

Empirical Research on Enlarging Powers to Develop Towns in Northeast Region of Sichuan Province ---A Town in Dazhou City as an Example *

Xue-jian Cheng

School of Management,
China West Normal University,
Nanchong 637009, China
Email: 326922095@qq.com

Abstract

With the rapid development of new urbanization, the local government faces the dilemmas between rights and responsibilities. "Responsibilities are as big as watermelon, and rights are as small as sesames" and "small horse drive a huge cart", which are serious phenomena. Developing the economy needs to break through the shackles of people, money and matters of the town. So the government in northeast region of Sichuan province carried on the reform-- enlarging powers to develop towns to stimulate the vitality of the town. Miaoba town in Dazhu County as first batch national pilot one, they explored the experience, and achievements are together with problems. Therefore the problems have a certain reference value for other regions of Sichuan province. Through the analysis, the author puts forward some countermeasures and suggestions.

Key words: enlarging powers to develop towns; achievements; countermeasures and suggestions

1. Introduction

The local government as the most basic level of China's administrative system of government administrative unit, it plays very important roles in maintaining social stability and promoting economic development and have social management and public service functions. They service directly in the first line for the masses. As a new model for the reform of the basic level government, enlarging powers to develop towns have been made some achievements in promoting regional economic and social development and optimizing the level of public governance. However it was generally not mature in the stage of exploring. Local government needs to study deeply the new problems in the reform. Under the new situation of the overall development of urban and rural integration, the local government needs to transform the government functions, straightening out the system, to promote the economic development of the town.

* **Fund:** 2015 Innovation and Entrepreneurship Training Program of College Students in Sichuan Province, (201510638059). 2015 National Local University Students' Innovation and Entrepreneurship Training Program, (201510638020).

2. The reform of Miaoba Town in Dazhu County

2.1 The background of Miaoba Town

Located at the southern of Dazhu County, where be built eight temples. The name of Miaoba comes from this reason which means a flat land with too many temples. It is one of the towns of the Northeast region of Sichuan Province, which is “the South Gate of Dazhu County” and “the Bridgehead of reaching to Chongqing”. Distance of 120 kilometers from Chongqing City, 82 kilometers from Dazhou City, 24 kilometers from Dazhu County, it was built as a Xiang(乡: which was smaller than town)in 1953. In 1995, it was a town(镇). The town has a vast area of 71.05 square kilometers, concluding 13 villages and 94 groups of residents. The population is 32802 and there are 21536 Mu(亩: a unit of area) cultivated land.

On April 1, 2010, the Central Office, Agricultural Office, Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Public Security, the Ministry of Civil Affairs and the Ministry of Finance jointly issued a reform file to enlarge powers to some towns. Miaoba Town was the first batch national pilot one. After the reform, it gains many honors such as Model Town of National Mediation Work, Mass Sports Advanced Unit and Advanced Basic Level Organizations of the Party. The increasing number of population and the increasing income of residents bring more vitality. (More details to see Table 1)

Table 1 statistical data of Miaoba Town

Year	Population	GDP	Real GDP per capital	Growth Rate
2009	32561	41159	12640	---
2010	32535	48318	14851	17
2011	32535	58281	17913	20
2012	32679	70521	21580	20
2013	32795	82723	25224	17
2014	32783	92607	28248	12
2015	32802	103750	31629	12

(Sources: The government of Miaoba town in April 2016)

2.2 What is enlarging powers to develop towns

Enlarging powers to develop towns means the better economic strength of the central town of the county to be given some economic and social management authority by the superior county government by the way of directly sending rights to them and entrusting rights to them, which is in order to solve the problem of imbalance between the financial and personnel power and permission constraint. At last it can release activities of grass-roots government, drive the process of urbanization, unified urban and countryside and promote integration of urban and rural areas. That means reassigning public power of government, breaking the traditional dualistic management model, which is administrative system reform of grass-roots government. This follows by Guangdong Province and Zhejiang Province.

3. The specific steps of the reforms in Miaoba Town

3.1 Giving powers to local government and planning in a long run to promote urban and rural integration

According to the ideas of enlarging powers to develop towns, Miaoba town Undertake 20 county departments delegated 96 administrative rights, in the work of pilot in 2012. After evaluation, the County Government gave 111 executive powers to this town, including 35 administrative examination and approval powers, 9 public service powers, 47 law enforcement powers and 20 other executive powers. They basically do “to give what need in grass-roots managements”, “to give to bring facilitate the masses” and avoid the phenomena “to give things but do not give the powers” or “to give powers but not give money”. The county government Clear decentralization content, manner, time, duration and the respective responsibilities in order to make sure it specification.

Meanwhile Miaoba government built a comprehensive law enforcement office to supervise and manage these powers. They made a scientific planning, accelerate the construction of the center town, 22 village settlements of radiation “big temple dam” to be a new pattern of urban-rural integration. They Started small micro-enterprise business park construction, completed the 1.73 square kilometers of land in the park master plan, a total investment of 38 million to complete the industrial park 600 acres of range land transfer, grave migration, young crops and ground attachments compensation, land leveling, industrial avenue construction and other work. Developing green fruit and vegetable industry, as well as picking and peach blossom festival primarily rural tourism, they planted 8000 mu peach, 3000 mu gardenia, 2000 mu walnut and 800 Plum trees. Miaoba town can attract 600,000 visitors.

3.2 Sending people to local government, and optimizing the structure to improve administrative efficiency.

As the Northeast of Sichuan, Miaoba town is economically underdeveloped areas, and a large proportion of its agricultural. Strictly implementation of county-level policies and regulations, clear division of power between county and towns, Government of Miaoba town transferred the four county agriculture-related departments and institutions accredited to the functions and responsibilities of all personnel to the Agricultural Service Center.

They simplified government structures with the way of “service outsource” to run this town and fire brigade. They adopted the structure of Pyramid Shape to form the administration. The administrative people were from 29 to 34, including 7 leading cadres, 10 middle-level cadres, and 17 general staff. At the same time, they improved “Four Mechanisms”, which were improving the party decision-making, authority management, supervision and supervision, construction budget and final accounts of the town. Party committees made decisions strictly accordance with the “Four Sections”—proposal, classification, regular meetings and making the decisions after discussion. They opened the public affairs, according to the “Four Requirements”—comprehensive things, right time, standardized procedures and fixed forms. They improved 15 sound systems, which greatly enhanced the scientific level of the township party committee, and improved administrative efficiency.

3.3 Giving money to local government, and returning profit to enhance hematopoietic function.

Before the reform, there is no independent budget power and final accounts of the power. After the reform, government improved the function of “a government correspondence a finance institution”. It individually set up financial management institutions, which is to achieve a separate budget and final accounts, the town has its own money, supervised by the county, the county finance budget and the end of the year increased year by year. At the same time, strive for policy, the county finance quarterly return in full charge of urban infrastructure supporting fees and some land transfer share, returning 80% social compensation fee of the family planning. Returning 4 percentage of the local tax of the nation to develop the economic and social undertakings, their financial resources completely withdraw from competitive industries and fields, which changed from “Supply Finance” to “Development Finance”. In recent years, they input more than 40million, for the new village and town construction, industrial development and infrastructure and other livelihood projects to ensure the livelihood of the people and meet the public needs.

3.4 Optimizing the environment, servicing for the public to carry out the policy of benefiting people

Government carried out convenient services for the public people to improve the work methods as a means serving for development, to meet the people needs as the center serving for people's livelihood, to construct harmony as the goal serving for the society. They put into one million to layout the government organs, and transformed of 400 square meters of convenience service center, set up 9 convenience services window to make the town convenience service hall standard and realize the convenience of service “one stop”. To change the work style, to implement “tow replacing ways” work ways means “a-full-program” service.

4. Problems and dilemmas of enlarging powers to develop towns in Miaoba Town

4.1 Long-term hematopoietic function is not perfect

Financial focus mainly depends on the tilt of the county financial constraints many factors, and is involved in tax allocation by institutional factors (such as treasury, in charge of county taxes, etc.) influence, not fully formed financial cultivation, collection and security, “a government correspondence a finance institution” system. The government itself is weak in financial plans, and they need to strengthen the hematopoietic function.

4.2 Pilot town not obtain the law qualifications, and the results of giving power is not good

Enforcement powers of the town from county departments entrusted itself has no enforcement powers, in the actual operation due to the different perceptions of the various departments to promote it, and some sectors, particularly projects involving income, some departments do not want devolution, decentralization positive but a little department unwilling to bear the training, supervision and liability when the defendant, to toss it off or let it go.

4.3 Inspection system and supporting the body or not remains to be practical test

The pilot project of enlarging powers to develop towns in Miaoba town, it was designed by surrounding traffic, human identity, economic structure, service radius and other factors, which the population is from 50

thousand to 100 thousand and area is of about 200 square kilometers. At present, a good framework is already, but the administrative object is also too small, if all the staff fully already, it may go to the other extreme of “small horse drives a huge cart”.

5. Countermeasures to solve the problems

5.1 With the development of economy and society as the core, it need both “to support” and “to activate” in the hematopoietic function.

The Miaoba town is located in northeastern Sichuan area, the final objective of the reform of the administrative system is to improve the work related to agriculture, rural areas and farmers, promoting economic and social development and increasing the income of farmers. First, support it from the financial special funds. Providing economic assistance, it is also need to synchronize the introduction of appropriate support measures. Second, support it from good policy. Increase the proportion of the return of tax revenue, to support the development of the pilot town. Third support it from good resources. In particular, they need to solve the development of the land bottleneck. Fourth fix it from system. To regain “a government correspondence a finance institution” system, it is important to make it rich. So they have money to do great and practical things.

5.2 With the principle of “following law, convenient and efficient”, try the best to achieve the goals of “put down well” and “use well” the powers.

Expand the township administrative authority, is to crack the township administrative management right, responsibility, benefit not the root cause of the problem. In addition, the decentralization should do the following jobs: first, give then real powers; second, regulate the operations of powers; third, adjust in timely; fourth, give powers to them not means letting it go.

5.3 It is the basis of the promotion of the right to enlarging powers to develop towns to timely adjust the divisions of the town.

The government introduced policies to encourage and support qualified areas, timely promotion of the program appropriate zoning adjustments in order to enhance the agglomeration effect and radiation driven capacity of small towns. Scientific and orderly reform and to solve the basic problems, it is necessary. First, grasp the good conditions. Priority to promote economic and social development better, there is a certain region with a certain radiation driven capacity, the administrative system of the reform of the inherent power of strong economic development in the town, it may solve the problems of “small horse” and “huge carriage”. Second create conditions to grasp. Promoting administrative division adjustment around the central town of the region, the cultivation of small towns in the area is good for traffic conditions, strong sense of cultural identity, a large scale structure of the economy, service and management of a certain area of high degree of feasibility, the government need to guide according to local conditions.

References:

- [1] Shui-gen Hu, Fa-gen Xu et al. *Enlarge Powers to Develop Towns and Innovation of Powers Regulations—Taking Shaoxing Municipal as an Example* [M] Zhejiang people's Publishing House, 2011(10).
- [2] Qiu-ju, Meng, *Study on the Path of Grass-roots Government Social Management Innovation in Rural Social Governance—A Town as an Example* [J] Rural Economy and Science, 2015(3), 169-171.
- [3] Rui Shi, *Paths of a Weak Town to Enlarge Powers* [J] Construction of the Party in Sichuan Province, 2014(5).
- [4] Guo-shen, Dan Luo et al. *Review of the Reform of Expansion Powers of Strong Town* [J] Guangxi Social Sciences, 2014,10.
- [5] Bai-ying Sun, *Discuss on the Two Issues of Expansion Powers of Strong Town* [J] Administration of China, 2011,2.
- [6] Dan Luo, *Study on the Expansion Powers of Strong Town under the background of Urbanization* [D] Shandong Agricultural University, 2015.
- [7] Tao Wang, *Empirical Study on Expansion Powers of Strong Town in Guangdong Province: Tangxia Town as an Example* [D] Yunnan University, 2012