

Construction of the Quality Evaluation System for Healthy Urbanization from the Angle of Economics

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Abstract

In allusion to the problems in the present theoretical study and practice about urbanization, this paper elucidated the connotation of healthy urbanization from the angle of economics, and put forward the economic definition of healthy urbanization; further more, it put forward things that should be attached importance to when evaluating healthy urbanization and the framework of quality evaluation system.

Keywords: Healthy urbanization, Equilibrium, Rational growth, Evaluation

Urbanization is developing at great speed in China, accordingly, a series of contradiction come up between the trends of peasants' urbanization and the development of economy and society as well as the carrying capacity of city, for example, the infrastructure construction in the city is behindhand, the life quality is decreasing, the social security system is incomplete, it is difficulty to obtain employment, resources are over consumed, the ecological environment is destroyed, the disparity between urban livers and countryman is becoming larger and larger. So the healthy development of urbanization is of great significance for the social and economic development of China in the 21st century. So it is necessary to clear up the present study on evaluation system for healthy urbanization, find out the problems that should be improved, and provide theoretical basis for further study and provide strong guidance for practice.

1. Status quo of the study on quality evaluation system for healthy urbanization at home and abroad

Scholars who major in programming, economics, sociology, population, ecology and geography etc. have made great effort in studying the evaluation system for urbanization and achieved a lot, some sound evaluation systems have been established, such as the evaluations systems put forward by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Statistics Division and English geographer, and the modern evaluation system put forward by American scholar. Besides, there are lots of evaluation systems, such as the social indexed system put forward by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and India, and the "healthy city" launched by 33 European members of World Health Organization. The study on evaluation system for urbanization spreads around the social and economic development theories in most countries. In developed countries, urbanization has been finished, and there is counter-urbanization phenomenon, so there is little study on urbanization, and the selection of many indexes is done according to the actual situation of different countries.

Study on healthy urbanization is a frontier problem in international academic world, and in China, there is no consentaneous cognition about the concept of healthy urbanization. Although there is little direct study on the evaluation system of healthy urbanization in China, much study on the index system that relates to the evaluation of urbanization are carried out indirectly. In recent years, more and more scholars put forward their own evaluation systems and theories; population proportion is no longer the single factor to evaluate the urbanization, and more reasonable and scientific evaluation system and method are established. At present, there are four problems in the study on urbanization: firstly, the scholars who investigate the urbanization are of different majors, so the evaluation systems are also different, further more, the indexes are numerous and jumbled, it is difficult to choose a maneuverable, ideal and acceptable index; secondly, although there are lots of indexes and evaluation systems, they are not combined well with urbanization; thirdly, most scholars evaluated the quality of urban development, but neglected the connotation of healthy urbanization, also, they didn't take the urban and rural area as a whole when evaluating urbanization; fourthly, the evaluation systems have no theoretical basis to clarify the economic running mechanism of urbanization, the indexes are chosen subjectively, the main contradiction in urbanization is not taken into consideration, so the countermeasures to accelerate the urbanization is not convincible.

2. Explanation of healthy urbanization from the angle of economics

2.1 Healthy urbanization should achieve the balance of supply and demand of urban labor force

In economics, city is an efficient economic and social organization; it is defined using labor market, when the

segmentation of labor market is done, the border of city will be established. Hence, the supply and demand of labor market is an important factor that should be considered in urbanization. The balance of supply and demand of urban labor market is the standard to judge whether the industrialization matches the urbanization or not, the development of industrialization, which is the necessary condition of urbanization, will provide labor demand for urbanization, while the improvement of agricultural productivity which is the sufficient condition of urbanization, will supply labor force for urbanization,. That's why whether the industrialization matches the urbanization or not becomes the basic standard to evaluate the urbanization. According to the method of equilibrium analysis in western economics, the objective of healthy urbanization is to realize the balance of supply and demand of urban labor force, and realize the employment of urban labor forces including the surplus labor force from rural areas.

2.2 Healthy urbanization should achieve the balance of supply and demand of urban land and public products

According to the theory of increasing returns to scale and agglomerate economy in spatial economics, large and medium-sized cities are the main carrier to absorb floating population. Urbanization will make the scale of city become larger and larger, which will lead to the deterioration of contradiction between urban land and cultivated land. Agglomerate economy demands that two problems should be taken into consideration in urbanization, the first is the increase of land rent in the city, urbanization and income increase will lead to the outward transition of land rent curve, that is to say, the city will expand, but the expansion shouldn't be the unordered spread. With the progress of urbanization, city will develop at great speed, the related problems, such as food safety, employment, housing, transport, should be solved in the healthy urbanization, and the ultimate objective of urbanization should be the improvement of people's living standard and life quality, so all these aspects should be embodied in the process of urbanization. In the next place, conglomeration will cause equilibrium problem between private products and public products, for example, the objective of employment-habitation equilibrium is to reduce automobiles and relieve traffic jam, severe of employment-habitation unbalance will lead to traffic jam, accordingly, more end gas will be discharged, the air pollution will become worse, government has to spend more money in building and maintaining the road too.

2.3 Healthy urbanization should achieve the rational growth of town

Rational growth demands environmental protection and the construction of inhabitable city, it stresses that the problems brought by the unordered expansion should be solved through developing "inhabitable" city. "Inhabitable" means that urban environment should be of high quality and the natural environment that can influence the life quality should be protected. Rational growth require that the following aspects should be realized: friendly neighbor, high accessibility, less automobile traffic, various traffic manner, reduction of pollution, saving of energy resources, co-prosperity of urban and suburban area. Rational growth advocates that the present infrastructure should be fully utilized when exploiting new district so as to reduce the expense in building new infrastructure, the impost should be kept low and the natural resources should be protected. To realize the objective of rational growth, government should establish specific public policy to manage and regulate the exploitation and usage of land. So the concept of rational growth should be introduced into the evaluation system of urbanization, which will provide theoretical basis for the establishment of improved policy. When evaluating urbanization from the angle of rational growth, the following criteria can be used: accessibility, durative of environment, validity of traffic infrastructure, and the social equity.

It can be seen that healthy urbanization is not just changing the agricultural population to non-agricultural population, but it is the optimal allocation of resources and harmonious development between urban and rural area on the basis of transferring the agricultural population to the city. The development of urbanization will make the function and development of urban and rural area in normal state, so as to promote the harmonious development of society, environment and culture in the city, improve the living standard of people, maintain the high-quality life of urban citizen, and improve the appropriate allocation and usage of urban economic resources, accordingly promote the economic development of both urban and rural areas. The essence of healthy urbanization is that it is a harmonious and mutual process of quantitative growth and qualitative improvement.

3. Emphases in healthy urbanization evaluation

Basing on the theoretical analysis and the main problems in Chinese urbanization, the following problems should be paid much attention to when constructing the evaluation system for healthy urbanization:

3.1 Land consolidation and food safety

If land consolidation is not taken into consideration, no effective information will be provided to the settlement of problems in land usage in the background of urbanization. Evaluation on land consolidation in the process of urbanization should be put forward according to the internal relationship between urbanization and land usage.

The increase of number of city and the expansion of city cause that abundant land resource, especially the cultivated land is expropriated. Hence, cultivated land protection should be strengthened. Evaluation of food safety is an important aspect of land consolidation evaluation.

3.2 The vulnerable group in the city

The vulnerable group mentioned here are mainly the peasants who lose the basic means of production passively because of the urbanization, although they have become townsman, most of them cannot really accommodate the urban life, and become edge population who wobble between urban and rural area, these people have no capital and no technique, and lead a miserable life. The situation mentioned above will influence the progress of healthy urbanization too. The previous urbanization evaluation didn't reflect the living condition of these people.

3.3 Harmonious development of urban and rural area

Harmonious development of urban and rural area is the ultimate objective of urbanization, the quality of urban and rural development is weighed by the degree of harmonious development of urban and rural area. The over disparity between urban and rural area is caused by the neglect of urbanization quality, so it is necessary to inspect the situation of harmonious development of urban and rural area.

3.4 Urban spatial structure

Certain spatial structure will make the spatial organization cost of certain land be the least, or, the largest utility will be realized at certain spatial organization cost. City is a large labor market and consumption market, an inefficient spatial structure will make the labor market and consumption market become small and inefficient markets, and lead to increase of distance between work place and residence place, accordingly, the quality of people's life will be influenced, the distance of infrastructure supply line will be longer, and the investment and running cost of urban infrastructure will be increased.

3.5 Employment

The present Chinese industrialization speed is faster than the urbanization speed, which is exhibited by the constitutive lack of labor force. The present constitutive lack of labor force is complemented by the floating peasant workers. According to the supply and demand of labor force, the resident population reflects the supply and spatial change of labor force. The demand of labor force has close relationship with economic activities, maybe there are few people dwell in the places where they work, so conglomerate of employment space will influence the investment and cost of transport in the city, and influence the traffic situation. So the density of employed population is better than average density of population to indicate whether the urban spatial distribution is reasonable or not, which it is often neglected by people.

4. The framework of evaluation system for healthy urbanization

The evaluation index system is composed of five subsystem, i.e. urban system, land, economy, comfort degree of the city, and harmonious development of urban and rural area, the candidate indexes are shown in table1.

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Table 1. The framework of evaluation system for healthy urbanization and the candidate indexes

First class index (A)	Second class index (B)	Third class index (C)	Fourth class index (D)
	Urban system (B1)	Number of the city (C1)	Number of city and town, density of the city, number of small and medium-sized city
		Urban scale grade (C2)	Total area of the city, rationality coefficient of urban scale distribution, the proportion of large, medium-sized and small city
		Urban function (C3)	Rationality coefficient of function distribution of cities
	Land consolidation (B2)	Food safety (C4)	Proportion of self-support food, growth index of grain yield per unit, the proportion of decrease of cultivated land
		Scale of urban land (C5)	Land occupation rate of the GDP of per unit land for production, per capita residential land, per capita road and square land, per capita urban green land
		Efficiency of urban space (C6)	Economic output variance per land price in different industries, the proportion of industry land, proportion of residential land, proportion of land for road and square, proportion of urban green land, plot ratio, density and height of buildings, density of employed population
	Economic development index (B3)	Development level (C7)	Per capita GDP, per capita income of families that have no land, the proportion of third industry to GDP, proportion of population who are engaged in third industry, employed peasants who have no land, number of families that have non-agricultural industry, labor force demand
		Development efficiency (C8)	per capita finance income, level of industrialization and urbanization, urban unemployment rate
	Comfort degree of the city (B4)	Life quality (C9)	Per capita disposal income, per capita residence area, per capita power and water, proportion of family that bought a house, average expectation of life, Engel's coefficient, number of private car per 100 families, number of phone per 100 persons, number of family that has internet connection, vehicle kilometers to evaluate the situation of traffic, proportion of population who have a junior college or higher education degree to total population, proportion of scientific research fund to GDP, investment in public education

		Social work (C10)	Rate of unemployment, coverage ratio of social security, number of doctors per thousand people, proportion of peasants who have social insurance
		Environment quality (C11)	Air pollution index, coverage ratio of present urban green land, noise level, unarmful treatment rate of household garbage, treatment rate of urban sewage, rate of reaching the standard of industrial waste water, energy consumption of GDP per 10000 people, proportion of built-up area to the administrative area, investment in environment protection, proportion of unpolluted area, per capita cultivate land area.
	Harmonious development of urban and rural area (B5)	Coordinated development of urban and rural economy (C12)	Difference of per capita income between urban and rural area, urbanization level, the proportion of non-agricultural employment
		Coordinated development of urban and rural life (C13)	Difference of Engel's coefficient between urban and rural area, difference of consumption level between urban and rural area, difference of per capita savings deposit between urban and rural area
		Coordinated development of urban and rural society (C14)	Difference of social security coverage rate between urban and rural area, difference of fixed assets investment between urban and rural area, difference of per capita education years between urban and rural area