Research on the Society Security of the Landless Peasants of Henan Province

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Abstract. This paper studied the old-age insurance, medical insurance and job security of the landless peasants by empirical and theoretical analysis. The results indicate that the social security of the landless peasants is in the state of the serious deficiencies. With China's industrialization and urbanization accelerated, the scale of landless peasants is increasing. In order to protect the basic right to subsistence and development, We must take effective measures to strengthen social security of landless peasants.

Keywords: Henan, landless peasants, society security.

1  The Present Situation of the Social Security of the Landless Peasants in Henan Province

Social security is the foundation of social existence and development. With the industrialization and urbanization accelerated, the number of landless peasants is increasing year on year. It is predicated that by 2020 the landless peasants in our country will surpass 100 million. As the culture qualities and labor skills of landless peasants are generally not high, they are less competitive in non-agricultural industries. At present, the employment situation of the whole society is severe, and the social security system is not sound. Therefore, most of the landless peasants are in awkward “three no” circumstances: no land, no post, and no security. As a province with large agricultural population, Henan has witnessed a continually rising number of landless peasants in recent years. From the angle of developing trend, there will be tens of thousands of peasants losing their land in Henan every year in the future. In the process of landless peasants’ acquiring citizenship, their subsistence allowances become a major worry. Old-age insurance, unemployment insurance, medical insurance and other social security issues are becoming increasingly prominent. According to the data from the Department of Land and Resources of Henan Province, from 2001 to 2004, there were 204,000-mu cultivated land taken over each year, and nearly 200,000 peasants lost their land every year. Therefore, it is necessary to pay close attention to the legitimate rights and interests protection of the landless peasants, explore effective protection strategies so as to build a new socialist countryside and harmonious society.
For a long time, the Party and the Government has been exhibiting great concern on the establishment of the social security system of landless peasants. Local governments at all levels have also been carrying through positive and effective explorations on this matter. However, in the actual practice, the ratio of the “three-no people” of the landless peasants stays high, even further expands.

1.1 Old-Age Security Situation of Landless Peasants

In China, the majority of peasants mainly rely on their offspring in the old age. In case of losing the land, their children have become landless peasants. With the unstable situation of re-employment and income, the traditional family pattern has been impacted severely. With the arrival of the aging society in rural areas, the supporting issue of the old age has becoming a new worry for landless peasants. It is investigated that there are only 15% of the landless peasants participating in various pension.

1.2 Medical Security Situation of Landless Peasants

In the aspect of medical security, the Province has given a certain amount of compensation in light of the specific condition of landless peasants. However, most landless peasants still cannot afford high medical expenses with limited compensation. They are still facing the issue of “poor access and high fee” in medical service. Although the New CMS has relieved the burden of landless peasants to a certain extent, the majority of landless peasants have acquired citizenship after losing their land. Therefore, they can’t enjoy the rights of the New CMS, facing ever greater pressure on health care. The returning to poverty due to illness is more prominent.

1.3 Employment Security Situation of Landless Peasants

Employment is an important issue of subsistence and development for every member of society. Losing land means losing the most basic post. According to the findings of a survey into 105 landless peasant households made by the rural investigation team of Henan Province, the landless peasants of the Province have employment difficulties and few economic resources. Compared with urban workers, landless peasants lack non-agricultural employment knowledge, skills, and the supporting of favorable policies. Their ability to participate in social competition for jobs is very limited. Due to the low quality of rural labor force, poor information flow and other factors, the employment is difficult. Some landless peasants have few economic resources with decreasing income. Therefore, landless peasants can barely make the ends meet after entering cities. With the lost of the most basic means of production, i.e. land, no matter whether or not they are willing to acquire non-rural hukou, the life of landless peasants is basically urbanized. Before, they were self-sufficient, now they have to go to the market for most daily supplies. Therefore, their life cost increases. Although they gained a handsome compensation when the land is taken over, with the limitation of education background and labor skills, they could find no new employment opportunities and only rely on laurels.