

Correlation Analysis between Urban-Rural Public Service Equalization and High-Quality Population Development under the Orientation of Common Prosperity

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Abstract: This paper focuses on the core boundary of common prosperity - the second safety needs in Maslow's hierarchy of needs (education, medical care, elderly care), and explores the correlation between the equalization of urban and rural public services and the high-quality development of the population under this orientation. On the basis of sorting out relevant theoretical foundations, it clarifies the legal principles, urgency and operability of common prosperity from a sociological perspective, and combines the development theory at the philosophical level to analyze the current situation and problems of urban and rural public services, and discusses the impact mechanism on the high-quality development of the population from multiple dimensions. The study finds that the inequality of urban and rural public services restricts the improvement of population quality, talent flow and reasonable distribution; The realization of equalization of public services can promote the high-quality development of the population through multiple mechanisms, which needs to be promoted through such paths as optimizing resource allocation and increasing investment, so as to provide support for the realization of the goal of common prosperity.

Key words: common prosperity; Maslow's second safety need; equalization of urban and rural public services; high-quality population development

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1 Introduction

1.1 Research Background and Significance

Common prosperity is an essential requirement of socialism and an important feature of Chinese - style modernization. Its core boundary is defined as the second safety need in Maslow's hierarchy of needs, which specifically covers three major fields: education, medical care and elderly care. This boundary is highly consistent with the core content of urban and rural public services, and is also closely related to the key demands of high - quality population development. At present, the gap between urban and rural areas still exists, and the imbalance of public services such as education, medical care and elderly care not only affects the life and development of rural residents, but also restricts the improvement of population quality and reasonable flow, hindering the realization of the goal of common prosperity. After all, comprehensive poverty alleviation and a moderately prosperous society only cover the level of survival needs, and the satisfaction of safety needs is the key to current social development.

Theoretically, studying the correlation between the two can enrich the theoretical system of common prosperity, especially clarify the core value of public services at the level of safety needs, and provide a basis for policy - making; In practice, clarifying the relationship can solve the problem of unbalanced urban and rural development, promote resource allocation, improve service efficiency, promote population optimization, and help all people share the fruits of development.

1.2 Research Status at Home and Abroad

Foreign scholars paid attention to the issues of equalization of public services and population development earlier. For example, Musgrave put forward the theoretical framework of public service equalization from the perspective of public finance, emphasizing government responsibilities; Schultz's human capital theory points out the key role of public services such as education in population quality, and these public services are exactly consistent with the category of Maslow's second safety needs. In recent years, foreign studies have focused on exploring the impact of such public services on population migration and employment.

Domestic research, combined with China's national conditions, focuses on the gap between urban and rural public services, but there are still deficiencies in anchoring the boundary of common prosperity to security needs and deepening the correlation analysis between the two from the sociological and philosophical perspectives. This paper will make up for this limitation.

1.3 Research Methods and Innovation Points

This paper adopts literature research method, empirical analysis method and case analysis method. In addition to the original content, the innovation points are as follows: First, it is clear that the core boundary of common prosperity is Maslow's second safety need, which strengthens the focus of the research; Second, from the sociological perspective, it analyzes the legal principles, urgency and operability of common prosperity, and from the philosophical perspective, combines Chairman Mao's theory of movement, Deng Xiaoping's seeking truth from facts, the important thought of "Three Represents", the scientific outlook on development and the thought of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, to demonstrate the inevitability of the development of public services at the level of safety needs, and provide multi-dimensional theoretical support for the research.

2 Relevant Theoretical Basis

2.1 Connotation of Common Prosperity Theory

Common prosperity is not equal or simultaneous prosperity. Its core boundary is Maslow's second safety needs (education, medical care, elderly care). It means that all people can gradually achieve material and spiritual prosperity on the basis of the guarantee of these needs. There are differences in the sequence and degree of development, covering economic, social, cultural and other aspects. From a sociological perspective, its legal principle comes from the essential demand for social fairness and justice. Its urgency is reflected in the current development reality that China has crossed the stage of survival needs and urgently needs to meet safety needs. Its operability needs to rely on specific paths such as equalization of public services.

From a philosophical perspective, common prosperity conforms to Mao Zedong's theory of the dynamic evolution of social needs, meets the requirements of Deng Xiaoping's seeking truth from facts of "solving core contradictions based on the current development stage", and is also consistent with the development concept of "people - centered" in the important thought of "Three Represents", the scientific outlook on development and the thought of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era. Its core is the unity of fairness and efficiency. It is necessary to "make the cake bigger" and "divide the cake well". It requires the government, the market and society to work together to achieve it by improving the distribution system and promoting the equalization of public services at the level of safety needs.

2.2 Theory of Equalization of Urban and Rural Public Services

The equalization of urban and rural public services focuses on the field of Maslow's second safety needs, which means that all urban and rural residents can enjoy roughly the same level of basic public services such as education, medical care and elderly care regardless of differences in region, identity and so on. Its theoretical basis includes equity theory and public goods theory.

Its goal is to narrow the urban - rural gap, ensure safety needs, improve the quality of life of rural residents, and promote urban - rural integration. In practice, it is necessary to optimize financial investment and supply mechanisms to

ensure that urban and rural residents have roughly equal opportunities and results in obtaining public services for safety needs.

2.3 Theory of High - quality Population Development

The high - quality development of population takes the all - round development of people as the core, and the satisfaction of safety needs (education, medical care, elderly care) is the foundation. Education improves cultural quality, medical care ensures physical quality, and elderly care relieves the worries of development. Its theoretical support comes from human capital theory and population migration theory.

To realize the high - quality development of the population, it is necessary to take the equalization of public services for safety needs as the premise, provide high - quality labor for economic and social development, promote scientific and technological innovation and industrial upgrading, and focus on creating a good environment through improving education, medical care and elderly care services in terms of policies.

3 Analysis of Current Situation and Problems of Urban and Rural Public Services

3.1 The Gap between Urban and Rural Education Services

In terms of educational resource allocation, there is a significant imbalance between urban and rural areas. Urban schools have advanced teaching facilities, high - quality teachers and rich curriculum resources. Taking multimedia teaching equipment as an example, urban schools have basically achieved full coverage, and the equipment is updated quickly; However, some rural schools still lack basic multimedia teaching tools, and even some teaching instruments are old and can not be repaired or replaced in time after being damaged. In terms of teachers, urban schools have attracted a large number of excellent teachers with high academic qualifications and senior professional titles, and the teacher - student ratio is reasonable; The teaching staff in rural schools is weak, the academic qualifications of teachers are generally low, and there is a phenomenon that one person teaches multiple subjects, and the loss of excellent teachers is serious.

In terms of education quality, the gap between urban and rural areas is also obvious. Urban students perform better than rural students in academic performance and comprehensive quality training. Taking the college entrance examination admission rate as an example, the proportion of urban students admitted to key universities is much higher than that of rural students. The formation of this gap, on the one hand, comes from the unbalanced allocation of educational resources, on the other hand, it is also related to the differences in urban and rural family background and educational concepts. Rural families have relatively limited investment in education, and parents' attention and participation in their children's education are low, which affects students' learning effect and development potential.

3.2 The Gap between Urban and Rural Medical Services

The distribution of medical resources between urban and rural areas is extremely uneven. Cities concentrate a large number of high - quality medical resources, such as large general hospitals, advanced medical equipment and high - level medical experts. Most of the third - class A hospitals are located in urban central areas, with high - end medical examination equipment such as nuclear magnetic resonance and multi - slice spiral CT, which can carry out various complex operations and diagnosis and treatment of difficult diseases. However, medical resources in rural areas are scarce, and the medical equipment in township health centers is old and backward, which can only carry out simple physical examinations and treatment of common diseases. Some remote rural areas even lack basic medical and health facilities, making it extremely inconvenient for villagers to see a doctor.

In terms of medical service level, there is a significant gap between urban and rural areas. The urban medical service system is perfect, which can provide comprehensive and efficient medical services, including prevention and health care, disease diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation. Urban residents can enjoy professional and meticulous medical services in the process of seeing a doctor, and the timeliness and accuracy of medical services are high. The level of medical services in rural areas is low, and the professional quality of grass - roots medical and health personnel is not high. Their ability to diagnose and treat some common diseases is limited, which can not meet the growing medical needs of rural residents. In addition, due to factors such as inconvenient transportation and economic conditions, rural residents often can not see a

doctor in time when they are ill, leading to delayed treatment.

3.3 The Gap between Urban and Rural Elderly Care Services

The urban elderly care service system is relatively perfect, with a large number of elderly care institutions and rich types of services. There are various forms of elderly care institutions in cities, such as public nursing homes, private nursing homes and community elderly care service centers, which can provide diversified elderly care services such as life care, medical care, cultural and entertainment. Some high - end elderly care institutions are equipped with professional nursing staff and advanced rehabilitation equipment to provide high - quality elderly care services for the elderly. At the same time, urban community elderly care services are also relatively developed, meeting the daily needs of the elderly through carrying out home - based elderly care services and elderly activity centers.

Rural elderly care services are relatively backward. The number of elderly care institutions in rural areas is small, with simple facilities and low service quality. Most rural nursing homes can only provide basic living care services, lacking professional medical and nursing personnel and rehabilitation equipment. Rural family pension is still the main way of pension, but with the large outflow of rural labor force, the function of family pension is gradually weakened. Rural elderly people face problems such as insufficient economic security and lack of spiritual and cultural life in the process of providing for the aged. In addition, the investment in rural elderly care services is limited, and there is a lack of a perfect elderly care service guarantee mechanism, which is difficult to meet the growing elderly care needs of rural elderly people.

4 The Impact Mechanism of Equalization of Urban and Rural Public Services on High - quality Population Development

4.1 Impact on the Improvement of Population Quality

The equalization of education services is the basis for improving population quality. Under the balanced allocation of resources, rural students can enjoy the same high - quality teachers, teaching facilities and courses as urban students, broaden their knowledge horizons, cultivate innovative and practical abilities, and then improve their cultural and scientific literacy, laying a foundation for future employment. The equalization of medical services is the key to ensuring physical quality. After urban and rural residents enjoy high - quality and convenient medical care, rural residents can prevent and treat diseases in time, improve their health level, enhance labor capacity and efficiency, extend working years, and also improve health awareness and literacy, helping to further improve population quality.

4.2 Impact on Population Flow and Distribution

The gap between urban and rural public services promotes a large number of rural population to flow unidirectionally to cities. Although it promotes urban development, it leads to the hollowing out of rural population and labor shortage. The realization of equalization of public services can reduce the blind migration of rural population to cities in pursuit of public services, and promote the reasonable distribution of urban and rural population. At the same time, after the improvement of rural education, medical care and elderly care services, it can provide a better living and working environment for talents, attract them to return to start businesses and employment, inject vitality into rural areas, and also promote the rational flow of population across regions, optimize the spatial layout, and help regional coordinated development.

4.3 Impact on Population Structure Optimization

The equalization of education services can optimize the population's cultural and employment structure. Improving the quality of rural education can increase the opportunities for rural population to receive higher and vocational education, improve the level of education, provide high - quality labor for rural industrial upgrading, promote the transformation of industries from traditional agriculture to diversification, and then change the employment structure. The equalization of medical services plays a significant role in optimizing the age structure. High - quality medical care can improve the health level of residents, reduce the infant mortality rate, extend the life span of the elderly, popularize maternal and child health care services, improve the quality of the birth population, and lay a solid foundation for the high - quality development of the population.

5 Paths to Realize Equalization of Urban and Rural Public Services and Promote High - quality Population Development

5.1 Optimizing the Allocation of Urban and Rural Public Service Resources

It is necessary to build an integrated urban - rural public service resource allocation mechanism to break the obstacles of the urban - rural dual structure. In the field of education, implement the teacher exchange and rotation system, promote the rational flow of urban and rural teachers, improve the treatment of rural teachers to attract outstanding talents to teach; At the same time, strengthen the infrastructure construction of rural schools, equip teaching equipment according to the standards of urban schools, and narrow the hardware gap between urban and rural schools. In terms of medical care, promote the sinking of high - quality urban medical resources, establish a counterpart support mechanism between urban hospitals and rural health centers, regularly send experts to rural areas for consultation and train grass - roots medical personnel, and strengthen the construction of rural medical and health facilities, update equipment to improve service capacity. In terms of elderly care services, increase investment in rural elderly care facilities, build standardized nursing homes and community elderly care service centers, and improve the rural elderly care service network.

5.2 Increasing Investment in Rural Public Services

The government needs to adjust the structure of fiscal expenditure and increase investment in rural public services. Set up a special fund for rural public services to ensure that the funds are used exclusively for special purposes, focusing on rural education, medical care, elderly care and other fields. Encourage social capital to participate in the supply of rural public services, and guide social capital to invest in rural infrastructure construction, education, elderly care institutions and other projects through government purchase of services, PPP mode, etc. In addition, it is necessary to strengthen the supervision of rural public service funds, improve the efficiency of use, and ensure that the funds really benefit rural residents.

5.3 Improving the Institutional Guarantee for Urban and Rural Public Services

Establish and improve a unified urban - rural public service system, covering education, medical security, elderly care security and other systems. In terms of education system, unify the urban and rural enrollment and student status management policies to protect the equal right to education of rural students. In terms of medical security system, integrate the basic medical insurance system for urban and rural residents, improve the reimbursement ratio and scope of medical insurance for rural residents, and narrow the gap in treatment. In terms of old - age security system, improve the rural old - age insurance system, raise the level of old - age pension, establish a connection mechanism with the urban residents' old - age insurance system, and promote integrated development. At the same time, strengthen the construction of relevant laws and regulations to provide legal support for the equalization of urban and rural public services.

5.4 Using Digital Technology to Promote the Sharing of Urban and Rural Public Services

Give full play to the role of digital technology in sharing urban and rural public services. In the field of education, build an online education platform to integrate high - quality resources, enable rural students to share high - quality urban courses through live webcasting and recording, and use artificial intelligence to provide personalized tutoring to improve learning effects. In the medical field, promote telemedicine services to realize remote consultation between urban experts and rural patients, and use big data to analyze rural residents' health data to carry out precise medical treatment and disease prevention. In the field of elderly care, establish a smart elderly care service platform, and use the Internet of Things equipment to monitor the status of rural elderly in real time and provide convenient services. Through digital technology, break the urban - rural geographical restrictions and promote the efficient flow and sharing of public service resources.

6 Conclusions and Prospects

6.1 Research Conclusions

The study finds that there is a significant gap in public services between urban and rural areas in the category of

Maslow's second safety needs (education, medical care, elderly care), which restricts the improvement of population quality, reasonable flow and distribution, and structural optimization, hindering the high - quality development of the population. After all, the key to current development has shifted from survival needs to safety needs. The realization of equalization of public services in this field can promote the high - quality development of the population through the above mechanisms. It is necessary to take such paths as optimizing resource allocation, increasing investment, improving systems, and using digital technology for sharing to promote balanced development and help common prosperity.

6.2 Research Prospects

In the future, we can deepen the research on the dynamic relationship between the two and pay attention to policy effect evaluation. In terms of research methods, combine big data and other technologies to obtain accurate data for empirical analysis. In practice, strengthen policy coordination and innovation, explore adaptive regional models, improve the policy system, strengthen international comparisons, learn from experience, and promote economic and social progress towards common prosperity.

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