

Poverty Alleviation Through Education: China's Concrete Actions, Historical Achievements and Successful Experiences

Xiongqing Cheng

Faculty of Education, Guangxi Normal University, Guilin, Guangxi, China

Abstract: *Poverty has been a global challenge since ancient times, which has seriously hindered the process of modernization and the cause of fairness in the world. Education is widely regarded as an effective tool to eliminate poverty, so in recent years, countries have paid special attention to education poverty alleviation. China has taken a number of practical and effective measures in education poverty alleviation. Through these efforts, China has made four historic achievements in education poverty alleviation: first, it has realized the comprehensive popularization and consolidation of compulsory education in poor areas, and completely solved the problem of "learning"; second, the linkage between education poverty alleviation and vocational education, the establishment of an effective mechanism to block the intergenerational transmission of poverty; third, the optimal allocation of educational resources, narrowing the gap between urban and rural areas and regions; the fourth is to establish a full-coverage precision funding system, eliminating the phenomenon of "out of school due to poverty" in education. These historic achievements are inseparable from adhering to the priority development of education and the organic coordination of the national system. China's specific actions, achievements and experience in the field of education poverty alleviation have contributed Chinese wisdom and Chinese programs to the cause of education poverty alleviation worldwide.*

Keywords: Poverty, Education Poverty Alleviation, China Smart, China Program.

1. Introduction

Poverty has been a global challenge since ancient times, which has seriously hindered the process of modernization and equity in the world. According to UNESCO, there are still nearly 690 million people living in poverty, living on less than \$2 a day. (UNESCO, 2022). Which not only limits their basic living conditions, but also seriously affects the opportunities for education and health and social participation. Education is an effective tool to eliminate poverty, because it can enhance individual capacity and enhance their competitiveness in employment, thus promoting economic growth and social progress. Therefore, countries need to take effective poverty alleviation measures through education in order to break the intergenerational transmission of poverty and achieve the sustainable development Goals. In recent years, China has taken poverty alleviation through education as an important development strategy, and has made remarkable achievements through rural education reform, increasing investment in education and improving the quality of teachers. This paper will focus on exploring Chinese specific actions, achievements and experiences in the field of poverty alleviation through education, so as to provide Chinese wisdom and Chinese solutions for the cause of poverty alleviation through education worldwide.

2. The Specific Actions of Education Poverty Alleviation in China

In recent years, China has taken a series of practical and effective actions in the field of poverty alleviation through education, aiming at improving the educational conditions in poor areas, improving the quality of education, and helping children from poor families to break the poverty cycle. First of all, the state has increased financial input in rural education, given priority to the development of education, increased the education budget year by year, and ensured that schools in

poor areas receive necessary financial support in infrastructure construction, teachers salaries and student subsidies. Secondly, through the establishment of special funds, such as the "rural compulsory education funding guarantee mechanism", the infrastructure of many schools in many poor areas has been significantly improved, and the learning environment of students has also been greatly improved. At the same time, The General Office of the State Council issued the rural teachers support plan (2015-2020), this plan aims to strengthen the construction of teachers team deployment and requirements, take concrete measures to strengthen the remote and poor areas such as rural teachers team construction, significantly narrow the gap between urban and rural teachers level, let every rural children can accept fair and quality education (The Central Peoples Government of the Peoples Republic of China, 2015). Finally, in terms of teacher training, the state has also increased the training of teachers, organizing regular training courses and online learning to help rural teachers improve their professional quality, so as to better cope with teaching challenges. These reform measures of rural education have effectively narrowed the gap between urban and rural education and promoted educational equity.

While focusing on educational equity, nutrition problems are regarded as an important factor affecting students learning ability. China's "Nutrition Improvement Program for Rural Compulsory Education Students", which provides nutritious meals for students from poor areas, aims to improve their diet and enhance their physical fitness and learning ability. This plan emphasizes the cooperation between schools and families and encourages parental participation in order to form a comprehensive health education system. In addition, to address the lack of educational resources, China has promoted the "Internet + education" model, Spread high-quality educational resources to remote areas through modern information technology. Many well-known universities and educational institutions offer online courses through online

platforms, giving students in poor areas access to higher levels of education. This model has been further promoted during the COVID-19 pandemic, verifying its effectiveness.

In general, China's poverty alleviation policy through education not only includes economic support, but also involves the guarantee of laws and regulations and the establishment of a policy evaluation mechanism. Through the establishment of grants and scholarship programs, the government has helped children from poor families to successfully complete their studies, and the participation of social forces has also enriched the educational resources and enhanced the social cohesion. At the same time, relevant laws and regulations clarify the responsibilities of governments at all levels in poverty alleviation through education to ensure the effective implementation of policies, such as the Compulsory Education Law of the Peoples Republic of China and China's Education Modernization 2035. Through these comprehensive measures, China has achieved remarkable results in poverty alleviation through education. The enrollment rate and graduation rate in poor areas have been continuously improved, and the equity of education has been enhanced. According to the data of the Ministry of Education of the Peoples Republic of China, in 2023, there are 4398,300 schools in China, 291 million students and 18.917888, 88 million primary school students and the proportion of migrant workers studying in public schools (including government degree) exceeds 95% (Yan Yiqiao, 2024).

3. The Historical Achievements of China's Education Poverty Alleviation

China's "poverty alleviation" campaign through education "is accompanied by the" tough battle against poverty ". Poverty alleviation through education is an important part of targeted poverty alleviation. China "poverty battle" began in November 2015 issued by the CPC central committee and the State Council "about winning the battle decision of poverty", lasted five years, China's poverty completed a comprehensive victory, under the current standard of 98.99 million rural poverty, 832 counties all pick hat, 128000 funding all listed, regional overall poverty solved, completed the arduous task of eliminating absolute poverty, created another miracle of history (Peoples Daily, 2021).Undoubtedly, this miracle includes poverty alleviation in the field of education, and its historic achievements can be summarized in the following four aspects:

First, we will fully popularize and consolidate compulsory education in poor areas, and completely solve the problem of having access to education. One of the historic achievements of poverty alleviation in China is the overall victory in popularizing compulsory education, especially the "full coverage" of compulsory education in poor areas. The state has introduced a series of policies to ensure that all school-age children "can go to school". By 2020, nine-year compulsory education will be fully available in poor rural areas, and the retention rate of compulsory education has reached 95.7 percent by 2023, much higher than the world average. The transformation of compulsory education from "coverage" to "full coverage" has laid a foundation for the social and economic development of China's poor areas, and truly solved the historical problem of "having education".

Second, education and poverty alleviation and vocational education linkage, to establish an effective mechanism to block the intergenerational transmission of poverty. The fundamental goal of poverty alleviation through education is to break the intergenerational transmission of poverty. In this regard, China has made historic breakthroughs by promoting the deep integration of vocational education and poverty alleviation. The large-scale promotion of vocational education in poor areas has become one of the most important means of poverty alleviation. The state has formulated a series of policies to encourage children from poor families to receive vocational education, such as targeted enrollment, free secondary vocational education and cooperation between eastern and western vocational education, so that poor students can not only go to school, but also acquire skills through vocational training and enter the job market. By 2023, the state has vigorously developed vocational education to help millions of students in poor areas to master employment skills, realizing "poverty alleviation with skills" and promoting them to achieve economic independence through employment.

Third, the optimal allocation of educational resources has narrowed the gap between urban and rural areas and between regions. Through large-scale resource redistribution, China has greatly narrowed the educational gap between urban and rural areas and between regions, becoming the third historic achievement of poverty alleviation through education. In this regard, the state has implemented the "Special Post Plan" to attract excellent teachers to teach in rural areas, and through the strategy of "education informatization", schools in poor areas can share the high-quality education resources across the country. In particular, the national education poverty alleviation project in the "three regions and three prefectures" and deep poverty areas and the "education poverty alleviation cooperation" policy have accelerated the integration and balance of education development in the western and eastern regions. These measures make education no longer limited to economically developed areas, but form a situation of sharing educational resources and balanced development across the country. This has not only improved the level of education in poor areas, but also changed the phenomenon of unbalanced regional development, and solved the problem of large education gap between urban and rural areas.

Fourth, the establishment of a full coverage of the precision funding system, to eliminate the phenomenon of "dropping out of school due to poverty" in education. By establishing a precise funding system covering preschool education to higher education, China has completely solved the problem of students from poor families dropping out of school due to financial difficulties. The funding system is not only widely implemented across the country, but also targeted: different forms of funding, such as preschool subsidies, living allowances for compulsory education, scholarships and student loans for high school and college. Especially in the stage of higher education, the state has adopted a large-scale expansion of national student loans and the implementation of "green channel" policies to ensure that poor students can successfully enter school and complete their studies. Since the establishment of this system, it has greatly improved educational equity, ensuring that students in poor areas have the same learning opportunities as urban students. This

achievement is an important milestone in the history of global poverty alleviation through education, ensuring that poor families in China are no longer in trouble because of the educational burden of their children.

4. The Successful Experience of Education Poverty Alleviation in China

China's battle against poverty is a magnificent historical process. It is a vivid manifestation of the modernization of China's governance system and capacity. It fully demonstrates the true, institutional and political strength of socialism with Chinese characteristics (Qin Rupei, 2021). It has been four years since China won the battle against poverty and completed the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects. In reality, the number of people returning to poverty in China is almost zero, and initial results have been achieved in consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation. On this basis, China is further deepening reform comprehensively, advancing Chinese-style modernization, and leading the people of all ethnic groups in China towards common prosperity. As Carlos Martinez, a British writer and political commentator, pointed out, "China is moving towards the second centenary goal of building a modern socialist country in all respects. To build China into a great modern socialist country in all respects means solving the problem of relative poverty, raise per capita GDP, revitalize rural areas, reduce inequality among regions and groups, and make the "cake" bigger and achieve fair distribution through reasonable institutional arrangements (Carlos Martinez, 2023)." The historic achievements of poverty alleviation through education must be an important part of this "cake", and we believe that the "cake" of education poverty alleviation is inseparable from the following aspects:

First, uphold the Communist Party of China leadership over the cause of poverty alleviation through education. The leadership of the Party is the fundamental guarantee for the success of poverty alleviation through education. Since the 18th National Congress of the CPC, poverty alleviation through education has been included in the national development strategy, and the central collective leadership with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core has attached great importance to poverty alleviation through education. The institutional advantages of the Party leadership are an important part of the socialist system with Chinese characteristics, which ensures the effectiveness of national governance and the stability of social development. On the one hand, the leadership of the Party has brought about political stability and provided a necessary guarantee for the long-term development of the country. In the complex and volatile global political environment, political stability is the foundation of economic and social development. Through a highly centralized leadership system, the CPC is able to quickly respond to various emergencies, ensure the country unity and efficiency in the face of internal and external challenges, improve the decision-making efficiency of poverty alleviation work, and ensure the timely formulation and implementation of policies. On the other hand, the Party leadership ensures the coherence and consistency of the policy. Unlike the policy swing of multi-party countries, the CPC is able to maintain policy continuity in the long-term development, which is crucial to realizing the nation

development strategy. This policy stability not only strengthens the people's confidence in the country's development of the country, but also enables the continuous promotion of various policies to promote the coordinated development of economy, society and culture, which is the fundamental guarantee for the implementation of the education and poverty alleviation policy. The leadership of the Party has also shown obvious advantages in the integration and optimal allocation of educational resources. Through strong organizational and mobilization ability, the Party can efficiently integrate educational resources and concentrate resources to do great things. In major projects such as infrastructure construction and poverty alleviation, the Party centralized force mobilization mechanism has quickly tilted resources to key areas and key areas, thus effectively improving the efficiency and effect of policy implementation. In addition, the Party leadership is based on a broad mass base, making policies better reflect the will and needs of the people. Through in-depth mass work, the Party timely understands the public opinion, makes the policy formulation more in line with the reality, and enhances the social identity and acceptance of the policy.

Second, we must always give priority to the development of education. Giving priority to education development refers to giving priority to and strengthening the investment and reform of education in various policies of national and social development. This strategy is not only an important way to achieve sustainable economic and social development, but also a basis for improving the national quality and promoting social progress. As some scholars pointed out, "Vigorously developing education is an important embodiment of our Party staying true to its original aspiration and keeping its mission firmly in mind. In the practice of giving priority to the development of education, China's education cause has made remarkable achievements and played an important role in the great journey of upholding and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics (Yuan Zihuang, 2019)." This support is not only reflected in the financial input, but also includes the continuous input in rural education, educational facilities in poor areas and teachers. This policy orientation has effectively promoted the development of poverty alleviation through education and created conditions for the improvement of education in poor areas. Secondly, giving priority to education development helps to improve educational equity and reduce social inequality. As an important channel of social mobility, education can help individuals realize their self-worth and get rid of poverty. By prioritizing education development, especially targeting educational resources in poor areas, every child can ensure equal access to education, thus narrowing the educational gap between urban and rural areas, regions and different social groups. This fair educational opportunity not only enables more children from poor families to receive a good education, but also promotes social harmony and stability. Moreover, the priority development of education promotes the improvement of education quality. Giving priority to education focuses not only on the increase of quantity, but also on the improvement of quality. By increasing the investment in education, improving the construction of educational infrastructure, improving the teaching environment, and introducing high-quality teachers, the quality of education can be significantly improved. The improvement of education

quality directly affects the learning effect and future development of students, providing better knowledge and skills for students in poor areas, and making them more competitive. Strive to achieve economic independence and break through poverty.

Third, the effective coordination of the national system. The nationwide system is an important part of the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Its core is to address the major tasks and challenges facing the country with high effect by concentrating resources, integrating resources and unifying coordination. The formation and development of this system comes from the historical background since the founding of the Peoples Republic of China. It aims to effectively respond to the complex and changeable domestic and foreign environment and realize the stability and development of the country. Under the nationwide system, the state can quickly mobilize all forces in major decisions, major projects and important tasks to ensure the effective implementation and implementation of policies. In the field of poverty alleviation through education, the role of the national system is particularly significant. First of all, through the centralized resources, the nationwide system integrates various forces into poverty alleviation through education, providing strong policy support and financial guarantee for the improvement of education in poor areas. Secondly, the national system ensures the unified implementation of the poverty alleviation policy through education. Through the unified decision-making mechanism of the central government, governments at all levels can quickly implement the central poverty alleviation policy and ensure the consistency of policy implementation. This unity effectively reduces the difference in the allocation of educational resources among local governments, and makes the work of poverty alleviation through education more standardized and systematic, thus realizing the goal of educational equity. In addition, the nationwide system has also improved the quality of education by concentrating on it. Difficulties in poverty alleviation through education, such as the "Nutrition Improvement Plan for Rural Compulsory Education Students" and the "Construction of teachers in poor areas" projects mentioned above. By coordinating resources, the state has improved the quality of education in poor areas, improved the learning environment of students and promoted the public education of education.

References

- [1] UNESCO (2022), *Reimagining our future together: creating a new social contract for education*, Education Science Press.
- [2] The Central Peoples Government of the Peoples Republic of China (2015), *Notice of The General Office of the State Council on the Issuance of the Rural Teacher Support Plan*. Available at: https://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2015-06/08/content_9833.html. (Accessed: 23 october 2024).
- [3] Yan Yiqiao. Solid progress was made in the high-quality development of education. *Peoples Daily*, 2024-05-17 (007).
- [4] The National poverty Alleviation Summary and Commendation Conference was held in Beijing. *Peoples Daily*, 2021-02-26 (001).
- [5] Qin Rupei (2021). The overall victory in the battle against poverty demonstrates the great power of truth, system and politics. *Red Flag manuscript*, (05), p. 4-8 + 1.
- [6] Carlos Martinez (2023). China, which has won the battle against poverty, is moving towards common prosperity. *The Contemporary World*, (08), p.75-79.
- [7] Yuan Zihuang (2019). Adhere to the priority development of education. *Higher Education in China*, (Z3), p. 24-25.