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Relationship between Ecological Civilization and Balanced Population Development in China

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Abstract

Population is the basic and essential factor of sustainable development. Balanced population development is playing an important role in promoting ecological civilization construction in China. This paper discusses the relationship between ecological civilization and balanced population development from three layers: coordination of population size with environmental carrying capacity, coordination of population distribution with regional sustainable development, coordination of population structure with ecological civilization construction. Promoting the long-term balanced development of population is the requirement of ecological civilization construction and sustainable development in China.

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1. Introduction

With the remarkable development of economy in China, there are more and more problems. China needs transformation of economy development style. Ecological Civilization Construction is taken as the most important way to coordinate development among economy, population and sources & environment. Ecological civilization is definitely written in the national political report during the 17th conference of China Party in 2007. The status of ecological civilization construction is raised into the height of national strategy. Since population is the basic and essential factor of sustainable development strategy, balanced population development is playing an important role in promoting ecological civilization construction. It

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is necessary to understand the inner relationship between ecological population construction and balanced population development.

2. Definition of Ecological Civilization and Balanced Population Development

2.1. Definition of Ecological Civilization

Ecological Civilization is a great progress of civilization development for human being. From the broad sense, ecological civilization is the new civilization pattern following original civilization, agricultural civilization and industrial civilization for human being. The basic norm of ecological civilization is coordinating development of human being and nature. The construction of new mechanism for ecology, technology, economy, society, law and culture is the way to realize sustainable development among economy, society and natural environment. From the narrow sense, ecological civilization keeps abreast with material civilization, political civilization and spiritual civilization which emphasis on the basic behavioural norm when dealing with the relationship between human being and nature. No matter broad sense or narrow sense, ecological civilization cannot do without the harmony symbiosis of human being and nature.

The construction of ecological civilization can be divided into three layers: ideation, institution and technology. From the ideation layer, ecological civilization is the harmony symbiosis of human being and nature. No only Human being has value, but also nature has value. The core philosophy of ecological civilization is based on one scientific common sense. That is to say, human being is living in the natural ecological system, the social & economic system of human being is subsystem of nature & ecology. Destroy of ecological system will lead to the fate of human being. Therefore, the process of development should coordinate the needs of human being and ecology. From the institution layer, ecology system is prior to all other institutions. Ecological civilization should consider the requirement of ecological system, fulfil the principle of “ecology first” in the development. By using institutions and policies, peoples’ social activities can be regulated. Strengthening the education institution of ecological civilization and establishing incentive institution of ecological economy to secure the harmony symbiosis of human being and nature. From the technology layer, it should be sustainable economy development. Ecological civilization advocates moderate material wealth accumulation. To keep sustainable increase of economy, the development can fulfil the needs of human being, but not destroy the health of natural environment.

2.2. Definition of Balanced Population Development

Balanced population development means that population development coordinates with the level of economic and social development, adapts with environmental carrying capacity while population size is moderate, population quality is improved, population structure is optimized, population distribution is rational and the factors of population system is balanced development(Zhai zhenwu, 2010). Balanced population development is also defined as dynamic equilibrium of changes for all factors in regional population, and the process turning to much higher equilibrium status (Li jianmin, 2010).

These definitions indicate two important contents in balanced population development. First, the core of balanced population development is the dynamic equilibrium of all factors in population system. The natural attribute and social attribute of population determine the change of population is controlled by biological law and also restricted by economy, society and natural ecological environment. Population status of any time is the result of equilibrium for the changes of all factors. Second, balanced population development is the equilibrium between population system and external environment. That is to say, population size, quality, structure and distribution coordinate with development of economy and society, adapt with natural source carrying capacity. When condition of economy and society is changed, especially with the rapid improvement of science and technology, the relationship between population

and economy, society and environment is also changed, the new criteria is promoted to balanced population development.

3. Relationships between Ecological Civilization and Balanced Development of Population

The foundation of ecological civilization construction is to establish new development concept that people orientated, people foremost; ecology orientated, ecology foremost. Establish scientific outlook on development to fulfil the harmony of human being and nature. In this process, population is balanced or not is related with the speed and quality of ecological civilization construction.

3.1. Coordination of Population size with environmental carrying capacity

Environmental carrying capacity to people is limited. In the scope of one region, the biggest population size for environment carrying capacity according to some life standard is called as population capacity. On one hand, ecological system is the natural base for people in given environment. On the other hand, population capacity can be changed as the alternation of those determining factors such as developmental level of social productivity. As the improvement of productivity, economy system can provide much more output then carrying capacity of environment will be raised. And the premise of strengthening of economy system is the virtuous circle of ecological system. Otherwise, the benefit of economy behaviour may cause long-term unbalance of ecology system, even breakdown, and ultimately lead to decrease of population capacity.

Family planning policy had controlled the rapid increase of population sum, but China is still one of largest population countries. The situation with low per capita share of resources and high development pressure will exist for a long time. The coordination of population size and environmental carrying capacity is the requirement of ecological civilization construction.

3.2. Coordination of Population distribution with regional sustainable development

Population spatial distribution is restricted by natural environment and social environment. Migration of rural population into urban is the requirement of economic and social development. The process of urbanization in China determines the spatial distribution pattern for the future China.

The problems with the process of urbanization are called as “urban sickness”. From the urbanization process of developed countries, many countries experience the stage which seeks for economy benefit with the sacrifice of ecology benefit and social benefit. Ecology benefit and social benefit is taken as important thing only after economy achieved a high level. The urbanization of China is just at the stage which is making the choice between ecological benefit and economic benefit. China should not make the mistake as those developed countries had made. The pressure of energy utilizing, ecological environment improving, infrastructural facilities constructing, social security system establishing are all connecting with population. This is the big challenge for Chinese urban development. So the principle of promoting urbanization of China is to coordinate the development of different size of cities and make an overall planning of development between urban and rural.

3.3. Coordination of Population structure with ecological civilization construction

The final goal of ecological civilization construction is to realize sustainable development. In the conception of sustainable development, resource is condition, environment is goal, population is key factor and economy & society development is moderator. With the participation and moderation of

population, economy and society, it can be realized resource conservation and environment friendly development.

The structural unbalance of population in China impacts not only the coordination of population system, but also the development of external economic and social development. Quick fertility transfer in China makes population age structure to be quickly aging. Population aging decreases the ratio of production population, increase ratio of consumption population. And it will impact economy increase and social development. Unbalanced gender ratio of new-born population which is caused by strict family plan and boy preference custom will lead to unbalance of total population gender ratio. This will have effect on marriage and family in the future. Balanced population development is the premise and base for resource conservation and environment friendly development.

4. Conclusion

Population quality is the base of population, and population quality can make up for the limitation of population size, population distribution and population structure. Population, resource and environment are dynamic organism which interact each other. Balanced population development makes the connection among Population, resource and environment much more tightly. Making an overall planning to solve the population problem, promoting the long-term balanced development of population, is the requirement of ecological civilization construction and sustainable development in China.

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