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# The Development Report of Chinese Urban Youth

## *Editor's Note*

Urbanization has become the most powerful and lasting endogenous power of China's economic growth. The high quality of urbanization, the core of which is people-oriented, giving priority to construction of people's livelihood and improvement of public service, will be the key to change the way of economic development and play an increasingly important role in building a comprehensive well-off society and pursue the Chinese dream, the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Youth are not only the hope and future of our national and important resources to build a well-off society in an all-round way but also active participants of socialist economic construction, political construction, cultural construction and ecological construction. Socialism with Chinese characteristics is a cause, facing the future, needing generations of aspiring young people to strive for it constantly. It is an era proposition, possessing both academic theoretical and operational significance and practical value, to know how to promote youth development, make the development of a city fully meet the demand of youths' growth and youths realize their beautiful city dream smoothly through a scientific and harmonious urban development, to make youths form a power of energy and optimism through their own healthy development, play an important role in the urbanization construction, the smooth transition of economic society and city development, the grand goal of building a harmonious society in our country and the realization of China's dream, the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

This report is one of the achievements of the philosophy and social science development construction (foster) project "the Development of Chinese Urban Adolescents Report" (13 JBGP039) to the ministry of education. This report chose youths, aging from 14-35, living in Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, Chongqing, Guangzhou, Xi' an, Zhengzhou, Wuhan, Harbin, Shenyang, etc. 10 typical cities, as research objects. Municipality, provincial capital, regional central city are all contained in those 10

selected cities, involving three urban agglomerations including the Bohai sea delta, the Yangtze river delta and the Pearl river delta, covering three strategies of Western Development, Central Rise and Northeast Revitalization. This report focuses on the development of urban youths under the background of the great Chinese urbanization, revealing their development status, characteristics and trends, analyzing their demand and main difficulties and particularly focuses on the problem of priority areas of urban youths' development and enhancement of the vitality of cities through priority to the development of adolescent.

Research and analysis about development situation and characteristics of urban youth in this report mainly depend on the theory of priority to the development of adolescent, taking the view that man is hold at first in the development of all social undertakings. Adolescent period is a life experience, acting as transition and decisive phases should be given priority during the process of human development. Priority to the development of youths, aiming at the all-round development of human beings, will contribute to the development of the whole society and economy. Therefore, at the national and regional levels, corresponding laws, guidelines, policies should be introduced and enforced by the government to guarantee priority to urban youths' development and make it a important strategy for development of the whole society and its economy. Consulting ten priority aspects, including education, employment, health, hunger and poverty, environment, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, leisure activities, fully and effectively participation by young girls and young women in social life, raised in the World Youth Programme of Action by the Year of 2000 and After to the United Nations and depending on the urban development level and youths' situation and development tendency, this report proposes six youths priority development fields ranging from the field of civic literacy, the field of physical and mental health, the field of education, the field of employment and the field of participation and fusion to the field of rights protection and crime prevention. This report analyzes and researches urban youths' development situation and characteristics by quantitative and qualitative analysis in the six aforementioned dimensions. In this quantitative empirical research, we use the combination sampling method of multi-stage stratified random sampling and quota sampling and finally recycle 9569 questionnaire samples with 85% of which are effective.

*Report No. 1*

# **The Present Situation and Characteristics Review of Chinese Urban Youth Development in Priority Development**

Shanghai Youth Research Center | Chu Min, Zhang Yun, Huang Hongji, Zhao Wen

During the new urbanization strategy with Chinese characteristics, urban-mega urban- plays a significantly important role in our general layout of the urbanization and economic and social development ,therefore the problem of urban youths' development affects not only the youths themselves but also the social stability, harmonious and sustainable development of the whole country. At present, urban youths have features as follows in six fields including the field of civic literacy, the field of physical and mental health, the field of education, the field of employment, the field of participation and fusion and the field of rights protection and crime prevention:

## **Civic Literacy:**

## **Political Accomplishment:**

Urban youth have a high level of national pride and traditional cultural identity. 90.6% of urban youths agree with the view that I am proud of being a Chinese and 88.3% of them agree with the expression that I am proud of the traditional culture of China. Overall, urban youths approve of the China Dream and the socialist core value in the mainstream values, but difference exists in different youth groups. Urban youths at school can better understand and identify not only the socialist core value but also the close relationship between China Dream and personal values and ideals than both employed and unemployed youths in the society. The higher socioeconomic status those urban youths' family have the more will they approve of the view that personal values and ideals is bound up with China dream and vice versa. And urban employed youths in midland and western China have obviously much lower sense of identity of the close relationship between China Dream and personal values than those in coastal areas.

## **Moral Ethics:**

About seven in ten of urban youth can't accept anti-social behaviors and nearly five in ten of them think the practice situation of traditional virtues

such as being filial is not quite ideal. The one-child's sense of social norms and conscientiousness of social responsibility, to a certain extent, is lower than children with siblings in different urban youth groups.

### **Scientific Literacy:**

Youths at school get scientific knowledge primarily from their teachers, trust superstitious activities at a low degree and are interested in scientific activities. Urban youths with rural household registration are more hunger for scientific activities than those with city household registration and female youths are more interested in scientific knowledge and activities.

### **Physical and Mental Health:**

Increasingly common unhealthy life styles including western dietary pattern, sedentariness, etc. combined with environmental pollution lead to a series of health problems like increase number of obesity and overweight , low aging tendency in Adulthood diseases, sexual precocity, shortsightedness,etc. in urban youth groups.

The majority of urban youth treat the situation of their mental health being fine and self-rating scores of urban youths at school (8.40+2.036) are higher than both employed (8.351+2.2404) and unemployed (8.095+2.1876) youths. But fierce competition in the study and work and heavy pressure of interpersonal relationships make the rate of urban youths' mental illnesses appear to be increasing.

Perennial problems, embracing food safety, education competition, occupational stress, environmental pollution, etc. together with youths' weak sense of self-protection and difficulties to change their unhealthy life styles make grand challenges to adolescents' physical quality improvement.

### **Education:**

Generally, education system reform and balanced education resources optimization have guaranteed urban youths' basic education opportunities and rights. Urban youths set a high evaluation on education fairness in the city they live in, but have various estimations in different education stages, with 8.09 points to compulsory education stage, 7.40 points to senior high school stage and 6.36 points to higher education stage. Meanwhile, they grade the lowest points of 5.46 to education fairness in



different areas. The above-mentioned situations demonstrate that the main problem remains to be education fairness in urban youths' education.

### **Employment Issues:**

#### **Employment Conditions:**

Nearly half of urban youths regard personal ability as a significant aspect in the process of looking for a job. Urban youths prefer salary, personal interest and good development platform offered by the units as top three and hold social contribution, light work and challenging work as the last three among various employment conditions. In terms of gender, men prefer salary, social status and work flexibility while woman value working stability. Half of urban youths do not care unit character during the course of hunting jobs, 63.2 percent of higher vocational students only need appropriate jobs rather than take unit character into consideration while undergraduate and graduate students prefer to work in units which have higher stability and social status such as state organs and public institutions.

#### **Employment Aspirations:**

Urban youths have weak willing to employment and 5.9% have not consider of employment, 40.3% prefer direct employment, 19.2% want to have further education, 20.1% will decide depend on the situation of the work, 7.9% plan to launch their own businesses and 6.5% prefer to go abroad. Among the situation above-mentioned, woman, graduate students and urban youth with rural registered permanent residence have stronger desire for employment. Urban youth class status is proved to be proportional to their aspiration of further education both at home and abroad, the higher the class status is, the stronger their willing will be. Moreover, urban youth whose father being higher educated have higher proportion to go abroad for further education.

#### **Employment Regions:**

For youth, more than a quarter prefer to work in the city they live in, 23.4% treat the coastal developed cities as the best choice and will take good opportunity in the interior into consideration, 12.3% choose to work in the coastal developed cities and 27.6% value the good opportunity other than region. The lower education background those youth have, the more they expect to work in the original city they reside at and among which

38.2% vocational school students, much higher than other educational background, choose to work in the city they live in. More youth with high education background prefer the coastal developed cities as the best choice and will take good opportunity in the interior into consideration.

### **Salary Expectations:**

The minimum average monthly salary expectation (pre-tax) of urban youth to their first job is 4114.95 RMB. Education degree variables present obvious positive correlation with the revenue forecast. 3000 RMB is the watershed between secondary education and higher education degree of youth on the revenue forecast, most youths with higher education expect the monthly income of 3000 RMB. 58.5% of undergraduate and 79.2% of graduate students prefer jobs with monthly income of more than 3000 RMB and 31.2% of graduate students select jobs with monthly income of more than 5000 RMB.

### **Participation and Fusion:**

#### **Political participation:**

Urban youth value political participation and rights and 7 in 10 of them disagree with the statement that it make no sense whether to exercise democracy right to vote or not, but their initiative, enthusiasm and participation ability for political participation need to be further improved and more than one-third of the urban youth do not concerned about the latest promulgated laws and regulations. They prefer some informal channels and ways to participate in political issues when they feel discontent with one policy or system formulated by the government.

The feature of urban youths' motivation of political participation is the combination of individual development and his/her ideal and faith. Urban youths at school have higher proportion of both having faith in pursuing their ideal and going with the flow than both employed and unemployed urban youths in the society. Youths whose family socioeconomic status at the upper position have higher proportion in motivation of ideal faith , and conversely, they have higher proportion in motivation of individual self-development when joining the Party or the Communist Youth League.

#### **Economic Participation:**

Urban youth is proving to be passionately entrepreneurial with mo

re than 86.2 percent of the them surveyed planning to launch their own businesses. The percentage of urban youth' entrepreneurial choice in sequence from high to low is: their specific area of interest (42.9%), relatively low risk of industry which is easy to open but need little startup money (24.2%), fields related to their own professional (18.1%), hot direction in the future (13.2%). The majority of urban youth about 60.2% prefer to launch their own businesses in the city live in. More than half of urban youth about 51.7% take the choice of internet business for its' low requirements. Urban youth know little about supportive and preferential policy of entrepreneurship which only known by 37.9% youths reside in urban areas.

### **Social Participation:**

The disunity of knowing and doing is a common phenomenon when urban youth take part in public activities. There is a positive correlation between youths' personality and their intention and behavior in public participation. The better their economic conditions and education background is, the more will they participate in public activities. Urban youth in coastal developed areas have higher credibility and willingness to the public welfare undertakings than those in central and western China but the number of public welfare behavior is not greater. And two of urban youth' the most trusted public welfare platforms are the Communist Youth League and grassroots organizers among all.

### **Illegality and Crime:**

At present, the main characteristics of the urban youth crime are as following: first, the criminals being younger aged. Second, the major crime groups are immigrated adolescents of non- native permanent residents. Third, illegal crime situation conducted by three lost (out-of-school, unemployed, lack of family care and discipline) youth is more serious. Fourth, youth's illegal crime always obtains more abruptness and randomness. Fifth, robbery, theft, etc. have become the main type of crime. Sixth, drug-related and network crime happen occasionally. Last, gang crime and the trend of adult criminal manners are becoming more prominent. Urban youth crime shows different features in different regions. For example, female adolescent illegal crime is on the rise in Harbin recently and gangland-related crime is more serious in cities including Chongqing, Guangzhou, etc. *Translated By Ge Lianyan*

*Report No. 2*

## **Persistence or Hesitation: View of Credibility and Integrity Survey of Urban Youth in China**

Shanghai Youth Research Center | Zhao Lingyun, Chen Ning, Ma Xiuyan

Integrity, as Chinese traditional virtue, is regarded as the basis of a man's standing in society. The 18th Party Congress report lists "patriotism, dedication, integrity and friendship" as a vital component of core socialist values.

These four values are "the fundamental moral norms for citizens and the essence of basic core socialist values on the individual behavior level". Integrity, as one of them, which means "honesty and keeping promise", is a centuries-old tradition and the highlight of socialist moral construction. It stresses honest work, fulfillment of promises and sincerity.

Our research group has conducted a nationwide questionnaire survey to understand the general situation and the underlying characteristics of the view of credibility and integrity of urban youth in China in hopes that our research can provide some reference for the integrity education of urban youth.

### **1. Basic characteristics of the view of credibility and integrity of urban youth: wish to hold fast to integrity but waver in belief in reality**

According to different subjects of integrity, the survey divides view of credibility and integrity into self-identification and social evaluation of integrity; according to its underlying features, an analysis is made from the perspective of interest and relationship-contract. Our survey shows that most Chinese urban youth realize the significance of holding fast to integrity but waver in their belief in reality for various reasons.

#### **(1) High recognition of integrity, low rating of evaluation of social integrity.**

##### **i. High level of recognition of integrity**

57.5% of youth "strongly agree" and 37.2% "quite agree" to the statement "Integrity is my principle". It means that urban youth highly identify with the integrity principle. A close analysis of the data reveals that

the identification level is very stable among different youth groups, all ranking over 90%. The only difference is the recognition intensity in some specific groups.

ii. Low social integrity level in youth's eyes

In contrast with the high recognition level of integrity, urban youth give a low level evaluation of integrity. Only a total of 62.0% "strongly agree" or "quite agree" to the statement "Businesses with integrity can make profits", a sharp drop from the integrity self-recognition rate. Only 64.2% urban youth believe that "The government is trustworthy", a little higher than their evaluation rate of businesses. About three fourths of the people surveyed agree that "The majority in society have integrity", higher than the evaluation rate of businesses and government, but lower than the integrity self-identification rate.

**(2) Low expectation of integrity benefits and high rate of opposing renegeing for benefits.**

i. More than half of youth believe that integrity will make them suffer.

In a society of high credibility, integrity will benefit the development of individuals and organizations while in a society of anomie where dishonest behavior is prevalent, people of integrity will suffer. A total of 48.9% of urban youth "strongly agree" and "quite agree" to the statement that "People of integrity suffer loss", that is, up to half of urban youth have negative interest anticipation of integrity principle. This is a distorted view of credibility and integrity that is closely related to the phenomenon of lack of integrity but is also attributed to the misinterpretation of bad social phenomena.

ii. Over 70% of youth are against renegeing for benefits.

How much youth adhere to integrity in face of interest can reveal, in a way, the development level of urban youth integrity. 75% of young respondents "can't fully accept" and "totally can't accept" the behavior of "breaking promise to avoid loss of benefit". In the social environment of "Integrity will make people suffer loss", that three fourths of youth oppose the behavior of "renegeing for benefits" indicates that most youth believe they should adhere to honesty even though they suffer loss. However, there are also 20% of youth who tend to renege for benefits, showing that they accept the integrity principle conditionally.

**(3) The integrity level is influenced by interpersonal relationship, and the legal characteristics of view of credibility and integrity appear.**

i. Integrity level is influenced by interpersonal relationship.

One popular idea holds that in Chinese traditional culture, honesty is based on the trust of relatives, friends and acquaintances and has the specific orientation. Surveys show that in modern cities, interpersonal relationship still exerts great influence on youth integrity. 80.4% of people surveyed say that they "can never accept" and "cannot quite accept" that their friends go back on their word. The percentage drops to 55.8% if they face strangers. All this indicates that the view of credibility and integrity of some youth varies with people.

ii. The legal characteristics of integrity are taking shape.

Law is playing an increasing role in today's economic life. The legal characteristics of integrity are essential to the development of view of credibility and integrity. Contracts are the most commonplace legal documents in life. Of 9420 urban youths, 57.4% "strongly agree", 36.5% "quite agree" and only 6.1% "don't quite agree" and "totally disagree" to the statement "Once signed, contracts must be fulfilled". This shows that the legal characteristics of urban youth view of credibility and integrity are taking shape.

**2. An analysis of difference in urban youth's view of credibility and integrity: "inverse development" trend merits attention**

Youth view of credibility and integrity change with age and environment. Theoretically, youth view of credibility and integrity has a positive development trend, that is, the higher education youth receive, the stronger their awareness of integrity; the higher their socialization, and the better understanding they have of integrity. But our survey shows the reverse development situation.

**(1) Youths at school: the higher education, the lower the view of credibility and integrity.**

Data shows that the view of credibility and integrity of urban youth at school is undergoing an unexpected trend: the higher the education, the lower the view of credibility and integrity level.

i. Identification with integrity declines with the rising level of education.

Junior high school students stand higher than senior high school students, secondary vocational school students, and even undergraduates and postgraduates in the average score towards the statement "Integrity is my principle". The difference is manifested in the identification intensity. 68.6% of junior high school students "strongly agree" to the statement whereas the percentage among senior high school students, secondary vocational school students and vocational college students drops by 10%. The percentage of undergraduates and postgraduates drops 17% and 16.6% respectively.

ii. The legal consciousness of integrity declines with the rising level of education.

Junior high school students get the highest average score for the statement "Once signed, contracts must be fulfilled", followed by senior high school students. Undergraduates and postgraduates get even lower scores, similar to those of vocational college students and secondary vocational school students. Of the samples we get, 72.9% of junior high school students "strongly agree" to the statement. The percentage among senior high school students drops by 7.4% and among undergraduates and postgraduates by 20%.

iii. The aversion towards "Reneging for benefits" declines with the rising level of education.

An analysis of interest-related view of credibility and integrity shows education level is in negative proportion with view of credibility and integrity. Again, junior high school students rank highest, followed by senior high school students, undergraduates and postgraduates in sequence. 50.8% of junior high school students "cannot accept" reneging for benefits. The percentage among senior high school students drops by 11.4%, among undergraduates and postgraduates by 20%. The gap between junior high school students and postgraduates is as high as 32.3%.

## **(2) Working youth: view of credibility and integrity level is lower than that of school youth.**

Generally, working youth are more socialized than school youth, but data shows that working youth has a lower view of credibility and integrity.

i. Interest-related view of credibility and integrity level: working youth's

is lower than school youth's.

Compared with working youth, school youth have more positive interest anticipation of integrity and are less likely to accept renegeing for benefits. The proportion of school youth that "strongly disagree" and "quite disagree" to the statement "Integrity makes people suffer loss" is much higher than that of working youth. As for the statement "Reneging in order to avoid loss", school youth show a stronger objection than working youth. 32.2% of school youth find it "totally unacceptable", higher than that of working youth, which is 23.0%.

ii. View of credibility and integrity level from the perspective of contract: working youth's is lower than school youth's.

Data shows that working youth has lower intention intensity than school youth. As for the statement "Once signed, contracts must be fulfilled", there is slight difference in recognition degree between working and school youth, but noticeable difference in recognition intensity between them. 53.0% of working youth "strongly agree" to the statement, lower than 61.6% of school youth.

iii. Evaluation of the government integrity: working youth give lower rates than school youth do.

Working youth give lower evaluation of the government than school youth do. As for the statement "The government is honest", working youth rate it lower than school youth do. 16.9% of working youth "strongly agree" to the statement lower than 27.1% of school youth.

### **3. Conclusion: the urban youth's view of credibility and integrity requires urgent guidance and cultivation.**

The hesitation and bewilderment urban youth are faced with today and the "inverse development" trend in the view of credibility and integrity indicate that the youth view of credibility and integrity is under great influence of social environment, which poses challenges for view of credibility and integrity education. Following are some ways to guide and cultivate urban youth view of credibility and integrity:

"One core": Core social values should play the leading role. Great attention should be paid to the cultivation of youth view of credibility and integrity and training of the youth integrity quality.



“Two levels”: From the internal structure of moral qualities, moral cognition and practice ought to be unified and integrity education should be more effective; from the external strategy point of view, measures ought to be taken in moral education and credit system construction to materialize in-depth and operational integrity education.

“Trilateral combination”: Educational network of schools, parents and society should be improved. The exemplary role of parents and integrity education of school should be highly attention. Family education should be in pace with school education. In the meanwhile, the whole society should strive to create an atmosphere of respecting credibility and integrity. Mass media should promote truth, goodness and beauty and castigate the fake, evil and ugly so that youth live in a harmonious environment and cultivate integrity as a natural quality and achieve a comprehensive development.

“Multiple innovation”: Urban youth view of credibility and integrity education should promote the innovation of educational media, contents, and methods. New media should be applied to extend the media coverage for youth. Traditional culture and positive elements in modern multicultural exchange should be tapped and explored to renew view of credibility and integrity. Innovative teaching methods should be improved to adapt to personality and psychology of young generation.

*Translated by Li Zhaoqiang*

*Report No. 3*

## Education Equality in the Eyes of Chinese Urban Youth

Shanghai Youth Research Center | Lu Ye , Jin Yanna, Meng Xinyun, Zhang Jiahua

Education Equality is an important component, key factor and area in promoting and achieving social equality . Only when children have access to education equality regardless of the class and family origin they come from, can the society be truly fair and achieve social mobility. For this reason, this study examines the ten big cities' urban youth for their awareness, perception and evaluation of educational equality .

**First, urban youth have a rational understanding of “equality” but incomprehensive view on “educational equality”.**

1.Urban youth have an objective and rational view on “equality”

Clearly stated in the United States Declaration of Independence “All men are created equal”, but is it really true? On the pure justice, 70% young people tend to think that “men are not created equal”, but more than 10% of them are skeptical about it. Some young people are confused. This may be the answer to them through the rational arguments, perhaps between the ideal and the reality, the imbalance between resources and needs, the pursuit and conflicts of plight in perceptual cognition. However, the data are worth our concern.

Meanwhile, an overwhelming majority (near 90%) of teens think “justice is relative and absolute justice doesn't exist”, which explains most young people have a correct understanding of justice relativity. Overall, young people have objective and rational understanding of equality and they consider education equality is an important mean by which people who are born unequal are pursuing relative equality.

2.Urban youth's understanding of “educational equality” refers to equality of access and equality in the process.

Main connotation of equality in education, in law, is the right of everyone to enjoy equal access to education; in the field of education policy, it is required that everyone be treated with equal access to public education resources; in educational activities, it is recognized that all

enjoy equal education and everyone has equal opportunity to achieve academic success and employment prospects. All of these reflect the equality of the distribution of benefits. In other words, education equality means realization of equality in the starting point, process and result of educational activities.

Survey shows that young people's understandings of educational equality are more focused on equality in the starting point and process: nearly 80% of youth hold that "education equality is the right of equal access to education for all and accessibility (starting point)", and "educational equality is defined as being treated equal in the educational process (process)" while 50% of the youth consider "education equality as the impact of educational system on students being equal." (result)

According to the statistical analysis, young people's awareness of three types of educational equality is quite different: the number of youth who think education equality is equality in the starting point is more than that of youth who regard education equality as equality in the process. Therefore, young people's understanding of educational equality is concerned with the starting point and the process, not the same as what scholars and experts have recognized.

**Second, urban youth's evaluation on the status quo of China's "education equality" is just mediocre and their evaluation of "education policy" which promotes education equality is not highly positive.**

1. Urban youth score education equality as "pass over the basic requirements, but still not satisfactory."

In this study, the five items such as "school-age children and youths have equal rights and access to education" and "all young people have equal public education resource services" reflect youth assessment on fair education at the macro-level. Other five items such as "men and women are treated with equal education in my city" and "education for different ethnical groups are being treated equally" represent young people's evaluation on education equality at the micro level.

If 0 indicates an extreme inequality and 10 represents extreme equality, youth evaluation on education equality tend to be positive, scoring between 6.2 and 7.4 (apart from the issue of regional balance, a full

score of 10 points). Among all items, the highest scores are given to such items as “education for different ethnical groups are being treated equally in my city”, “school-aged children and youths have equal rights and access to education” and “men and women are treated with equal education in my city” while the lowest score, significantly lower than that of other description, is given to “balanced education development in different regions”.(5.5 points). In youths’ viewpoint, the differences in the allocation of educational resources due to regional differences are the weakness of education equality. In addition, the item “educators treat each student equally” is also scored relatively low. Different treatments are shown especially between poor children and non-poor children, between normal children and children with disabilities, between children of migrant workers and that of city-dwellers.

2. As education levels rise, urban youths’ evaluation on education process equality goes down.

More than five aspects are examined in the study such as “whether students of different gender being treated equally”, “whether people from different ethnical groups being treated equally”, “whether children of migrant workers and that of city-dwellers being treated equally”, “whether normal children and children of disabilities being treated equally”, and “whether poor children and non-poor children being treated equally”, etc. Average score of these aspects are used as youngsters’ subjective scoring of education process equality. (out of 10 points).

Statistics show that different school-age youths have sharply different subjective experience of educational equality: youngsters in the compulsory education have a relatively high subjective scoring on education equality (8.1 points), high school teenagers’ scoring stands in the middle (7.4 points), and young people in the higher education score 6.3 points. These three groups of students give descending score to it. Young people in different school stages have different scoring on education process. Their perception of education process equality goes down as their school stages go up.

3. According to current national policy “to promote education equality”, those measures of high operability and easy implementation are welcomed.

Some weaknesses of the current educational equality can be gradually addressed through future economic development and social progress. But equality doesn't come naturally along with economic and cultural development and it also requires us to strive for it and it needs the support of state policies and assistance. In order to promote equality in education, a number of policies and measures have been enacted such as “neighborhood school”, “children of migrant workers taking part in college entrance exam in their city”, “university autonomous enrollment”, etc. Besides, free online educational resources are open to the public and state finance has also increased its investment in the scholarship stipend system. Do these measures or policies work to promote educational equality in the eyes of youths?

From validity level, some existing education policies are rated with 4 by young people. (1= increased inequality, 2= no effect, 3= a little effect, 4=very effective). They believe the measures such as “increased investment in the scholarship stipend system by state finance”, “promote the sound and sustainable development of vocational education”, “free access to the online educational resources”, and “policy to encourage and support to school run by social forces” have some effect on promoting education equality. Certain policies like “children of migrant workers taking part in college entrance exam in their city”, “cancelling key school system”, “university autonomous enrollment”, “neighborhood school” stand between “a little effect” and “no effect”. Nearly 20% of youth think “neighborhood school” and “university autonomous enrollment” policies have to some extent accelerated the injustices.

In general, government practical measures are more welcomed by youths than those rigidly uniformed policies, which may be because these measures can be easily quantified and operated. Many policies with good initial motivations can be easily found with some loopholes after a period of implementation, breeding new education corruptness.

**Third, Urban young people who are most concerned with “result inequality” and “unbalanced allocation of educational resources” think government has unshirkable responsibility to promote education equality.**

1. Urban young people are most concerned with education inequality

phenomena: the regional difference of employment discrimination, school choice, and college entrance examination enrollment quota.

In the field of education, 50% young people are concerned with the employment competition for “non-key universities graduates”, such as discrimination and choice of school. 40% of them pay attention to college enrollment quota distribution issue in the higher education and 30% of them are concerned about “regional differences in education due to economic disparities between regions”, “the privileged to enjoy quality education resources”, “education problems of migrant workers and local college entrance exam”, and “education problem of low income workers in city.” In the final analysis, these are all the real and hard problems in education equality. It’s worth mentioning that, although young people lack the explicit understanding of “outcome equality” in the connotation of “education equality” (education equality refers to the impact of educational system on student to be equal), they give special attention to the discrimination on non-key universities graduates in job market. (one of the indicators of “outcome equality”). This shows that education outcome equality is an important theme of “education equality”.

2. Urban youth think factors affecting the equality of education should mainly be economics/ macro-environmental ones and government should be the most important subject to promote education equality.

In youths’ viewpoint, the most important factors that influence education equality are as follows: the unbalanced economic and social development, imperfect education policies and systems, unreasonable allocation of educational resources, insufficient investment, individual different family background, education corruption, education industrialization, social class difference, insufficient education protection for the disadvantaged group, talent difference, ethnical difference, and gender difference. Clearly, youth think that those factors like economics, institutions or policies play an important role in influencing education equality. Most of these factors are external rather than internal ones. Because of this, more than half of them think that it is the government that should shoulder more responsibility to promote education equality rather than family and social organization.

*Translated by Gao Yue*

*Report No. 4*

## **Employment Prospects for City Youth: A Transition from "Job-seeking" to "Decent Work"**

Shanghai Youth Research Center | Deng Lei, Zhou Ying, Cheng Liping, Huang Hongji, Bi Xiaomin

Data show that “full-time worker in poverty” has been a worldwide headache, with the youth unemployment rate above overall jobless rate since the globalization and internationalization. In many countries, most of the youth are the most vulnerable to the job competition. “Unsuccessful work experience” may change their lives, and unsatisfied experience may cause loss of confidence, less interaction among generations, and the low self-fulfillment. These effects may bring difficulties to housing, getting married, child-raising and other family issues. These youth may live off their parents, thus becoming the NEETs. And this dissatisfaction is likely to strain the labor relations, leading to the intergenerational conflict.

So it is critical to know the current condition, feature and problems of city youth employment, search for the solution and make breakthrough. Therefore, the research group designs a questionnaire based on 6 dimensions that affects youth employment quality: employment environment, personal competence, income, employment state, social protection and labor relations. 4000 full-time youth workers, aged from 16 to 35, selected from the east, central, west and northeast part of China based on random and quota sampling, joined the survey. Of the 4000 copies of the questionnaire, 3431 copies were returned, taking up 85.76%. The major findings are listed below:

### **1. Youth employment environment is supposed to be improved in accordance with regional differences.**

60% of the youth are not familiar with the work policies in the cities they live, with over 60% dissatisfied with the job-seeking services provided, and 80% complaining about the effectiveness of employment guide. And labor mobility across regions has become increasingly frequent; however, the labor markets still polarized. The youth in Shanghai, Tianjin, Beijing and Guangzhou are more satisfied with their work atmosphere, followed by 2 cities in northeast China, while those in central and western China are less satisfied, even below the average.

**2. Employment ability of the youth needs to be improved which shows no evident advantage in job seeking.**

The average education level of the newcomers to job markets has been on the increase with over 6 million graduates annually pouring into the market in the last few years. The survey, though, shows that many youth workers are overqualified to their jobs, even 40% jobs not requiring any skills at all. As to technique training, 70% of the youth thought it useful to their career development. But only 50% of the youth have been trained since starting their careers. Among the above-mentioned trainings, half of them are funded by employers while 30% are paid by themselves. When asked about whether they agree “The youth are more competitive in the job market”, less than 30% interviewees gave the positive answer.

**3. The youth’s income needs to be raised resulting in huge gap between metropolis and countryside.**

Statistics show that the annual income per capita of city youth workers is ¥46,100 in 2014, with the median at ¥40,000, higher than the average disposable income of city residents per year about ¥28,800 with the median ¥26,600 based on the data released by National Bureau of Statistics of the P.R.C. But such advantages seem less obvious if the costs of getting married, child raising, looking after the old and individual development are considered. So there are only 40% youth workers satisfied with their income. Among the 10 cities, Beijing tops the list of incomes earned annually by individual youth worker about ¥69,500, followed by Shanghai about ¥63,100 and Guangzhou about ¥64,300, with Harbin at the end, ¥43,200 lower than Beijing.

**4. The job-hopping rate of the youth is relative low but self-fulfillment should be highlighted in the near future.**

The respondents in the research have an average of five years' work experience, with the job-changing rate kept at 0.56 times in the last 3 years. And 70% claimed no job-hopping experience in the 3 years, less than 20% changing their jobs once. 70% interviewees are content with their job stability; 50% can manage their workload, and more than 60% are optimistic about their career development. However, only 10% or so are reported to reach their full potentials, and 40% claiming their potentials realized to some extent. Lower than 10% interviewees think



their work can bring them great opportunities to their individual growth, and less than 30% stating limited chances given by their work. Over 30% think that their work discourages them from getting family and social respect.

#### **5. Employment security of youth employment strengthened but unfairness still exists.**

70% of the youth have signed work contracts with their employers, including a fixed work period. Over 70% enjoy part or all of “5 insurances and 1 fund”. However, it remains the problem that legal protection, public service, social welfare and other resources is inadequately covered and unevenly distributed. Among young workers without signing any contracts, the number of migrant workers who come from countries is 10% more than those come from cities. As to social care entitlement rate, the former is 30% below the latter. Only 30% of the youth across the country think the local job market fair. Talking about the normalization of youth job market, Chongqing, Shanghai and Beijing are the top three. Chongqing, Tianjin and Shanghai succeed others in terms of social insurance. The entitlement rate of “5 insurances and 1 fund” is as high as 60% in Chongqing, 26% higher than Harbin, the last one.

#### **6. The influence of the youth on society is still weak and the balance between work and life needs to be adjusted.**

70% of the youth interviewed claimed their companies having work unions, nearly 70% of which hold meetings or activities regularly. But only 20% hold that their work unions have played an important role in rights protection. 40% report that their companies adopt wages collective negotiation system. Among the 10 cities, 60% of the youth in Tianjin identify with the role of work unions in the improvement of work relations, followed by Shanghai and Harbin, with Wuhan in the last. Half of the interviewees complain about the overwhelming workload and show their concern about work even at spare time, and only 40% regard their workload acceptable. Youth from Xi'an are found to be positive contrasted with those from Shanghai in terms of dealing with work and life relations.

#### **7. The huge gap about youth employment satisfaction index still exist among different cities.**

The employment satisfaction spiritually reflects the quality of employment. To observe it systemically, the research group provided 16 subjective indexes based on the above 6 dimensions. It is found that the average satisfaction index in China is 8.074. The top 4 cities are from east China, namely, Tianjin (8.627), Guangzhou (8.321), Beijing (8.184) and Shanghai (8.159), followed by cities from west China, Chongqing (8.024) and Xi'an (8.006). Northeast cities like Harbin and Shenyang rank 7th and 9th while cities from central China, such as Zhengzhou (7.888) and Wuhan (7.726), at the 8th and 10th.

### **8. The start-up environment needs to be improved under the circumstances of youth's strong desire to start business.**

50% of the interviewees think it is optimistic for the youth to start their own business. Over 40% of the youth workers plan to start business in a year, and the number of those who either having initiated or prepared to do so is about 20%. The top 3 cities, home to business starters, are Harbin, Shenyang and Tianjin, while the last 3 are Beijing, Shanghai and Chongqing. The number of young business starters in Chongqing is 23% less than those in Harbin. When it comes to the field of entrepreneurship, 40% choose those they are interested in, with 20% giving capital and risks priority, less than 20% highlighting their specialties, and about 10% based on the future trends. More than 60% decides to start start-up in the city they live, of them only 40% thinking the local entrepreneurship environment acceptable. 3.1% goes to small towns with promising future, 0.7% to the west and remote areas supported by the government and 3.8% to Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan and foreign countries.

It can be seen from the data that the current youth, as “digital and international natives”, hold different opinions about accomplishments, career development, employment protection, and work-life balance from other generations. Their “closeness” to new ideas, the state of art techniques, and effective organization mode encourages them to make breakthrough in entrepreneurship and social interaction. This trend forces cities to realize the employment target, improve the employment quality by transforming the traditional “inefficient labor-cost development mode” and achieving the transition from “job-seeking” to “decent work”. This requires:

#### **1. Less misunderstanding, more agreement and faster implementation**

Some enterprises, governments and people simply frame the “Decent Work” proposed by the International Labor Organization as high salary, fancy dress and comfortable work environment. There are even fears of the consequences brought by the related policies, like the negative effect on individual investment, work enthusiasm and cities competition. This misunderstanding slows down our transition to “decent work”.

To individuals, “Decent Work” refers to the growth of one’s techniques, value and potentials with the rights protected. To cities, it refers to more employment opportunities, better organization and services, more united job market, more investment on human resources, fair job competition, harmonious labor relations, the build-up of startup environment of international competitiveness and related support systems. More investment about the improvement of employment quality should pour into the society, rather than regarding the expense as non-productive “cost”. And the investment on the youth is essential to China, for we are facing new challenges, like “The New Normal” and “Comprehensive Reformation”.

## **2. The coordination of governments, enterprises, social organizations and the youth**

City governments, as a leading player in the work to raise the youth employment quality, should not just stimulate the enthusiasm of the youth, but also cooperate with schools, enterprises, work unions and society. Governments should put its focus on the employment quality, instead of quantity. The youth should make full preparation, strengthen their capability, and set high targets. Enterprises should show concern about the income, work condition, welfare and other material needs of the employees, and their psychological needs, to be a responsible member of the society. Work unions should supervise governments and employers and protect the rights of employees. It is hoped that the “decent work” can be achieved, encouraging people to respect work, innovate and pursue justice. In a word, let the youth enjoy the work and realize their value and furthermore “Chinese Dream”.

*Translated by Xu Hong*

*Report No. 5*

# **Philanthropy Participation of Urban Youth: An Impetus to Social Transformation and Development**

Shanghai Youth Research Center | Liu Hongsen, Ren Yuan, Cai Shuang, Lu Ye, Lu Jiezhou

Philanthropy refers to the activities of communal products yielding social benefits and interests, which includes not only traditional philanthropy such as donations and support, but also commonweal activities such as environmental protection, education, culture and healthcare. Philanthropy behavior, germinated in civil society, is a crucial factor to promote the transformation and development of society and is an important symbol of social civilization progress. In today's China, philanthropy action has become common behavior choice, value pursuit and new fashion for more and more social members. Urban youth actively participate in philanthropy action, which has already become an indispensable force in the development of China's philanthropy. However, how well are Chinese youth's cognition, behavior and value of philanthropy? What challenges, difficulties and influential factors they are confronting? How to maintain their enthusiasm for philanthropy and promote its sustainable development?

Recently, Shanghai Youth Research Center made a survey on the participating level of philanthropy of 9682 urban youth from 10 domestic cities in the east, middle and west of China, namely Beijing, Tianjin, Chongqing, Guangzhou, Zhengzhou, Harbin, Xi'an, Shenyang, Wuhan and Shanghai.

## **1. Main Conclusion**

### **1.1 Prominent correlation between personal quality of urban youth and philanthropy behavior**

Personal quality is mainly comprised of several variables such as education level, economic status and family background. Research shows there is a significant positive correlation between personal quality of urban youth and their willingness and behaviors in philanthropy service. Personal quality including their and their parents' education level, individual and family income is an important factor influencing participation intention and behavior of urban youth. The better educational

level and family income they have, the more social resources and strengths they master. Therefore, they are more capable of participating in social affairs such as philanthropy, also more likely to achieve self-efficacy from sustained participation.

### **1.2 Different public participation platforms get mixed notices, and the Youth League and grassroots organizations are the most trusted.**

In the survey “which way of participating in philanthropy do you prefer”, the urban youth ranged the items from high to low according to how much they recognize, which are followed by “philanthropy activities organized by work units or schools”, “philanthropy activities advocated by the media”, “philanthropy activities called on by the government”, “philanthropy activities sponsored by urban youth” and “philanthropy activities sponsored by NGOs”. This result tallies with that of the survey “How to acquire the information of public service”. They have the similar sequence: “university league committee and students union”, “traditional media such as TV and newspapers, network media and we-media”, “peer group from classmates and friends”, “volunteer association organized spontaneously” and “NGO”. Meanwhile, the credibility of public participation platform for urban youth is ranked as follows: the Youth League Organizations, grassroots philanthropy organizations, official philanthropy organizations as well as those with government background.

The main causes of the sequencing are “official background” and “governmental color” reflected in the philanthropy development of our country. Meanwhile, the negative information exposed by some official philanthropy organizations or philanthropy organizations with official background weakens the public trust to a certain extent; while League Organizations have obvious advantage of mobilizing young people and organizing philanthropy activities in recent years and therefore get higher approval of the vast number of urban youth.

### **1.3 The NGO is relatively in a weak position; their mobilization ability needs to be enhanced**

The non-governmental organization is in a relatively weak position in public information dissemination, organizational capacity, and social influence. Main causes lie in the following aspects: First of all, without independent status and identity, the ability for NGO to integrate resources is severely limited; second, it is hard for non-governmental organization

to release public information like the official or semi-official organization through large news media or administrative organization. NGO is also lack of innovation ability of public information dissemination, making it difficult to attract teenager groups who tend to use the new medium efficiently; Third, civil organizations emphasize their own sociality, preference of freedom and informal way of behavior and the organization construction is loosely organized and informal, which results in restricting its activity ability to a great extent; Fourth, non-governmental organizations lack government's credit guarantee and are in the innately weak position in the aspect of social influence. Many non-governmental organizations pay little attention to brand construction, affecting the spread of its good social image.

#### **1.4 A certain gap between cognition and practice of philanthropy of urban youth**

The identity with philanthropy value and its idea of youth group is relatively higher, but its frequency to participate in philanthropy activities is not high. There is a disconnection between cognition and behavior. The reasons are as follows:

Firstly, they have relatively narrow understandings of philanthropy connotation. Public philosophy and public value not only manifest the common popular concept "as long as there is an opportunity, I am willing to participate in philanthropy activities", and not only mean helping vulnerable groups. It also reflected in their daily life and habits such as thrifty, environment protection of youth groups, etc. For example, most of the teenagers recognized they had such behaviors as "to use of disposable chopsticks", "not to turn off the lights", "not to bring their own shopping bags", etc.

Secondly, the fixed mode of thinking about the image of public organization still exists. Due to the frequent negative news of public organizations in recent years, it is very difficult for young people to distinguish the relationship between the scandals of some philanthropic organization and the whole philanthropy organizations; hence they formed certain stereotyped images of official and semi-official organization. Because of its immaturity, civil common wealth organization fail to provide adequate public practice space for youth groups beyond the official or semi-official organization.

Thirdly, the philanthropy practice is interfered by the factors of non-philanthropy. Non-philanthropy factors refer to utilitarian elements. Research shows that under the condition of utilitarian, the rate of philanthropy participation is higher, conversely the result is not.

### **1.5 City status is a crucial factor affecting philanthropy intention and behavior of urban youth**

The survey shows that being an external environmental factor, "city" has a significant impact on philanthropy willingness and behavior of urban youth. The urban adolescents' credibility of philanthropy activities and willingness of philanthropy undertakings in the developed eastern regions was significantly higher than that in the central and western regions, but overall their public service behavior was not significantly higher correspondingly.

## **II Suggestions**

Promoting the urban youth's participation level of philanthropy is of vital significance for improving their healthy growth and developing the construction of harmonious society. We will elaborate from five aspects: value consensus, organization coordination, and participation in innovation, code of conduct and performance evaluation.

### **2.1 Agglomeration consensus of philanthropy**

Aggregating consensus of philanthropy refers to the implementation of consensus to the value of philanthropy spirit of urban youth groups. Three pairs of relationships need to be straightened out: the first is the relationship between emotion spurt and rational spirit. Philanthropy activities are always related with the emotional factors, but youth groups also need to enhance the level of rational cognition on the philanthropy. Youth groups should improve the rational cognition level of philanthropy through the course, discussion and training of philanthropy; the second is the relationship between altruism and selfishness. In the dissemination of philanthropy value, it is necessary to emphasize the relationship between adolescent group's improvement of their own and philanthropy, and simultaneously make efforts to optimize the philanthropy association with utilitarian to help teenagers establish true value of philanthropy; the third is the relationship between philanthropy and social morality and social responsibility. Social morality and social responsibility are the

basis of social philanthropy. The public view is the sublimation based on social morality and social responsibility. It makes great sense not only to encourage youth groups to form the public view, also to propagate the basic social morality and social responsibility to them.

## **2.2 Integration philanthropy organization**

In the present society, folk, grassroots and unofficial, non-governmental philanthropy organizations in a scattered, repetitive and disorder situation, arise in large numbers. It is necessary and inevitable to coordinate and integrate them. Here are some suggestions:

Firstly, it is required to transform government functions from “omnipotent” to “service-oriented” to realize cooperation and standardization of the relationship between philanthropy organizations and government; secondly, philanthropy organization platform should be built including semi-government, non-governmental and grassroots organizations to provide the sufficient conditions for cooperation, coordination and integration of different organizations; thirdly, common weal brand projects should be created with meticulous effort, aiming at the new generation of urban youth preference for brand activities.

## **2.3 Innovation in approaches to philanthropy**

Innovation in approaches to philanthropy mainly refers to public objects' selection, activities process, and the change, development and enrichment of specific forms. The "philanthropy innovation workshop" designed by Horizon Research Consultancy Group can be used as reference. That is "based on the elaborate design of participator, the theme, time and space of the activity, with the aid of some tools, the participants discuss adequately the communication and interaction around a specific problem to be resolved, and finally pull out of the specific solutions. Three problems need to be considered carefully. The first one is that display the youth's subjective initiative and make every member can put forward their own views and actively implement them, rather than just passively accept the task; the second is that let teenagers choose object groups or common topics autonomously, which can be turned into actionable philanthropy projects; The third is that encourage all kinds of innovations for technology and activity form.

## **2.4 Regulation on practice of philanthropy**



Regulation on practice of philanthropy implies that philanthropy should be promoted in a legitimate and reasonable direction. It not only aims at the different subjects of philanthropy, but covers all the participants in philanthropy. The first is to normalize the relationship between the government and the social commonweal organizations. The government makes every effort to broaden social space of the activities for philanthropy organization providing institutional guarantee for its legal operation; the second is to standardize the enterprises' behaviors of philanthropy activities and marketing. Government, philanthropy organizations, enterprises and the relevant philanthropy participants formulate jointly the marketing standards and operational norms of philanthropy, aiming to establish a set of marketing selection mechanism for enterprises.

## **2.5 Consolidation of performance evaluation**

Performance evaluation mainly consist of two aspects: one is to evaluate philanthropy behavior and its effective implementation; the other is to sort out the influencing factors of philanthropy organization performance.

Firstly, we should refine the target of philanthropy activities and establish the evaluation criteria of quantitative and qualitative. It is necessary to set the assessors to assess the implementation of philanthropy according to the related plan. Moreover, we ought to launch feedback survey around specific groups or common problems after the philanthropy activities, including qualitative interviews and quantitative measurement.

Secondly, focusing on teenager groups' own characteristics, we have inclined to analyze and grasp several factors affecting the performance of philanthropy from material and non-material aspects such as the psychological, value, preference, personal capital and subsidies , etc.

Philanthropy participation of urban youth is a new phenomenon in recent years, and is the important driving factor of social transformation and development. It is of vital significance to intensify the research in depth. Our future missions and striving direction are to pay close attention to and have insightful analysis of various kinds of new phenomena and problems, and explore the research methods continuously.

*Translated by Huang Houpeng*

*Report No. 5*

## Urban Youth Phubbers' Use of Social Media

Shanghai Youth Research Center | Zhu Chunlan, Fang Hui, Ding Xuanhong, Lu Huizhi,  
Zhang Gongting, Li Gang, Qiu Minlei

### I. Phubbing: a way of life of youth

With the urbanization, industrialization, modernization and rapid development of society, the era of “one person, one cell phone” has come into being. There is a profound revolution in people’s ways of life, and subsequently, a great majority of people have become phubbers who always lower their head to browser the cell phones and snub others. And with the popularity of intelligent mobile devices and the promotion of application software in the era of new media, one spends more and more time in such social network platforms as Wechat and Microblog. The youth who are much active in new media network have been greatly influenced by new media anywhere and anytime as they would lower their head and browse their cell phones while they are walking, taking the metro or bus, getting together with friends and even in the toilets.

Phubbing gradually elicits many a health problem to the young. Phubbing, an urban persistent n, is one of the main causes leading to death, diseases and disabilities and has become a social problem posing a threat to human survival and health. Study shows that the advancement of intelligent cell phones network has brought many conveniences to people’s daily life. But, if overused, lots of harms will occur simultaneously like concentration troubles and low efficiency in work and study. If one is over-indulged in cell phones, there would emerge some psychological blocks like solitude personalities and apatheia, which would result in less communication with friends and family members, hinder normal interpersonal interaction, and even worse, generate interpersonal communication barriers. Due to furious social competition, overloading work and study stress as well as spreading of various electronic entertainments, more and more urban youth have been overwhelmed by phubbing step by step.

Shanghai Youth Research Center has focused on the phenomenon of youth phubbers and investigated the current situation and impact of youth phubbing by means of large-scale positive research, questionnaires, case interview and comparative study. It is discovered that quite a number of

youth have a vague cognition of the bad influence of phubbing on their physical and psychological health. Around half of them are willing to eliminate the negative effects resulted by phubbing and take immediate action. The majorities of youth have become phubbers and take far little exercises, which undoubtedly affected youth health in terms of balanced development, emotional health, communication behavior and interpersonal relationship. The center has appealed to better the system of physical health policy, form the multi-development pattern of physical health and establish the long-term multi-supervision mechanism of physical health, and also, to improve youth physical and psychological health from four perspectives --- school guide, family nurture, communicating and cooperating between family and school as well as psychological counseling.

## **II. Phubbing: a strong influence on youth physical and mental health.**

As is known, youth are the constructive talents of our country and youth health is closely related to the future of themselves and that of our country. The more deep and comprehensive the youth recognize the situations around them, the more reasonable and scientific their emotion would be. Their willpower would be stronger, and their action would be more self-conscious. But the truth is that phubbers haven't realized the damage brought by long-term use of cell phones or Ipad. Therefore, phubbing already has exerted a strong impact on youth physical and psychological health and would exert bad effect on the future of the kids, and even the future construction and development of our country if unadjusted timely.

### **i. Youth lacking clear recognition of phubbing and getting indulged**

A large number of youth indulge in phubbing who lack adequate recognition of phubbing's negative effect on their own health. To be more exact, they know little about the threat of phubbing on their physical and mental health. The investigation shows that the duration of phubbing varies among phubbers, a percentage of 43.8 phubbing more than one year. Most of youth have no clear awareness of whether they themselves belong to phubbing or not. Obviously, the youth lack clear understanding of phubbing and enough recognition of the potential threat of it.

### **ii. Phubbing: exerting a negative impact on youth physical health**

Influence on youth physical form. Around 30% of in-service youth, social

youth and students are inclined to obesity and 5% of youth are really obese. There is one to third of phubbers regard themselves as obesity.

Influence on youth somatic function. Among social youth, clerks and professional and technical workers have a comparatively bad health; among in-service youth, agricultural workers and professional and technical workers are not in good shape.

Influence on youth physical quality. There is only a small number of youth take part in medium or high intensity physical activities, and a number of 30% have never participated in any kinds of physical activities. One fourth to one third of in-service youth never take part in any physical activities. They are phubbing for quite a long time every day, which results in weak of cervical spine and neck muscle force and as well as blood circulation problems.

### **iii. Phubbing: influence youth mental health**

Phubbing influences youth mental health such as emotional health, interpersonal attitude, communication behavior and interpersonal relationship etc.

Influence on emotional health. Over 50% of youth will be anxious if they forget to take cell phones with them, and 30% of them would be rather anxious. Therefore, phubbing has exerted negative impact on half of youth's emotional health.

Influence on interpersonal attitude. 50% of youth would browse their cell phones or ipad even when dating; 13.1% of them would always do so all the way. Therefore, phubbing has exerted negative impact on half of youth's interpersonal attitude.

Influence on communication behavior. There are 37.3% youth cutting down time in getting along with their relatives and friends because of the use of cell phones or ipad. Therefore, phubbing has exerted negative impact on more than 50% of youth's communication behavior.

Influence on interpersonal relationship. It is investigated that above 50% of youth have encountered interpersonal troubles because of the use of cell phones or ipad. Therefore, phubbing has exerted negative impact on half of youth's interpersonal relationship.

### **III. Suggestions to urban youth on use of new media network**

### **i. Strengthen youth physique to improve their physical health**

Optimize the implementation environment of physique health policy. First, fully analyze the causes for youth physique health problems in China and learn from the foreign experiences so as to elevate sports to a high level as that of health care and social security. Second, upgrade the educational goal of cultivating men of tools to that of men of integrated development; based on cultivating life-time sports awareness and sports abilities and guided by the State Council, establish and implement youth health policy by means of the cooperation among multi-disciplinaries and various fields with an aim to promote policy objectives and policy recognitions.

Form multi-development pattern of physical health. Firstly, establish a collaborative mechanism which covers a wide range of systems like sports, health and education to give a full play to group strength and cooperate with one another, trying to avoid confusion of authority and responsibility. Secondly, put youth exercise intervention, nourishment diet and psychological adjustment into effect in the light of local conditions. Take the features of youth physical and psychological development into full consideration, guide the youth to develop the awareness and habit of sport exercises, assist youth in obtaining advantageous experiences from sports activities, facilitate the change of youth lifestyle and integrate sports into their life in order to restrain the tendency of phubbing. Thirdly, put up a series of policies and systems to create a student-friendly social environment to ensure the smooth implementation of youth health promotion.

Realize the organic sharing of sports resources. Firstly, make full use of national policy of nationwide fitness sport industry and actively carry out the construction of such sports complex as community recreation activity centers, athletic clubs and fitness services. Secondly, introduce modern scientific technology into youth health promotion estimation and management system and take full advantage of data information by means of building up network systems of supervision and management and data resource platforms. Thirdly, timely report dynamic information of students' physical health in order to keep the schools and parents well-informed of the development track of students' change of pathological sign to form efficient mechanism supervision, evaluation and management

of youth health promotion with a purpose to maximize the value of health promotion.

**ii. Interact multi-variantly to improve youth mental health.**

Schools guide. The school should be highly alert to the youth phubbers. Firstly, cognition adjustment: schools should spare no efforts and take the responsibility to assist students in the awareness establishment of phubbing posing a threat to their physical and mental health in terms of special topic lectures, group activities and class meetings. Secondly, emotion management: by ways of group activities release and relaxation training to eliminate negative moods, avoid indulging in negative ways of life like network games. Thirdly, behavior training: teachers could make use of psychological consultation of group, impart to the youth the basic skills of interpersonal communication and make them appreciate the joy of real interpersonal communication.

Families care. Firstly, Parents should spare no efforts to create a favorable family atmosphere. Only if the parents offer the youth warm care from their childhood can the youth establish the safe mode of interpersonal relationship so as to refrain from indulging in visional network communication. Secondly, parents themselves would better set a model for their children. Parents should keep emotional communication with the old as well as the young in daily life and care about their emotional needs and restrain themselves from being a phubber. Thirdly, parents should set rules for children's use of network. Since it is impossible to keep away from network under the situation of new media, parents are advised to prefer guide the youth to restrain them. For this reason, parents could negotiate with youth about the duration and limits of daily use of cell phones and ipad.

Youths self-discipline. As their self-awareness has developed into a comparatively high level, youth are quite capable of controlling their network behavior themselves. Youth should fully stimulate their subjective initiatives and earn a rational and scientific attitude to cell phones and computers in their study and life. Meanwhile, youth should regulate the reasonable use of cell phones and computers and set a plan for time management so as to keep away from addicting to network. Also, they could take advantage of transference of attention to seek for and take part in activities which appear attractive and meaningful to them so as to

restrain the impulse on phubbing.

*Translated by Zhu Dan*

*Report No. 7*

## **The Current Situation of Urban Youth Rights Protection and the Construction of Its Support System**

Shanghai Youth Research Center | Zhao Wen, GE Feng, Liu Genhua, LI Qinqin, Yu Xiaoxin, Yang Jiangnan

Safeguarding the lawful rights and interests and development of the youth is not only a top concern for their healthy growth, but also an inevitable demand for building a harmonious socialist society. With sustained economic growth and all-round social progress, our urban youth's lawful rights to subsistence, development, participation and protection have been fully guaranteed, which play an effectively part in promoting youth's comprehensive development. Currently, due to the profound changes of urban youth in living environment, state of mind and demands for rights and interests, many new situations have appeared in the youth's rights and interests protection. Specific features are as follows:

**First, the youth group has strong will and sense to safeguard their rights and interests, but problems like disunity or gap between cognition and practice still exist.**

In general, more than 80 percent of urban youth agree that awareness of safeguarding rights and interests according to law should be established in the market economy. Specifically, urban social youth accounted for 82.4 percent of the attitude "strongly agree" or "quite agree", working youth accounted for 87.1 percent, and school youth accounted for 83.0 percent. In terms of regions, urban youth from central and western areas relatively give more support to the idea of safeguarding rights and interests according to law than the youth from other areas.

Though with strengthened will and sense of safeguarding their rights and interests, urban youth still have problems of disunity or disconnection between cognition and practice. Less than one-third of the youth resort to rights and interests protection whenever their legitimate rights and interests have been infringed. In terms of regions, school and working the youth in eastern areas are relatively less likely than the youth in other areas to advocate the idea of safeguarding rights and interests according to law as well as making it into practice.

**Second, though the youth have various ways to acquire the knowledge**



**of safeguarding their rights and interests, the condition of receiving education on rights and interests protection according to law is not very optimistic.**

Nowadays, urban youth can acquire knowledge on rights and interests protection from various sources——traditional media such as television and newspapers, new media such as the Internet, MicroBlog and Wechat, education from school and family, and organizations of the Communist the youth League. Among all sources above, mass media and school education are regarded as two main one for most of the youth.

The proportion of urban youth who have received education on rights and interests protection according to law is not very high——60 percent in school the youth group, while less in working and social the youth group. In terms of regions, urban youth from central and western areas have been much better educated with the knowledge on rights and interests protection according to law than the youth from other areas.

**Third, infringement on the youth's rights and interests is mainly related to consumption, property and personal safety. When infringement take place, the youth mainly turn to families, friends and judicial offices for help.**

Consumption, property and personal safety are three main areas where urban youth rights and interests are often infringed on. More school youth than working and social youth are affected both on personal safety and the right to receive education.

When they need to seek help from relevant organizations and institutions for infringement on their legitimate rights and interests, urban youth of both social and working will most likely turn to judicial organizations (Public Security Bureaus, People's Procuratorates and People's Courts), then the government public access offices, social organizations (trade unions, the Communist Youth League organs and women's federations), or our Party. For school youth, most will seek help from their families and friends, teachers and classmates, the police, 12355 hotline or rights and interests protection offices, lawyers in Legal Assistance Centers, or just violence. In general, it can be seen that the youth seek help mainly from families, friends and judicial organizations when facing rights and interests infringement.

**Fourth, about 80 percent youths hold the view that the current legal system still has weakness on the youth's rights and interests protection and the youth's offences prevention. They approve of the initiative to construct a support system for the youth to safeguard their rights and interests.**

About 80 percent of urban youth think that the current legal system cannot perfectly safeguard their rights and interests and prevent the youth from committing offences. This viewpoint has more supporters in working and social youth group than in school youth group. In terms of regions, youth supporters who are in favor of this view are relatively fewer in eastern areas than youth supporters in other areas

Over 80 percent of urban youth support the viewpoint that it is of high necessity to construct a social support system for the youth's rights and interests protection. This idea receives more approval in social and working youth group than school youth group. In terms of regions, in general there is more approval of the construction of support system from central and western areas than approval from eastern areas.

Under this situation, building a perfect support system for the youths to safeguard their legitimate rights is very essential. Specific measures can be taken as follows,

**First, more improvement should be made in the current justice system on the youth's rights and interests protection and the youth's offences prevention. Therefore, it can provide a conceptual clarity in relevant rights protection cases for the youth as well as the subjects that provide protection for the youth.**

Specific improvements which are necessary and critical in every aspects of the youth's rights and interests protection are as follows: in terms of the right to development, more policy support like tax policy should be offered from the government to mass media as the encouragement for those institutions which spread positive belief to the youth and have good influences on them; in terms of the right to protection, a definite regulation should be enacted on how to help the minors who become victims in offences return life to normal, with clear accountability of multi-parts such as guardians, schools, governments, communities, etc.; in terms of the right to participation, more engagement should be open

to minors, especially in the principle making process in schools, which means students' advice should be taken into consideration when new principles are made.

On the part of minors' self-protection, Section 3 of Article 6 of Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Minors states that the State, society, schools and families shall educate and help minors to safeguard their lawful rights and interests by legal means, enhance their awareness and capacity of self-protection, and strengthen their sense of social responsibility. However, this legal provision should further clarify the respective responsibilities of all the multi-parts which are mentioned in it. Apart from that, it should also need to provide a expressly statement saying that departments concerned have the obligations to organize or hire professionals to enact and implement various plans or programs on how to improve minors' self-protection capacity. They are also obliged to evaluate those plans or programs regularly afterwards to keep them in effectiveness.

Currently, there is no procedural law, substantive law, constitutive law or disposal act in our country in handling cases concerning juvenile criminals. The process of making related legislations should be accelerated, in particular new laws and regulations concerning the judgment and treatment act of minors' offences: first, perfect the current legislation system of substantive law——modify current penal law on the basis of in-depth research, and enact a separate law named Juvenile Penal Law when the conditions are ready; second, establish a procedural law system——enact a law named Juvenile Case Processing Act on the basis of existing procedures, laws and regulations; third, build a constitutive law system, for instance, the Juvenile Court Act; fourth, construct a legal system in handling cases concerning non-penalty, for instance, the Juvenile Security Punishment Act.

**Second, integrate social resources to establish a sound justice mechanism for the youth's rights and interests protection with the participation and mutual collaboration of multiple subjects that provide protection for the youth.**

Institutional arrangements of the youth's rights and interests protection should be taken as a breakthrough to integrate social resources and establish a sound justice system for the youth's rights and interests

protection with the participation and mutual collaboration of multiple subjects. Necessary work can be divided two aspects: organizational rights protection and social rights protection. Organizational rights protection refers to the process of satisfying the needs of the youth on their rights and interests step by step and solving problems on the youth's rights and interests under the unified leadership of the Party committees and governments, on the basis of the organizational network of Communist Youth League and working system, as well as by the support of organizational systems and workforce of departments concerned. Social rights and interests protection on the other hand means to provide direct rights and interests protection service for the youth with the Communist The youth League at all levels as its core by mobilizing every social force and by utilizing and attracting all types of social resources. When these two types are in implementation, legitimate and effective system of the youth's rights and interests protection should be constructed accordingly in terms of the different development requirements of the youth from different regions as well as with different features.

In order to build a social network for the youth's rights and interests protection and create a comprehensive platform for serving the youth, efforts should be made mainly in three aspects: first, strengthen the social organization construction for the youth's rights and interests protection. More concrete measures may include building an organizational network for the youth's rights and interests protection with "Minors Protection Office" and "Juvenile Crime Prevention Office" as its core and with 12355 hotline and the websites on the youth rights and interests protection as its support; second, strengthen the social bases construction for the youth's rights and interests protection, which may means to build a base network with full coverage of the youth's rights and interests protection through the construction of the youth rights protection offices; Third, strengthen the social team construction for the youth's rights and interests protection, which will include building a the youth's rights and interests protection team under the guidance of the Party and government, with the participation of various organizations(Public Security Bureaus, People's Procuratorates, People's Courts, the Communist The youth League organs and women's federations), and the combination of professional and part-time groups. In particular, the quality of professional community teams that specializes in dealing with the youth's affairs should be further

improved, so as to promote the building of better volunteer teams for the youth's rights and interests protection.

**Third, improve the youth's legal sense, strengthen their capacity of safeguarding their rights and interests, and build a complete system for law-related education and rights and interests protection education that involves all the youth.**

First, schools should be the main base to further promote law publicity and education. More content on rights and interests should be added into school's foundation courses in order to strengthen the youth's education on legal knowledge and improve their legal awareness and capacity of rights and interests protection. It can also be taken into consideration that the KPI(Key Performance Indicator) of education authorities and school leaders will be evaluated according to the youth's level of knowing, understanding, obeying and applying of law. This idea aims at keeping the systematic and long-term effectiveness of the youth's law education on rights and interests protection. Meanwhile, law education can be integrated in a proper way with education from family, from community and from media to further explore the ways of educating the youth's on rights and interests. Much attention should be paid in the whole process that it should be closely and practically associated with the youth's life, work and study on content, and it should be rich and diversified, interesting and educative in form, thus the effectiveness of law education on rights and interests protection can be better enhanced.

Second, mass media and education should be given full play to their guiding influences. Mass media, especially various kinds of new media, with its distinctive features such as wide range of sources, sharp sensibility, timely communication, broad spreading and considerable audience, is regarded as an efficient communication platform for the youth's education on rights and interests protection, as well as an important support to for the youth's lawful rights and interests protection. Therefore, the mainstream media should listen to the youth and truly understand their requirements for their rights and interests. Meanwhile, the mainstream media should also strengthen their cooperation with the organizations of the Communist Youth League, schools and law-enforcement departments to provide strong public opinion support and spiritual power for the youth's self-protection of rights and interests. Moreover, they should also greatly promote law publicity and education,

in order to enhance the youth's awareness and capacity to safeguard their rights and interests.

Third, law consulting offices in the Communist Youth League, communities and schools should be founded and perfected at all levels. Main functions of those law consulting offices may include: responsible for law publicity and education work to the youth, for raising their legal awareness, and for fully improving their legal capacity; offer free legal consulting services and organize activities related to law study including training courses, knowledge sharings, Q&As and typical cases analysis, which are useful ways to safeguard the youth's lawful rights and interests and also ease the tensions of all kinds; study the features and rules of effective protection of the youth's lawful rights and interests and other relevant work under the new situation. With the effectiveness and achievements made by the law consulting offices, the youth can learn law knowledge on rights and interests protection at any time and any place, thus their sense and capacity of safeguarding their own rights and interests can be fully and better improved.

*Translated by Liu Shichang*

# Promoting Theoretical Innovation and Academic Development for the Rule of Law in China

Qian Hongdao, Zhejiang University

The Rule of Law in China is a profoundly great social practice which requires epoch-making Chinese legal theories. The theories on the rule of law must be able to timely respond and guide the operation of the law. In short of a set of mature theories and strategies concerning the rule of law, it will be hard for China to proceed with the construction of the rule of law. It is a prerequisite for China's rule of law that we foster a theoretical system and academia with Chinese characteristics. It is also an important benchmark measuring the level of rule of law in China and an important way for China to strengthen its influence in the global legal environment.

**Firstly, it is significant for China to boost theoretical innovation and academic development under rule of law.**

In “CPC Central Committee’s Decision on Some Major Issues Concerning Deepening Reform”, it provides that it is a major reform target to “promote the building of the rule of law in China”. Based on the theme of law-governed China, the Fourth Plenary Session of the CPC will lay out a grand blueprint on boosting the rule of law in China. This is undoubtedly a challenge for the theories of the rule of law in China. A series of major problems arising in the legal practice are in need of timely arguments and explanations from the theorists. We cannot find ready-made answers from our ancestors or classical Marxism writers. And we should not copy all from the law-related theory and practice in Western countries. So we must tailor-make and create theories of our own.

After summarizing a series of practices based on “Law-ruled China” and “Law-ruled Zhejiang”, put forward by General Secretary Xi Jinping, the scholars have proposed a significant academic concept – the Rule of Law Practice School in China, attracting much attention at home and abroad. This school takes the rule of law in China as the object of study in an effort to explore the legal development in China and to build a theoretical framework for the rule of law. Adopting experiment, practice, and empirical study as the methods, this school focuses on the reality and the pragmatic effects of the research. It is a name for an academic group

## Introduction>>

The theoretical innovation on the rule of law in China should be collaboratively promoted through specific practices, extensive exchanges and joint efforts. The Rule of Law Practice School in China endeavors to establish ideologies, theories, system, style and features that are unique to the country.

with Chinese characteristics, Chinese style and Chinese essence. It is a China-based school studying the rule of law with practical methods and international vision.

This school is an outstanding representative of the academic ideological and theoretical system in a specific area and a specific period. China is in need of its own ideologies, theories and schools under the rule of law. The development of academic groups is a natural outcome of the building of theories on the rule of law. Without schools of the science of law with Chinese characteristics, Chinese style, and Chinese essence, the rule of law in China will not be a success. The forming and evolving of schools is a sign of the prosperity and maturity of legal study and the theories on the rule of law in China. It also signifies that the practice of the rule of law in China has reached a certain level. Therefore, it is of great significance that the central government strongly supports the innovation of the rule of law theories and academic development with Chinese characteristics, Chinese style, and Chinese essence. It is suggested that the central government should organize the scholars to systematically summarize and sort out existing theories on the rule of law in China, study all related subject matters involved in the Third and Fourth Plenary Session, in an attempt to bring forth a more mature theoretical system on the rule of law in China as soon as possible.

**Secondly, It is suggested that the scholars should innovate the theories on the rule of law by taking actions.**

On February 8th, 2006, Mr. Xi Jinping made a special trip to Yuhang District, Hangzhou to investigate and study “the rule of law in Zhejiang”. Then, a group of experts and scholars from, Zhejiang University and other institutions cooperated with Yuhang District and launched the “Systems Engineering for the Rule of law in Yuhang.” Successively unveiled included the first rule of law evaluation system, the rule of law index, judicial transparency index, and e-government development index. The introduction of the rule of law index was shortlisted for “100 Major Events in Zhejiang During the 30 Years of Reform and Opening Up”. Yuhang was then called the ‘National Experimental Field for Rule of Law’. Meng Jianzhu, Politburo member and secretary of the Central Political and Judicial Commission and Zhou Qiang, the Supreme Court justice spoke highly of the innovative and demonstrative value of the



judicial transparency index. The above-mentioned Decision stipulates that we should build a scientific index system and evaluation standards for the building of the rule of law. The Rule of Law Practice School in China was thus established.

The above experience shows that the most reliable and reasonable way for the innovation of theories on the rule of law in China is through practice. Only the theories summarized from the practice can be used to guide the rule of law in China. However, Chinese legal scholarship is seriously out of step with the practice and cannot meet the urgent needs of the rule of law practice in China. This situation must be changed, otherwise it will be a drag on the building of the rule of law. Therefore, we suggest the central government encourage the theorists to go to the real society to create conditions for academic investigation, reform the academic evaluation system and minimize academic bubble. We should advocate, into practice, academic research and create conditions for the reform of academic evaluation mechanism to minimize academic bubble. Stand on the strategic high ground, we should encourage and field investigation and support the scholars to put theories into practice. The scholars should be advocated to study the law in practice and in real situation, so that that can make theoretical innovation on the rule of law.

**Thirdly, we should expand intellectual exchanges on the rule of law with other countries so as to make our voices heard in the world.**

Soft power is starting to dominate the competitions among countries in the world today. The rule of law is the most important intangible asset and soft power of a nation. The level of the rule of law is the core indicator for the evaluation of the modernization of the governance system and ability of a country. A country's soft power is reflected in the competition of the rule of law. And the right to speak on the rule of law is formed in this game. As a significant and influential power, China should be a protagonist in the rule of law competition and should have a strong voice on the rule of law in the world.

The competition in the rule of law is actually institutional as well as ideologically and culturally. In this competition, China should take the initiative. We should make a plan to expand worldwide exchanges in the rule of law to make our voices heard on more occasions in the world. China should cooperate and compete in these exchanges to maximize

the right to speak. In order to win the game, China should have more arenas, more outstanding players and more convincing speech in terms of the rule of law. In this fight over the right to speech, the scholars should take a leading role as they have the responsibility to promptly spread the innovative systems and theories onto the world stage. Academic work is always the most effective way to win the right to speech. And the academic schools are always a powerful force in the spreading of ideas. The schools form an academic portfolio that has a leading edge in unifying the forces, integrating the resources and making a difference.

China takes a path to the rule of law that is different from the western countries. China under the rule of law is destined to be a major topic in the world that will arouse curiosity, attention and questions worldwide. The legal study schools in China should open their eyes to and put themselves in the whole world as well as taking as the goal the right to speak on the rule of law in the world. In some respects, the world is a market of ideas and battlefield of theories. It will demonstrate the momentum of a big power if the Chinese academic schools could carry out fair competition with all the thoughts and schools in the rest of the world and show their own theories on the rule of law to the world. It will also be fruitful if they could learn from others and attract the foreign scholars to study the rule of law in China. Only in this way, can the theories and schools on the rule of law in China deserved to be called with Chinese characteristics, Chinese style, and Chinese essence. We suggest the central departments concerned work on the measures and make plans to create a variety of platforms for the exchange of the rule of law. They should support the schools to form a powerful academic lineup, organize the talents to engage in exchange in the rule of law and organize the publication of English works. In this way, we can seize the initiative in the rule of law in the world.

**Fourthly, we should make joint efforts to promote Rule of Law Practice School in China by collaborative innovation.**

The model for the rule of law in China is characterized by the leading role of the government. But the rule of law cannot be enabled by the government alone. Instead, it should be relying on join forces. Whether it is for the system or theory, collaborative innovation will become the basic pattern for the progressing of the rule of law in China and an inevitable path for the development of legal studies schools in China.

The emergence of the Rule of Law Practice School in China is directly attributable to the collaborative innovation of the “Rule of Law in Zhejiang” introduced by Xi Jinping. The “Rule of Law Index” and other experiments are the results of the cooperation among the theoretical and practical circle, institutions of higher learning and experts from various disciplines. This School is thus established against this background of “Rule of Law in Zhejiang” and based on the collaborative innovation of the “Rule of Law Index”.

The “Rule of Law Index” and other practices prove that collaborative innovation is an effective mode for the rule of law practice and theoretical innovation as well as a viable way to promote the academic development. The building of law-ruled China is a huge project that cannot rely solely on the theoretical or practicing circles but their collaborative innovation. However, the think tank influence of the scholars is not full displayed. The development of the rule of law in various regions is generally in short of scholars’ working. The antinomy phenomenon is prevalent as the government officials lead the rule of law with non-legal ideologies. So the effect of the rule of law construction cannot be exerted to the utmost. We recommend the establishment of think tanks on rule of law from the central to the local governments. The government should bring forth various opportunities, platforms and regimes for collaborative innovation so that the scholars can be directly involved in the decision-making and related practices. The government departments and research institutes should, with their complementary advantages, collaboratively build rule of law research institutions and carry out the subject studies.

The “Rule of Law Index” and other practices also prove that collaborative innovation has nurtured the rule of law practice school in China and timely respond to the requirements of a law-ruled China. Through collaborative innovation, Chinese rule of law practice school has fully demonstrated a synergism. They will unite a large number of experts, scholars and legal practitioners that pay close attention to the rule of law practice and that are dedicated to the exploration of the path for the governing of law as well as that make innovations in the theories of the rule of law in China.

We are now at a major turning point in the history as the time is endowing us with inescapable responsibility concerning the rule of law. It is the

duty of the Chinese rule of law practicing school to summarize the development of contemporary practice of rule of law in China, draw on related experience in human civilization, explore the path for China's rule of law, and contribute theories with Chinese features to the world. The Chinese school will not blindly follow, repeat or echo others. They will endeavor to establish ideas, theories, systems, and styles of their own. Through extensive collaborative innovation, this school studying and practicing the rule of law will flourish. Drawing on the synergism for the governing by law in the whole country, China will successfully explore a new road for the construction of the rule of law in the world.

*Translated By Wang Youping*

# Theoretic Breakthroughs and Innovations of "Comprehensively Promote the Rule of Law" on the 4th Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee

Yang Song, Liaoning University

*Decision of the CPC Central Committee on Major Issues Pertaining to Comprehensively Promoting the Rule of Law* (hereinafter referred to as “the Decision”) made by the 4th Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee, has set forth the general objectives of building the socialist rule of law system with Chinese characteristics and the socialist rule of law country, which is the top-level design for building socialist rule of law country. It should be realized that a profound political reform/restructuring has been starting quietly, and the rule of law is merely the soul and starting point of the political reform. This session will be a milestone in the history of China’s political reform and the history of China’s rule of law, which will start a new course of building a society ruled by law in China.

## I. Theoretic breakthroughs

The communiqué has put forward some innovative ideas regarding the formulation and specific system building of Rule of Law, such as, to rule by constitution and administrate by constitution; to set up major decisions lifelong accountability system and responsibility down search mechanism; to establish the recording, reporting and accountability system of leading cadres’ intervention in the administration of justice and processing of particular case; to start the circuit court in the supreme court, the exploration of set up cross-administrative-division People's Court and the People's Procuratorate, and to establish the system of public interest litigation by prosecutors; take the effectiveness of the rule of law as the measurement of work performance of leadership and leading cadres at all levels and put it into the performance evaluation index system; to be able to comply with the law and administrate according to the law are taken as an important part of the evaluation of cadres. All this is presented for the first time. The theoretic breakthroughs are as follows:

1. The emergence of the concept on “Rule of Law System”. The concept of “Rule of Law System” mentioned in “the Decision” is presented for the first time in history of CPC, which means after the formation of Socialist

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The 4th Plenary Session first presented the concept of “Rule of Law System”, formalized the idea of “Rule the Country by Constitution” and clarified the relationship between “leadership of CPC” and “Rule of Law”. The future institutional innovation on rule of law needs breakthroughs regarding the legislative, executive and judicial powers. Limitations on public power and the methods for such limitations, are the key issues which will be disputed repeatedly within the legal science and political science and that is also the biggest constraint point during the rule of law process.

legal system with Chinese characteristics, a rule by law system is taking shape with scientific legislation, strict law enforcement, judicial justice and comprehensive law mutually connecting, influencing and restricting one another. The traditional static rule of law based on legal system is converting to a dynamic rule of law which is based on rule of law system. The law on paper is transforming to law in life, and the abstract rights to specific claims.

2. Formalized the concept of the rule by constitution. To rule and govern the country with legal thinking means the formalization of the concept of the rule of constitution. As put in “the Decision”, adhering to the rule of Law requires adhering to the rule of constitution first, and upholding the governing by law means upholding the governing by constitution. The life and authority of the Constitution lie in its implement. “Improve the implementation and supervision system of the Constitution, perfect the Constitutional Supervision System of NPC and its Standing Committee, and strengthen the procedural mechanisms of the interpretation of the Constitution.” This first appeared in the Party Central Committee's resolution file, which has clarified “the Road Map” from the Top for extensively promoting the rule of Constitution and the governing of Constitution. China under the rule of law means the Constitution has primacy and maximum authority in China, which is the most typical feature of China with rule of law. As the old Chinese saying goes “Law is the decree by the sovereign to the public” The Constitution and the law epitomize the will of the Party, nation and people, which is the universal code of conduct formalized by scientific and democratic procedures, and must be strictly obeyed by all 1.3 billion Chinese people.

3. Clarified the relationship of “Party's leadership” and “the rule of law”. “The Decision” has clarified misunderstandings that many people have regarding the relationship of Party's leadership and the rule of law. Both the Party's policies and national laws are the reflected in the people's will. After the Party's policy transformed into a law through legal procedures, administration according to the law is to implement the party's policy, therefore establishing the authority of law is to establish the authority of the Party's national leadership. To achieve “the organic unity of the party's leadership, people being the masters and governing the country according to the law”, we must “adhere to governing the country according to the law as the basic strategy of governing the country by people under the

Party's leadership, and the rule of law as the basic way of governing the country". In fact, the key to solving this issue is to resolving "Party Leadership by the Law". To this end, "the Decision" has put "to formed a sound legal system inside of the Party" as one of the five compositions of "Socialist Legal System with Chinese Characteristics", which clarified the requirements of "Party Leadership by the Law".

## **II. System innovations on the rule of law building**

"The Decision" has strengthened the limitations on national public power and the protection to the dominant position and the private rights of citizens in the design of nomocracy construction, making institutional innovations on the legal system by rules, norms and transparency.

1. Breakthroughs on legislative power. Breakthroughs and improvements on legislative power mainly are: Firstly, reform the drafting mode of legislation; put forward clearly the quality, principles and implementation mechanisms of legislation; improve the quality of legislation which is regarded as the key part of building the socialist legal system. Secondly, established the rule by constitution as the premise of governing by law; proposed a sound constitution implementation and monitoring system; improve the constitutional supervision system of NPC and its standing committee; promote a sound mechanism of constitutional interpretation procedure. Thirdly, grant local legislative power to cities with districts; delegate the legislative power from the central to the local; perfect and elaborate the legislative power.

2. Breakthroughs on executive power. Regulate and restrict the abuse of executive power in the following aspects: Firstly, promote legal procedures of major administrative decisions; establish accountability system for major decision-making and responsibility for life back check mechanism; promote government power list system; Secondly, deepen the reform of administrative law enforcement, improve the convergence mechanism between administrative law enforcement and criminal justice; Punish various types of violations by law. Thirdly, strengthen control and supervision of the executive power, and improve correction and accountability mechanisms. Fourthly, establish the rule of law as a range of performance evaluation of leading cadres, which is another major breakthrough for administrative theory.

3. Breakthroughs on judicial power. Reform on judicial system are mainly as follows: Firstly, further ensure independent exercise of prosecutorial power and judicial system; establish accountability system of leading cadres interfering with judicial activities; implement lifelong responsibility system of law cases and accountability system of misjudged cases. Secondly, optimized the configuration of judicial powers; promote the implementation of system reform of separating judicial and executive powers; explore and establish the system of public interest litigation filed by the prosecutors. Thirdly, strengthen the supervision of judicial activities, improve the legal system of the prosecutors exercising supervision power.

### **III. The possible barriers in future construction of “Rule of Law”**

The solutions of “Rule of Law”, which were put forward in the 4th Plenary Session, are designed to intensify the functional role that the “Rule of Law” plays in ruling the country, with the premise of not changing the present state system and regime. This is a type of gradual model of “Rule of Law”, which will have a significant impact on the national system construction of “Rule of Law”. It can be predicted that “the Decision” will make the connection between reform and legislation more important, and the development of society will enter into a new stage, which is transformed from the period of reform accelerating “Rule of Law” to legislation leading reform. To promote the construction of a law-based government will make the investigation and implement of the administrative subject’s responsibilities more important. Judicial justice will focus people’s attention on life tenure of justice responsibilities. In brief, “the Decision” describes a clear roadmap for the following construction of “Rule of Law”. However, it has to be clearly observed that to transform “the law on paper” into “the law in action” still has a long way to go, although the system of law has been established and the problems of non liquet have been relieved. There are many problems in front of us: how to manage the conflict between institutional design and specific implementation, the measures of legal reform will certainly touch the interest and status of all the interests, and how to address the risks of social stability caused by human adjustment and organization transition. We have to realize that we are supposed to bear the resistance from mentality, custom and tradition because of thousands of years’ accumulation, if we intend to make the “Rule of Law” to be the



ruling pattern of our Party. “Rule of law” is not just a kind of political virtue with rational ruling, but to carry out the change of inherent interest structure and implementation manner. Therefore, to carry out “Rule of Law” will certainly face barriers even resistance, otherwise the force of the legal reform or the capabilities people possess to protect the vested interest would be underestimated. The lowest institutional requirements like going by the book or introducing the “right to know” like information disclosure will result in huge resistance because of touching some illegal interest, which is the distinct manifestation that against the present construction of “Rule of Law”, let alone the big issues like changing the subject and structure of power. Furthermore, the conflict between “Rule of Law” and “Rule of Power” has not been completely resolved from the institutional level, as well as who will take dominant position when the willing of the Party and law contradicts to each other. Therefore, the power of law become important, but the regulation of law has not been clearly guaranteed. Limitations on power and methods to limit will become the key issues disputed repeatedly within the law and political circles in China and the biggest constraint point during the process of “Rule of Law”.

#### **IV. Issues of further implementation of the rule of law**

Firstly, assert the authority of the Constitution and NPC and establish the censorship of the unconstitutional, which is one serious inadequacy existing in the current Constitution. Secondly, further explore the effective ways to connect governing rules of the ruling party with the rules of Nation’s rule of law. Moreover, on the administrative level, make strict responsibilities of administrative body and implement the administrative responsibility for life. Lastly, further improve the operational mechanism of Justice. How to effectively resolve social conflicts and safeguard judicial justice remains one of the difficulties in building the rule of law. Only with a perfect judicial operation mechanism, can legal disputes and conflicts both on national and social level be effectively solved within the judicial track and people keep the law rationally.

*Translated by Bi Jinqiu*

# Chinese Success is change with Chinese Characteristics

Mammo Muchie, Yan Hui

## China and the hybrid imagination

China provides a very good case of building success step by step in a largely turbulent world by adding Chinese characteristics to every form of foreign imported or forcibly introduced ideas, knowledge, system, values and norms. This ability to impart Chinese characteristics to everything that came into contact with China speaks primarily to the resiliency, depth, and richness of Chinese culture, history and civilisation. The self-image of China as a leading and ancient civilisation has current relevance and instils in the population and national leadership the drive and mission to make this ancient and historical nation to contribute the best to itself and the world. It is not thus what China does now alone that accounts for its current spectacular success. It is where China came from, its deep philosophical tradition, its civilisation and its culture and history that is behind its current mission and programme to forge ahead with vision and foresight by navigating in a complex world and in rethinking and making a new world of full of hope and possibilities

The synthesis between what is Chinese with what is foreign almost always generated a hybrid imagination that is often captured by the new idea that came from outside acquiring Chinese characteristics. We can look back and see how at different times some tricky encounters from outside have been handled by the Chinese whose sense of historical, civilisational and cultural rootedness often asserts finally regardless of how difficult and adverse the circumstances the country has faced in absorbing new knowledge, ideas, science, art, music, religion and cultures .

## Consistency in Imparting Chinese Characteristics to all Challenges

Let me take a few examples: during the 13th century Catholic Christian missionaries introduced Christianity in china. Not only did they fail to convert many Chinese to Christianity, but those Chinese that were converted kept Confucian rites and customs that infuriated the Papal authorities in Rome so much that the Church in China and the Christians

## Introduction>>

Today the rise of China is a much acknowledged fact. China is wide awake. It has stood up and is rising ever more in a spiral surpassing many developed economies in the world, It has become now nearly an established number one leading economic power. What factors are behind the successful rise of China in the world? How much has its sense of history, culture and civilisation played in this rise? How much has this rise to do in learning from the outside world? How did the Chinese learn? Did they learn by mimicry? Did they learn by reflection absorbing what is worthy and discarding what is harmful? Is the learning experience bitter, positive or

were ex-communicated. This is evidence that even Christianity when it got introduced cannot do away with Chinese characteristics.

In the late 1800s the Chinese nation was carved like a melon by imperial powers triggered by Chinese attempt to ban opium in Canton in 1839. Unequal treaties brought Hong Kong under the British, and forced China for foreigners to straddle along the coast of China by installing treaty ports that led to trade, the operation of foreign legal system on the coast, Christian missionaries and foreign control of tariffs. Chinese arms were no match to foreign superior arms. This humiliation led to the birth of a long resistance from the Opium war to the victory of the Chinese nation on October 1, 1949! Ever since the 19th century the Chinese effort to meet the political and military challenges of the West relied in part by bringing to the forefront historical memory, culture and civilisation that needs to endure and defeat the fear of time along with a positive uptake of military and western technology and know-how. China learned it needs to build science, technology and engineering and modernise and unify the country in order to remain free and independent from external forces that have used military power successfully to keep it in an inferior position.

In the 20th century the May 4th Movement and the Chinese Communist party and other political, social and intellectual movements borrowed ideas of democracy, and socialism that dominated the intellectual landscape. These western theories along also with science and technology were given Chinese characteristics and helped to stimulate the most powerful national renaissance the Orient ever saw. After 1921 Marxism with Chinese characteristics also emerged to build a liberated, united and modernised Chinese nation.

After victory in 1949 the Chinese nation stood up and wished to build the Chinese socialist peoples republic and this it did with the particular Chinese logo: resounded from the Great Wall of China and Tien a Mein Square the great call that nations want liberation, countries want independence and people want revolution. China originated a path of socialist development that was neither with the former Soviet Union nor with the capitalist powers. It was pre-eminently Chinese! Again China's socialist success is entirely national and followed the Chinese independent path of evolution, transformation and development.

After 1979 China has opened itself more to the world and wishes to

negative and/ or both harmful and useful?  
How did they resist against the harmful and encourage the absorption of the useful?

contribute to peace and development both at home and abroad. That is what the Chinese leadership came out with after changing the direction from the relative success of socialism with Chinese characteristics to market socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Today, China's leaders say China needs one stone, two cats, three fishes and four chickens. By one stone they mean in a turbulent world China needs to find a stone to stand on and remain steady and rock-firm. By two cats, China needs to be pragmatic and go for results, and not fear opening itself to the world since it is capable like Sun Tzu's Art of War, when China opens to the world more and more, it keeps its own identity even stronger and stronger and not less and less. By three fishes China needs to maintain ideological and political stability, keep opening to the world economy, and peace and development at home and in the world. To maintain the three fishes, China needs to maintain and keep the leadership of the communist party, the primacy of Marxism,-Leninism and Mao Tse Tung Thought, the primacy of keeping the cardinal principle of serve the people with the rich experience, devotion and commitment of the Chinese peoples Government, and finally largely maintain the state control of the economy even though market and commodity expansion is permitted, expanding and growing.

### **Concluding Remark**

With China's rise both economically and politically with its stature in international relations, the country has now more rich people than ever and there are persistent problems of inequalities. The concept of endogenous innovation and development and harmonious society espoused by the current leadership can encourage those who lose and hopefully restrain those who go on becoming rich.

China faces the challenge of maintaining political and ideological stability with a rise of domestic economy and its own rise in international affairs. A new logo of the harmonious society is very appropriate to encourage the losers to strive and restrain the winners in society to submit to humility.

It looks the future for China is bright from an onlooker who is genuinely interested to see China succeed, as I hope and believe China genuinely wishes Africa to succeed. We see China scoring ever more and more achievement and we have seen this taking place very often in hard times

as well as good times. What is constant is that however difficult the challenge and however new the new idea borrowed or imitated, China reflected and stamped everything with the imprint of a Chinese character borne from the rich memory and legacy of a deep and ancient civilisation. What is the unique feature is that China never abandoned giving a Chinese character to the various challenges and confrontations in its 5000 years old history. But Chinese culture and civilisation is not static. It moves on in the flowing river of time with its own majestic pace, and always with independence and self-reinforcing vitality enriching itself with hybridity and whilst retaining the core identity of the culture.

There is much that Africa can learn from China, not so much in the investment flows that is coming from China now, but in the software of culture that has helped her to maintain independence in the face of impossible challenges that it should justly feel proud for having managed to ride over the course of time.





## 复旦发展研究院

复旦发展研究院成立于1993年2月12日，对外立足于一流智库的建设，为国家和上海的建设和发展贡献复旦的思想与智慧，成为国家的思想库和智囊团；对内立足于学科的交叉与整合，研究团队的建设与发展，以国家需求推动学科整合，以学科整合贡献国家发展，提升复旦大学在国家建设与进步中的地位与影响。复旦发展研究院所孵化和培育的研究机构包括7个国内中心，即：金融研究中心、金砖国家研究中心、沪港发展联合研究所、传播与国家治理中心、当代中国社会生活资料中心、社会科学数据研究中心、中国保险与社会安全研究中心；3个海外中心，包括：复旦-UC当代中国研究中心（美国加州大学圣地亚哥分校）、复旦-欧洲中国研究中心（丹麦哥本哈根大学）、复旦-墨西哥中心（墨西哥蒙特雷技术大学）；1个复旦大学中国金融家俱乐部，2个大型论坛秘书处，分别为中国大学智库论坛秘书处与上海论坛组委会秘书处。



## 上海市高校智库研究和管理中心

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# CHINA WATCH

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