

Research on the Development Trend of Rural Urbanization in China

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Keywords: Urbanization; rural urbanization; development trend

Abstract. Urbanization, as a result of economic development, has always been concerned by the government and scholars. At present, China is in a stage of rapid development of urbanization, in order to promote economic development and accelerate the process of modernization, the government and scholars analyze and study problems and countermeasures in the process of urbanization from different angles and different levels. Through the analysis of the current situation of China's rural urbanization, this paper explores the development trend of rural urbanization in China.

1. Introduction

Urbanization is a product of economic and social developing to a certain stage. Urbanization with the beginning of the industrial revolution has been the focus of people. American scholar Stiglitz, who won the Nobel prize in economics, thinks that the urbanization in China will be one of the most influential events of this century. Chinese scholars Gu Shengzu and Li Yongzhou also said that China's rural urbanization will be the biggest growth in this century. Therefore, the development of urbanization, as a turning point for the further development of society and the conditions and security of a national and regional modernization, needs to be given relevant attention.

Urbanization is a new round of revolution, which aims to change the rural landscape, promote the industrialization of agriculture, and improve the living standard and living environment of farmers. With the continuous development of economy, the development of rural areas has become more and more important to improve the overall level of the national economy. In recent years, China provides policy support and financial support in the medical, education, public facilities, land, transportation and other aspects, to a large extent promoting the realization of rural urbanization. On January 19, 2014, the state issued "A number of opinions on deepening rural reform and accelerating the modernization of agriculture". That paper, from eight aspects of food security, employment security, sustainable development of agriculture, rural land reform, agricultural management system, rural financial system, the integration of urban and rural areas, and rural governance, illustrated that under the background of urbanization and modernization, rural development achievements of our country in recent years and the problems and the future direction of development, from multi aspects, multi angles, and multi levels to give attention to China's rural problems, promoting China's rural development process.

At the current stage, although the level of urbanization of our country continues to improve, according to the relevant data, it shows that China's urbanization level is not balanced. The major reason is the lag of rural urbanization. In consequence, promote the process of urbanization in rural areas when improving rural economic development, to realize the balanced development of China's urbanization.

2. Definition of Concepts

2.1 Urbanization

Urbanization is the concept of economic development stage. Through the analysis and research on the characteristics of the development of social economy in this stage, the scholars illustrate and summarize the concept of urbanization from different perspectives.

"People's Republic of China City Planning", in terms of national standards for the city, has this explanation: urbanization refers to the historical process of human production and life style

transforming from the countryside to the city, mainly shown as the rural population transferred into the city population and the process of city gradual development and improvement.

Gao Peiyi [1] thinks that urbanization can be understood from five aspects: first, with the continuous development of countryside, rural infrastructure becomes more mature and rural areas gradually turned into the city and finally assimilated with city; the second aspect is the urbanization within rural areas, namely the urbanization of production way and living of farmers; the third one is the further development of cities, namely the implementation of the urbanization of the city; the fourth is the further maturation of all aspects of the development of the city, realizing urbanization as the research objects of various research fields, such as industrial urbanization, regional urbanization, population urbanization, landscape urbanization, life style urbanization and so on; the fifth is the urbanization more abstract, it is also the urbanization in the mature stage, namely the urbanization for the whole movement process of city.

Cheng Peng [2] believes that the essence of urbanization is the transformation of employment structure, industrial structure and spatial structure of urban and rural economy, and the core problem is the sustainable survival, living and development of the rural low-income groups in the process of urbanization.

Although different scholars illustrated the concept of urbanization from different disciplines and angles, the essence and purpose of urbanization are the same.

2.2 Rural Urbanization

Wang Yonghui believes that rural urbanization is the production that economic, social, cultural and so on developing to a certain stage [3]. The understanding of rural urbanization is supposed to be carried out from the following aspects: first of all, the rural urbanization is the rapid population agglomeration and population structure differentiation produced under the background of the industry economic development; secondly, the increase of non-agricultural population leads to the number and scale of the city continuously expanding; thirdly, along with the rural urbanization, gradual increasing of the second or third industry and agricultural operations transforming to export-oriented, commercialization, and modernization will be inevitable; fourth, in the process of urbanization, the cultural ideas and cultural level of the people gradually improve, at the same time, the traditional rural society has been replaced by the modern city society; the last one, rural urbanization represents the constant improvement of internal functions of the city, city civilization continues to promote to countryside, and it is process of the integration of urban and rural areas. Huang Jintai and Tian Zhenxing believe that rural urbanization refers to the urbanization that takes the county as the core of the administrative unit and the township and the village as the focus [4].

Therefore, urbanization is a process, whose implementation accompanies with the continuous improvement of rural infrastructure, the improvement of farmers' spiritual and cultural level, and agricultural industrialization, and through this process to reduce the gap between urban and rural areas and realize the harmony between urban and rural areas. According to the views of the scholars, the rural urbanization refers to consider the realization method of urbanization from the perspective of rural areas, which is different from the urbanization of other countries in the past. To promote China's urbanization is no more only relying on the leading role of city in rural countryside, it is also necessary to rely on the development of rural areas itself, through the help of city and rural self-help to realize China's urbanization.

3. Research on the Development Trend of Rural Urbanization in China

3.1 Current Situation of Rural Areas in China

3.1.1 Rural Area of Cultivated Land

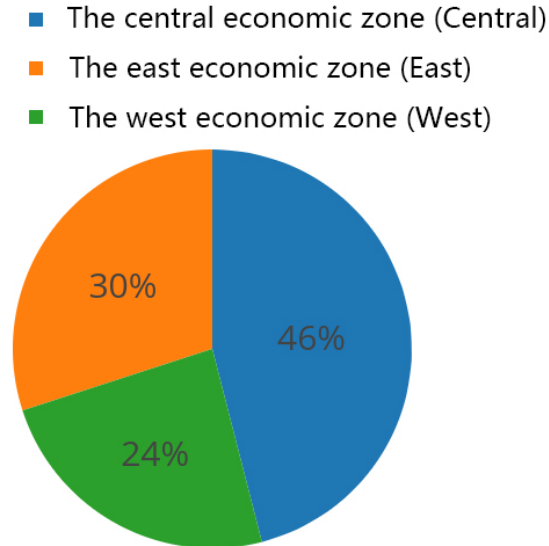


Figure 3-1 Farmland area of the three major economic zones in 2008

Agriculture, as the basic industry in the process of economic development, provides material support for the rural urbanization. Figure 3-1 shows the proportion of the eastern, central, and the western part accounted for land area in China in 2008.

In 2008, China's total arable land area is 1.217159 billion hectares, the total area of arable land in the western region is 29211816 hectares, accounting for 24% of the total arable land in the country; the total area arable land in the central region is 55989314 hectares, accounting for 46% of the total arable land area; the total area of arable land in the eastern region is 36514770 hectares, accounting for 30% of the total area of the country's total arable land [5].

Natural conditions of the three economic zones are of difference, and the conditions for climate, soil, and so on for crop growth are different, the type and quality of crops are different. At the same time, influenced by the level of economic development, the degree of mechanization of agriculture and agricultural industrialization is different, the yield of crops is not the same.

3.1.2 The Original Value of Fixed Assets for Production in Rural Areas

Table 3-1 The original value of productive fixed assets of rural households in the three economic zones in 2011

	The Eastern Economic Zone (household/yuan)	The Central Economic Zone (household/yuan)	The Western Economic Zone (household/yuan)
Agriculture	4527.27	9151.92	8881.89
Forestry	63.58	17.23	42.08
Animal husbandry	2393.28	3362.4	6409.74
Fisheries	356.5	64.97	26.6
Primary industry	7340.6	12596.52	15360.31
Mining industry	65	74.83	13.05
Manufacturing industry	1941.66	225.34	199.66
Construction industry	352.98	233.48	356.04
The secondary industry	2359.63	533.66	568.75
Transportation,	2151.14	1905.29	3240.95

warehousing and postal services			
Wholesale and retail trade	1177.35	729.41	839.21
Accommodation and catering industry	253.9	172.09	321.8
Resident services and other services	335.73	161.42	115.22
Education	38.88	7.97	28.93
Health, social security and welfare	59.4	88.82	58.9
The culture of sports and entertainment	29.31	18.69	4.23
The service sector; the tertiary industry	4045.72	3083.69	4609.24
Others	52.21	134.17	152.47
The total	13798.16	16348.04	20690.77

Note: data source: 2012 China Rural Statistical Yearbook.

The original value of fixed assets refers to the total asset that a certain person or group used for the production. According to the relevant data in Table 3-1 [6], it shows that the original value of fixed assets of rural households' production in western economic zone is higher than that of other regions. The Western Economic Zone has the most fixed assets of the first industrial production, the Central Economic Zone is followed, and the Eastern Economic Zone is the least; for the fixed assets of the second industrial production, the Eastern Economic Zone occupies the most, the Western and the Central are followed; for fixed assets of the third industry production, the Western Economic Zone occupies the most, Eastern Economic Zone and the Central are followed.

Rural households' production of fixed assets to some extent reflects the production level and quality of life in rural areas. The more the investment original value is, the poorer the quality of production and life of farmers will be, and the basic rural infrastructure is not perfect. This also to a certain extent reflects the current situation of China's rural urbanization.

3.1.3 Urbanization Rate in China

Table 3-2 Average urbanization rate in Economic Zone in 2005 -2012

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
East	57.05	57.93	58.68	59.48	60.36	62.21	63.14	64.12
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Central	42.03	43.22	44.31	45.63	46.71	47.91	49.36	50.71
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
West	34.15	35.05	36.18	37.27	38.28	40.19	41.53	42.99
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Average	42.99	44.34	45.89	46.99	48.34	49.95	51.27	52.57
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Note: Data source: "National Statistical Yearbook"

From Table 3-2, it can be seen in 2005 -2012, the urbanization situation of China's three major economic zones. The level of urbanization in the three major economic zones is increasing year by year, but the level of urbanization is relatively large [7]. The level of urbanization in the three major economic regions of the East, Central and West regions is gradually decreasing. The gap between economic development level and natural environment is the main reason for the difference of the level of urbanization.

Therefore, the development of rural urbanization in China should be divided into regions and stages, to take the corresponding strategies in view of the different regions and different

development backgrounds.

3.2 Construction of Rural Urbanization Development in China

3.2.1 Regions of Urbanization Construction

Due to differences in regional natural environment conditions, the development of urbanization is not the same. China has a large number of rural areas, with a wide range, natural environment and economic environment is not the same. Therefore, in the process of urbanization, it is supposed to combine with its natural environment, the surrounding economic environment, and national policies and regulations, to choose the projects that has developing prospects and developing potentials. For example, some rural areas are around the city, it is possible to make use of the leading role of city economic development on it; for the areas with rich mineral resources, it is possible to carry out urbanization through resource development or processing etc.

Take the East and West Economic Zone of China as example, the Eastern Economic Zone has better economic conditions, capital production, abundant production factors, road traffic and the level of education and other infrastructure conditions than the Western Economic Zone [8]. Therefore, the urbanization basis of the eastern region is better than that of the west. For the western part, natural environment is poor, the location advantage is not obvious, and the degree of outside is low, its dependence on the government in the process of urbanization is significantly higher than that of the Eastern Economic zone.

3.2.2 Stages of Urbanization Construction

Rural economic development lags behind the city's, and its urbanization is mostly at the early stage, in which urbanization requires the appropriate infrastructure as the foundation. The construction of infrastructure to pull on the local economic development, to attract input of capital and technology, and to drive the economic development of rural areas [9]. Therefore, in the early stage of urbanization in rural areas, it is necessary to increase its infrastructure construction. At the same time, it requires to do the relevant planning of rural development well, to provide protection for its long-term development. In the meanwhile, in the relevant agricultural technology, education, health care and other aspects, to give some support and provide the appropriate guarantee for the smooth progress of rural urbanization.

With the development of economy, urbanization is continuously advancing. The urbanization of rural areas in the middle and late stage should pay attention to the construction of soft environment, such as education and so on culture construction. As the gradual promotion of economy and the education level, lead to the rapid development of rural cultural undertakings.

Overall, in the early urbanization, take the driving effort of relevant policies of the government departments and the market guidance as a supplement; with the continuous development of urbanization, it is gradually transferred into taking market operation as the major work, government guidance and normative role as the supplement. The development of rural urbanization has great limitations, and the urbanization with dividing regions and stages is the necessary condition to realize balanced urbanization.

3.3 Promote the Development of Rural Urbanization by Economy

The development of rural urbanization is on the basis of economic development, the two complement with each other. The continuous advancement of rural urbanization should be supported by the rational allocation of factors of production, but also to take the rational industrial structure as the guarantee.

3.3.1 Production Factors

Production factors mainly refer to the capital and labor force needed in the process of rural economic development. The rational allocation and flow of production factors promote the economic development while facilitating the development of rural urbanization.

As one of the factors of economic development, the labor force has influences on economic development mainly through the physical and mental development. At present, China's migrant workers are mainly devoted to the construction industry, service industry and manufacturing industry. Among them, the proportion of the construction industry has increased. The cultural

degree reflects the quality of rural labor forces [10]. In recent years, with the continuous development of agricultural industrialization, the demand for labor quality is also improved. The improvement of the quality of the rural labor force is the requirement of economic development, and it is an important guarantee for the rural urbanization.

3.3.2 Industrial Structure

Most of the production and development of urbanization is accompanied with the development of industry, the development of industrialization provides the material basis for urbanization, and promotes the urbanization. The leading role of industrial development for urbanization is the most obvious in the early stage of urbanization, and it is the key to promote urbanization. While in the late stage of urbanization, the role of the third industry in the urbanization gradually appeared, so it is necessary to adjust the industrial structure in the process of urbanization.

At present, China's rural areas are in the early stage, therefore, the promotion of rural urbanization should be carried out under the impetus of the development of the industry. The development of rural industry in China has state-owned township enterprises and private enterprises these two modes. After the reform and opening up, the reform of economic system has promoted the development of township enterprises and private enterprises in China, providing financial support for rural urbanization, which is the driving force of urbanization in China. China's famous urbanization patterns, such as "Wenzhou model", "South of Jiangsu model", "Pearl River Model" and other implementation of urbanization are driven by township enterprises [11]. At the same time, the development of township enterprises can absorb a large number of surplus labor, alleviate the employment pressure, increase the income of farmers, improve farmers' production and life style, promote the rural infrastructure construction, and facilitate rural urbanization.

3.3.3 Government Control to Promote Urbanization in Rural Areas

Rural areas, as economically underdeveloped areas, its urbanization development depends greatly on the government control. The smooth development of rural urbanization must be carried out in a relatively comprehensive control of the government, and the problem of rural land, the medical security system, development strategy, infrastructure construction all need government guidance.

At different stages of urbanization, the government's control efforts and angles should have different focuses.

(1) The early stage of rural urbanization

For the rural areas with low level of urbanization, the government's regulation and control is mainly focused on rural planning and construction, infrastructure construction, preferential policies and so on. Through the planning and construction of rural areas by government, guide the rural areas to be rationally distributed in a certain area, realize the convenient communication with the outside world, formulate and improve relevant policies, and accelerate the process of urbanization in rural areas; infrastructure construction mainly refers to the construction and improvement of road traffic, water, electricity, communications and other aspects, providing hardware guarantee for rural urbanization; promotion of preferential policies is capable of attracting inflows of capital and other factors of production and promote the development of rural economy. Therefore, in the early stage of urbanization in rural areas, the government's regulation and control provide protection for the rationality and scientific nature of rural urbanization.

(2) The middle and late stage of rural urbanization

For the rural areas with a certain basis of urbanization, the government's regulation and control effect is mainly focused on the rural economic development, industrial transformation and spiritual and cultural level. The rural areas with the basis of urbanization, the economic conditions are relatively mature, the economic operation is mainly based on the adjustment of market mechanism, and the government's regulation and control in this stage is mainly to support and limit. The specific embodiment is: guiding the rural to proceed agricultural modernization and industrialization construction and strengthening the construction of rural spiritual civilization. The development of the economy is along with the development of the second and third industries, and the demand for

agricultural increases [12]. Agricultural modernization is the embodiment to meet the demands of the second and third industry, but also an inevitable requirement of the development of rural economy, and promote the construction of rural urbanization.

The different stages of urbanization need the government's regulation and control, and in the different stages, the focus and strength of the control are not the same. Reasonable regulation will smoothly guide the area urbanization, and rural areas, as economically underdeveloped areas, more need the guidance and leading of government policies. As a result, the role of government regulation in the course of rural urbanization is indispensable.

4. Conclusion

Promoting rural urbanization is the need of the development of rural economy, the need to promote balanced urbanization, but also the requirements to achieve China's social and economic development. In view of the current situation of China's rural areas and economic development, rural urbanization will be one of the main ways to achieve urbanization in the future. This paper mainly discusses the development trend of rural urbanization in China under the current situation of China's rural development, and puts forward some suggestions to promote the construction of rural urbanization.

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