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Survey of the advanced development of pastoral education in Xilin Gol League

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The development education in the pastoral areas is an important way to improve the quality of herders, which is also an important way to promote the development of pastoral areas and the transfer of herdsmen. XiLin Gol League has done a lot in the development of education in pastoral areas. They support pastoralist children's education from various stages of education and multi-dimensions, put forward the idea of advanced development of the pastoral education, and have achieved successful results which provided valuable experience for the development of education in pastoral areas.

There are three means to develop the education in pastoral areas. First, optimize the distribution of education and integrate education resources. Schools were small scale, sparsely scattered, and lacking qualified teachers in pasture areas. So the government canceled pasture schools and combined them into banner, in order to make the best use of education resources to provide high quality education to pastoralists' children. Second, widely implement education grants for high school and allow more children access to secondary education. Secondary education is the foundation for higher education and further skill training. Without secondary education, people can barely find their feet in a crowd. Through implementing high school subsidy, the number of children accepting the secondary education was increased greatly. Last, increasing the support for the education of peasants and herdsmen children will help the pastoralists' children learn. All the above measures have provided a powerful educational guarantee to promote grassland pastoral population transfer to urban areas, to achieve the grassland ecological balance, and to improve the grassland ecological environment.

Along with the achievements there are also some difficulties in pastoral areas education which include the following three aspects. First, there is serious shortage of urban school dormitories and canteens since the adjustment of the distribution of primary and secondary schools. Second, there are still heavy monetary burdens of education for most pastoralist households although XiLin Gol League provides subsidies to the poor herdsmen children. Survey in XiSu banner indicates that, the education expenditure is the second largest in herdsmen's living expenditure, next only to food, and the proportion of education expenditure in consumer expenditure is about 20 percent. In addition, because of some factors such as geographical location, economic development, national language, and the traditional mode of production, the development of vocational education in pastoral areas lags behind.

This paper proposed some enlightenments and policy recommendations about further development of education in pastoral areas. First, combine the development of education with the grassland ecological management and promote the education with pastoral characteristics. Second, set up the special subsidies for pastoral areas eco-education. Last, popularize high school education in pastoral areas and implement the high school quasi-obligations education.