

# The Conjunction and Horizon of Common Wealth and Equalization of Basic Public Services in Urban and Rural Areas

**Xu Guoye**

School of Law, Jiangsu University, Zhenjiang, China

**Email address:**

1939503273@qq.com

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**Abstract:** Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the state and the government have always regarded improving the living standards of the masses as an important goal. Under the background and goal of gradually realizing the common prosperity of all people, improving the level of equalization of basic public services in urban and rural areas occupies an important method position, which is directly related to the vision of the people's better life. There is an inherent compatibility between shared prosperity and the alignment of basic public services between urban and rural areas in terms of value, theory, and practice. The value conjunction of shared prosperity and equalization of basic public services in urban and rural areas lies in the equal use and equitable distribution of public resources. Alignment of basic public services in urban and rural areas is a basic and specific way of representing common prosperity in rural areas, and an inevitable prerequisite for the sound promotion of common prosperity in the new era. The equalization of basic public services in urban and rural areas is the inevitable consequence of common prosperity and it is also a specific practical approach to promoting common prosperity. The value foundation of common prosperity lies in the distribution of wealth by society based on fairness and justice. Common prosperity is universal and comprehensive prosperity, but not simultaneous and average prosperity. The essence of equalization of basic public services between urban and rural areas lies in the fair and equitable distribution of resources for public services, but not in a "one-size-fits-all" or equal distribution. By discussing the logical relationship between the promotion of comprehensive common prosperity and the equalization of basic public services in urban and rural areas, it will not only help the government to make up for the practical shortcomings in the process of equalization of basic public services in urban and rural areas, but also help achieve substantial common prosperity.

**Keywords:** Common Wealth, Urban and Rural Basic Public Services, Equalization, Equity and Justice

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## 1. Introduction

Common prosperity is an important feature of Chinese-style modernization, and it is necessary to adhere to the people-centered development ideology and promote common prosperity in high-quality development. [1] Shared prosperity in the new stage of development is shared prosperity of high quality based on the completion of a moderately prosperous society, which requires that "by 2035, GDP per capita reaches the level of moderately prosperous countries, the middle-income group is significantly enlarged, the gap between urban and rural regional development and the gap between the living standards of residents are significantly narrowed, and the

shared prosperity of all people makes more significant and substantial progress. " The common wealth in the new development stage should emphasize more universal and common development achievements, more equitable and equal development opportunities, and more balanced and optimized development resources. At present, China's social development is facing unbalanced and insufficient challenges, especially the development gap between urban and rural areas is becoming more and more obvious. In the era after the elimination of absolute poverty, it is essential to seize the opportunity to comprehensively promote rural revitalization and focus on solving the unbalanced and insufficient problems, such as the sharing and universality of social development achievements,

in order to solidly promote the common prosperity in rural areas. Common prosperity is a comprehensive prosperity of material and spiritual dimensions, encompassing economic, political, cultural, social, environmental and other spheres. Alignment of basic public services in urban and rural areas is a basic and specific way of representing common prosperity, and also an indispensable condition for the sound promotion of common prosperity in the new era. This paper addresses the value, theory, and practice of public welfare and the alignment of basic public services in urban and rural areas to deepen knowledge and understanding of the issue of alignment of basic public services between urban and rural areas in the context of shared prosperity.

In "On the Connotation, Basis and Promoting Path of Common Prosperity", Qiao Huibo believes that to achieve common prosperity, a system of people's livelihood and well-being should be built with sharing as the core [2], emphasizing the pursuit of a more equitable distribution method. Including equal distribution. In "Equalization of Basic Public Services for Common Prosperity: Action Logic and Path Selection", Li Shi and Yang Yixin believe that basic public services are necessary measures to eliminate poverty, promote a more reasonable income distribution pattern, and make people's spiritual life richer [3]. Yuan Zhigang, Ruan Mengting and Ge Jinfeng studied the changes in the level of equalization of basic public services for specific projects in "Equalization of Public Services to Promote Common Prosperity: An Educational Perspective", and concluded that the increase in demand for public services can drive the growth of the overall economy [4]. Most of the previous research focuses on the promotion of the construction of the equalization system of basic public services to common prosperity, but ignores the logical relationship between their own value and theory. Based on the existing research results, this paper will not only discuss the positive significance of the equalization of basic public services in urban and rural areas for promoting common prosperity, but also consider the realistic way out for the equalization of urban and rural basic public services in my country based on the profound connotation of common prosperity, and draw conclusions.

## 2. Value Conjunction

### 2.1. Value Commonality - Equal Enjoyment and Fair Distribution

The equalization of basic public services in urban and rural areas refers to the overall equitable and accessible allocation of basic public service resources between urban and rural residents, the core of which is the promotion of equality of opportunity, with an emphasis on ensuring people's access to basic public services rather than simple averaging [5]. The equalization of basic public services in urban and rural areas is a concrete representation of the concept of sharing the fruits of social development, a system correction or rectification of the imbalance and inadequacy of basic public services in urban and rural areas, and a practical response to

the connotation of shared prosperity. Based on the connotation of the alignment of basic public services in urban and rural areas, there is a common value between shared prosperity and the alignment of basic public services in urban and rural areas, and their value correspondence lies in the equal use and equitable distribution of public resources.

### 2.2. The Deep Meaning of Common Prosperity

The essential requirement of common prosperity is to let all people share in the fruits of social development and to focus on improving the divisibility and universality of the fruits of development. Shareability is the characteristic feature of common prosperity. Sharing permeates all the connotative elements of common prosperity, but sharing does not happen overnight, i.e. sharing has the basic attributes of relativity, dynamism and progressiveness. Comrade Mao Zedong once said, if we now implement such a system, such a plan, it is possible to become richer and stronger year after year, to become richer and stronger year after year. And this wealth is the common wealth, this strength is the common strength [6]. After reform and opening up, Comrade Deng Xiaoping also proposed that the essence of socialism is to liberate the productive forces, develop them, eliminate exploitation, eliminate polarization and finally achieve common prosperity. To address the issue of common prosperity in the new stage, Comrade Xi Jinping pointed out, to achieve common prosperity, we must look at needs and opportunities holistically and proceed step by step in accordance with the laws of economic and social development. At the same time, this work cannot wait, we must consciously master the regional gap, urban-rural gap, income gap and other problems, promote the overall progress of society and the overall development of people, and support social justice. Therefore, the achievement of common prosperity is a gradual process that must be promoted gradually and in an orderly manner. Common prosperity is not simultaneous or equal prosperity, let alone "equal prosperity," but relative prosperity that prevents "excessive inequality" based on efficiency and fairness.

### 2.3. Equalization of Basic Public Services Is an Inevitable Requirement for Common Prosperity

Therefore, the achievement of common prosperity is a gradual process that must be promoted gradually and in an orderly manner. Common prosperity is not simultaneous or equal prosperity, let alone "equal prosperity," but relative prosperity that prevents "excessive inequality" based on efficiency and fairness. As for reducing the gap between urban and rural areas, basic public services in urban and rural areas are about sharing and universal access to public resources such as labor and employment, basic education, social security, health services, basic security services for the disabled, housing security, public transportation, environmental protection, basic facilities, cultural and sports buildings, and other matters that affect the immediate interests and good life of urban and rural residents. Therefore, "the equalization of basic public services not only

foregrounds the attributes of public utility, such as non-exclusivity and non-competitiveness, but it also makes the supply of public goods more profound and equitable because it implies the requirement of equality. Basically, the equalization of basic public services is the inevitable result of reform and opening up, and it deserves to become a content shared by people. "The equalization of basic public services between urban and rural areas profoundly reflects that 'production will be directed toward the prosperity of all people.' [7] 'All enjoy together the benefits created by all.' , 'Let the fruits of development benefit all people in a greater and more equitable way [8], continuously promote the all-round development of people, and make continuous progress toward realizing the core of the idea of common prosperity for all people.

The essence of equality of basic public services in urban and rural areas is "equality," not "parity." "Parity" emphasizes the equal distribution of the "pie" of basic public service resources, while "equality" emphasizes the proper division of the "pie" and focuses on social justice in the distribution of basic public service resources. "It focuses on social equity in the distribution of the resources of basic public services. "Cake" always bigger, but also share the "cake" well, our society has traditionally 'do not suffer from inequality' the concept. imilarly, the equalization of basic public services in urban and rural areas is not a synchronous "equalization," and the distribution of resources is not a "one-size-fits-all" distribution, let alone an equal distribution, but a necessity to make up for the deficits in people's livelihoods in development and to promote social justice. It is necessary to make up for the deficits in people's livelihoods and promote social equity and justice in development. In the course of solidly promoting common prosperity, the cause of aligning basic public services in China must be further concretized so that all people can share in the fruits of reform and live a good life [9].

### 3. Theoretical Conjunction

As for the content and substance, the alignment of basic public services in urban and rural areas is the main link and methodological way for sound promotion of common prosperity, and should deeply reflect the basic or general theory of common prosperity, and build systems and promote practices under the guidance of this theory. Common prosperity is the fundamental goal of Marxism in terms of eliminating antagonism and differences between classes and between urban and rural areas, and is the essential requirement of China's social development and progress. The common prosperity of which we speak is the common prosperity of all people, the prosperity of both the material and the spiritual life of the people, not the prosperity of a few people and not a clean and uniform egalitarianism. We should study in depth the goals of the different stages and promote common prosperity in stages [10]. The basis of shared prosperity is wealth, the goal is common, the mechanism is sharing, and the focus is on coordinating

regional development and reducing the gap between urban and rural areas. The core elements of "basic", "public" and "equalization" included in the alignment of basic public services in urban and rural areas emphasize the theoretical connotation of common prosperity and perform a fundamental function in the historical process of promoting common prosperity for all people. In the historical process of promoting the common prosperity for all people, it assumes a fundamental function.

#### 3.1. *The Equalization of Basic Public Services Deeply Reflects the Theory of "Sharing" Common Wealth*

Basic public services are government-managed public services that ensure the basic needs of all citizens for their survival and development, and meet the level of economic and social development, which are the most basic needs for people's livelihood. The field of basic public services traditionally includes public services in education, employment, social security, medicine, health, culture, and sports, which ensure people's basic needs for their livelihood. In the context of the new era, the content of basic public services has continuously expanded. The 13th Five-Year Plan period, the main goal of promoting the equality of basic public services is to 2020, the basic public service system is more complete, the institutional mechanism is more sound, to achieve the overall equality of basic public services [11]. In the period of the 14th Five-Year Plan, increasing the degree of approximation of basic public services and increasing the satisfaction of the general public with the quality of a good life are the most fundamental conditions for the common prosperity of all. At present, the problem of equalization of basic public services focuses on inequality between regions and between urban and rural areas. Particularly acute is the problem of inequality of basic public services between urban and rural areas under the same zoning, where the deficits in achieving common prosperity are located.

#### 3.2. *The Equalization of Basic Public Services Embodies the "Narrowing the Gap" Theory of Shared Prosperity*

Reducing the gap between urban and rural areas in terms of the capacity and level of service of basic public services is an inherent prerequisite for achieving "equalization". If poor areas are poor for a long time, nothing changes in the long run, people's lives do not improve significantly for a long time, that does not reflect the superiority of our socialist system, and that's not socialism. If the disparity in basic public services between urban and rural areas is greater than the economic disparity between urban and rural areas, this is contrary to the universality of shared prosperity. The aspiration and satisfaction of urban and rural residents for a better life derive in large part from the degree of alignment of basic public services between urban and rural areas, and definitely not from the simple issue of income inequality. The common prosperity presupposes that the "cake" of the fruits of social development is well distributed, on the one hand, by adjusting the distribution structure to improve the

total income of the inhabitants. On the other hand, it is necessary to adjust the resources and structure of the provision of basic public services in communities, increase investment in basic public services in communities, and balance the expenditure of urban and rural residents on education, health and other social security, in order to achieve a favorable distribution effect on the whole and promote common prosperity [12]. Therefore, the key issue in equalizing basic public services between urban and rural areas is to focus on reducing the gap between urban and rural areas, which is also a specific connotation of the requirements of shared prosperity.

### ***3.3. The Equalization of Basic Public Services Deeply Embodies the "Common" Theory of Shared Prosperity***

The "equalization" of basic public services in urban and rural areas is the practical implementation of the "common" theory of shared prosperity. The core meaning of the term "equality" of basic public services in urban and rural areas is to emphasize the fair and equitable distribution of resources for basic public services, not to use them equally [13]. The long-standing urban-rural dualistic system in China has led to an imbalance in basic public service resources that favors the "urban" and disadvantages the "rural". At present, the basic public services in urban and rural areas should take the promotion of social equality and justice as the starting point, build a fair and just social cooperative management mechanism, and coordinate the work of urban and rural areas in education, employment, income distribution, social security, medicine and health, and guaranteed housing, etc. It is important to ensure that basic public services benefit rural areas in a fair and accessible manner so that farmers can have greater access, enjoyment, and security. Therefore, "equality" of basic public services in urban and rural areas is an equitable coordination based on universal access to basic public service resources. This requires that the establishment of a cooperative supply mechanism of multiple subjects to promote the full play of the strengths of all parties and effectively ensure the freedom of choice and equal access of citizens in sharing basic public services.

## **4. Practical Conjunction**

### ***4.1. Rural Areas Are the Weak Link in the Equalization of Basic Public Services***

In the era of solid promotion of common prosperity, equalization of basic public services in urban and rural areas is a practical solution to the real contradiction of unbalanced development in urban and rural areas. The question of how the majority of farmers can participate in basic public services and truly enjoy equal opportunities with urban dwellers requires concrete and profound practical answers within the concept of shared prosperity. The main contributor to the common wealth is the whole people, which is a vivid interpretation of the main position of the people. The equalization of basic public services in urban and rural areas

from the perspective of common prosperity is the substantial embodiment of the status of the main body of the people in the body of "peasants". The main status of farmers in basic public services is not an abstract and esoteric concept that should not remain in words and stop at thoughts, but must be planted in the practice of aligning basic public services in urban and rural areas under the guidance of policy.

### ***4.2. Government Policy Support for Basic Public Services in Rural Areas***

In their opinions on accelerating the modernization of agriculture and rural areas by comprehensively promoting rural revitalization, have proposed that "by 2025, the level of alignment of basic public services in urban and rural areas will be greatly improved. [14]" In order to achieve the goal of aligning basic public services in urban and rural areas, it is necessary not only to plan at the top level of the Party and the government, but also to timely summarize the experience regarding the shortcomings in the past practice of aligning basic public services, and improve the construction of a substantial judicial system for aligning basic public services in urban and rural areas. In recent years, with the introduction of relevant documents and increased investment of resources by governments at all levels, rural areas have made great strides in compulsory education, health insurance, and minimum living standards, but there is still a wide gap between the goal of urban and rural equality. The National Standards for Basic Public Services (2021 Edition) (the "New Standards") clarified that nine areas, 22 categories, and 80 service elements, such as child care, education, employment, medical care, elder care, housing, support for the disadvantaged, military services, and cultural and sports services, fall within the scope of basic public services established by the state. The "new standard" has taken note of the need to include in basic public services the guarantee of all the fundamental rights of farmers, such as the protection of cultural services, the rural environment and the protection of farmers' legal rights. If traditional public basic services are aimed at serving the basic life of farmers, cultural and legal services are more about the spiritual enrichment of farmers, and they give a strong impetus to the spiritual content of rural basic services.

### ***4.3. Obstacles and Solutions to the Development of Basic Public Services in Rural Areas***

The obstacles currently standing in the way of equalizing basic public services between urban and rural areas in China are, first, the historical problems left behind by the traditional political and economic system. The dual system of household registration between urban and rural areas largely restricts the mobility of the population, essentially treating rural and urban populations differently and creating the problem of unequal resources for basic public services between urban and rural areas [15]. The "new standard" provides a reference for promoting the alignment of basic public services in urban and rural areas. Local governments should follow the contents and

requirements of the "New Standards" to build an institutional system to promote the equalization of basic public services between urban and rural areas, deepen the reform of the financial supply mechanism of local basic public services, and make full use of the flexibility of grassroots governments to respond to the current situation of equalization between urban and rural areas in their regions. Deploy material resources for public services according to the actual situation in the urban and rural areas of the region, to ensure that basic public services of general utility are equal in urban and rural areas, resources per capita are approximately equal, and opportunities for basic public services per capita are equal. Formulate a detailed work system for basic public services, clarify the boundaries of the functions of various power departments in the work of basic public services, coordinate the provision of resources from various channels, and avoid the waste of resources due to the overlapping of supply posts. Innovate the technological means, accelerate the full completion of comprehensive one-stop public service centers, and fully play the important role of new media, digital and networked technological means in the process of providing basic public services. With the aim of promoting common prosperity, we strive to optimize the factor distribution structure of basic public welfare resources and actively direct public welfare donations to support the level of basic public welfare in rural areas under the three distribution effects. Perseverance Through the above measures, we have deeply embedded the theoretical connotation of shared prosperity in the practical process of aligning basic public services in urban and rural areas.

## 5. Conclusion

In the process of equalization of basic public services in urban and rural areas in the past, the government's goal was to achieve the equalization of basic public service resources enjoyed by urban and rural residents in terms of form and content. The administrative work lacked depth, and to a certain extent, the equalization of basic public services was ignored. Due to the inherent logic of urbanization and people's yearning for a better life, the level of basic public services in the vast rural areas is still not high, the efficiency of resource allocation is difficult to touch the fundamentals, and the living standards of farmers still disproportionately lag behind urban residents [16]. In the context of the development of the new era, the research on the alignment of common prosperity and the equalization of basic public services between urban and rural areas will not only help us to clarify the theoretical and practical logic of promoting comprehensive common prosperity, but also provide a direction for the development of equalization of basic public services between urban and rural areas in China. In the process of equalization of basic public services in urban and rural areas, governments at all levels should take the actual connotation of common prosperity as the guide, take equalization as the goal, take the actual needs of residents as the focus of work, and take rational allocation of resources

and innovative supply methods as the methods to comprehensively lead the people to achieve common prosperity under Fairness and justice.

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