

## **Study on Public Service for Border Minority areas in China: Taking Hekou County as An Example**

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### **Abstract**

Borderland as a particular area of social public services is the material, cultural and psychological bases of stable frontier minority areas. In this paper a case study on Hekou County border ethnic autonomous county in Yunnan province, China, deeply analysis of public services in frontier minority areas current situation, existing problems and make innovation in minority areas on border measures and countermeasures for the construction of public service.

**Keywords:** frontier minority areas, Public Services, Hekou County.

### **1. Introduction**

Frontier is a geographical concept, but in broad terms, frontier in addition to geographical factors, also includes political, economic, cultural, social and other implications. "Borderland" has become a dominant concept, realistically, mainly living in the border areas of ethnic minorities in China, border area but also the distribution of ethnic minority regions.[1] Selected Hekou County of Honghe in Yunnan province as a typical target, study the County's construction and supply of public services, it helps to understand the frontier problems of public services in the area of development and, with a view to targeting to improve and enhance.

### **2. Analysis of essential public services in China's frontier minority areas**

#### **2.1 The characteristics of frontier minority areas**

Firstly, natural resources relatively abundant and diverse. China's long border line, large border areas with less space occupied by natural resources relatively abundant and diverse, strategic position is very important. Also, due to its proximity to the border, most natural resources are still in pristine condition, no large-scale mining.

Secondly, the concentration of minorities. China's border areas are also areas of minority concentration, minority populations accounted for border areas about half of the total population, mostly clustered in the northern part of the border with Russia, and Mongolia, Northwest Frontier bordering areas, frontier areas of Guangxi and Yunnan border areas.

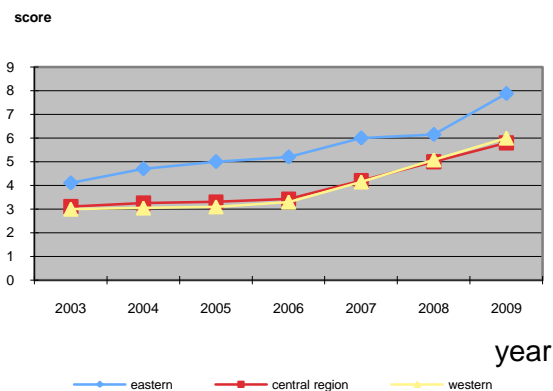
Thirdly, the economic and social development is relatively backward. Frontier not only isolation Strip, more important is the topography of the plateau, mountain or mountain basins, deserts, the Gobi desert, high infrastructure costs, and overall development is relatively backward. Frontier region in the long-term economic and social development lags behind the national average. Coupled with border areas, mostly in rural areas, mostly agricultural population, frontier regions per capita income compared to the national average is wider.

#### **2.2 Frontier national regions public service status**

In Year 1979, People's Republic of China developing frontier areas on the implementation of the construction plan Put forward in 8 Arrangements for frontier construction funds for the year 400 Billion "In year 1992, the government promulgated national implementation of the border opening strategy, establish 13 An open city and 241 A kind of open

port, the establishment of 14 Technical cooperation in the border area. In the year 1996, the State Council formulated to promote preferential policies for border trade development and external economic cooperation. In the year 1999, the government implement measures aimed at revitalizing the rich inhabitants of the border, action of prospering frontier and enriching people. year 2000 to year 2010, central financial Trojan in the ethnic minorities development finance arrangements of prospering frontier and enriching people subsidies 22.1 billion, attract led a large number of other types of money into border areas, the construction of a large number of projects addressing the special difficulties in production and life of the masses, Involving infrastructure, agriculture, ecological construction, culture, economic and social development in various fields. Implementation action of prospering frontier and enriching people 10 years ago, economy, speeding up development in the border areas, the overall strength further enhanced. According to statistics, In the year 2000 ,136 border counties main economic indicators increased by 3 times, with GDP growth 342.2%, local financial revenue growth 340.3%, import and export volume of foreign trade growth of 7.8 times by year 2012.[2] The year 2005, the government to develop and implement the action of prospering frontier and enriching people the 11th Five-Year Plan. Year 2009, the State decided to promote the action of prospering frontier and enriching people nationwide all border counties and the Xinjiang border farms. Up to now, the Central Government has accumulated special funds into the action of prospering frontier and enriching people 14.46 billion Yuan, construction of 2 million or more.

In terms of basic livelihood services, prospering frontier and enriching people, livelihood is home. Year 2000 to year 2012 ,annual per capita net income of farmers and herdsmen in the border areas growth 117.5%, a total of 64 border districts (Except for Tibet ) Farmers ' per capita net income exceeded the provincial average. Rapid development of ethnic minorities and ethnic areas health, urban health level in the minority areas has greatly improved, significantly improve the medical conditions of the farming and pastoral areas, phenomena of ethnic minorities are effectively alleviate the difficulty, significantly improve the level of health of the people of all ethnic groups. In terms of public utility services, States, in accordance with the characteristics and needs of minorities and help enhance the development of the culture. Education of Shang, in ethnic minority areas, "bilingual teaching" and implementing "two basic" critical programs and educational support, to rural areas in the West of "two exempt and one subsidy" imposed on Tibet's farming and pastoral areas in primary and secondary schools, "three packs of", and so on. In terms of community based services, strong State support for infrastructure construction in border areas, and built a large number of major leading role in speeding up the development of transport, communications, water conservancy, environmental protection, and other public infrastructure projects. the end of year2009,9 border province "five vertical and seven horizontal" national trunk completed to achieve a 99.6% town,97.2% village accessible by road, 90% The communes, 56.9% Village Tong asphalt or cement. (Figure 1)



**Figure 1: General protection zoning of China's basic public service show**

Source: According to China Statistical Yearbook 2003-2009 data processing

### 3. Hekou County in Yunnan province public service status

Hekou Yao Autonomous County, Yunnan province, China, located in the southern region, is a border opening port at the national level, the county seat across the Red River and Viet Nam's Lao Cai province, up to the border 193 km. At present, the port of Hekou County has State-level 2, provincial channel 3 and more civil encounter, there are 3 bridges and Viet Nam connected to the old market, has a "county seat port, the port town" location advantage.

By 2013, Hekou County completed GDP of 30 Billion, an increase of 15%, Where the primary completed 8.1 Billion, an increase of 8.4%; Secondary completed 6.9 Billion, an increase of 19%; Completion of the third industry 15 Billion, an increase of 16.64 %. Complete public budget revenues 2.9 billion, an increase of 19.1%, where the local public budget income of 1.8 billion Yuan, an increase of 27.7% local public budget expenditures 11.4 billion Yuan, an increase of 35%. Achieved over the scale of fixed assets investment 25 billion Yuan, an increase of 46.2%. Retail sales of consumer goods

totaled 4.5 billion Yuan, an increase of 18%. Disposable income of urban residents 21919 Yuan, an increase of 15%. Farmers ' per capita net income of 5570 Yuan, an increase of 17.1%. Financial institutions deposits 39.36 billion, loans of 19.93 billion, respectively 10%, and 23.4%.

Infrastructure, focused on promoting the construction of a number of major infrastructure projects, to further consolidate the basis. Continue to improve facilities and communications construction is also fruitful, cumulative comprehensive traffic construction invested 1.46 billion, exceeding State orders task 730.25%, the County's administrative villages patency by the end of 2012 the 48.1% Upgrading to 51.8 %. Speed up development of the education, student nutrition programs and promote rural compulsory education. Expenditures "in rural compulsory education students' nutrition improvement program" special funds 644.04 million, involving 50 schools, students in rural schools and rural coverage up to 100%. Medical and health service system construction, the participants rate 98.28%, the NCMS reimbursed proportion being increased year by year, outpatient reimbursement up to the village 50%, village-level 45% up to the village level 55% And township level 50% , Clinic special chronic diseases by 30% Increased to 70% . Poverty alleviation and development productive. Various poverty alleviation funds invested 1.79 billion, focused on implementation of "push" and "continuous development" and the integrated poverty alleviation and development projects in poverty-stricken areas, settlement and consolidation of 4250 people food and clothing for the poor. Social security and employment system continues to improve. Basic realization of the new farmers ' insurance, endowment insurance of urban residents complete

coverage,24173 into subsistence allowances, disaster relief, medical relief efforts intensified.

#### **4. Public Service Problems in Hekou county, Yunnan Province**

From the above indicators, the construction of the public service has made great achievements during the 11th Five-Year Plan in Hekou County, the economic and social development has also made great progress, but the development of the whole county is still facing many difficulties and problems, such as small total economy, weak infrastructure development, irrational industrial structure, shortage of acceleration of the development of the internal power, the obvious contradiction between urban-rural gap, low level of urbanization, arduous task of poverty alleviation, and social stability maintenance is facing new problems, poor sense of service of some cadres, and the entrepreneurial passion is not high. All of these problems can be divided into five major problems:

##### **4.1 Small total economy, unbalanced structural, slow industrial transformation and upgrading**

From the date above, the economic growth during the "Eleventh Five-Year" in Hekou County is quite rapid. The total production of the county completed three billion Yuan in 2013; the economic growth rate reached 15%, while the cardinal number is small. In addition, the development of the primary industry, secondary and tertiary industries is not balance. In order to adjust the industrial structure, County government plans to introduce the introduction of "Three-year action plan for industrial building in Hekou County." In 2013, Three industrial structures has optimized from 28.63:22.23:49.14 to 27:23:50, the proportion of secondary and tertiary production reached 73%, up 1.63 percentage points over the

same period of the previous year. To increase the proportion of tertiary industries, there is a great need to accelerate the transformation and upgrading of industries.

##### **4.2 Fixed-assets investment continued weak stamina, lack of supporting large projects**

There are total 187 county construction projects been building, up 54.5% year on year, completed large-scale fixed asset investment of 2.5 billion Yuan, up 46.2% year on year. It has gotten 48 System Projects from Yunnan Development and Reform Commission in 2013, 225 million Yuan of funds in total. The amount of fixed capital of investment is small and lack of large-scale investment in fixed assets to stimulate economic development.

##### **4.3 Industrialization level is still low**

In 2013, annual industrial output value goes up to 549 million Yuan, compared with the previous year, an increase of 10%, and industrial added value up to 76 million Yuan, up 16% year on year. The main income is 35 million Yuan, up 17.7% year on year. Peculiar situations in Hekou County made the industrial development of the county's weak economic foundation and slow pace of development, also the development is lack of an enabling environment and infrastructure. What's more, Hekou County located in border areas with neighboring Vietnam, which economic development is relatively backward. With all that going on, the county's economic development is relatively simple. Meanwhile, the industrial demand is lesser compared with the eastern region, so the development is lack of drive.

##### **4.4 Land, capital, labor and other factors of development constraints still exist in varying degrees**

Hekou County is located in the border areas, sparsely populated, vast territory, small population density,

and underdeveloped transportation. Due to the large investments has been put into the infrastructure to improve the economic and cultural development, which caused a high cost of public spending, and public utility services are more difficult too. Also, the district administration is generally two national languages, and two sets of horses in a team, which increased the administrative costs doubtlessly. In addition, due to the economic, cultural and social factors, the implementation of the administrative costs to be higher in frontier minority regions, the same policy can perform well in other areas, but it is quite difficult in frontier minority.

#### **4.5 Fiscal balance more difficult, contradictory "eating and building" problems**

Due to historical reasons, Hekou County is an underdeveloped area, with weak industrial base; the development of market economy is not active, and the economic growth is extensive, all of these made the economic growth growing very slow and fewer financial resources tax, leading to difficulties in revenue. In addition, the surrounding rivers, ecologically fragile, many areas are restricted development areas. In need of protection makes ecological economic development in minority areas is restricted, which also suppressed the revenue growth in frontier areas. There are some places have to meet fiscal first major "food" issue, which lead to a big gap in construction funds. Due to lack of maintenance and overload overdraft, so many rural ways are only a few years life. On account of the poor natural environment, road maintenance cost is much greater than the cost of the eastern region, therefore, eating and building problem is very prominent. [3]

## **5. Conclusions**

### **5.1 Change the traditional management, strengthen public service awareness**

Implement government functions public strategy and establish the system of Government's public finance system in ethnic minorities region. Clearly establish the concept of service-oriented government, to achieve economic construction as the main public service-oriented transformation. Provide basic public services are the government's responsibility; to build a basic public service system is an important aspect of the transformation of government functions. The difficulties of equalization of public service are in rural areas in border ethnic areas. Rural public utilities should be strengthened in border ethnic areas. For a long time, compulsory education, health care, culture development and other social development and infrastructure are serious lag. Schooling, medical care, water, traffic and pension become extremely difficult to rural development and enormous challenges to farmers who want to improve their lives. For border areas, the government have to guarantee the basic national livelihood security services first, followed by public utilities service.

### **5.2 Supply model innovation of basic public services**

About the supply model, government is responsible for basic public services, which does not mean government takes on everything. Should strengthen institutional innovation, and expand public participation, to maximize the mobilization of all sectors of society, and promote sharing. Through the implementation of government purchasing, management contracts outsourcing, franchising, incentives, etc., and gradually establish a government-led, market-led, community to fully participate in the supply of basic public service

system.[4] At the same time, should be in accordance with the political affairs separate management from the requirements of public institutions to accelerate the reform of the management system and operation mechanism; Moreover, given China's regional intermediary organizations undeveloped frontier situation, the government should actively cultivate intermediary organizations, continue to strengthen their self-management skills. Meanwhile, the government also has the responsibility to improve relevant laws and regulations and institutions, and promote the healthy development of intermediary organizations, social intermediary organizations are encouraged to participate actively in the construction of public utilities, and constantly improve the quality of public services.

### **5.3 Supervisory system improvement of the equalization of basic public services**

Experience shows that only there are supervision, assessment, the various systems and implementation of the policy can be guaranteed. In transfer payments, the use of funds and other aspects of public services should be supervised. Should formulate a comprehensive scientific evaluation system of basic public services, strengthen basic public services, monitoring and evaluation at all levels of government, put the basic indicators of the quantity and quality of public services into government performance appraisal system; Meanwhile actively introduce external evaluation mechanisms and establish a diversified performance evaluation system. Also, gradually establish and perfect hearing system, information inquiry advisory system, and strengthen the public's right to information, participation and supervision.

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