

Problems of Vulnerable Groups in China and the Government's Fundamental Responsibility

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Abstract

China is currently in an omni-directional, the edges and corners of the society transition period, including: social type transformation from traditional society to a modern society social shift production from agricultural society to industrial and information society; economic system shift from a planned economy to a market economy; the political system from a high concentration of transformation to democracy, the rule of. For various reasons, that segment of the population in a period of drastic social transition has lost favorable development conditions, they share in our society the population of small but increasingly becoming a major social development issues. Analysis, concern about and seriously address the reform of "vulnerable groups", it is in fact has become a deepening and unavoidable questions. This starting from the problems of vulnerable groups in China at present, analyses the specific reasons, thereby addressing vulnerable groups benefit from a Government probe.

Keywords: Social Transformation; Vulnerable Groups; Government Reform; Market Failure

1. Introduction

China is currently in an omni-directional, the edges and corners of the society transition period, including: social type transformation from traditional society to a modern society social shift production from agricultural society to industrial and information society; economic system shift from a planned economy to a market economy; the political system from a high concentration of transformation to democracy, the rule of. For various reasons, that segment of the population in a period of drastic social transition has lost favorable development conditions, they share in our society the population of small but increasingly becoming a major social development issues. Analysis, concern about and seriously address the reform of "vulnerable groups", it is in fact has become a deepening and unavoidable questions.

2. Vulnerable Groups Become Increasingly Prominent in the Period of Chinese Transformation

2.1 Vulnerable Groups Definition of Content

On connotation of vulnerable groups, can be defined differently from different perspectives.

In the field of Economics, it is usually From

the point of view of resource allocation that "vulnerable groups are at a disadvantage on the allocation of resources and difficulties of all kinds of groups. "This definition has two connotations: vulnerable groups in allocating resources not only for the economic benefit of poverty, including information on the rights, capabilities and other aspects of disadvantage and deprivation; the second is living difficult and this group is itself unable to resolve, you need external help.[1]

In sociology Field, scholars believe that vulnerable groups were due to restructuring of the social structure and social disorders, or as part of the community members themselves for some reason, such as competition failed, unemployment, frail elderly, people with disabilities, such as cause for real-world does not fit, and the obstacles of life and the community of people living in hardship.[2]

In political science Field, scholars generally believe that participation of vulnerable groups and disadvantaged into, affect the formulation of policy, in some cases, become victims of certain policies. "As co-believes that" vulnerable "does not refer to human subjective conditions have any low or defects, refers to the second power, development opportunities and rights, the material conditions of life do not have any advantage."[3] (p.24-25)

But how to define, a currently recognized by

authoritative is defined as: "socially vulnerable groups, also known as the vulnerable groups of society, it mainly refers to analyze modern society and the interests of the allocation of resources is unfair, inconsistent and irrational concepts of social structure." [4] (p.127-128) this means vulnerable groups concerning interests and an important concept of fairness of resource allocation, this issue highlights the economic, political and social responsibility of the Government, because the authority of the Government itself is one of the most important mechanisms for allocating resources or interest.

2.2 The Main Causes of the Vulnerable

Groups in China

One becomes vulnerable groups is called the vulnerable process, process of different vulnerable groups have different vulnerable, this process generates a complex historical, realistic reasons, structural causes and socially disadvantaged groups of society itself. Chinese social vulnerable groups at this stage appear in the background is in social transformation period of China's special, with the rapid transition of the economic system and social structure of major changes would have occurred.

From the history In terms of:

Are related to employment policies under the planned economic system. In the planned economy, China has long imposed is "country" full employment policies. But that employment policy is the essence of "low-wage, high-employment", leading to often is the result of "three live five people, five people eat the food in three persons". If you are only on the surface, this pattern of employment unemployment rate is very low, but in fact there are a large number of hidden unemployed. A basic fact is that steady economic growth under the planned economy system, is State-owned and collective enterprises to absorb labor age, sacrificed at the expense of economic efficiency. But with the advance of deepening of market-oriented and enterprise reform, State-owned and collective enterprises because of too many redundancies, overburdened as a result of low benefit of contradiction came to the fore. In order to continue to survive in the fierce market competition, businesses must downsize effect, which will result in a large number of surplus staff were laid off, making existing hidden unemployment made explicit.[5]

Second is strict on the urban and rural household registration management system. After the founding of new China, China has set a strategy of giving priority to the development of heavy industry. According to this strategy, Division of urban and rural dual system has been introduced, 1958 year implementation of the

household registration system, for urban residents and rural residents have a different identity and status of the two kinds of people. This kind of strict urban and rural household registration management system had not only caused vast differences in urban and rural, as well as vulnerable groups planted hidden danger highlighted today. History accumulated problems erupted at the appropriate time, outbreaks tend to exceed the power of history rolled up weight at all stages. Highlights of the current problems of vulnerable groups, is China's long time accumulation of employment contradiction of total outbreaks.

From the reality In terms of:

Is related to the negative impact of social transformation. From a macroeconomic and social context, China's vulnerable group is the transformation of social structure and the associated phenomena of transforming. First, the establishment of the market economic system, will inevitably lead to "survival of the fittest" effect, the pursuit of efficiency of positive and negative "double effect", adjustment of the industrial structure effect, all of these trends there can be no fundamental change in the near future. Secondly, in the process of marketization and globalization, in the selection of many interests, the Government's inability to protect all members of society benefit from losses, so that makes some members of society to vulnerable groups. Once again, significant adjustment of China's industrial structure, advances in industrial technology as well as their own business reasons, caused a large number of laid-off workers and unemployed personnel, the unemployed could not be achieved within a reasonable time to seek employment, formed as part of the vulnerable groups.

Second, and related to the imperfect social security system. Social security system to market economy operation of lubricating oil, one of its important functions is to adjust the gap between rich and poor residents. Since reform and opening up, China has basically established and of social security system suited to market economy development, starting from unit security to social security excess. However, the existing social security system is still not perfect, there is also a small coverage of low levels of protection, and funding difficulties, protection of a lower level, form a single, low level of socialization, poor protection, decentralization of management, operational efficiency and low on many issues. Question the existence of a social security system in China is still far from social safety valve purpose, but resulted in recent years in part on vulnerable groups is to expand the scale of potential.

From the perspective of disadvantaged

groups on their own:

In General, members of vulnerable groups are mostly older, educated and largely non-professional skills and expertise to the low end of crowds, re-employment of vulnerable groups, male 50, women over age 40 years are most popular. Often many vulnerable conception, complacent, lazy, and in some cases also has a serious mental disorder. These are they become vulnerable itself. Own changes are often very much affect the resolution of the problems of vulnerable groups.

2.3 The Basic Characteristics of Vulnerable

Groups in China

One is Scale is continually expanding. "On vulnerable groups of overall scale, if will urban and rural poverty population, and economic structure adjustment process in the appears of unemployment and laid off workers, and persons with disabilities, and disaster in the of help who, and farmers workers, various is vulnerable status of population plus total, then again deduction overlap part (as poverty population in the has unemployment, and laid off workers and farmers workers,) and non-vulnerable population (as laid off workers, and persons with disabilities, and Migrant workers ' striving to stand in the middle of), we can calculate the current scale of vulnerable groups in China in 1.4-1.8 of millions of people around, per cent of the total population of the country of 11%-14%." [6] which means there are serious problems of vulnerable groups in China, has attracted attention necessary.

Second is to further deepen. Social development should be accompanied by a certain degree of difference, but such differences must be controlled within reasonable limits, in order to safeguard social stability and development. Considered, the Gini coefficient at 0.2, indicating that income distribution in the high average state; the Gini coefficient in 0.2-0.3 Shi, a relative average; the Gini coefficient in 0.3-0.4 Shi, a more reasonable; the Gini coefficient exceeding 0.4 Shi, that all of the residents for the uneven distribution of income over 40% Shi, Large income gaps; Gini coefficient exceeds 0.5 Shi, indicates that polarity of the income distribution, it will give rise to many social problems. Since reform and opening up, China's economic growth at the same time, gradually widening the wealth gap, comprehensive income, Gini coefficients across the perimeter is an indisputable fact. China has crossed the Gini coefficient 0.5. Social gap between rich and poor in China has exceeded the limits of reasonable, the total population in the 20% 's share of the income of the lowest income population is only 4.7%, and total number of 20% highest-income population's share of total

income of up to 50%. On China's current trend of widening income gap, the Government must make great efforts to solve.

Three vulnerabilities is growing. On the whole, almost no available funds, members of vulnerable groups rights, scarce resources, such as the relationship between participation in social exchange in return for opportunities for their own development. Few opportunities for their participation in politics, and less influence on the political life. Them away from the social centers of power, less involved in social and political activities, it is difficult to influence public policy development. Vulnerable groups in the social structure of the underlying, compared with other classes and interest groups, under greater pressure from the economic, social and psychological. And that group happens to be tolerance for all groups of society in the economic and psychological endurance capacity and weaker groups, weak social structures, once social contradictions from intensifying and economic stress and load accumulated to a certain extent, affect their survival, social risk from the outbreak of the most vulnerable groups.

3. Solving the Problems of Vulnerable Groups is the Fundamental Responsibilities of Government

Solve the problems of vulnerable groups, is to promote the basic strategy of rule of law entails. Constitution of China 33 article 3 expressly provides that: "People's Republic of China citizens shall be equal before the law", and the Constitution of 2 chapters specified the citizens should enjoy equal rights, political rights and the right to freedom of right to material security, education, scientific research, Cultural rights, the protection of basic rights, such as women, children and the elderly. Specified in the Constitution as the fundamental law of the State Governments have the obligation to protect vulnerable groups.

Solve the problems of vulnerable groups, is the important guarantee to realize social fairness Social justice is always at the Centre of problems in developing countries, social justice and economic equality is closely related to and reinforce each other. Fundamentally, should follow the social transition benefit members of society generally and on the principle of interests may be able to receive timely compensation, benefits only members of the majority community in reform, legitimacy of the reform is to make social development with equity and full significance.

Solve the problems of vulnerable groups, the Government should play the leading role.

This is determined by the characteristics of vulnerable groups themselves, economically vulnerable groups of low-income, lower-quality of life of low impact on the sexual, political and psychological hypersensitivity, decided a great vulnerability of groups in social life. At the same time, also means vulnerable groups only by relying on its own forces are difficult to quickly get rid of their difficulties, and solve their own problems. Rely on "external forces", with the "external forces" changing living conditions. There is no doubt that this "force" is the dominant force in Government, because the Government absolute leading role in national social development.

The World Bank in 1997 year's world development report points out that: each Government's core mission includes five of the most basic functions: "(1) establishing the legal basis, and (2) protection of a policy environment that is not damaged, (3) Foundation for investment in basic social services and social facilities (4), The protection of vulnerable groups; (5) the protection of the environment." [7] (p.127-128) in the modern State functions are no longer ruled by the Government, but to society through its social management function of providing services. Relief to vulnerable groups is a responsibility and an obligation for Governments, relief to seek help is a basic right of every citizen.

4. The Basic Thoughts on the Chinese Government to Resolve the Problems of Vulnerable Groups

Vulnerable groups, is both a natural consequence of deepening the reform, also associated with the Group's own reasons, but the most important thing is the lack of system of Government policy. Only begin with national policy and institutional systems to find the right way to solve problems.

4.1 In Terms of Economic Policy

4.1.1 Narrowing the Wealth Gap

The characteristics of vulnerable groups is not difficult to conclude that important cause of poverty is causing problems of vulnerable groups. The eradication of poverty, narrowing the gap between rich and poor are effective ways of solving the problems of vulnerable groups. 1978 years since reform and opening up, the Chinese Government has been committed to the construction of socialist market economy, economic construction of the Government is always in the leading position, only increased the Government's leading role on the organic combination of market mechanism and

Government Regulation, focus on the lives of the poor increased to achieve communism as a fundamental goal, shrinking the gap between rich and poor, basically to solve the problems of vulnerable groups. At the social level, you must adjust income disparities, the second distribution of social wealth, wealth in favor of vulnerable groups of society, and protect the interests of vulnerable groups lives and livelihoods. Always adhere to the "giving priority to efficiency with due consideration to fairness principle".

4.1.2 Corrections of "Market Failure"

China to build socialism with Chinese characteristics under the guidance of the market economic system, "market failure" is widespread, adhering to and perfecting the Socialist market economy is to a large extent depend on the Government for "market failure" adjustment. Distribution of equity are major issues of China's market economy appeared at this stage, how to resolve unfair distribution, improve social fairness, Justice has significant implications for vulnerable groups to address.

4.1.3 Continuing to Expand Employment

Development is the Foundation, only if the economy continues to expand at the same time providing more employment opportunities for vulnerable groups, to essentially improve their living situation. The saying goes: give a man a fish than teach him how to fish. While economic development, the Government should give full play to its macro-economic control only, do everything possible to increase employment, further accelerating the process of industrialization and urbanization, and vigorously developing the tertiary industry. At the same time, the Government also needs to continue to improve the employment conditions of vulnerable groups, improve the employment service system, on the premise of society's overall job opportunities increased to ensure that vulnerable groups will be given priority in employment opportunities for grasping the Basic.

4.2 In the Legal System:

4.2.1 And Perfect Administrative Legislation

China current on vulnerable groups of protection heavy in system of construction, Government has responsibility to legislation and system of forms on vulnerable groups on line protection, national legislature developed of the United women interests guarantees law under, and the United minor protection custodian of under, and the United elderly interests guarantees law under, and the United persons with disabilities guarantees law under, and the United consumers

interests protection law under, and the United regional autonomy law under, are is on social vulnerable groups implementation special protection of legal. But, due to at this stage China social vulnerable groups constitute situation of exception complexity, and vulnerable groups scale has continued expanded of trend, first Government should in Constitution in the provides on vulnerable groups protection of principles, developed vulnerable groups protection of basic law, then Government according to different problem for different of analysis, on different of legal for different of development and extends, to real expanded vulnerable groups of legal protection range. At the same time, legal education activities, enhancing the legal awareness of citizens, laying the legal basis for the protection of the legitimate rights of vulnerable groups.

4.2.2 Standardized Law Enforcement

Laws and regulations have a strong authority. Any laws and regulations in order to achieve their own values, must continue to regulate their implementation process, strictly regulate their law enforcement practices. Administration is the implementation of China's law most directly in the field, most close to the subjects of social subjects of law enforcement agencies and the right relief, administration according to law and must be strict and fair law enforcement, a resolute fight against administrative omission, to active law enforcement, but not abuse of power by the law for selfish ends.

4.2.3 The Interests of Justice

To establish and improve the system of legal supervision, in implementation of the relevant legislation, the Government must rely on the supervision of the relevant departments at the same time, the lack of legal supervision, tend to be likely to cause the Government behavior anomie, and law-breakers are, violators must be brought to justice will be reduced to empty talk; at the same time, judicial impartiality also required strengthening supervision of law enforcement to ensure fair status of vulnerable groups and other community groups.

4.3 In Terms of Social Policy

4.3.1 Establishing a Sound Social Security System

China's social security system has made significant progress in recent years, the basic frame of rural endowment insurance have made clear, urban resident's minimum living security system has been launched. However, the social security system there is also a small, low levels

of social security coverage, lack of procedural safeguards, such as insufficient benefits were not fully effective protection of particularly vulnerable groups. So it should be done: (1) to improve the basic old-age insurance system. China's basic old-age insurance is a combination of social pooling and individual accounts of models, this model is unique in the world, its exploratory decided it could not be solved. Taking into account a wide range of pension arrangements, to adapt to the changes of employment structure, employment development. (2) improving the unemployment insurance system. Basic old-age insurance and unemployment insurance is almost in hand and an important social security system, strengthening of employment promotion function of unemployment insurance , will make the system while maintaining an unemployed workers ' interests , by negative towards positive intervention , Its effectiveness will be improved significantly. (3) fast forward health-care reform. Should be implemented by universal health care as a long-term goal , at this stage can take a wide range of institutional arrangements , to the needs of different groups of diseases health care needs. (4) to improve the urban resident's minimum living standard security system. In accordance with the urban resident's minimum living wage Ordinance requires that all the conditions of the urban poor into the scope of minimum life security, and convergence with the other social security line, particularly by strengthening the adjustment of industrial structure and enterprise restructuring occurred in the process of restructuring the special difficulties of minimum living standard of the population.[8]

4.3.2 To Further Improve the Income Distribution Mechanism

"Efficiency and equity is a core issue of income. "Improving the income distribution system would not only ease the contradiction of distribution, can effectively address the problems of vulnerable groups. Governments should give full play to its macro-economic control function, further standardize the market order, and create a good environment and fair competition. Take full advantage of tax the economic lever focus efforts to increase regulation of high-income groups, while strongly against and combat the illegal income.

4.3.3 Good Social and Communication Mechanisms

Enthusiasm to the Government to stimulate the interests of vulnerable groups. First, the Government should strengthen the publicity and education in democratic, effectively enhance

China's sense of democracy for all citizens, particularly with regard to vulnerable groups, to continue to strengthen its democracy. Cannot make disadvantaged groups feel is being abandoned by society, but should have a feeling of ownership by the citizens of socialist society. Although Socialist democratic construction in China for many years, national people's sense of ownership is growing. But due to various reasons of China limited, democratic awareness was not fully enjoys popular support, lack of real understanding of democratic awareness. Secondly, the Government should always uphold the principle of fairness, which demands respect for the interests of vulnerable groups in a fair manner, maintaining their dignity and guarantee their rights. Government strengthening service consciousness, be people-oriented, to meet the demands of interest, truly fair and impartial.[9]

Maintenance is obligatory on vulnerable groups by the Government, but not just to rely on Government policies to solve the problems of vulnerable groups, vulnerable groups themselves to actively get rid of old ideas and attitudes, the initiative to express their will. In the current case, we must actively establish public interests expression mechanism, especially the Government and communication platform for vulnerable groups to enable the Government in the formulation of policy is to obtain comprehensive information as much as possible to avoid errors in the policy development process, promote government reform, further improvement of service-oriented Government.

5. Conclusions

vulnerable groups were derived in the process of reform and development, institutional transformation, development will continue to be, reforms will accelerate, vulnerable groups with the development of society on a new feature. Vulnerable groups addressing or not is related to China's social stability and national stability, but also affected the healthy development of China's socialist market economy with Chinese characteristics can. Dominate Government in Chinese society, is the core of the development of strength, only been clarified and strengthened the Government's position in addressing the problems of vulnerable groups and accountability, strengthen the construction of legal system, improving policy development system, improving the quality of social security can be truly effective solution to the problem of socially vulnerable groups, so as to create a harmonious society of mutual help, love, and win promotion.

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