

The Analysis of Human Development in China

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Abstract. These few years, China has had specific developments in science and technology. In the 21st century, with the rapid development of science and technology, human happiness and quality of life have been rapidly improved, and infrastructure has also been rapidly built with the efforts of people and countries. However, there is a big difference between economic growth and economic development. Economic growth mainly measures the output of a region or a country, which is mainly reflected in the economic growth. Economic development is measured by many aspects, including human development, human happiness, sustainability and social fairness. In China, there are many plans based on economic development, and this idea is also accompanied by China's aging society. Based on the background of China's economic development plan and aging society, this paper will analyze the impact of the plan and the situation in China. China has done something about aging, the most typical of which is family planning. This plan played some role in the initial stage of implementation, but it could not maintain a long-term plan and could not guarantee the sustainability of a country's economic development. This paper put forward new opinions on the advantages and disadvantages of this policy.

Keywords: Human development; family planning; economic growth.

1. Introduction

The human development index (HDI) is a type of index to describes the degree of development of a country, and which used to rank countries based on three dimensions. When the HDI became known and used in the 20th century, it represented an important step toward a more rational measure, one defined more by social goals and human well-being than by GDP growth [1]. The three main factors of measuring are long, high-quality and robust life, people's access to knowledge, and a better standard of living. The long and healthy life of humans represents the development of technology and science in a country, and the development of medical technology, which are significant factors for long and healthy life. The degree of people's access to knowledge represents the improvement of the ideological level of human beings. Basic education also takes place in lower secondary school, with the aim of expanding the knowledge acquired in primary school and improving the skills that are useful for students to develop their lives as individuals, members of society and citizens [2]. At the same time, the improvement of education level also represents a country's development prospects, from the side to see a country's development efficiency in the next few years and the limits of development.

China has made significant progress in improving its HDI ranking over the past few decades, moving from a low-level country to a developing country with a high HDI score. Other authors point to an overall upward trend in HDI across Chinese provinces between 1982 and 2015 [3]. But with the development of society, China has also ushered in some problems. The most serious problem is the aging society. The aging society is mainly caused by the following reasons: Firstly, China's low fertility rate. Due to the implementation of China's family planning policy 20 years ago and the change in social concepts, more and more people choose to have fewer or no children, which leads to a low fertility rate and an increasing proportion of the elderly population. At the same time, the improvement of medical technology also has a great help to prolong life, the elderly can get more treatment, and more diseases have been solved or improved, which makes many people have a longer life. With the rapid aging of the Chinese population, the issue of aging has become one of the most pressing challenges facing the country. The Chinese government come up with some proposals to improve the situation of aging.

The greater age distribution of older people relative to working age or young people raises numerous questions about the economic, political, social causes and consequences of aging [4]. The influence of aging on a country is very great, and it will also have a serious impact on the economic development of a country. The first is a huge demographic shift. Aging leads to an increase in the elderly population and a decrease in the proportion of young adults, which also leads to a decrease in the labor force, which will directly have a negative impact on the economy. At the same time, an aging society will lead to a greater proportion of expenditure focused on old-age welfare, which also leads to an increase in a country's expenditure. In general, the impact of aging on China is complex and requires the joint efforts of the government and all social parties to deal with it. To deal with the aging society, the Chinese government has put forward and implemented a number of plans.

2. China's Aging and Economic Development in the Past Few Years

2.1. Effects of Aging

Elderly poverty and aging society have become a common phenomenon in today's society, affecting the population structure and economic development worldwide, especially the labor market has a huge impact [5]. The impact of an aging society on the economy is a complex issue that involves multiple factors, including economic growth, labor market, social security, and health care. First, an aging society can lead to lower potential economic growth, as the total working-age population shrinks and the age structure of the working-age population ages. This could lead to a decline in labor productivity, which could affect economic growth.

2.2. The Reason Why the Aging Society Affects the Economic Development

In view of the continued aging of the population, there is a shortage of labor in many sectors, for example, health, education, hospitality, etc. [6]. There are two important reasons for this: first, the physical function of the elderly declines rapidly with age, and the metabolism of the elderly is also lower than that of the young. People's psychology will also change with age, for example, the memory and attention of the elderly will decrease, and even psychological fluctuations will be more obvious. All these factors lead to the elderly's lower work efficiency than that of the young, which directly affects economic output. The increase in the proportion of the elderly population also reduces productivity. Secondly, the working ability of the elderly is also lower than that of the young. In the accumulation from generation to generation, the development of science and technology is also more rapid with the passage of time and the progress of society. As a result, the experience accumulated by the elderly in work is not enough for the life of the young generation, nor can it adapt to the needs of modern society, which raises the cost of the company and reduces the output from the side.

In general, an aging society will lead to slower economic growth and labor shortage, resulting in a shortage of supply in the labor market, which will lead to an increase in wages and a decline in corporate profits. The labor market refers the supply of labor market quantity by households (the supply side) and the demand of employees in the labor market by firms (the demand side). The price of labor that provides income to households and the cost of business are wages.

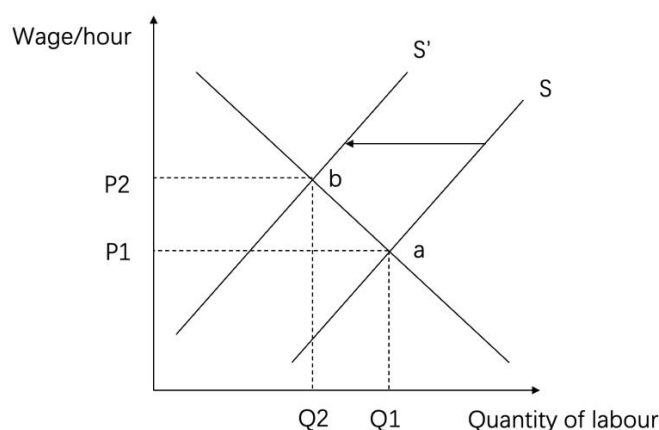


Fig. 1 The Decline of Labor Force

As Fig.1 shows, the point of intersection of curve D (demand) and S (supply) shows the original equilibrium point of the labor market, and Q1 represents the quantity of labor at first, P1 shows the original wage level of labor. As society gradually enters an aging society, the proportion of the elderly population increases, which leads to a decrease in the proportion and number of young people matching the job, resulting in the decline of the young labor force and the reduction of supply. The quantity of supply decreased from Q1 to Q2, which led to the shift of the S curve from S to S'. This change has caused a wage level rise from P1 to P2, which is increasing the costs of business, and the decrease in labor quantity has caused a decrease in profits.

3. Policy Proposed by the Chinese Government

Because of China's rise as a developing country and its growing influence, changes to Chinese family planning policy have attracted increasing attention [7]. To address these issues, the Chinese government has proposed several solutions, including but not limited to Encouraging family planning: The government has implemented policies to encourage couples to have fewer children, in order to slow down population growth and address the aging population. Aging society is a long-term process, it takes decades for a newborn to become an elderly person, this process means that when the birth rate of an era increases, the proportion of elderly people will rise in a few decades. Therefore, the family planning proposed by the Chinese government at the beginning is to slowing population growth and birth rates, which will control the total number of elderly people and prevent aging in a few years.

In September 1982, the Chinese government established family planning as a basic policy and wrote it into the Constitution. This policy has been in force in China for more than 30 years [8]. Here are three main stages of family planning in China. In China in the 1950s, the government implemented more policies to support and encourage fertility, and China's attitude towards fertility was positive. [9]. But three years later, the census data showed that China's population was larger than expected, which also led to increased costs for society, and the huge number of people in limited jobs led to more fierce competition, so the Chinese government began the family planning policy. In the first stage, China encouraged families to have fewer children and encouraged women to have children after the age of 23, but this incentive policy did not work well, and the government realized that the huge population would impose a great burden on social and economic development and considered birth control to be a necessary prerequisite for sustainable development. The government introduced the one-child policy in 1979, requiring couples to have only one child [10]. This caused a great deal of controversy in the local area. The subsequent stages are the improvement and progress of the first stage of the policy, which also means that Chinese family planning has entered a new era.

4. The Inadequacy of Family Planning and Recommendations Based on the Status Quo

However, such a policy is not completely effective but will cause some negative effects on aging and cannot solve the problem in a short time. First, there is the problem of time lag. Fewer babies will only lead to a larger share of the elderly population and a smaller workforce. Reducing fertility will lead to a tight labor market, especially in some industries that require a large number of labors, such as manufacturing and construction, which may lead to an increase in enterprise costs and affect the profitability of enterprises. The aging of the population is increasing, the labor force is decreasing, and the pressure of social pensions is increasing.

Given the disadvantages of family planning for an aging society, China should also improve in other areas. The first step to change the aging society is to improve the overall education level. When people's overall education level is improved, more people will receive education, and young people can receive more comprehensive technology and science, which will increase the output of young people, increase the social output, and enable young people to have a higher income level. To make older people more acceptable to younger people. At the same time, the improvement of education level also means the progress of society in science and technology. When people's children are more and more high-quality, these children can create some skills to replace the manual labor force, so as to fill the vacant labor market.

Moreover, the government should promote innovation and entrepreneurship. The government has encouraged innovation and entrepreneurship, in order to create new job opportunities and support economic growth. The main impact of the aging society on the economy is to reduce the efficiency of economic production and increase the cost of economic production, which has a negative impact on economic development. To solve this problem, the government should first improve social productivity, encourage young people to start businesses, and invest more budget in research and development. When young people acquire more technology, they can increase the overall output of society. In addition, when the government encourages young people to start their own businesses, there will be more choices in the labor market and more jobs for employees, which will directly reduce the pressure of competition among employees and enable them to earn profits from their work. Moreover, they can afford the elderly at home and reduce the pressure on the society.

5. Conclusion

To sum up, it is a long process to improve the aging society and promote economic development. Unlike economic development, economic growth needs to take into account sustainability factors. From this important factor, it can be seen that China's initial family planning policy did not effectively achieve the goal of improving aging. In order to change the current situation of aging in the long run, China must start to increase the number of jobs in society and improve the education level of the country, which will have a positive impact on China's economic development. For the future outlook, people should focus on the long-term development of each country. Future studies can focus on the aging society in China and other countries and put forward suggestions from different perspectives. Finding new development directions will be the future research goal.

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