
ABSTRACTS**40 Years of China's Social Security: Experiences and Reform Orientation***Zheng Bingwen* • 2 •

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of reform and opening up, the paper reviews the difficult processes and great achievements since the establishment of the social security system, and analyzes the origin and motivation of its reform. The main contributions of social security to economic and social development are that it is helpful to make enterprises as real market players and individuals as “free labourers”, and the social security system become a regulator of market economy and a safety net for social stabilization. The paper summarizes the successful experiences and remaining problems about the system. Paradoxically, it argues that both experiences and problems result from “multipoint trial and error”. The paper puts forward the following four points on the orientation for future social security reforms: to change the rapid expansion of social security to high-quality development, to solve the existing problems of insufficiency and imbalance of social security as soon as possible, to make the top-level design of the social security play a vital role in the supply-side structural reform, and to apply the “actuarial balance principle” in the social security reform.

A Study on Poverty Reduction Effects of Transferring Agricultural Labor Force in China*Zhang Guiwen and Others* • 18 •

Employing the methods of logical deduction and mathematical analysis, the paper analyzes the effects of agricultural labor's transferring on reducing rural poverty. Four mechanisms are proposed as follows: to increase non-agricultural income through non-farm employment, to increase agricultural income by promoting scale operation of land, to improve farmers' earning ability by increasing their human capital stock, and to improve farmers' influences on policy making by reducing the agricultural population. The paper uses econometric analyses to test these mechanisms empirically. The results show that the transfer of Chinese agricultural labor significantly reduces poverty incidence and plays a vital role in poverty reduction in the rural areas. Meanwhile, the average years of education among rural labor force, national financial support for agriculture, rural finance, and rural infrastructure construction have important impacts on rural poverty reduction. In order to strengthen the poverty reduction effect of transferring agricultural labor force in the new era, it is necessary to promote the urbanization of transferred rural population, to deepen the reform of rural land system and that of the state financial and monetary systems, and to implement differentiated poverty alleviation policies.

Research on Regional Inequality and Inter-region Synergy of Green Total Factor Productivity in China*Liu Huajun and Others* • 30 •

Narrowing the regional inequality of green total factor productivity (TFP) is an important task for the harmonization of regional development in the high-quality development stage. By adopting DMSP/OLS night-time lights data as a proxy of good productivity, this paper uses the Malmquist Productivity Index to measure green TFP and analyzes its regional inequality and influencing factors empirically in China. The results are as follows. Firstly, China's green TFP is low and there is a long way to go before realizing high-quality development. Secondly, the regional inequality of green TFP is increasing. There are two key missions in order to narrow the regional inequality of green TFP. One is to strengthen the inter-regional coordination of high-quality development and another is to narrow the regional difference of technological progress. Thirdly, economic development, rationalization of industrial structure, and marketization all have positive effects on green TFP, while factor endowment structure and energy consumption structure have negative effects. Based on the above conclusions, this paper provides recommendations for promoting the inter-region synergy of green TFP in China.

Differences in the Age-specific Urbanization Process and Its Changes: Evidence from the UN URPAS Data

Li Enping ·42·

Based on UN URPAS data, this paper examines the trends and differences in the population urbanization process by age group, in the developed, less developed, and the least developed countries from 1950 to 2015. The study finds that: (1) the process of urbanization differs substantially among different age groups. (2) As the economy develops from the least developed to less developed, urbanization shows a clean age priority with those aged 20–29 acting as “urgent vanguard” of urbanization. The age-specific urbanization shows an inverted “U” shape, with the peak age of 20–29. (3) Over the development process from less developed to developed economy, around the inflection point of about 50% urbanization level, there are significant quadratic characteristics of various characteristic indexes of the age-specific urbanization curve. This paper concludes that the age-related difference in urbanization results from different market preferences among age groups and inconsistent changes of the Urban-rural gap.

Measurement of Household Asset Poverty in Rural China and Analysis on Its Causes

Bian Shu and Others ·54·

Based on the data from the rural household sample of China Family Panel Studies in 2010, 2012 and 2014, the paper analyzes the level of rural households’ asset poverty and its causes. The main conclusions are as follows. First, as the income poverty rate continued to drop, the level of asset poverty showed a downward trend, followed by an upward one. More than half of rural households were in poverty as measured with net financial assets. Second, while the income poverty gap ratios remained at 11% over the three waves, the asset poverty gap ratios showed a significant growth trend. Third, the asset poverty rates vary with the traits of household heads and family characteristics. The impact of house ownership on financial poverty differs from that on other assets poverty. Fourth, the changes of household asset in rural China have a single equilibrium rather than multiple equilibriums. Fifth, families impoverished for at least two waves are mainly in structural poverty. Other families fall into poverty randomly, and may switch between poverty and non-poverty randomly. Sixth, health shock and government subsidy had a negative impact on the accumulation of assets. Based on the above conclusions, this paper proposes the policy suggestions of combining “individual development account” with the subsistence allowances system, promoting the development of micro-finance in rural areas, and improving the transformation of government subsidy policies to asset accumulation.

Research on Social Support of the Old-age in Poverty in Response to Weakening Family Support

Ci Qinying Ning Wenwen ·68·

Using the data of “Study on the Perfection of Social Relief System” in 2015, the paper examines the effects of family support and social welfare on economic conditions, physical health and life satisfaction of the elderly in poverty in urban and rural areas. The results reveal that family support can significantly improve economic conditions of the poor elderly and living together can improve their physical health. Social aid and social insurance also have significant effects on economic conditions of the elderly in poverty, but have no significant effects on their physical health. Neither family support, nor social welfare, has a significant effect on life satisfaction. This paper suggests that (1) to improve the care conditions of the poor elderly, policymakers should consider the specific features of these people, increase funds as needed according to their age and physical health, and improve medical aid policy for the old-age population in poverty. (2) It is also important to set up incentive policy and system to encourage family support. (3) It is necessary to include the old-age poverty alleviation in regional comprehensive governance of poverty alleviation.

Research on Health Status of the Elderly Migrant Population in China and Its Determinants

Song Quancheng Zhang Qian ·81·

Using the 2015 China Migrant Dynamic Survey data, the paper describes the health status and characteristics of the elderly migrant population in China, and fits a binary logistic regression model to examine how individual factors, traits of migration, medical factors, and socio-economic characteristics affect health status of the elderly migrant population. The results show that the current elderly migrants in China are mainly younger elderly, and their overall health is good. Howev-

er, there are substantial health differences by gender, age, educational level, medical insurance participation, daily exercise time, income level, financial resources, and migration-related factors. This implies that elderly migrants have some health risks. Therefore, the government should take some measures to deal with this issue. Specifically, the government should optimize the health information management system for the elderly migrants, improve the quality of community health services profoundly, and expedite the implementation of cross-provincial reimbursement mechanisms of medical expenses. The paper also suggests the government pay special attention to support the elderly migrants.

Traditional Security, Medical Insurance and Degree of Fear for Disease Risks among Chinese Rural Elderly

Yu Changyong · 93 ·

Based on the 2016 survey data on 1 212 rural individuals from 36 counties, 12 provinces, this paper uses factor analysis and ordinal logistic models to analyze the impact of traditional security and medical insurance on the Chinese rural elder's degree of fear for disease risks. The results show that the degree of fear for disease risks is relatively high. Traditional security factors, including individual resources, family support and community environment, have significant influences on rural elder's fear for disease risk. The elderly with poorer health condition, lower family income, or living in central and western or mountainous regions have higher degrees of fear on average. The elderly who are older, married, living in the villages with poorer economic condition or transportation, and those having fewer daughters expressed lower degrees of fear. Medical insurance factors, including its comprehensive security capacity, gap between policy target and realization, rationality of compensation mechanism, and degree of medical problem relief, also have positive influences. Among the influence mechanisms, the rationality of compensation mechanism is the key factor. The ratio, scope and procedure of reimbursement are the three main factors that determine the rationality of compensation mechanism, and are important to the medical insurance capability.

Research on the Willingness of Individual Payment for Long-term Care Insurance in China

Li Hanwei and Others · 105 ·

Due the high level of current overall contribution rate of China's social insurance, any new long-term care insurance payment will further increase the burden of individuals. If the public policy do not take into consideration of individuals' willingness of payment, it is likely to result in great difficulties in financing and make it infeasible. In this context, based on the questionnaire survey data collected from 12 provinces in China, this paper analyzes the willingness of payment and acceptable contribution rate for the long-term care insurance among different groups. The results show that people who have poorer self-rated health, higher education, higher income, fewer brothers and/or sisters, smaller number of children, or from larger cities, have higher willingness to make payment. The average willingness of payment increases from western region to central region, northeast region and eastern region progressively. This paper proposes a differentiated payment design targeting at different groups of population.

Evaluation on the Effect of Childbearing Policy Adjustments in China

Shi Renbing and Others · 114 ·

The one-child policy implemented in China over the past 30 years was amended in 2014 and 2016 progressively, with the successive enactments of partial two-child policy and universal two-child policy. The effect of fertility policy adjustment has been debated heatedly in academia. Current findings are mixed as researchers employed different evaluation criteria, and even worse, some of the criteria are less rigorous and unscientific. This paper evaluates the mid- and long-term effects of childbearing policy adjustments. The results indicate that the effect of childbearing policy in short-run is positive. Specifically, in the first several years since its promulgation, the policy adjustment contributes to increasing second childbirth rate and also overall fertility level. However, the effect is limited in the mid- and long-run, and it cannot meet the sustainable development of population in China. In the near future, the long-term decline and short-term increase affect the annual number of birth collectively. While the former leads to a decrease of second-child birth rate, the latter spurs some increase of the newly-born children. As time passes by, the latter factor becomes weaker, and the former will gradually become the decisive factor in determining the landscape of new-born population. At that time, the number of yearly new-born population might reduce swiftly. It is indispensable to improve the childbearing policy in order to achieve the long-term goal of population development.