

Promote the Co-ordination of Urban and Rural Differences in the Minimum Living Security System under the Perspective of Common Prosperity

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Abstract: The minimum living standard security system is considered to be the "last safety net" of China's social security system, which plays a vital role in protecting citizens' basic right to subsistence and promoting social fairness and justice. At present, there are still large differences between China's minimum living security system between urban and rural areas, and this difference is mainly reflected in the level of treatment, fund raising, management system, etc, which affects the overall development. This paper proposes that measures such as scientifically coordinating the minimum guarantee standards for urban and rural residents, broadening the channels for raising funds, unifying the urban and rural minimum security management institutions, and integrating the operating mechanism should be adopted to narrow the gap between urban and rural areas and promote the overall development of the urban and rural minimum living security system.

Keywords: Common prosperity, The minimum living standard security system, Urban-rural disparities.

1. Introduction

Common prosperity is our eternal pursuit and is also the essential requirement of socialist modernization. On August 17, 2021, President Xi Jinping stressed at the tenth meeting of the Central Financial and Economic Commission that we should adhere to the people-centered development concept and promote common prosperity in high-quality development. As an important part of common prosperity, the soundness and perfection of the social assistance system is particularly significant, and in order to improve and perfect the social assistance system, the minimum living security system is a topic that we cannot avoid. As the core content of social assistance, the minimum subsistence security system plays an important role in ensuring the basic livelihood of the people in need and improving the living conditions of the people in need. However, affected by the dual structure of the urban and rural economy, at present, China's minimum living security system has a huge difference between urban and rural areas, and this difference is not only reflected in the system design, management system, financing methods, but also in the guarantee treatment of the minimum living security system. To some extent, the emergence of this situation can be understood, in the past, in order to promote economic development, the state adopted the practice of sacrificing the countryside and supporting the city, giving priority to ensuring the city and promoting the development of the urban economy. With this support, the urban economy has been able to develop rapidly, the economic structure has been gradually optimized, and various social systems have gradually improved. In rural areas, because of this blood transfusion support, economic development is far behind. This backwardness is not only reflected in the difference in the level of economic development, but also in the difference in the sound and improvement of various social systems.

Regarding the introduction of the minimum guarantee policy, the earliest was in 1993, Shanghai took the lead in introducing the relevant documents of the urban minimum living security system, and in 1995, the minimum living

security system was promoted to the whole country, and piloted in major cities across the country. The rural minimum subsistence guarantee system was launched in the pilot areas in 1992. However, it was not until 2003 that the minimum living standard security system was established in 15 provinces, autonomous regions, and 2037 counties and cities across the country. In addition to the difference in the time of policy promulgation and implementation, the difference between urban and rural minimum guarantee is also reflected in the level of security, and the rural areas can only rely on limited land income and relatively small external blood transfusion support (social security system with limited security capacity) to complete self-protection due to the relatively poor level of economic development, so the level of security is relatively low. At present, with the development of social economy, the difference in the treatment standards of the minimum subsistence security system between urban and rural areas is more obvious. The acceleration of the urbanization process has made the gap between urban and rural areas narrow day by day, and the urban and rural areas have gradually converged in some aspects. In this case, it is difficult to ensure the basic livelihood of poor rural residents by relatively low living standards, and the differences between urban and rural areas in the treatment of the minimum living standard security system are also very likely to trigger new social contradictions. To this end, this paper puts forward some personal thoughts and opinions on the problem of the difference, in order to make a contribution to promoting the overall development of urban and rural areas of China's minimum living standard security system, improving China's social security system, and realizing the great ideal of common prosperity.

2. Literature Review

Regarding the overall planning of urban and rural areas of China's minimum subsistence security system, past scholars have done a lot of research and achieved very fruitful results, the following, this article summarizes the main contents of the research done by previous scholars as follows:

On the problems existing in the urban-rural co-ordination of the minimum subsistence security system. Yang Mao (2021) took Chongqing Municipality as an example to explore the urban and rural co-ordination of the minimum living standard security system, and found that in the process of the overall development of urban and rural areas, there are problems such as the difference between urban and rural construction, the access standards to be standardized, the level of security between urban and rural areas, and the unreasonable management of funds, pointing out that to improve the minimum living security system, the overall development of urban and rural areas requires strengthening the basic law construction of system, standardizing the access system for the minimum security objects, and confirming the minimum security objects. Narrowing the gap between urban and rural areas and establish a long-term financial input mechanism [1,2]. Wang Lei (2018) believes that in the case of the dual division of urban and rural areas, the minimum living security system has a large gap between urban and rural areas in the guarantee standard, the proportion of financial input is obviously different between urban and rural areas, and the protection of citizens' rights is different between urban and rural areas, and proposes to unify the mechanism of the level of minimum security treatment, reasonably stipulate the financial burden mechanism of the minimum guarantee at all levels, clarify the rights and obligations of citizens, and promote the top-level design of the minimum security system [3].

On the current situation of unbalanced urban and rural development of the minimum subsistence security system. Zhang Yifan (2020) believes that the current rural minimum living security system is obviously lagging behind the cities in terms of guarantee standards, guarantee funds, and supporting measures, and it is necessary to improve the rural minimum living security system by formulating scientific guarantee standards, scientifically defining the targets, exploring multiple fund-raising mechanisms, and improving the rural social assistance system [4]. Liu Qi Ming (2019) uses the content analysis method to analyze the rural minimum security information in the eastern, central and western regions, and believes that the government is dominant, and the rural minimum living security system in China will show a more fair development trend in the future [5]. Zhu Jianhua (2016) believes that the overall development of urban and rural areas of the minimum subsistence security system needs to follow the principles of legalization, specialization, fairness and coordination, and can standardize the standard formulation mode through the "1+x" model, standardize the working procedures for standard formulation, simplify the management system, the professionalization and full-time of staff, and a unified information network, so as to conceive a specific path for the overall development of urban and rural areas with minimum living security [6, 7]. Previous research has mainly focused on the current situation, existing problems and future development trends of the urban-rural integration of the minimum subsistence security system, and there are not many studies on the urban-rural differences of the minimum subsistence security system and the adverse

effects caused by this urban-rural difference. Therefore, this paper selects the urban-rural difference of the minimum subsistence security system as the entry point, explores the adverse impact of this urban-rural difference in the process of urban-rural integration of the minimum subsistence security system, and puts forward countermeasures and suggestions to solve these gaps from the perspective of common prosperity.

3. The Ddifference between Urban and Rural Areas of the System

3.1. Large Difference in Terms of Treatment Levels

The gap between the urban and rural minimum living standard security system is first reflected in the difference between urban and rural minimum security standards. In the design of system, the composition of the urban and rural minimum guarantee standards is different, and the urban minimum guarantee standards are mainly formulated according to the amount of local basic living expenses, including the basic living expenses of individuals and the compulsory education costs of minors, while the formulation of the rural minimum security standards is based on the most basic living expenses of local rural residents throughout the year[8]. This has resulted in a certain degree of disparity between the level of minimum insurance in urban and rural areas. In recent years, China's economy has developed rapidly, the level of social security has been continuously improved, and China's minimum guarantee standards have also been raised. From the data of Table 1, it can be seen that in the six years from 2015 to 2020, China's Minimum level of living security standards per capita have shown a state of increasing year by year, with cities rising from 451.1 CNY/month in 2015 to 677.6 CNY/month in 2020, and rural areas from 264.8 CNY in 2015 to 496.8 CNY in 2020. At the same time, the gap between urban and rural areas is also gradually narrowing, in 2015, the urban minimum guarantee level is about 1.7 times the rural minimum guarantee level, and by 2019, the ratio of the urban minimum guarantee level to the rural minimum guarantee level has dropped to 1.36. Although the gap between urban and rural areas is decreasing year by year, from the current situation, this gap is still obvious.

With the intensification of the urbanization process and the popularization of the compulsory education system, the differences between urban and rural residents are gradually narrowing, and the living requirements of urban and rural low-income recipients are gradually converging. In this context, the minimum living standard security system is based on the need to protect people's basic living needs and basic subsistence rights, and the huge difference between urban and rural areas is bound to run counter to the concept of fairness, justice and common prosperity that we advocate, which will lead to new social contradictions and problems. Therefore, efforts to narrow the gap between urban and rural areas in standards, and efforts to promote the overall development of the minimum living standard security system in urban and rural areas.

Table 1. 2015-2020 urban and rural per capita minimum guarantee standards

Table	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Urban (CNY/month)	451.1	494.6	540.6	579.7	624	677.6
Rural (CNY/month)	264.8	312	358.4	402.8	444.6	496.8
Urban/ rural	1.70	1.58	1.51	1.43	1.40	1.36

3.2. A Large Difference in Fund-raising

There are also large differences between urban and rural areas in terms of funding for the minimum living standard security system. In the early days of the establishment of the system, its source of funds mainly depended on the financial support of local governments, and the role of the central government was very weak. With the deepening of reform, the central finance has increased its financial support for it, and its role in the minimum living standard security system has become more and more prominent. However, with the continuous advancement of reform, the financial support of the central government has gradually weakened, and the urban minimum guarantee system has returned to the situation of mainly relying on local finances. The financial support of the central and local governments improved the lives of the low-income insurance recipients, and has played a very important role in reducing the incidence of the minimum guarantee and reducing the number of low-income people. From the data of Table 2, from 2015 to the end of 2020, the city's low-income population fell from 17.011 million to 8.051 million in 2020, in six years, the urban low-income population fell by 8.96 million, and the per capita fiscal expenditure of the urban low-income population rose from 4228.4 CNY/year to 6673.1 CNY/year, it rose by one-third more.

In the early days of the establishment, its sources of funds were mainly borne by local governments, but now, the central government gradually increased financial investment and support, and gradually occupied a dominant position in the rural minimum guarantee fund sources. With the strong support of the central government, the funds gradually increased, the standard gradually improved, as can be seen from the data in Table 2, from 2015 to 2020, the rural financial expenditure at all levels increased year by year, from 93.15 billion CNY in 2015 to 142.63 billion CNY in 2020, and the per capita fiscal expenditure of the rural low-income population also increased year by year, from 1899.6 CNY/year in 2015 to 3940.1 CNY/year in 2020. With the financial support of the central and local governments, the standards and levels of the rural minimum guarantee have risen, but the relationship has gradually alienated, gradually developing into the main body of the central finance, and the local finance is only an auxiliary role, which has produced a huge challenge to the sustained and healthy development of the funds raised by system, and has also formed a huge challenge to promoting the overall development of the urban and rural minimum security system. In order to promote the overall development of the urban and rural minimum security system, we must properly handle the issue of rights and responsibilities in the process of raising funds.

Table 2. 2015-2020 Urban and rural fiscal expenditure and status

Table	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
City Finance Expenditure (BILLION CNY)	719.3	687.9	640.5	575.2	519.5	537.3
Rural Finance Expenditure (BILLION CNY)	931.5	1014.5	1051.8	1056.9	1127.2	1426.3
Urban low-income population (10 thousand)	1701.1	1480.2	1261.0	1007.0	860.9	805.1
Rural low-income population (10 thousand)	4903.6	4586.5	4045.2	3519.1	3455.4	3620.8
Urban per capita fiscal expenditure (CNY/year)	4228.4	4647.3	5079.3	5712	6034.4	6673.7
Urban per capita fiscal expenditure (CNY/year)	1899.6	2211.9	2600.1	3003.3	3262.1	3940.1

4. The Negative Impact of the Difference

4.1. Hindering the Realization of Social Fairness and Justice

Fairness and justice are our eternal and unremitting pursuit, and the most important purpose of the establishment of the minimum living security system is to protect the basic rights of citizens and promote social fairness and justice. Fairness mainly includes the fairness of opportunities, the fairness of the process and the fairness of the results, due to the impact of history, geographical conditions, economic conditions and other factors, there are serious inequities between urban and rural areas in terms of opportunities, processes, and results, and this unfairness is mainly manifested in the living environment and living conditions of rural residents are far less than those of cities, the construction of rural social systems is far less than that of cities, and the level of economic development in rural areas is far less than that of cities, and as a social security system that guarantees the fairness of the

process, the minimum living security system, It aims to guarantee the basic livelihood of vulnerable groups by giving material support and economic assistance to vulnerable groups in society, so as to ensure that every resident enjoys the right to subsistence equally, so as to achieve fairness in the process. However, due to the huge differences in system construction, fund raising, and treatment level of the urban and rural minimum living security system, the original intention of the original system design has been distorted, and the system has become the main source of distinguishing between urban and rural areas, widening the gap between urban and rural areas, and causing social injustice, and has become the main culprit hindering the realization of social fairness and justice.

4.2. Negative to the Co-ordination of System

After decades of development, China's social security system system has become increasingly sound, and a relatively complete modern social security system has been gradually established. However, due to the difference in the dual structure of urban and rural areas in China, there was a

clear difference at the beginning of the design of China's minimum living security system, which is not only reflected in the level of treatment and financial support, but more importantly, in the payment of the level of treatment, the level of urban economic development and , the economic conditions is well, the economic conditions are good, the per capita living standard is high, so the minimum living security line is high, the level of guarantee treatment is high, and the rural economic development conditions are relatively poor, the per capita living standard is low, so the line is low. The level of benefits guaranteed is low. With the development of urban-rural integration and population mobility, the differences between urban and rural residents have gradually narrowed, and the traditional minimum living security system of urban and rural differentiation is slowly no longer suitable for the needs of social development, and it is gradually difficult to meet the needs of urban and rural residents, and the Co-ordination of the urban and rural minimum living security system is urgently needed. Meanwhile, the huge differences have also become an obstacle to the Co-ordination of the urban and rural minimum subsistence security systems. Of course, at a time when the modern social security system is becoming more and more sound, the establishment and improvement of a unified and perfect social security system is not only the trend of the times, but also an urgent requirement for the development of the social security system, and the difference between urban and rural areas of the minimum living security system is bound to hinder the process of the Co-ordination of the social security system and affect the development and improvement of Chinese social security system.

4.3. Negative to the Realization of Common Prosperity

Common prosperity is our ideal and pursuit, in order to achieve common prosperity, not only need to make the total economic volume bigger and stronger, to ensure that there is enough cake for everyone, but also to pay attention to the fairness of distribution, in order to ensure that these cakes are really divided, everyone can share the fruits of economic development. If we want to make the cake bigger, we must vigorously develop the economy, promote economic construction, and ensure the high-speed and high-quality development of the economy. To divide the cake well, it is necessary to establish a sound and reasonable distribution system to ensure the fairness and justice of distribution. In particular, it is necessary to ensure the lives of the vulnerable groups at the bottom of society, and only by ensuring the lives of the people at the lowest level of society can we achieve the goal of common prosperity. The tenth meeting of the Central Financial and Economic Commission pointed out that it is necessary to increase the adjustment of taxation, social security, transfer payments and improve the accuracy, expand the proportion of middle-income groups, increase the income of low-income groups, rationally adjust high incomes, form an olive-shaped distribution structure with large middle and small ends, and promote social fairness and justice. As an important part of the social assistance system, the minimum subsistence guarantee system plays an important role in promoting common prosperity. The widening of the gap between the urban and rural minimum subsistence security system is not only not conducive to the integrated development of the minimum subsistence security system, but also makes the relationship between the urban and rural

people in difficulty deteriorate, and is not conducive to promoting the role of the urban and rural minimum subsistence security system in regulating income distribution and the realization of the goal of common prosperity.

5. Conclusion and Recommendation

5.1. Scientific Co-ordination

The minimum living guarantee is the last safety net to ensure the lives of residents, and it plays a very important role in ensuring the lives of residents. At present, due to the historical dual difference between urban and rural areas, the distinction between the urban and rural minimum living security system in the system is the most important embodiment of this distinction between urban and rural areas. From the above analysis, we can see that in recent years, although China is working hard to solve the problem of urban and rural differences in minimum living security standards, the difference between urban and rural minimum living security standards has declined to a certain extent, from 1.7 times in 2015 to 1.36 times in 2020, but this difference is still very obvious. This is very unfavorable to ensuring the livelihood of rural minimum security recipients and promoting the Co-ordination of urban and rural minimum living security standards. In order to solve this problem, firstly, we need to scientifically coordinate the minimum guarantee standards for urban and rural residents, reasonably determine the guarantee items and contents, and reasonably determine the difference between urban and rural minimum guarantees, so as to reasonably determine the level of urban and rural minimum guarantees. Of course, overall planning is not equal to unification, because urban and rural areas are still different, so we should reasonably divide the differences between urban and rural areas, maintain reasonable urban and rural differences, and ensure the basic livelihood of the low-income objects at the same time, will not damage the enthusiasm of the urban and rural low-security objects. Secondly, we also need to adjust the minimum living security standard in a timely manner according to the level of social and economic development and price changes. The level of social and economic development and changes in prices have a particularly obvious impact on living materials, and the same minimum guarantee standard may vary greatly in the living level in different periods, and it is necessary to adjust the standard in a timely manner according to the level of social and economic development and changes in prices, so as to maintain the basic living needs of the insured.

5.2. Broaden the Channels for Fund-raising

An effective fund-raising mechanism is the basic guarantee for the normal operation and sustainable development of the minimum subsistence guarantee in urban and rural areas. At present, there are still large differences in the fund raising of urban and rural minimum living security, which is not only reflected in the difference in the rights and responsibilities of the main body of financing, but also in the difference in the number of subjects of financing. Therefore, it is necessary to promote the Co-ordination of the urban and rural minimum subsistence security system. First of all, we should explore diversified financing mechanisms and broaden financing channels. At present, in the process of raising funds for the urban and rural minimum living security system, the central and local finances play a very important role, playing a very important role in improving the lives of the low-income

targets and eliminating the incidence of poverty, but because the central and local finances occupy the main body in it, invisibly increasing the pressure on the central and local finances, once the central and local financial input or support is insufficient, the continuous operation of the urban and rural minimum living security system will be greatly reduced. Therefore, we should expand the fund-raising mechanism of the minimum subsistence security system, encourage the participation of more social entities, enrich the fundraising entities of the minimum subsistence security system, realize the diversification of funding sources and channels, and ensure the sustained, healthy and stable operation of the minimum subsistence security system. Secondly, increase the intensity of fiscal transfer payments for rural funds. Due to the influence of historical factors, coupled with the poor level of economic development in rural areas, the large number of poor people, and the insufficient capital investment in the minimum subsistence security system, the imbalance between the urban and rural minimum subsistence security system has been caused. Therefore, it is necessary to increase the input of rural funds and realize the Co-ordination of the urban and rural minimum subsistence security system at an early date.

5.3. Unify Urban and rural Minimum Security Management Institutions

In order to achieve the Co-ordination of the urban and rural minimum living security system, it is necessary to unify the urban and rural minimum security management institutions and integrate the operation and management mechanism. At present, the management system and operation mechanism of the urban minimum subsistence guarantee are relatively sound, while the operation mechanism and management system of the rural minimum subsistence guarantee system are relatively lagging behind, making it difficult for the Co-ordination of the urban and rural minimum subsistence security system. Therefore, in order to achieve the Co-ordination of the urban and rural minimum subsistence security system, it is necessary to vigorously establish and improve the management system and operating mechanism of the rural minimum subsistence security system, and from the national level, unified provisions should be made for the national urban and rural minimum security work institutions. Localities should establish provincial, municipal, and county minimum guarantee management institutions that are unified in urban and rural areas, and set up corresponding minimum guarantee offices in townships (towns) to be responsible for

handling the corresponding minimum guarantee operations. Only in this way can we better promote the Co-ordination of the urban and rural minimum subsistence security system and move toward common prosperity.

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