

Social Risks and Human Security in China-- Problems and Social Policy Responses

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In the last three decades of the Reform and Open-up, with the rapid economic development and the increase of income *per capita*, most of Chinese people have got better off generally. But in the same period many Chinese people have got higher risks in many aspects, including employment, income security, health, etc. Traditional development indicators for Chinese government, especially the local governments, tended mainly to focus on economic aspects, i.e. the GDP growth rates. In the new developmental ideology of the current government, however, is turning to a more comprehensive development strategy based on the new concept of “Scientific development theory”, which is more human-centered. For this new development ideology, social researches are needed to identify the social risks in contemporary China, and new social policy should be to deal with them.

This research is identify the social risks in contemporary China by using the new concept of “Human Security”, which has been accepted worldwide, but still very new in China. Based on the definition of this concept, this research develops a series of indicators to measure peoples’ objective and subjective security in many aspects, including living necessity security (food, housing, etc), employment and income security, health security, political security, community security, cultural security and environment security. Using these indicators, a survey with a sample of 2000 in 5 cities and 5 rural areas was conducted, and its statistic findings will be useful to show human security or social risks in China.

This paper will report the main findings of the survey, the theoretic conclusion, and social policy analysis. According to the author, China’s social policy should be changed from the former economic-centered orientation to paying more attention to social risks and human security in China.