

STUDY ON THE FEATURES OF BALANCED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN ETHNIC REGIONS OF SOUTHWEST CHINA UNDER THE PERSPECTIVE OF COMMON PROSPERITY

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Li Z., Li Z., Sokhan I. V., Zhuquan Y. Study on the Features of Balanced Economic and Social Development in Ethnic Regions of Southwest China under the Perspective of Common Prosperity

With economic and social progress, the focus of regional unbalanced development has evolved. In the new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics, people's aspirations for a better life are no longer limited to material and cultural necessities; the notion of a better life has become increasingly diversified, transcending individual or family micro-level welfare to embrace a comprehensive perspective of societal development. Focusing on the ethnic regions of Southwest China, this paper examines the fundamental characteristics of their coordinated economic and social development and offers relevant policy recommendations that provide a theoretical framework for scholars studying balanced regional economic growth. This study describes the characteristics of balanced economic and social development in Southwest China's ethnic regions in four dimensions: sustainable economic growth, social stability, ecological civilization construction, and people-centered development ideology. Through comparative analysis, it presents a synthesis of domestic and international research, and summarizes the theoretical foundations and practical experiences essential for the future development of Southwest China's ethnic regions. This paper examines four key elements for the development of ethnic regions in Southwest China. First, it emphasizes high-quality economic growth, which increases total factor productivity through supply-side structural reform and promotes the establishment of a modern industrial system. Second, social stability, a crucial component in realizing a better life, requires strengthening social justice and strengthening the social security system while maintaining national unity. Third, the paper stresses the importance of building an ecological civilization and advocates green technology, green industry and green consumption to achieve sustainable development. Finally, a people-centered development ideology safeguards livelihoods and focuses on education, income distribution, employment, and other areas. This paper explores the basic characteristics of coordinated economic and social progress in Southwest China's ethnic regions, and provides a theoretical framework for scholars to explore balanced regional economic development.

Keywords: China, ethnic regions, economic and social development, sustainable development, management, regional management.

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Лі З., Лі Ж., Сохань І. В., Жукюань Я. Дослідження особливостей збалансованого економічного та соціального розвитку в етнічних регіонах Південно-Західного Китаю в перспективі загального процвітання

При економічному і соціальному поступі зазнає зміни фокус регіонального незбалансованого розвитку. В нову епоху соціалізму з китайською специфікою прагнення людей до кращого життя вже не обмежується матеріальними і культурними потребами; поняття кращого життя стає все більш диверсифікованим, виходячи за рамки індивідуального або сімейного добробуту на мікрорівні і осягаючи розширену перспективу суспільного розвитку. Із зосередженням уваги на етнічних регіонах Південно-Західного Китаю, ця робота розглядає фундаментальні характеристики їхнього скоординованого економічного та соціального розвитку і пропонує відповідні політичні рекомендації, які забезпечують теоретичну основу для науковців, що вивчають збалансоване регіональне економічне зростання. Представлене дослідження деталізує характеристики збалансованого економічного і соціального розвитку в етнічних регіонах Південно-Західного Китаю в чотирьох вимірах: стійке економічне зростання, соціальна стабільність, екологічна цивілізаційна розбудова та людиноцентрична ідеологія розвитку. Шляхом порівняльного аналізу представлено синтез вітчизняних та міжнародних досліджень, а також узагальнено теоретичні засади та практичний досвід, суттєві для майбутнього розвитку етнічних регіонів Південно-Західного Китаю. У роботі розглядаються чотири ключові елементи розвитку етнічних регіонів Південно-Західного Китаю. По-перше, акцентовано увагу на високоякісному економічному зростанні, яке підвищує загальну продуктивність факторів виробництва через реформу структур, пов'язаних із пропозицією, та сприяє створенню сучасної промислової системи. По-друге, соціальна стабільність, що є ключовим компонентом для досягнення кращого життя, яка вимагає посилення соціальної справедливості та зміцнення системи соціального забезпечення при збереженні національної єдності. По-третє, стаття підкреслює важливість побудови екологічної цивілізації і обстоює «зелені» технології, «зелену» промисловість і «зелене» споживання задля досягнення сталого розвитку. Насамкінець представлено людиноцентричну ідео-

логію розвитку, яку спрямовано на забезпечення засобів до існування, зокрема зосереджуючись на освіті, розподілі доходів, зайнятості та інших сферах. В статті досліджуються основні характеристики скоординованого економічного і соціального прогресу в етнічних регіонах Південно-Західного Китаю, а також до уваги науковців надається теоретична база для дослідження збалансованого регіонального економічного розвитку.

Ключові слова: Китай, етнічні регіони, економічний і соціальний розвиток, сталий розвиток, управління, регіональне управління.

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The ethnically diverse region of Southwest China, endowed with a rich tapestry of cultural heritage and distinct locational advantages, plays a pivotal role in national unity, social stability and national development. Coordinated economic and social progress in this region is crucial to the comprehensive realization of a modern socialist nation in China. However, various historical and geographical factors pose unique challenges to the region's economic and social development. Studying the characteristics of balanced economic and social development in the ethnic regions of Southwest China and elucidating the factors contributing to the uneven levels of progress are of immense theoretical and practical importance. Such insights will help formulate strategic policies for economic and social development in these regions, thereby promoting high-quality growth.

Focusing on the ethnic regions of Southwest China, this paper examines the fundamental characteristics of their coordinated economic and social development and offers relevant policy recommendations that provide a theoretical framework for scholars studying balanced regional economic growth. This study describes the characteristics of balanced economic and social development in Southwest China's ethnic regions in four dimensions: sustainable economic growth, social stability, ecological civilization construction, and people-centered development ideology. Through comparative analysis, it presents a synthesis of domestic and international research, and summarizes the theoretical foundations and practical experiences essential for the future development of Southwest China's ethnic regions.

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The *purpose* of this research is to elucidate the basic characteristics of harmonious economic and social development in the ethnic regions of Southwest China, assess the complications and challenges encountered during the development process, provide relevant policy recommendations for local governments and relevant departments, and provide a theoretical framework for scholars to conduct research on balanced regional economic growth. Through a comprehensive fusion of qualitative and quantitative research methods, we systematically compile domestic and international scholarly reviews, distill the principles and lessons learned from synchronized economic and social progress, and provide theoretical justification and policy guidance for promoting the balanced economic and social development of ethnic regions in Southwest China.

In recent years, the study of regional economic and social development disparities has emerged as a pressing issue within the socio-economic disciplines, prompting extensive scholarly research. International research on regional economic and social disparities has predominantly adopted perspectives related to the economic, social, environmental and livelihood aspects of quality national economic development [1]. In the field of economics, I. Wallerstein [2] asserts the inherent link between regional development disparities and the global economic system, emphasizing the key role of relative advantages in regional economic growth in harmonizing economic development and promoting the synergistic progress of regional economies. In the field of sociology, G. Barry & A. G. Frank [3] argue that regional development imbalances contribute to the structural crisis of capitalism, while simultaneously facilitating the maturation of social justice mechanisms. I. Wallerstein [4] posits that this phenomenon stems from disparities in bourgeois economic development levels between central

and peripheral regions, which ultimately serve as a social construct that raises living standards.

On the other hand, Chinese scholars have conducted extensive studies on the coordinated economic and social development in terms of balanced regional economic growth, policy implementation, and social security systems. Xu X. et al. [5] reveal regional disparities and influential factors by thoroughly analyzing the balanced development of different regions in China, providing a theoretical foundation for relevant policy development. Xie W. [6] examines regional differences in China's economic growth and influential factors from the perspective of interprovincial disparities in investment efficiency. In terms of policy implementation, Xu Ch. [7] proposes policy recommendations to promote coordinated economic and social development by analyzing the evolution and progress of the CPC's ideology from social management to social governance. Shi Zh. [8], on the other hand, explores the role of the basic principles of scientific socialism in the context of coordinated economic and social development by examining Xi Jinping's thoughts on socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era. In addition, Chinese scholars have conducted in-depth research on the social security system and examined its impact on coordinated economic and social development. Taken together, these scholarly contributions provide valuable theoretical support and practical guidance for promoting coordinated economic and social growth in Southwest China's ethnic regions.

On the one hand, the rural revitalization strategy and comprehensive poverty alleviation provide internal policy impetus for the revitalization of southwest ethnic areas, promote the further development of southwest ethnic areas, and is also an important regional strategic layout for rural revitalization in western China.

As a major practical problem in the development of southwest ethnic minority areas, agriculture and rural areas, how to reduce the development gap between urban and rural areas and realize the coordinated development of urban and rural areas is an important consideration to promote the in-depth development of rural revitalization strategy in ethnic minority areas in southwest China.

In recent years, the southwest ethnic minority region governments at all levels adhere to Xi Jinping, the ideas of socialism with Chinese characteristics as guidance, actively implement the party's policy, give full play to the regional advantages, regional people's quality of life in tourism, characteristic agricultural products processing industry is greatly improved, for the rural revitalization of the southwest ethnic minority areas provides the development foundation. In the era of the completion of the task of comprehensive poverty alleviation and the rural revitalization strategy, the southwest ethnic areas should follow the characteristics of the characteristics of urban and rural economic development, and take the characteristic development of the southwest ethnic areas.

In the country to speed up the industrial transformation, promote the economic structure upgrading, for minority poor areas support measures under the established policy background, play to "enhance the survival ability of the western region, increase the western economic contribution to the country, to ensure the national economy, rapid growth has very important practical significance" of the important guiding role, make the characteristic economy of the southwest ethnic region gradually become the important power of the revitalization of the southwest region. Therefore, based on the influencing factors of the unbalanced economic development in the southwest ethnic minority areas, it is of great practical significance to study the path of its economic and social characteristic development to promote its economic and social sustainability.

On the other hand, "Belt and Road" construction and border trade policy are important opportunities for southwest ethnic areas to open up to the outside world, and they are an important national strategic link for border cities in southwest ethnic areas to become international. The development of the ethnic minority areas in southwest China is an important concern of the whole nation, and it is an important part of the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics and the implementation of the strategy of coordinated regional development.

As China's opening to the outside world accelerating, especially after the "Belt and Road" initiative, Tibet, Yunnan, Guangxi, and other southwest ethnic areas from the open home front to frontier, become an important hub of China "Belt and Road" open, openness has been improved, foreign trade, cross-border electricity, foreign unicom, industrial cooperation and other fields have also made great progress. The important initiative of "Belt and Road" not only brings new opportunities for the all-round development of ethnic minority areas, but also elevates the strategic position of ethnic minority areas to a new height of supporting national development.

Therefore, this study is based on the internal policy background of the revitalization strategy of western ethnic areas and the open border trade environment of "Belt and Road" in the context of addressing the growing and growing needs of the people for a better life and for unbalanced and inadequate development in the new era. To study the comprehensive management of the unbalanced economic and social development in the southwest ethnic minority areas, were sorted out the relevant literature review, deeply analyzed the relevant theories, and collected the annual data from 2010 to 2020 (Fig. 1).

The economy of southwest ethnic urban areas grows steadily, but the degree of balanced economic development is relatively low, and the balanced development index is 4.71. Specifically, from 2010 to 2020, the economic benefits and economic structure adapted to each other, the economic structure adjustment in southwest ethnic areas achieved initial results. The rapid

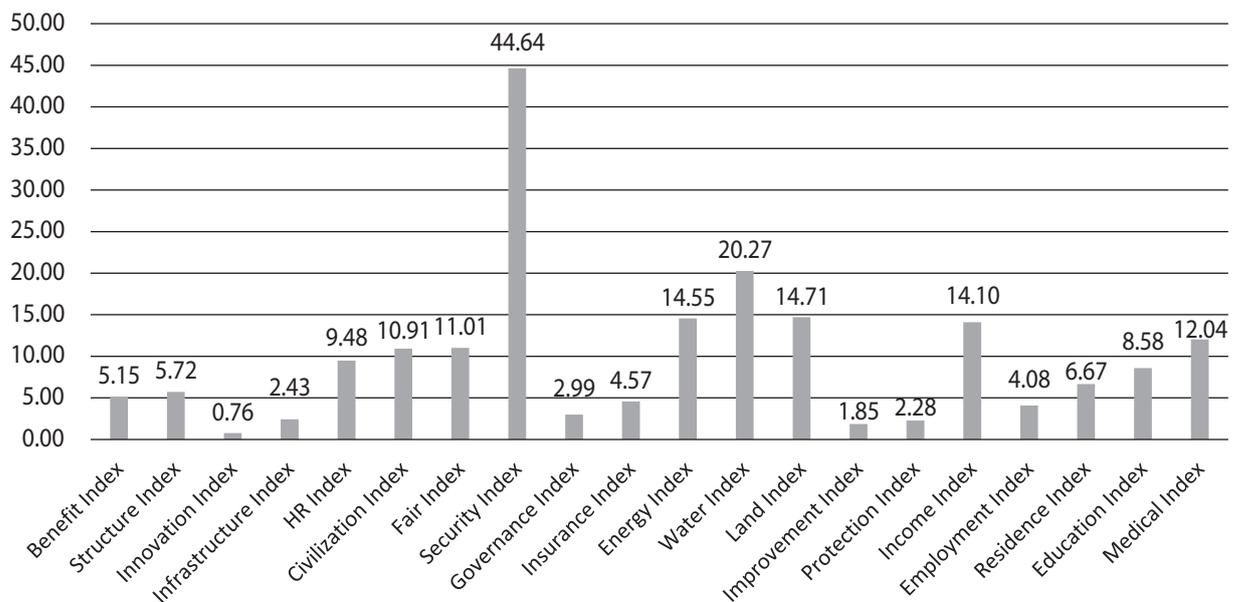


Fig. 1. Total Development Index of southwest ethnic minority areas in China

Source: author's research.

growth of balanced development index reached 5.15 and 5.72 respectively; infrastructure and innovation-driven development level was low, balanced development index was 0.76 and 2.43 respectively; human capital balanced development, affected by the western rural revitalization and the talent support system policy gradually improved, and the balanced development index reached 9.48.

The southwest ethnic minority region has continuous social progress and social construction, and the balanced development index is 14.83. Specifically, from 2010 to 2020, the balanced development index of social security is high, reaching 44.64; the balanced development index of social civilization and social equity grows rapidly, 10.91 and 11.01 respectively; the development level of social governance and social security is relatively low, rooted in governance and social security in different ethnic areas. The balanced development index is 2.99 and 4.57 respectively.

The ecological environment in the southwest ethnic minority areas has continued to improve, with a balanced development index of 10.73. Specifically, from 2010–2020, energy resources, water resources, land resources development and utilization of high level, balanced development degree reached 14.55, 20.27, 14.71, respectively, but the environmental management and ecological protection is poor, balanced development index is 1.85 and 2.28, respectively, ecological environment protection speed is far lower than the speed of development and utilization, ecological sustainable development has great risks.

People's livelihood in the southwest ethnic minority areas continued to improve, with a balanced development index of 9.09. Specifically, from 2010 to 2020, the income balanced development index grew rapidly to 14.10; the education and health balanced development

index rose steadily to 8.58 and 12.04 respectively; the residential balanced development index was 6.67; however, the employment problem remained prominent and the development is extremely unbalanced; the balanced development index was 4.08.

This paper deeply analyzes the unbalanced characteristics, evaluation and influence factors of economic development, social construction, ecological civilization and people's livelihood in the southwest ethnic minority areas. On the whole, the development level of various fields in the southwest ethnic minority region is relatively high, and the development loss is basically negative, but there are still different degrees of imbalance. This paper examines the following four key elements of development in the ethnic regions of southwest China:

- ✦ *Sustained economic growth is the basic guarantee for improving people's living standards and enriching their material and spiritual lives.* The report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China points out that sustained economic growth is the basic guarantee for improving people's living standards and enriching their material and spiritual lives. At present, China's economy has shifted from the stage of high-speed growth to the stage of high-quality development, and is in the critical period of transforming the development mode, optimizing the economic structure and changing the growth momentum. In this context, building a modern economic system has become a strategic goal for China's development.

To achieve this goal, we must adhere to the quality first, efficiency first, with the supply-side structural reform as the main line, promote the quality change, efficiency change and power change of economic deve-

lopment, improve total factor productivity, accelerate the construction of a modern industrial system, and promote the realization of economic growth from high speed to high quality development. At the same time, we should actively develop modern service industries and high-tech industries, deepen the innovation-driven strategy, expand a high level of openness, promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, create a new pattern of opening up to the outside world, and provide important support for the development of ethnic regions in southwest China.

In addition, sustained economic growth is not only a basic guarantee for improving people's living standards and enriching their material and spiritual lives, but also a foundation for realizing the rural revitalization strategy and promoting coordinated development of urban and rural regions. Therefore, the development of ethnic regions in southwest China needs to closely focus on the core of high-quality economic development, comprehensively improve the quality and efficiency of economic development, accelerate the realization of economic restructuring, transformation and upgrading, create a new pattern of opening up to the outside world, give full play to the potential of regional economic development, and provide a better guarantee for the material and spiritual life of the people.

✦ *Social stability is an important part of people's need for a better life and enhances their sense of accomplishment.* Social stability is an important part of meeting people's needs and promoting economic and social development in the ethnic regions of southwest China.

It serves as the foundation for the long-term stability of the country and the realization of the Chinese Dream through the establishment of a state, government and society under the rule of law. Achieving this goal requires continuous efforts to promote social justice, establish effective social governance and a sound social order, strengthen community governance systems, and promote the sharing of social governance patterns. It is also imperative to strengthen the construction of a comprehensive social security system that covers all people, urban and rural, with clearly defined rights and responsibilities, moderate protection and sustainability.

In addition, it is necessary to establish a "people-oriented" development ideology in accordance with the principles of covering the bottom line, weaving a dense network, and building a mechanism to ensure basic livelihood security and access to basic public services. Promoting social stability also requires innovation and strengthening social governance, especially in the ethnic regions of southwest China. Ethnic unity and harmony are crucial to maintaining social stability in these regions, so education on ethnic unity must be strengthened, and ethnic pride and a sense of belonging among all ethnic groups must be enhanced to promote interaction and integration among them.

By working together to maintain ethnic unity and harmony, the ethnic regions of southwest China can jointly promote economic and social development and create a safe, harmonious and stable social environment for the people. The above measures will help meet the people's need for a better life and enhance their sense of accomplishment.

✦ *Ecological civilization is an important guarantee for achieving balanced economic and social development and satisfying people's demands for a better life.* Building ecological civilization is a fundamental requirement for achieving balanced economic and social development and meeting people's needs for a better life. It is imperative to integrate ecological civilization into all aspects and processes of economic, political, cultural and social construction.

The Chinese government recognizes that modernization should prioritize the harmonious coexistence of man and nature. To meet the growing demand for a better life, it is necessary to create more material and spiritual wealth, while providing high-quality ecological products to meet people's increasing demand for a beautiful ecological environment. However, China's high economic growth rate has led to high consumption, emissions and pollution, resulting in resource shortages, environmental pollution and ecosystem degradation.

The unbalanced, uncoordinated and unsustainable ecological environment has become an increasingly important issue, and a healthy ecological environment has become an urgent requirement for a better life for people. Therefore, in order to achieve the common goal of ecological civilization and a good life for the people, it is necessary to unswervingly promote the construction of ecological civilization, give priority to ecological considerations and green development, promote green technology, green industry and green consumption, and build a comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable development model with green ecological environmental protection as its foundation.

✦ *The ideology of people-centered development is essential for safeguarding and improving people's livelihoods.* The ideology of people-centered development is essential for securing and improving people's livelihoods. By continuously prioritizing and improving people's livelihoods in the development process, we can respond to their most concerned, direct and realistic interests, promote social justice and better meet the demand for a better life.

As people's living standards improve, their livelihood needs become more diversified, multi-layered and multi-faceted. Basic needs such as food, education, and housing have been met, and people now demand steadily rising incomes, high-quality medical services, fair education, better housing, and other multi-level needs.

Chinese President Xi Jinping emphasizes that the development of people's livelihood should start from their most urgent, immediate and realistic interests, and be integrated with education, income distribution, employment, health care and housing. Securing and improving people's livelihoods is the fundamental purpose of development and an essential requirement for implementing the people-centered development ideology. To realize the Chinese dream of great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, we must further deepen reform, strengthen the transformation of government functions, promote the balanced development of social undertakings, and effectively improve people's quality of life and sense of well-being.

CONCLUSIONS

The sustainable and harmonious economic and social development of the ethnic regions in southwest China requires a foundation of economic growth, a focus on social progress, and a commitment to ecological conservation, with the ultimate goal of improving the people's well-being. The government must guide economic development, protect the ecological environment, and refine social security systems to facilitate the congruent development of the economy, society, and the environment, while valuing ethnic distinctiveness and cultural heritage. In the epoch of high-level economic growth, ethnic areas in southwest China must emphasize reform and innovation, transform their economic environment, maintain social stability, and promote national solidarity and justice. They should also work to build an ecological civilization and strive for holistic, synergistic and sustainable economic and social growth. Unwavering adherence to a people-centered development philosophy is crucial, as it addresses the multifaceted nature of individual needs and promotes the balanced progress of societal endeavors. The harmonious economic and social development of Southwest China's ethnic regions requires the joint efforts of the government, enterprises and all social stakeholders. Backed by national strategic support and policy guidance, we will persistently explore development paths tailored to the unique conditions of the region, and ultimately realize the goal of building a comprehensive socialist modern nation. ■

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