

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.32782/2524-0072/2023-52-94>

UDC 330.322.5:711.3

COUNTERMEASURES OF OVERCOMING SOCIO-ECONOMIC INEQUALITY IN ETHNIC MINORITY AREAS OF SOUTHWEST CHINA

КОНТРЗАХОДИ ПОДОЛАННЯ СОЦІАЛЬНО-ЕКОНОМІЧНОЇ НЕРІВНОСТІ В РАЙОНАХ ЕТНІЧНИХ МЕНШИН ПІВДЕННО-ЗАХІДНОГО КИТАЮ

Sokhan Inna

Doctor of Economic Sciences, Professor,
Sumy National Agrarian University
ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8038-8484>

Li Zongkeng

PhD student,
Sumy National Agrarian University

Сохань Інна Віталіївна, Li Zongkeng
Сумський національний аграрний університет

This paper adopts a comprehensive approach to investigate remedies to address socio-economic disparities in the ethnic minority regions of Southwest China, and constructs strategies to achieve spatially balanced economic and social progress in the area. The study has two dimensions: economic and social. First, it examines interventions in the economic domain, which includes aspects of economic efficiency, structural optimization, innovation-driven growth, infrastructure improvement, and human capital development. Second, it examines interventions in the social domain, which includes equity, governance, security, culture, and social welfare. The proposed spatial development strategies are of paramount importance in bridging the development gap between regions and urban-rural zones, and in promoting a harmonious society. These measures provide invaluable theoretical and practical implications for formulating strategic policies to promote first-class economic and social development in the ethnic minority regions of Southwest China.

Keywords: countermeasures, socio-economic inequality, management, investment, ethnic minority areas, southwest China, spatially balanced development, sustainable development.

У даній статті застосовано комплексний підхід до дослідження способів усунення соціально-економічної нерівності в регіонах етнічних меншин Південно-Західного Китаю та розроблено стратегії для досягнення просторово збалансованого економічного та соціального прогресу в цьому регіоні. Дослідження має два виміри: економічний і соціальний. По-перше, розглядаються способи покращення ситуації в економічній сфері через застосування аспектів економічної ефективності, структурної оптимізації, інноваційного зростання, інвестиційного заохочення, покращення інфраструктури та розвитку людського капіталу. По-друге, досліджуються такі аспекти розвитку в соціальній сфері як справедливість, залучення до управління, безпека, культура та соціальне забезпечення. Запропоновані стратегії просторового розвитку мають першочергове значення для подолання розриву в розвитку між регіонами країни, а також міськими та сільськими районами в межах провінцій, що сприятиме створенню гармонійного суспільства. Ці заходи забезпечують безцінні теоретичні та практичні здобутки для формування стратегічної політики сприяння економічному та соціальному розвитку в регіонах етнічних меншин Південно-Західного Китаю.

Ключові слова: контрзаходи, соціально-економічна нерівність, управління, інвестиції, території етнічних меншин, південний захід Китаю, просторово збалансований розвиток, сталий розвиток.

Introduction. As an important frontier region of China, the ethnic minority areas in southwest China have a very important strategic position,

but there are also problems of unbalanced spatial development. The government needs to take corrective measures to address the

unbalanced social and economic development in the ethnic minority areas in southwest China for comprehensive treatment.

Aims of the article. Based on the results of measuring and evaluating the imbalance and insufficiency of economic development in the Southwest ethnic regions, this study formulates the following countermeasures from the five perspectives of economic efficiency, economic structure, innovation drive, infrastructure, and human capital in order to promote the balanced development of the economy in the Southwest ethnic regions.

Literature review. The concept of spatial imbalanced development is an important part of space political economy, and the theoretical basis of spatial imbalanced development is Marxist political economy [1]. In *Das Kapital*, scholars of Marx's school of space politics put forward several important views on imbalanced development. Marx and Engels think regional economic development imbalance caused by the social class opposite of utility and economic space imbalance, emphasized in the declaration of the communist party town scale more and more large, modernization level more and more high, rural towns, farmers to capitalists, half civilized and civilized countries attached to the economy more developed countries, eastern countries attached to the western countries [2].

Wang Zhigang (2023) clearly put forward the "imbalanced development concept of space", that is, in the harmonious development of regional economic and social development with spatial factors, the adjustment of production relations can be realized to promote the reform of production efficiency [3]. Due to the basic contradiction of capitalism, excessive accumulation of products and assets will occur in this circulation system, resulting in the conversion of assets into the second level circulation system, that is, in the investment of infrastructure construction and the completion of urban natural environment. The third level of circulation system is the asset investment in education, environmental health, welfare work and other funds, which is often called "space collective trading goods" capital investment [4].

Fu Qingsong (2015) under the "production efficiency-space-production relations" three yuan concept means the space as a separate elements from the original "production efficiency-production relations" two-dimensional analysis architecture, with the production relations and production efficiency equally key influence, and truly realize the marxist theory management

system space level, marxist space political economics and thus constitute a complete management system, development to a new relative height [5].

Formulating of the main results. Economic efficiency requires a dual balance of process and result; we need to optimize the resources of the three major industries in depth and improve the success rate of industrial resource sharing.

First, we need to do a good job of laying the foundation for agricultural science and technology innovation with an inclusive and open mindset of development: introduce and utilize the results of agricultural technology research and development, comprehensively popularize agricultural science and promote modernized agricultural technology to farmers, and provide financial and fiscal assistance for production to improve the efficiency and quality of agricultural production.

Second, we need to introduce the concept of urban planning in agricultural production to improve the effectiveness of the process of agricultural science and technology development, and to do a good job of agricultural breeding seedling work, do a good job of industrial planning and management of farmland, do a good job of marketing of agricultural products, improve the process economic efficiency of agricultural industry development and scientific and technological innovation, and reduce the risks of the traditional family small-scale farming economy.

Third, strengthen the industrialization and large-scale operation of agriculture, and promote the development of agricultural modernization. Strengthen the marketing of agricultural products and develop domestic and international markets. For example, the cooperation between government and business actively creates a platform for the exhibition and sale of agricultural products, and utilizes new retailing to enhance the total amount of commerce and trade transactions, and increase product awareness and sales [6].

– *Market players and government players should interact to promote the development of the economic structure towards marketization, manufacturing, internationalization and competition.*

First, encourage private capital to enter the third-party service industry with the help of government platforms to enhance the visibility of the third-party service industry; second, strengthen the coordinated development of high-tech service industry and manufacturing

industry. The service industry and manufacturing industry are interdependent, strengthening the coordinated development between the two, improving the service level of the manufacturing industry, and at the same time supporting the development of the service industry through the development of the manufacturing industry; third, innovating the internationalization development methods and channels of the retail service industry, adopting the method of direct investment + channel development to realize the retail commodities out of the country [7].

– *Cross-provincial enterprises should make use of regional resource integration and deep excavation to promote the innovative development of business activities.*

First, the government should issue corporate bonds on behalf of the enterprises to enhance their economic strength; second, the government should strengthen the cooperation among industries, universities and research institutes, so that enterprises can promote the scientific research achievements of universities, and universities can help the marketing of enterprises; and third, the government can set up an innovation and entrepreneurship incubation platform, which can provide innovative and entrepreneurial enterprises with venues, funds, technology and management support, and promote the growth and development of the enterprises [8].

– *All sectors of society should enhance the connectivity of regional infrastructure and provide the support of modern transportation facilities such as highways, railways and airports for economic development.*

First, increase the financial allocation and guide the social capital investment to increase the capital input in infrastructure construction and ensure the transparency of fund utilization; second, the government can make comprehensive plans for infrastructure construction, taking into account local conditions and needs, and make overall plans for the construction of telecommunications, energy, water conservancy, communications and other fields to avoid wasting resources. Third, the government should actively promote cooperation and common development between Southwest China and surrounding areas, jointly develop and utilize infrastructure resources in the region, and enhance the overall infrastructure level of the region. Fourth, the government can strengthen the supervision and management of infrastructure construction to ensure the quality of the construction process [9].

The government and education sector can provide regional guarantee for human capital development and introduce high-quality talents.

First, the government can increase the educational input to the southwest minority areas to enhance the quality and quantity of educational resources; Second, the government can encourage and support enterprises to set up local vocational skills training centers to provide local residents with vocational skills training and enhance their employment competitiveness. Third, the government can strengthen employment and entrepreneurship services, providing local residents with employment information, career guidance, industry support and other services to help them enhance the quality of employment and the success rate of entrepreneurship. Fifth, local residents should be encouraged to participate in scientific and technological innovation activities to enhance their ability to innovate and practice [10].

Countermeasures for the balanced development of social fields in ethnic minority areas of Southwest China

Based on the measurement and evaluation results of the imbalanced and inadequate social development in the southwest minority areas, this study promotes the balanced development of the southwest minority areas from the perspectives of social equity, governance, security, civilization and security, and the following countermeasures should be adopted.

– *Solve the equity problem of social construction from the regional level, and enhance the coordination degree of resource construction in southwest ethnic areas.*

First, the government can strengthen regional coordination and overall planning, and promote the coordinated development of infrastructure construction.

Second, we should increase support for scientific and technological innovation services, and encourage scientific and technological enterprises to invest in infrastructure.

Third, support and promote the flow and exchange of talents in ethnic minority areas, encourage outstanding talents to work and live in backward areas, promote the balanced allocation of human resources, and provide various incentives and support, including housing subsidies, children's education subsidies, and tax deductions.

Fourth, strengthen the research and practice of education and cultural reform in ethnic minority areas, and actively promote the modernization,

scientific and international of education and culture to meet the requirements of the times.

Fifth, strengthen the protection and inheritance of traditional culture in ethnic minority areas, promote the innovation and development of culture in ethnic minority areas, and let more people understand and identify with the culture of ethnic minority areas.

Sixth, strengthen cultural exchanges with other regions and countries, learn from the excellent experiences and practices of other regions and countries, and promote cultural exchanges and integration in ethnic minority areas [11].

– *Positioning the regional social governance system in an all-round way, and establishing a hierarchical governance system based on administrative regions.*

First, establish and enhance the mechanism of regional coordinated development, formulate and implement regional development plans to ensure coordinated and consistent development of all regions. The government should take into account the actual conditions and characteristics of different regions in the formulation of regional development plans and policies, coordinate the interests of different regions, and ensure coordinated and consistent regional development.

Second, through the establishment of information sharing platform, we can timely understand the regional development situation and needs, and provide more accurate data and information for the formulation of regional development planning.

Third, we must promote inter-regional cooperation. The government should introduce policies to encourage more cooperation among different regions to jointly promote regional development.

Fourth, the government should strengthen regulation through tax incentives and financial subsidies to promote environmental protection, resource conservation and sustainable economic development, guide enterprises to invest in green technology and environmental protection facilities, reduce energy and resource consumption, and reduce pollution and waste emissions.

Fifth, strengthen scientific and technological research and development in the field of environmental protection and resource management, promote scientific and technological innovation and industrialization of environmental protection, develop clean energy and renewable resources, enhance resource

utilization efficiency, and reduce environmental pollution.

Sixth, strengthen the construction of the rule of law in ethnic minority areas, enhance the judicial system, and protect the legitimate rights and interests of citizens in ethnic minority areas [12].

– *Build a regional security system to guarantee the safety of people's lives and property in an all-round way.*

First, to strengthen public security, we can strengthen the police force, increase patrol and surveillance facilities, enhance emergency plans, and enhance the ability to respond to emergencies.

Second, we can strengthen border patrol and customs inspection to enhance border prevention and control capacity.

Third, we can strengthen the management of public security, enhance the social credit system, strengthen the management of social organizations, and enhance the capacity of social management.

Fourth, in terms of cultural security, we can strengthen the management of cultural industries, protect cultural heritage, strengthen the management of cultural industries and cultural markets, and enhance the ability to guarantee cultural security. Fifth, strengthen law and criminal justice, crack down on all kinds of illegal and criminal activities, and maintain social harmony and stability [13].

– *Strengthen the overall sense of social civilization in the region and establish a regional multicultural system.*

First, strengthen cultural education in minority areas, strengthen the protection and inheritance of culture in minority areas, so that people can better understand and know their own culture and have more confidence in their own culture.

Second, establish various forms of cultural exchange platforms, such as cultural festivals, art performances, cultural exhibitions, etc., so that people from different regions and ethnic groups can understand each other's cultures and enhance their knowledge and understanding of different cultures.

Third, through cultural tourism and exchange activities, people from different regions and ethnic groups should understand and learn from each other, so as to promote cultural exchanges and integration.

Fourth, we should develop the cultural industry, promote the creation and promotion of cultural and creative products, and make the

cultural industry an important force in promoting cultural exchanges and integration.

Fifth, establish a cross-regional and cross-ethnic cultural exchange mechanism, strengthen the standardization, institutionalization and sequencing of cultural exchanges, and give strong support to cultural exchanges and harmony.

Sixth, promote spoken and written languages strengthen the promotion and inheritance of the spoken and written languages of our own ethnic groups, so that citizens can better master their own languages and enhance their sense of cultural identity and cultural quality [14].

– *Enhance the social security and assistance system and enhance the standard of social living.*

First, the government must formulate more perfect social security policies, including medical insurance, pension insurance, unemployment insurance, etc. At the same time, it must also strengthen the assistance and security for poor families, the disabled, the unemployed and other vulnerable groups.

Second, increase investment in medical security, enhance the level of medical facilities and health, so that more people can enjoy high-quality medical services.

Third, the government must strengthen industrial poverty alleviation efforts in ethnic minority areas, through the development of local competitive industries, enhance the income level of local people, but also can promote the development of local economy.

Fourth, enhance the emergency rescue system, enhance the emergency rescue teams and material reserves at all levels, and enhance the emergency rescue capacity.

Fifth, strengthen publicity and education to enhance people's awareness of disaster

prevention and their ability to save themselves and each other.

Sixth, strengthen the earthquake, typhoon and flood resistance of buildings, and enhance the disaster resistance of transportation, communication and other infrastructure.

Seventh, we should strengthen research on disaster prevention and mitigation technologies in post-disaster reconstruction, enhance the quality and efficiency of post-disaster reconstruction, and promote the application of disaster prevention and mitigation technologies [15].

Conclusion. In conclusion, this study provides a comprehensive analysis of development disparities within the ethnic regions of Southwest China. It systematically examines the problem of unbalanced development in these areas and provides important theoretical foundations and practical insights to address this challenge. By delving into the nature, definition, and variations of unbalanced development, the study presents a profound understanding of the problem, which serves as a valuable reference for formulating effective policies and measures. However, it also recognizes that more in-depth research is needed to explore more targeted strategies and initiatives to promote more equitable, harmonious, and sustainable economic and social development in the ethnic regions of Southwest China.

Fund Projects:

The Project of Scientific Research Basic Ability Improvement for Young and Middle-aged Teachers in Guangxi Universities (022KY0682), Guangxi Education Science "14th Five-Year Plan" Special Project on Innovation and Entrepreneurship Education in Universities (2022ZJY2695).

REFERENCES:

1. Chen Hongyu (2017). Analysis of the imbalanced development problem from the spatial perspective. *The Southern Economy* (10), 2–4.
2. Huang Weijie (2023). Marx's Need Theory and the Significance of the New Era. *Ideological and theoretical Front* (02), 53–59, 141.
3. Miao Yishu (2022). The spatial criticism of national-national scale by imbalanced development theory. *Heilongjiang Ethnic Cluster* (02), 60–65.
4. Zhigang Wang. (2023). Criticism of neoliberal space political economy: Harvey's perspective and enlightenment. *Hunan Social Science* (01), 46–51.
5. Jiang Hua & Sun Zhongliang. (2022). David Harvey's Critical Theory of Time Alienation. *The Journal of Qiushi Studies* (06), 24–32.
6. Fu Qing Song. (2015). Multidimensional perspective of imbalanced geographical development and spatial politics reempowerment – takes Harvey's "unified field theory" as a reference. *Journal of Huazhong University of Science and Technology (Social Science Edition)* (05), 6–11.

7. Xionghe Qin & Yanming Sun Q (2019). Cross-Regional Comparative Study on Environmental–Economic Efficiency and Driving Forces behind Efficiency Improvement in China: A Multistage Perspective. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, (7).
8. Zheng Jianghuai & Ran Zheng (2021). Industrial structure and economic growth effect of intelligent manufacturing technology innovation – Based on the empirical analysis of the two-sector model. *Journal of Renmin University of China* (06), 86–101.
9. Ni Tingting & Wang Yuetang (2022). Regional administrative integration, factor marketization and enterprise resource allocation efficiency. *Quantitative and Technical Economic Research* (11), 136–156.
10. Lei Xiaohua (2021). We will promote unimpeded economic and trade cooperation through infrastructure connectivity. *Contemporary Guangxi* (17), 17.
11. Cao Ke & Zhang Gongquan (2023). Digital transformation, labor marketization and enterprise human capital investment. *Contemporary Finance* (06), 3–15.
12. Yang Wenjuan (2022). Fairness and justice will lead in building a community of social governance. *The Future and Development* (10), 1–4.
13. Xia Jinwen & Li Bingshuo (2021). Modernization of social governance and its legal guarantee in the Yangtze River Delta region. *Research on the modernization of the rule of law* (04), 27–38.
14. Wu Baoqi & Li Ruochen (2023). Information network security and other security construction of the thinking. *Information Systems Engineering* (01), 125–127.
15. Sun Xinran (2023). Thinking on the Way of Improving the Construction of Chinese Rural Social Assistance System under the Background of Rural Revitalization. *Inner Mongolia Science, Technology and Economy* (05), 6–9.
16. Danko, Y. (2016). Innovative Approaches to Ensuring the Competitiveness of Small Agricultural Enterprises. *The problems of economy*, 3, 153–158.