

Post-print of Livelihood Resilience Assessment for Poverty Alleviation Resettlers in Contiguous Destitute Areas

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Date: 2019-06-14T00:00:00+00:00

Abstract

Drawing upon the resilience concept from social-ecological systems research and integrating the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework with a capital-based assessment approach, this study constructs an evaluation index system for the livelihood resilience of poverty alleviation relocation migrants. Utilizing 657 household field survey datasets from three districts and counties in Ankang City, southern Shaanxi, and employing factor analysis and multiple linear regression models, we empirically analyze and assess the livelihood resilience of poverty alleviation relocation migrants and its influencing factors from a micro-household perspective. Results indicate that physical and social capital are unevenly distributed among relocated households, with different relocation types and timing exerting significant effects on the differentiation of household livelihood capital. The accumulation levels of physical, financial, and social capital, along with accessibility to environmental and health services, constitute the prerequisites and foundation for enhancing relocated households' livelihood resilience, while relocation type demonstrates a significant negative effect on migrants' livelihood resilience. It is recommended that the government fully leverage policy advantages, provide targeted assistance based on relocation type and timing, strive to address vulnerable aspects of relocated households' livelihood capital, and continuously enhance their livelihood recovery potential.

Full Text

Evaluation of Rural Households' Livelihood Resilience in the Relocation and Settlement Project in Contiguous Poor Areas

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Abstract: Quantitatively exploring the drivers and impediments to livelihood resilience construction among rural households in the context of poverty alleviation relocation and settlement projects in contiguous poor areas can provide decision-making support for the effective implementation of such projects. This study examines three counties in southern Shaanxi Province—the birthplace of China's "13th Five-Year Plan" poverty alleviation relocation initiative. Using 657 household survey data collected by the research team at the end of November 2015, relocated households are categorized into voluntary versus involuntary migrants and short-term versus long-term migrants according to research requirements. Factor analysis methods and multiple linear regression models are then employed to analyze and evaluate the livelihood resilience and its influencing factors among poverty alleviation migrants from a micro-level perspective. The results demonstrate that the distribution of physical and social capital among relocated rural households is imbalanced, with both relocation type and timing affecting the differentiation of household livelihood capital. Simultaneously, the accumulation of physical, financial, and social capital, along with accessibility to environmental and health services, constitute the prerequisite and foundation for relocated households to enhance their livelihood resilience. Relocation type exhibits a significant negative effect on migrant livelihood resilience, whereas relocation duration shows no significant impact. The livelihood resilience evaluation index system constructed for poverty alleviation migrants not only provides a basis for decision-makers to formulate and implement targeted assistance measures for different rural households but also offers a framework for assessing the livelihood-level impacts of poverty alleviation relocation projects. Relocation and settlement projects must accurately identify the root causes of poverty and recovery obstacles to develop specific support policies, while paying close attention to the accumulation of physical and social capital among rural households and the improvement of infrastructure and public services.

Keywords: poverty alleviation resettlement; livelihood resilience; rural households; factor analysis; contiguous poor areas

2.2 Research Methods

The study employs factor analysis and multiple linear regression modeling to evaluate livelihood resilience. The methodology involves: (1) constructing an indicator system based on capital assets and accessibility measures; (2) applying factor analysis to extract principal components; (3) developing regression models to identify significant predictors; and (4) comparing resilience outcomes across

different relocation categories.

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