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# A Review of Research on New Urbanization and Public Service Level Measurement and Their Coordinated Development

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**Abstract:** This paper systematically combs the relevant research results at home and abroad around three core issues: the measurement of new urbanization and public service level, the interactive relationship between them, and the strategies for their coordinated development. In terms of measurement research, foreign studies focus on single/composite indicators and model construction, while domestic studies achieve refined measurement at international, provincial, municipal and sub-field levels through multi-indicator systems; in the research on interactive relationships, foreign studies mainly adopt field surveys, while domestic studies carry out scaled and specific research using multiple methods such as entropy method and coupling coordination model; research on coordinated development strategies puts forward suggestions from multiple dimensions including supply structure, regional coordination and government functions. The study finds that existing achievements have limitations such as lack of regional pertinence in indicator systems, insufficient methods for relationship testing, and lack of research combining time and space. The combing in this paper provides references for subsequent research in terms of research perspective selection, research method application and research framework construction.

**Keywords:** New Urbanization; Public Service Level; Interactive Relationship; Coordinated Development.

## 1. Research on the Measurement of New Urbanization and Public Service Level

### 1.1. Research on Measuring the Development Quality of New Urbanization

With the promulgation of policy documents such as the National New Urbanization Plan, guidance on the direction and pathways for new urbanization construction in the report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China and the 14th Five-Year Plan, and the advancement of related construction practices, a research boom in this field has gradually emerged in domestic academia. A key focus of scholars' research has been taking a specific region (inter-provincial, municipal) as the research object and constructing an evaluation index system to measure its development level during the study period. Representative studies include: Li Yuxin, Liao Zhongju , Wang Bin , and Zhao Na , starting from the new connotation of new urbanization and based on development characteristics such as "urban-rural integration and ecological livability," constructed evaluation index systems encompassing multiple dimensions like "population, land, economy, society, and ecology" to measure China's new urbanization construction level over the past decade Wang Jinying , and Yang Yang , among others, constructed multi-level evaluation index systems including "people-oriented, urban-rural integration, intensive and efficient, ecological civilization, cultural heritage, openness, and safety" to measure the new urbanization level in regions such as the southwestern border , Shaanxi Province [1], the Yangtze River Economic Belt, and the Shandong Peninsula ; Liu Jing et al., from a broader perspective, took countries along the "Belt and Road" as research objects and innovatively introduced institutional factors into the evaluation index system for new urbanization, assessing the quality of new urban development in these countries from three levels: "economic level, institutional quality, and social development" .

Simultaneously, some scholars have further explored the interaction relationships between new urbanization and other systems based on measuring its construction level. For example, scholars Du Xia (2021), Ji Hongying (2018), and Liang Wen (2018) analyzed its interaction with tourism [2], cultural industries , and logistics industries by constructing a four-dimensional new urbanization evaluation index system encompassing "space, society, ecology, and industrial economy"; Guo Haihong , Liu Ling , and Xie Rui studied the dynamic response relationship between new urbanization and the ecological environment from the perspective of economic, social, population, and environmental indicators ; Liu Yan , Lei Na , Jia Xingmei , and Fan Zhaoyuan explored the causal relationships and synergistic effects between new urbanization and distinctive cultural cities, rural revitalization, rural agglomeration , and resident consumption by designing new urbanization evaluation indices covering urban economic growth, ecological environment, social development, and urban-rural integration.

Foreign scholars' measurement of new urbanization development quality focuses on areas such as healthy urban development, living standards, and social environment. Additionally, researching the interaction between new urbanization and systems such as urbanization, ecological environment, and economic development, thereby revealing the new urbanization development process characterized by urban scale expansion, increase in urban population, and social-environmental transformation, is also a focus of foreign scholars.

The fields encompassed by public service level supply, such as healthcare and social security, culture and education, and ecological environment, are crucial to people's well-being. The state has also planned tasks and objectives including

"basically achieving the goal of equalization of basic public services, basically clarifying the list system for public service facilities, and basically establishing a sound construction standard system for public service levels." Furthermore, the Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035 propose new construction tasks such as promoting "unified standards and integrated systems for urban and rural public service facilities." These all signify that public service levels, developed under the principle of "public benefit and equitable sharing," have become an important part of China's social planning and construction. Research hotspots in domestic academia closely follow national trends and development needs, conducting studies from dimensions such as index system construction and level measurement. Representative studies include: Xin Chongchong and Lu Xiaojun, based on defining the connotation and scope of public service level, constructed an evaluation index system covering five aspects: education services, healthcare, culture and media, infrastructure, and social security and employment, comprehensively exploring the distribution dynamics and regional differences in China's public service supply level from 2007 to 2018 ; Cheng Hua et al., based on panel data from 31 provinces and municipalities in 2016, measured the supply level of rural public services in China's provinces from the perspectives of urban facility construction, cultural and educational services, and healthcare security ; Chen Yan, Xiong Xing, and Liu Xiaojie also measured and evaluated the development level of public services in Northeastern resource-based cities, cities in the Yangtze River Economic Belt , and Hunan Province respectively, from dimensions such as infrastructure, healthcare, culture and education, and ecological environment.

Simultaneously, some scholars have focused on specific areas within public service level for research. For example, Zhang Zhijian et al., based on primary health survey data, comprehensively evaluated the current status of China's basic public health services and further examined their impact on residents' health; Yang Lin et al., taking Shandong Province as a sample, evaluated the quality of its basic public cultural service supply from 2007 to 2016 from three perspectives: service projects, service facilities, and service guarantees.

Foreign scholars' research on measuring public service level focuses on areas closely related to urban residents' lives, such as public cultural services, electricity, water supply, and sanitation facilities. Measuring the supply level from the perspective of services provided by non-profit organizations is also an important research direction. Additionally, exploring interactive relationships with systems such as fiscal institutions, economic development, and social welfare is a significant aspect of foreign research on public service level measurement.

## 2. Research on the Interactive Relationship Between New Urbanization and Public Service Level

The construction of new urbanization can improve public service levels, while the enhancement of public service levels can also facilitate the construction of new urbanization. Domestic scholars have conducted extensive research on the close and complex relationship between the two. In terms of research content, a characteristic of domestic academia is studying their relationship based on inter-provincial or municipal scales, or focusing on specific areas within new urbanization and public service levels. Representative studies include: Lun Yuchao , using data from 285 prefecture-level and above cities in China as samples, studied the spatiotemporal evolution patterns of coordinated development between urbanization and public service levels from 2005 to 2018, concluding that the coordinated development level of the two systems generally showed a fluctuating upward trend ; Dong Linyu, taking China's urbanization and medical and health service levels as research objects, analyzed their coupled and coordinated development level during the study period. The results indicated that while China's urbanization construction level increased year by year, the development of medical and health services lagged relatively, and the coupled coordination state presented an unbalanced development pattern of "high in the east and low in the west, high in the south and low in the north"; Ma Huiqiang et al., using 31 Chinese provinces and municipalities as research samples, constructed a three-dimensional analysis model of "regional economy - public service level - urbanization" to measure and analyze the coupled development status of the three systems from 2008 to 2017. The conclusion showed that there are certain correlative characteristics among regional economic development, urbanization quality, and public service level development, and within a certain period, public service level development lagged relatively behind the development of the other two systems ; Sun Yu et al., from the perspective of ecological civilization, took the Shaanxi Province urban agglomeration as the research object, measured the coupled coordination relationship and development evolution characteristics between urbanization and ecological public service levels. The research indicated that although the coupled coordination degree of the two systems increased year by year from 2007 to 2016, their development remained uncoordinated, with ecological public service level development lagging behind the urbanization process in most cities ; Zeng Fanrong and Cao Xianqiang et al., taking Sichuan Province and Shandong Province as research objects respectively, analyzed and concluded that the two systems of new urbanization and public service level achieved a development leap from "antagonism - running-in - coupling" from 2008 to 2017, with regional coupled and coordinated development quality increasing year by year . Simultaneously, Lu Yi et al. focused on the public transportation field within public services, verifying the interactive relationship between urbanization rate and public transportation development level based on data from 85 domestic and foreign cities ; He Xianyang explored the mutual influence relationship between new urbanization and the clustering of sports public services ; Xu Yueqian , Yin Peng , and Yuan Dan et al. all studied the coupled coordination relationship between population urbanization and the public service level system from the perspective of population urbanization, taking Jilin Province and eastern coastal provinces as research objects. The results showed that population urbanization level is closely related to the accessibility and availability of public service levels, and during the study period, the lag in public service supply caused by the surge in urban population led to poor coordination between the two systems.

In research on the interactive relationship between the two systems of new urbanization and public service level, foreign scholars Osei-Kojo, Ziadi, and Jozef Kuril pointed out that

public services play a central role in many aspects of human life[3]. Promoting innovative urbanization characterized by smart cities and e-government will improve the efficiency and sustainability of public service supply , can reduce operational costs, expand service access, and improve customer satisfaction, effectively addressing urban problems such as energy, environment, security, and bureaucracy to a certain extent . Scholars such as Afridi Farzana and Oteng-Ababio also focused on developing countries, studying the relationship between public services and urbanization in Ghana and India respectively. Their conclusions indicated that the supply of public services can affect economic growth by alleviating poverty, improving human capital quality, and resisting corruption . However, in most developing countries, the provision of municipal services and infrastructure often fails to keep pace with the pace and demands of urbanization, which is detrimental to economic growth and the improvement of urbanization levels.

# 3. Research on Strategies to Promote Coordinated Development of New Urbanization and Public Service Level

Exploring how to achieve high-quality coordinated development between new urbanization and public service level is the foot of research on their relationship. Based on relevant empirical analyses, scholars have proposed strategic suggestions from multiple perspectives: From the perspective of public service supply, Zeng Fanrong et al., based on research on the interactive relationship between new urbanization and public service level in Sichuan Province, proposed strategic suggestions from aspects such as "optimizing industrial structure, slowing down the process of population urbanization, and introducing external capital to participate in public service level supply" ; Cai Xiuling et al., based on the empirical conclusion that public service level supply in Fujian Province lags behind new urbanization construction, proposed "promoting supply-side reform of public service levels, innovating supply mechanisms, and introducing PPP models" to promote their coordinated development . From the perspective of regional coordinated development, Fu Zhanhui and Liu Chuanming , based on the spatially uncoordinated development status of new urbanization and public service level in Nanyang City, Henan Province, and Jiangsu Province respectively, proposed targeted strategies according to different regional realities: for example, in areas with excessive demand for public service levels, it is necessary to stimulate endogenous motivation, actively introduce foreign investment, and accelerate the process of economic urbanization; in areas where public service level development lags, it is necessary to actively promote the construction of basic service facilities and advance the citizenization of the agricultural transfer population . From the perspective of government functions, Zhang Guosheng et al. constructed policy solutions from three dimensions—"employment, land, and capital"—to systematically address the multiple obstacles to the citizenization of the agricultural transfer population in the process of new urbanization construction ; Yu Juhong et al. proposed promoting coordinated development of the two systems through implementing linked reforms in "household registration system, fiscal decentralization system, and government assessment system" ; Fan Nana et al.'s research showed that "improving the public service system, increasing the government's public service supply capacity, and increasing investment in healthcare, education, social security, and other aspects" are good countermeasures to promote their coordinated development ; Zhang Mingdou , based on the research status that the high cost of new urbanization construction hinders public service level development, proposed a strategic approach to "reduce urbanization construction costs by improving public policies and establishing a balanced public service level system" .

In research on strategies to promote coordinated development of the two systems, Ze fang Li et al., based on the current situation of the studied region where "the degree of coupling coordination is not high, most cities belong to medium-low coupling coordination types, and there is a lack of highly coupled and coordinated cities," proposed countermeasures and suggestions to promote the coupled and coordinated development of urbanization quality and public service level quality from aspects such as promoting high-quality economic development, eliminating the government's fiscal decentralization system, and formulating policies for equalized development across regions ; YU Xing hou et al., from the perspective of government functions, studied strategic approaches to promote the coupled and coordinated development of new urbanization and public service level: first, adhere to regional coordinated development and establish a systematic development concept; second, establish a balanced economic development strategy; third, transform government functions and build a service-oriented government; ZHAO Li et al., from the level of institutional design, based on the coupled and coordinated development status of the studied region where "the overall coordination level is not high, and horizontal differences are large," proposed strategic suggestions from perspectives such as "removing institutional obstacles hindering urban-rural integrated development, formulating development policies adapted to the development stage, and constructing a government-led multi-supply system" .

# 4. Research Review

Scholars at home and abroad have actively explored the measurement of new urbanization and public service level, their relationship research, and how to promote their coordinated development, contributing rich research results:

(1) In research on measuring new urbanization and public service level, foreign researchers measured new urbanization and public service level based on single indicators, composite indicators, and constructed evaluation models respectively; while domestic scholars' research is more extensive and detailed, measuring the development level of the two based on international, provincial, and municipal scales, and even based on subdivided fields within a system, by constructing multi-indicator evaluation systems. Simultaneously, conducting research on interaction relationships with systems such as economic development and ecological environment based on level measurement research is also a key focus for scholars both domestically and internationally.

(2) In research on the development relationship between new urbanization and public service level, foreign researchers studied the relationship between their municipal services, infrastructure, etc., and urbanization development through methods such as field surveys; while domestic scholars applied diverse research methods such as entropy method, coupling coordination models, and decoupling index models

to study their relationship from provincial and municipal scales, or from specific areas within new urbanization and public service levels (such as transportation, population urbanization, etc.), presenting characteristics of rich research methods and in-depth research content.

(3) In research on strategies to promote coordinated development between new urbanization and public service level, scholars at home and abroad, based on the regional reality of low coordination and frequent misaligned development between the two systems, proposed strategic suggestions to promote their coordinated development from various perspectives such as supply structure, coordinated development, and government functions.

The abundant research results from domestic and international sources provide this paper with much reference and ideas in terms of research perspective selection, research method application, and research framework construction. However, through further sorting and summarizing of relevant research, some deficiencies and shortcomings have also been identified:

(1) In the selection of evaluation indicators for the two systems, the index systems constructed by scholars are universal and cannot reflect the characteristics of the studied region, lacking specificity.

(2) In research on the interrelationship between the two systems, scholars sorted the interactive relationships between the two systems through literature analysis, lacking the use of scientific research methods to test whether such relationships exist between the two systems. There is also little analysis of the influencing factors of the coupling coordination level between the two systems, and the research lacks depth.

(3) In terms of research perspective, most existing studies use time series as a reference to study the development level status and mutual influence relationship of the two systems in a certain region over a certain time span, or conduct comparative analysis of regional development differences from a spatial dimension. There is little research combining longitudinal analysis with horizontal comparison, and the research is not comprehensive enough.

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