan Province.

1 The Strategic Significance of Women's Livelihood Capacity for Poverty Reduction

1.1 The Significance of Global Poverty Governance for Women's Poverty Reduction

Eradicating poverty in all its forms is the primary goal of the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, where gender disparities in the poor are widespread and feminine, and there are a variety of factors that interact to promote the female phenomenon of

the poor. Among them, the role of women's livelihood capacity in the feminization of the poor population cannot be underestimated. Women's poverty governance thus becomes an important part of the global poverty reduction strategy, and poverty governance based on women's livelihood capacity to reduce poverty is of great strategic significance.

Mother's poverty makes poverty more persistent and intergenerational [1]. In the traditional gender division of labour, more women's families play a role, undertaking birth and rearing work, care labour, housework, and providing a comfortable home life for family members. In the market economy, women both participate in the market competition and maintain the family-centered role division of labour, and the balance between work and family is difficult, and women in the market economy often choose flexible work because of the family. Women's livelihoods are a continuous topic, women have a long way to go to get rid of poverty and poverty reduction, and whether women can get rid of poverty is directly related to the realization of the global 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the effectiveness of global poverty governance.

1.2 The Significance of Cultivating Rural Women's Ability to Make a Living

The traditional gender division of labour allows women to take on more family care work, and family care activities are the basic activities that constitute family development and social progress, and are also an important way to achieve family reproduction, social reproduction and population reproduction. Women who work as housewives and mothers are adapted to social changes and suffer from the social and inner loneliness of mothers/housewives [2]. The multiple roles of wives, mothers, daughters-in-law, labourers, and housekeepers constitute the core of women's livelihoods, and balancing various roles is women's livelihood ability, and women's livelihood ability has become the core of women's poverty reduction and women's poverty alleviation.

1.3 The Significance of Rural Women's Livelihood Capacity to Family Welfare

The family welfare effect of women's ability to earn a living is multi-dimensional, which not only changes the status of women in the family, but also significantly improves their nutritional status, which in turn affects the human capital of future generations. There is substantial evidence that malnutrition in childhood directly affects an adult's ability to cope with the world, that malnutrition begins before birth, and that the condition of the maternal womb has a long-term effect on the life opportunities of infants and young children [3]. The increase in the direct economic income of women in mountain villages has had a positive effect on the multidimensional poverty of poor families, the direct welfare benefits of women's income generation have flowed more to families and been captured by men, and the path of "women's poverty" has undergone gender welfare alienation [4]. The increase in women's cash income not only helps to enhance women's decision-making power in the family and women's self-awareness, helps to ease the relationship between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law, but also can fulfil filial piety to the parents of the original family and improve the mother-in-law relationship of the original family, and women's decision-making ability and consumption ability within the family will also be enhanced simultaneously.

2 Theoretical Basis for Rural Women's Livelihood Capacity to Reduce Poverty

2.1 Feasible Ability Theory

Women's ability to earn a living is reflected in both earning power and money spending. The strength of ability is largely the amount of money earned, and income increase is an important parameter for measuring feasible ability. If earning money is the expression of the ability to make a living in income, then home ownership is the expression of feasible ability to spend money, and the ability of married women to run a family is particularly critical. Women's ability to run a family is, to a certain extent, the ability to spend money, how to distribute the limited income better. Income capacity is important, as is the ability to translate income into a good quality of life. There are many families under the same income conditions, but their quality of life shows a relatively large gap. How to transform income into meeting the basic life of the family, children's education, personal development, decent travel, family health, etc., is not only the content of maternal employment, but also an important evaluation index of women's livelihood ability.

Applying the theory of possible capacity to rural women's ability to reduce poverty means strengthening the main role of women in poverty reduction, which is the core of women's realization of substantive freedom. Among them, a large number of "unrecognized domestic works" for rural women should be recognized in women's development and family development. Women's housework itself is an important foundation for family development, and women's reproductive behaviour and family care labour are not only the basis for the formation and accumulation of family human capital, but also objectively speaking, they are also necessary conditions for the formation of social human capital. A large number of studies have confirmed that offspring health, education, etc., are more closely related to mothers, blocking the intergenerational transmission of poverty, and are more closely related to women's abilities.

2.2 Gender Dividend Theory

The term gender dividend originally referred to the key role that women play in society and the family, so increasing women's employment opportunities could contribute to current economic growth and poverty eradication. The gender dividend is believed to be based on the development and utilization of the abilities and skills of the female working population, through the full exploitation and development of effective human capital and their own potential, to supplement labour resources and labour productivity for the sustainable development of social economy, and to improve the economic and social welfare of the people and improve the people's living standards. Gender dividend is a kind of welfare released through gender equality, which includes the micro family level and the macro social level [5], which is the economic return or benefit achieved through the investment of women's whole life cycle, and the increase in female labour force participation rate and social participation rate brought about by the promotion of women's status, which is conducive to improving the health of family members, increasing children's education investment, and eliminating intergenerational transmission of

poverty at the family level [6]. It can also be said that the gender dividend is the socio-economic return brought about by the improvement of women's livelihood capacity and the increase in the social participation rate of female labour force under the condition of gender equality, which also includes the improvement of family welfare.

The gender dividend is a new economic benefit generated by the realization of gender equality, and whether this dividend can be harvested requires a series of social, cultural, economic and institutional changes at the macro level. On the one hand, the new economic benefits are achieved through two ways: an increase in the number of women engaged in paid labour and an increase in the productivity level of the female population. More female labour is freed from unpaid domestic work and put into market labour, increasing the productivity level of the female population to obtain more paid income. After women go out to work, the gender division of labour in the family does not change due to women's employment, and women's multiple roles often limit women's employment choices, and there is a balance between "work-family", which plays a dual role and also means a double burden. On the other hand, the socialization of family care work has released more women from unpaid family work to paid care work, and micro-level families have also reaped gender dividends. The socialization of care work not only creates more conditions for middle- and high-income families to purchase care services from the market, but also allows women from low-income families to have more opportunities for social labour participation and income from care services.

2.3 Empowerment Theory

Empowerment of women, including the provision of favourable resources to women, guarantees women the ability to choose their own life and pursue their chosen life goals, and women have corresponding outputs or outcomes under conditions of both resources and agency. Livelihood capacity is an essential element of empowerment, or livelihood capacity itself is empowerment. Livelihood capacity is a combination of endogenous ability and external resource empowerment ability, which is a capacity structure, composed of ability and process [7]. Empower women, integrate external resource endowments into women's livelihood capacities, and empower all women. Empowering women also includes women's bargaining power in the family, including the subjectivity of "having the final say" in the family.

Under the impact of the global epidemic, catering, tourism, accommodation, retail, education and other related industries have emerged as a result of insufficient employment, and the majority of them are women. Through empowerment and empowerment, help poor women to enhance their own abilities and establish a good choice mechanism to promote their priority to seek benefits rather than avoid harm, and establish a choice mechanism that integrates profit and harm avoidance to eliminate the imbalance and inadequacy of gender development.

3 Interpretation of the Social Environment for Rural Women's Livelihood Capacity to Reduce Poverty

3.1 Gender Inequality within Rural Households

Although equality between men and women is the basic national policy of our country, and one-child families have also eliminated problems such as unequal opportunities for children within the family, under the influence of traditional rural families with many children and traditional concepts, the problems of inequality of children in the family still exist to varying degrees, not only the phenomenon of daughters working and their sons studying, but also the phenomenon of prematurely allowing daughters to marry and receive high-priced dowries for their sons to marry. Patriarchal preferences are still deeply rooted in some rural areas, with the demeaning of women, discrimination against women, the subordination of women as vassals of men, and the erosion of women's dignity and worth [8]. Women are in a clear subordinate position in the family, and many women are still just stuck in the car and lack the sense of autonomy in the allocation of subsistence assets in the family. In many rural areas, the rigid need for reproduction that follows the family life cycle makes it difficult for them to escape the fate of being left behind for the rest of their lives, they lose the opportunity to move equally with men, and they are entrusted with various care responsibilities.

3.2 Rural Women's Self-positioning and Self-perception are Endogenous

For rural women, the objective reality of women's low education level, superimposed on the natural geographical environment barriers, further reduces the education level and travel freedom of rural women in mountainous areas, restricts women's freedom to enter the labour market, and women are solidified in the field of livelihood-based activities, with unpaid housework, cashless food production, grazing and other fields, they are self-positioned as "people who have no source of income in the family". Housework is free and not recognized by the family and policy level of monetized labour, but the psychological impact of economic dependence on an adult is enormous, and it is difficult for a wife who relies on her husband's economic income to gain bargaining power in the family. Moreover, many housework is tedious and unpleasant, monotonous cleaning, food shopping, laundry, cooking, etc. constitute the basic content of rural married women, and long-term housewives will not only weaken their ability to support themselves, but also limit their choices for future life. Living in a highly money-oriented society, the value of housewife work is not high.

4 Conclusion

At the end of 2020, China has completely eliminated absolute poverty and overall regional poverty under the current standards, but the five-year connection period between poverty alleviation areas and the rural revitalization strategy being implemented, the sustainable development of poverty alleviation areas and poverty alleviation populations is still the strategic focus and difficulty of rural revitalization. Whether it is consolidating

the achievements in poverty alleviation or implementing the strategy of rural revitalization, the key is to improve the rural population and its livelihood capacity. Women account for half or even more than half of the rural population, and the improvement of the livelihood ability of rural women and its super-half development effect will undoubtedly be the focus of the consolidation of poverty alleviation results and the strategy of rural revitalization.

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