

The Influence of the New Criteria for Dividing Urban- rural Area on Integrating the Urban-rural Development in Wuhan City

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Wuhan is a metropolis in the central part of China. During the more than 20 years of the reform opening development, the scope of the city extended fast, the change in Wuhan's urban-rural area has been huge. Moderating the gap of the urban-rural development became a urgent matter of the present moment. The researches to integrate the urban-rural area's development needed to divide exactly the line of the urban and rural area so as to make it possible reflect objectively the true circumstance and provide with the thorough basis in order to establish the new policy of the urban-rural development. Due to this present demand, this paper attempt to analyse the new criteria for dividing the urban-rural area released by NBS in 2006.

1. The actuality of the urban-rural development in Wuhan City

Wuhan city is located in the heartland of China with the largest total economy scale and the most populous city in the central China. The GDP of Wuhan in 2006 was 259 billion Yuan and the fiscal revenue was 50.2 billion Yuan. The registered population in the police office was 8.19 million people, the resident population (living for six months or above) was 868 million people, the floating population was 230 million people. All the Wuhan covers 7 centric districts, 2 suburb districts and 4 counties.

In the recent years, the tendency of the economic and social development of Wuhan's urban districts and suburb districts is good. The per capita disposable income of the urban residents in 2006 was 10.54 thousand yuan. The per capita cash income of the rural residents was 4.75 thousand yuan. Wuhan covers both urban and rural area in the overall territory. The function of city is mainly shown in the urban area. The villages and towns of Wuhan's outskirts is only as the supplementary district in the resource and the economy.

Through contrasting the development indicators of economy and society in the urban-rural area, we can understand that the development of the urban-rural area in Wuhan remains un-even, the characteristic of the dual structure is remarkable between the urban and rural area. Wuhan's dualistic coefficient was 0.20 in 2006, lower than the developing nation average dualistic coefficient 0.31-0.45, and much lower than the developed country average dualistic coefficient 0.52-0.86.

This fully elucidated that the dualistic economic structure have not been cancelled after the more than 20 years of the reform opening. The unbalance of the urban-rural development, the margin of industry and agriculture, the margin of the urban-rural kept on enlarging. There are huge difficulties to integrate the urban-rural development. This kind of main performance of the dualistic difference is: Firstly, the margin of the urban-rural residents' income extended. The per capita income of the city residents in 1983 was 1.69 times of the per capita cash income of the rural residents. By the year of 2006, the margin extended to 2.6 times. The absolute amount of the both margin extended from 226 yuan of the year of 1983 to 7612 yuan of the year of 2006. Secondly, the consumption margin of the urban-rural residents extended. The consumption margin of the urban-rural residents extended from 208 yuan of the year of 1983 to 5602 yuan of the year of 2006. The 2006's Engel coefficient of city residents is lower 5.6 percentage point than that of village residents. Thirdly, the unbalance of the urban-rural economic development. The margin of the urban-rural area in Wuhan still embodied mainly some aspects: the level of the economic development, the industry scale and the layout structure. Fourthly, the social security system of the village residents have not been sound and the coverage of the medical security not wide, the 2006's overlay rate of the city-town basic endowment insurance, unemployment insurance attained 80% and 40% respectively. The lowest life guarantee of the city-town residents has been established. Who should be secured has be done in the city-town. However, The lowest life guarantee of the village region just began to set up, the lowest life standard of the village residents is far below that of the city residents. Fifthly, the shortage of the public resources especially education resources(learning condition, teachers strength) in the village of Wuhan. Sixthly, dropping behind of the village infrastructure, the drinking water, electric power, tele-communications facilities and the road facilities is unqualified. The city area

infrastructure is more perfect, kit, the universality rate of running water was 100%, the gas-fired rate was 98%, the per 10 thousand people owned 14 of the bus, the rate of the wastewater treatment was 21.45%, the rate of the processing excrement was 100%. But in the far village region, the rate of the village harden road only attained 30%, the universality rate of the running water was 75%, the gas-fired rate, the treating rate of the wastewater, the rate of the processing excrement were rather low. The village residents' drinking of the far mountain area, the use of electricity and walk were still pretty difficult, the mission which rebuild the water pipe and W.C will be huge.

2. The new criteria for dividing the urban and rural area

2.1 The explanation of the original dividing criteria of the urban-rural area

For the sake of satisfying different government sections to carry on plan and statistics according to the uniform basis for dividing urban-rural area, State Department stipulated the criteria for dividing the urban-rural area in the No.203th document in 1955.

The original dividing criteria of the urban-rural area showed that the scale and the quality of the resident population was the main basis of the judgment. Because of the condition of the planned economy system at that time, the government did not take a right choice for the fixed position of the city development, the urban area and the rural area was artificially split into the city and country by this dividing standard. The programming, development and management kept the mutual independence so as to form the dualistic structure of the urban-rural society.

2.2 The emergence of the new criteria for dividing the urban-rural area

Since the reform opening of China, while the development of the socialist market economy is speeding up, the urbanization which is considered as the fateful strategy and the actions to work out "the three agricultures" problem and balance the development of the urban-rural area has been raised in the front of the central as well as local governments. The outline of "the 11th five year's plan" brought forward raising the level of the urbanization as an important aim of the development. At the same time, the structure of the city and village have appeared very big variety during the period of this time. The original criteria for dividing the urban-rural area was not able to meet the demands. Therefore, for the sake of the accurate reflection of the

city-village's population, the society and economy development circumstance at the present stage of our country, the correct evaluation of the level of the urbanization of our country and unifying the dividing criteria of the urban-rural area in each profession statistics, National Bureau of Statistics of China promulgated "The provisional regulations on the statistical division of urban and rural area" and "The urban-rural division management in statistics" on march 10th 2006, and proposed a new statistical criteria for the classification of urban and rural area.

The core of the new criteria for the classification of the urban and rural area is based on the current administrative divisions, the residents committees and the village committees as the minimum dividing unit, considers the urban public facilities' connection as a criterion. Compared with the old one, the new criteria is different from the old criteria in the minimum dividing unit and gist. The new criteria is clear based on the residents committees and the village committees as the classification minimum unit, and the scale and nature of the residents population were no longer considered as the main basis for judgment so as to make the division of the urban-rural area more maneuverable.

3. The influence of the new criteria on the statistics of the urban and rural area

3.1 Proposed a new topic to the urban and rural statistical system reforms. The new standard firstly unifies the dividing criteria of the urban-rural area in each professional statistics, in the other words, unifies the government statistical standard. In this foundation, if it could be extended to the department statistics, in particularly, to the civil affairs departments, quality inspection departments, the social security sectors, the public security departments and other departments, it would change the present status of confusion between the statistics department's standard of the urban-rural division, and chaos between the government statistics and the department statistics.

3.2 Proposed the new transformation to the present urban and rural statistics system. As the new criteria redefined the urban-rural area, the statistical system in urban-rural area needs to be changed and the statistical organization way needs to be adjusted, such as the income statistics of urban and rural residents. The new criteria will plotted the high-income village neighbored urban area into the urban area, the high income

peasants will not be able to be sampled, and the samples would be only in the suburbs of the city. It will have a great impact on the income of the farmers.

3.3 Changed in the statistical methods to the existing urban and rural areas. With the increasing of floating population, it increases the difficulty for the urban population statistics. In the past, the level of urbanization is calculated from the household register population. With the increasing migrant workers and the continuous expansion of the fluid people, the level of urbanization basing upon the household register population is unscientific.

4. Integrating the development of the urban-rural area in Wuhan from the view of the new dividing criteria

4.1 Expand the scope of the urban region. Based on the new criteria for the classification, there are 172 administrative divisions street (township, and town, farm) level units, 3,395 administrative divisions residents' committee (village, production brigade) level units in Wuhan in 2006, 1,499 of which would be able to belong to the urban areas and 1896 units belong to rural area after the initial check. According to the preliminary estimation, there are 378 village-level administrative units and 20 thousands hectare of farmland would be classified into urban area as compared with the rural statistical data of Wuhan in 2005. It shows that the new criteria of the urban-rural division may expand the urban area.

4.2 Increase the level of urbanization. According to the new criteria for the classification of the urban-rural area, there are 205.4 thousand households and 613.9 thousand people would be classified into urban area in Wuhan, therefore the level of urbanization was 57.3% in 2005, an increase of 2.3% compared with the original one. However, from the view of "the three agricultures", the part of the village which would be divided into the urban area has not changed yet in the foundation of the construction and the public service. The agriculture have still the bigger ratio among the overall economy. If the city policy doesn't cover the part of the village which would be divided into the urban area in time, it will be disadvantageous for the development of this part of the village in the short time thanks to the change of the policy related to the agriculture.

4.3 Be in favor of the transformation of "the villages in the urban area". From the view of

the old criteria, "the villages in urban area" is still considered as the rural area, the land is collectively owned, it leads to planning lags behind needs. it lead planning lags behind needs, and some of the villagers illegally constructed buildings, creating the tumor of the city's development.

4.4 Enlarge the urban-rural economic gap. The new standard for the classification of the urban and rural area will classify the villages which are connected to the urban administrative units into urban area. These villages usually have the relatively good economic foundation. Therefore, under the new standard, the gap between urban and rural area about income, consumption and other economic statistical indicators will be enlarged.

4.5 New requests for the city development. The new division will need a new development planning for urban and rural area, and the city must not simply extend its scale, but to highlight key issues. From the view of the space layout, the center districts, center towns and center villages must be emphasized to plan and construct. It will form the mechanism of "promoting the development of the agriculture under the support of the industry and speeding up the development of the rural area with the help of the urban area", which will promotes to integrate the development of the urban-rural area.

5. The suggestions of the statistics of the current urban-rural and the development of integrating the urban-rural area

5.1 Perfect further the new criteria for dividing the urban-rural area. At the same time of paying attention to the conjunction in facilities, it would be better to add the ratio indicator of the non- agriculture's population in order to judge more exactly the division of the urban-rural area.

5.2 Extend the performance scope of the new criteria. The criteria for dividing the urban-rural area should keep accordance with the application standard of the civil affairs department and other government's sections in order to strengthen the consistency in the data caliber.

5.3 Reform the current village statistics system and give up the big but whole statistics system under the planning system. According to the Second Agriculture Census and the frame established by the new criteria for dividing the urban-rural area, it would be

considered to set up the indicators system which will be favor of integrating the development of the urban-rural area to monitor the circumstance of the development of the urban-rural area.

5.4 Break the barrage between the city and the country residents' household register, let the farmer become the citizen, change the effect of the system of the city-country's dualistic structure, let the farmer possess the same rights as the citizen. In the meantime, based on the new criteria for dividing the urban-rural area to classify the urban or rural resident population, it would be better to discard the population statistic system which was association tight with the identity , benefits by registering.

5.5Comprehend and understand correctly the difference between the city and country. At the present stage of the progress of the city industrialization, it is right time that the industry could help the development of the agriculture. In the interest of ensuring the harmonious development of the society, it should be based on un-enlarging the differences between the city and village, emphasizing the pivot of the development and pushing forward the overall development of the village economy as well as society while the programming of the city-country development was established.

Basic introduction to the author

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