The Welfare Outlet of China’s Rural Elders

-Analysis of the Rural Endowment’s Socialization-

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Abstract

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In today’s China, the socialization of rural endowment is an inevitable trend, and also is an expression of social progress. However, during the implementation of China’s urban and rural dual economic structure, the majority of the rural areas has been on the brink of the social security system. It has an extremely unbalanced development on the level of urban and rural social security. From the 1990s, the government began to focus on the problem of rural social security, try to build a rural social security system; And from the mid of 1980s, the academia began to pay attention to and research the rural social security system, but there were large differences at the understanding of some basic concepts. The same concept of the social security system has different meaning in urban and rural areas, or at different times. Only understanding this clearly, it may has a clear understanding of the current situation and future development direction. This article is trying to interpret China’s rural social old-age problem from a few basic concepts.

Key Words: social welfare, China, rural elders, rural endowment, socialization

Ⅰ. Family endowment and housing endowment

The family is the basic cell of society, carrying the human heritage. The development of human society also takes the healthy development of the family as the basic condition. For thousands of years, the family bears the heavy tasks of

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feeding their children, supporting the elders, keeping the livelihood and comforting the feelings of the people. That family takes care of the elders is tradition of China’s Confucian culture, unchanged for thousands of years. "Filial piety" has been playing a vital role in our culture. From "when your parents are alive, one should not stray far from home" in "The Analects of Confucius" to "Ju Xiaolian" in the feudal personnel system, whether in the political life or in the field of moral and ethical, "filial piety" occupies an important position. An important embodiment of the filial piety tradition is feeding and supporting the parents, "bearing their children for old age" just means this. People’s endowment at home, the family has a full sense of the endowment liability. Of course, as a community cells, the family in social relations is not alone; household, relatives, friends and neighbors formed an interactive network of social relations, which is an extension of family functioning.

The traditional family endowment, from the view of endowment resources endowment facilities, endowment funds, human resources services, which provided by family, and endowment at home is full sense of family endowment. This always be the main way of endowment in China’s rural areas. With levels industrialization, urbanization and modernization improving, the various functions of the traditional family are weakening; it is difficult to resist the risks associated with the market economy. The traditional family endowment was unprecedented impacted. In some areas, as a result of the collective economy disintegrating and slacking, the rural endowment system, which is already on the brink of the social security system, now is in a "vacuum" state. The building of rural social security system is imminent.

Family endowment includes three major aspects: economic supporting, caring and spiritual comforting. At present, the vast majority of China’s rural areas are completely family endowment. However, in China’s cities and towns, from an economic point, family endowment is different from that in rural areas. After 50 years of development, China’s urban social security system was relatively perfect, covering housing, health care, pension, unemployment, fertility and all other aspects. As most of the elders in urban areas are relatively economically independent, they have more freedom to choose the space, and some of the elders even are the economic sources of the families. From the view of service, elders in