

Title: Study on the Development and Construction of New Urbanization in Shaanxi Province under a New Normal

Author's name: Xu Bo

Name in Chinese: 徐博

Affiliation: School of Human Settlements and Civil Engineering, Xi'an Jiaotong University, Xi'an, China

Address: 28 Xianning West Road, Beilin, Xi'an, China

Email address: jmsxubo@sina.com or xb8124944@163.com

Contact Number: +86 15091766621

Adviser's name: Dr Zhai Binqing

Adviser's email address: bqzhai@mail.xjtu.edu.cn

Study on the Development and Construction of New Urbanization in Shaanxi Province under a New Normal

Xu Bo

Abstract: Chinese economy has entered a new stage, a series of profound changes have taken place in economic development environment. Development strategies such as the transformation of economic development mode and structural adjustment, expand domestic demand and “One Belt and One Road” will bring Shaanxi Province a new historical opportunity and challenge to the development. Chinese geographical range is larger and different regions have different problems. In addition, the urbanization level of Shaanxi is still low, and the constructions have some shortcomings. According to the statistical data of Shaanxi province and all the cities, this paper tried to put forward some comments and suggestions to the construction of new urbanization to provide reference for Shaanxi under the new economic normal development combining the reality of Shaanxi Province.

Key words: New Normal; New Urbanization; Shaanxi; Development mode

1. Introduction

Since the reform and opening up, China has experienced thirty years of rapid development and entered a new stage. In the future for a long period of time, China will face the task of economic restructuring and transformation of development mode at a relatively low growth rate. This is the new normal of China's economic development. Under the “new normal” economy, optimizing and upgrading of economic structure, narrowing the gap between urban and rural areas gradually will open a new process of urbanization in China. (Hou Weimin & Li Linpeng, 2015)

Before exploring the new urbanization, the first thing to understand is the process and characteristics of urbanization in China in the past. After the reform and opening up,

China's urbanization has briefly experienced three stages: The first stage is from 1980 to 1990. In this period, taking the industrialization as the guidance has brought the rapid development of urbanization. Meanwhile, opening to the outside world has promoted the development of industry and city, and the land income has become the main economic source of urban construction. The second stage is from 1990 to 2000. With the rise of the third industry, the number of cities increasing rapidly. And the construction of urban centers and new areas also change the urban spatial structure. In addition, the industry began to spread to rural areas and gradually showing the trend of urban-rural integration. The third stage is after 2000. The government began to pay attention to the ecological environment and regional coordination. They stressed the construction of urban infrastructure and public service facilities. (Xu Ruisheng, 2014) Recalling the process of urbanization in the past, there are some exposed problems such as over consumption of land resources, thousands of cities follow the same pattern and “urban disease”. These problems need to be paid more attention and solved under the thought of “new normal”.

Under the new normal, urbanization is an important starting point to promote the optimizing and upgrading of economic structure. It is also the main battlefield to realize the transformation of economic development mode. It is urgent to explore a way for new urbanization to be suitable for the new normal situation. (Chen Yanni & Li Jiexiang, 2015) New urbanization is the driving force of the new economic development, and its construction and development is the main support for the development of China's economy after entering the new normal, and also decide if it can continue to maintain a healthy development or not. (Peng Mingchang, 2015) New urbanization take the urban and rural overall planning, urban-rural integration, production-city interaction, conservation and intensive, ecological livable and harmonious development as the basic characteristics of urbanization. It is the urbanization that make urban and rural areas, small and medium cities, small towns, new rural communities coordinated develop and mutual promote. Therefore, it is important to study the direction and path of new urbanization in Shaanxi province under new normal for the future development and construction.

2. Analysis on the Overall Development Trend of Urbanization in Shaanxi Province

Shaanxi province is located in the northwest of China. Its geographical position is between east longitudes 105°29' -111°15', north latitudes 31°42'-39°35'. It across the middle of river basins between the Yellow River the Yangtze River, and is an important hub which connect China's East and central, northwest and southwest regions. The total area of the province is 205.8 thousand square kilometers. It contains 10 prefecture level cities and 1 agricultural demonstration zone. Because of the long and narrow land form, it can be divided into three regions which are northern Shaanxi, Guanzhong and southern Shaanxi according to the location of 10 cities and 1 agricultural demonstration zone. (Web of Shaanxi Geography <http://www.sxsdq.cn/sqgk/zhjs/>) Shaanxi is one of the cradles of Chinese civilization that has a long history. After thousands of years of urban construction, the urban development of Shaanxi province has its own characteristics. At present, most of the research of urbanization under new normal just stay at the theoretical level. And because of China's regional difference and uneven of social and economic development, different regions have different ways to promote urbanization. Therefore, it is necessary to study the development mode and path of new urbanization in Shaanxi Province under new normal conditions.

Generally, the indicator of urbanization level is the proportion of urban population to total population. The urbanization rate of Shaanxi province is 52.6% in 2014, and the urban population has reached to 19,840,000. According to Shaanxi statistical yearbook (2010-2015), and the Statistics Communique on National Economy and Social Development of Shaanxi Province and all the cities (2010-2014), the urbanization of Shaanxi province has improved rapidly in the past 5 years. Table 1 present that the rate of urbanization has increased by nearly 3.6 percentage points per year from 2010 to 2014 in Shaanxi. It shows that the level of urbanization in Shaanxi province is increasing and the speed is accelerating because of the increased

investment of China in the northwest in recent years. So the level of urbanization in Shaanxi has entered a new era of comprehensive development. In this period, with the gradual improvement of the social and economic development and the improvement of market economy system in Shaanxi, urban and rural people's living conditions has increased, industrial structure has upgraded and optimized, Water, electricity, telecommunications and other infrastructure has effectively improved, household registration, employment, medical care, social security and other constraints which associated with urbanization construction have been increasingly perfect. So the level of urbanization increased significantly during the past 5 years. (Ge Long & Sun Zhongmin, 2014) However, the development of urbanization in Shaanxi province is still lower than the national average, various of problems and contradictions are gradually emerging. It is still necessary to deeply study and analysis the development of urbanization in Shaanxi province.

Table 1 The urbanization rate of Shaanxi Province from 2010 to 2014.

	Shaanxi														
		Guanzhong							Southern Shaanxi				Northern Shaanxi		
			Xi' an	Tongchuan	Baoji	Xianyang	Weinan	Yangling		Hanzhong	Ankang	Shangluo		Yan' an	Yulin
	Urbanization Rate														
2010	45.7%	48.67%	69%	57.90%	41.38%	40.01%	31.58%	52.14%	33.00%	37.08%	34.59%	27.33%	47.88%	48.34%	47.41%
2011	47.3%	50.96%	70.10%	59.10%	45.30%	44.47%	35.80%	51%	37.90%	40.50%	36.11%	37.08%	49.03%	49.50%	48.56%
2012	50.0%	52.13%	71.51%	60.44%	45.61%	45.20%	36%	54%	41.53%	41.53%	39.40%	43.67%	51.79%	52.27%	51.30%
2013	51.3%	53.77%	72.05%	61.25%	47.41%	46.55%	38.13%	57%	43.58%	43.12%	41%	46.62%	53.42%	54.03%	52.80%
2014	52.6%	55.02%	72.61%	62.22%	47.83%	47.73%	39.64%	60.07%	45.28%	45.09%	42.80%	47.95%	54.84%	55.82%	53.86%

3. The Main Problems of Urbanization in Shaanxi Province

3.1 The level of urbanization is not high and the quality needs to be improved

In 2014, the average urbanization rate of the 10 cities and 1 agricultural demonstration zone in Shaanxi was 52.6%. This number is lower than national urbanization rate 54.77%, and the gap is larger compared with some developed eastern provinces.

There are big imbalances of urbanization in different cities in Shaanxi. Large

differences in various regions show the characteristic of high intermediate and low at two ends. Guanzhong is higher than northern and southern Shaanxi, and southern Shaanxi has the lowest urbanization rate. In 2014, the urbanization rate in Guanzhong was over 55% and in Northern Shaanxi was close to 55%, but in southern Shaanxi was just around 45%. And from 10 prefecture level cities and 1 demonstration zone, the urbanization rate of Xi'an has reached to 72.61% at the end of 2014. However, the gap of urbanization rate between the highest and the lowest in Shaanxi is about 23 percentage points. The quality of urbanization is closely related to the first degree and the geographical position of the city. (Feng Yuwen, etc, 2015) As the provincial capital city, urbanization level of Xi'an is obviously higher than other cities. Besides, Yangling is smaller and the concentration of cities and towns is relatively high, so the level of urbanization is relatively higher than others. Generally speaking, economic development speed of northern Shaanxi and Guanzhong is faster and the urbanization level is relatively high, but the level of urbanization in southern Shaanxi is low. It is not difficult to see that there is still a large space to improve of overall level of urbanization for Shaanxi Province in the future.

3.2 Irrational industrial structure and the proportion of the third industry is not high

In 2014, the proportion of the three industries in Shaanxi is 8.9:54.8:36.3, and the proportion in Guanzhong is 8.4:50.2:41.4. The proportion of secondary and tertiary industry in Guanzhong have some relative advantages. Moreover, its level of industrial development is obviously better than that of Northern and Southern Shaanxi. The proportion of primary industry in northern Shaanxi is about 11.1% lower than that of southern Shaanxi, and secondary industry is 18.7% higher. But the tertiary industry is 7.6% lower than that of southern Shaanxi. According to the three industrial structure of Shaanxi and the cities from 2010-2014, although the proportion of primary and secondary industry are decreasing slowly and tertiary industry is constantly growing to break through 40 percentage points, tertiary industry is still the short board in Shaanxi Province. Furthermore, it is obviously that the proportion of

tertiary industry in Xi'an is 55.8% which is 33.9% higher than that of Yan'an in northern Shaanxi from the number of 10 cities and 1 demonstration zone. So it is better to boost tertiary industry in Shaanxi Province to promote the construction of new urbanization and improve the quality of urbanization. The only way to achieve the goal of population urbanization is to absorb local surplus rural transfer population to avoid the phenomena of "hollow town" caused by the transfer of rural population to the outside regions by the cultivation of tertiary industry.

Table 2 The Number of GDP and Three Industries of Shaanxi Province in 2014

(Unit: Billion yuan)

	GDP	Primary Industry	Secondary Industry	Tertiary Industry
Shaanxi	17689. 94	1564. 94	9689. 78	6435. 22
Guanzhong	11105. 21	934. 25	5570. 9	4600. 05
Southern Shaanxi	2192. 9	371. 95	1098. 05	722. 91
Northern Shaanxi	4391. 83	258. 74	3020. 83	1112. 26

Per capita GDP is an important indicator to reflect the economic strength of a city. And the growth rate of per capita GDP can reflect overall economic growth rate. So economic strength is the guarantee to improve the quality of urbanization. (Wen Wen, Shi Huaiyu, Shi Huijuan, 2014) At the end of 2014, per capita GDP of Yulin, Yan'an and Xi'an were reached to 89,005 yuan, 62,714 yuan and 63,748 yuan which ranked in the first, second, and third place of the province. Meanwhile, Yulin still maintains a high growth rate. However, per capita GDP of Yangling ranked fourth in Shaanxi Province while the growth rate was the last one. Besides, per capita GDP of Hanzhong, Ankang and Shangluo were the last three among them, but the overall growth were relatively fast with the number of 12.1%, 10.8% and 11.6%. Thus, it is necessary for Shaanxi especially southern Shaanxi to deeply explore the method and path of improving economic strength to promote the quality of urbanization under new economic normal.

3.3 "Urban disease" has become more and more severe

With the rapid advance of new urbanization, the urbanization of Shaanxi Province is also facing the indisputable reality of the surging urban population and the increasingly saturated carrying capacity of cities. Traffic jam, air pollution, lack of water and soil resources and public facilities were the prominent problems along with the further expansion of cities. More and more contradictions and problems caused by Land acquisition and relocation, labor dispute, wealth gap and interests of different groups will emerge in an endless stream. These may lead to problems of productive safety and social stability. (Niu Xiaochun, 2013) In the cities' environment condition, the environment of air quality in Shaanxi province is still not optimistic. Take the air quality report of Xi'an in 2014 as a reference, there were only 211 days of superior air days and the standard-achieving rate was about 57.8%. Moreover, there 38 days of heavy pollution days. These number to a certain extent reflect the industrialization and urbanization in Shaanxi province is still in the process of accelerating development with sharp environmental conflicts and environmental risk activities.

4. Suggestions on the Development of New Urbanization in Shaanxi Province

Under the current economic new normal situation of China, how to explore the path of urbanization development in line with the actual situation of Shaanxi province is an urgent problem. Firstly, there should be more attention to the improvement of urban quality and function. The construction of urbanization of Shaanxi Province in the future should focus on the connotation rather than the speed. Secondly, it is also important to solve the problem of how to achieve rural transfer population's citizenship, gradually eliminating the dual structure in cities and avoiding society ternary structure. Thirdly, urbanization construction should avoid the tendency of signal industrialization. Shaanxi should adhere to urban-rural integration and balanced development so that the whole region can form a new mode of rational and positive interactive development of industrial structure. In addition, there will be an important transition which is to put forward the transformation of the way of development in

Shaanxi Province by the promotion of a new round of urbanization. It can make the economic structure shift from over emphasis on processing and manufacturing to domestic demand to promote the adaptation of Shaanxi Province to economic new normal.

4.1 Under the guidance of urban planning, optimize the layout and ecology of the cities

A. Enhancing the scientificity of planning compilation. According to the requirement of combining long-term and recent benefit, moderately advancing, overall planning, implementing step by step, adapting to local condition, stressing on features and balancing urban and rural based on the conception of scientific development, Shaanxi should scientifically planning the next 10 years master plan. Meanwhile, improving democratic decision-making, openness and transparency through the process of planning. Besides, strengthen the co-ordination of various types of planning and information communication between cities and departments.

B. Improving quality of construction and carrying capacity of cities. Optimizing the ecological environment of cities and firmly establishing the concept of ecological priority to make sure the sky bluer, the ground greener and the water cleaner. Furthermore, it is necessary to improve comprehensive treatment of urban environment pollution, ecological system construction, urban drainage system, cleaner production and control pollutant emission and heavily polluting enterprises strictly. To highlight the urban historical and cultural features, and strive to build a beautiful towns which retain historical memories.

4.2 Focus on small towns and improve their functions to promote the coordinated development of various cities and towns

A. Enhance the central city radiation driving function. At present, Shaanxi has formed a large regional center city take Xi'an and Xianyang as the core. Moreover, with the chance of the promotion of "One Belt and One Road" and construction of the international metropolis of Xi'an, brought Shaanxi an important support for future urbanization development.

B. Strengthen and expand county-level cities. If new urbanization of Shaanxi Province can progress smoothly and absorb rural transfer population fully or not, the key point is county-level city. It is necessary to accelerate the development of the city as the main direction of optimizing the structure of the urban scale, strengthen the industrial layout and public service resources guide, enhance the quality and increase the number of county-level cities. Shaanxi needs to encourage and guide industrial projects in resource and environment carrying capacity, develop the city layout of potential county-level cities, develop special industries and lay a solid foundation for industries based on the advantages of resources supporting.

C. Focus on the development of small towns. With the requirements of controlling quantity, improving quality, saving land and reflecting the characteristics, Shaanxi Province should promote the combination of the development of small towns in the area and its regional center city district function, the characteristics of industrial development, and service for the "three rural issues". For example, small towns with the characteristics of resources and geographical advantages can be cultivated to a cultural tourism, trade and logistics, resource processing, transportation hubs and other specialty town by planning guidance and marketing operation. In the meantime, small towns which far away from the center cities can be comprehensive small towns with the function of servicing to rural areas and driving the surrounding through Improve infrastructure and public services.

4.3 Optimize the industrial structure layout and promote the integration of industries and cities

A. Optimize the industrial structure of cities and towns. According to resources and environment carrying capacity, factor endowment and comparative advantages, Shaanxi can cultivate and develop urban industrial system with different characteristics. The first thing is to updating and renovating traditional industries, eliminate backward production capacity, develop advanced manufacturing industry and strategic emerging industries with energy-saving characteristics and others of new generation of information technology, biotechnology, new energy, new materials. Secondly, to adapt to the requirements of transformation and upgrading of

manufacturing, Shaanxi should promote the specialization, marketization and socialization of productive services, so that they can gather in the central city and manufacturing intensive areas. Last but not least, it is important to adapt to the diversification of consumer demand, improve the living level of service industry, expand the supply of services, and raise service quality to ensure the develop of industrial structure which take economy service as the main task of megacities and large cities. In addition, build an industrial development pattern of large, medium and small cities and small towns with distinctive features, complementary advantages by strengthen urban specialization division of labor and cooperation, small and medium-sized urban industrial undertaking ability.

B. Strengthen the industrial coordination and promote integration of city and urbanization development. It may lead to “Latin American phenomenon” which is Farmers became unemployed and homeless when they were in town, and then turn into the mob whose the obstacle of the development of society if the urban develop alone and out of touch with industry. Therefore, it is necessary to develop service industry such as traditional service industry include basic necessities of life, high-end service industry represented by the financial services sector, and other new service industry during the process of urbanization.

4.4 Perfect the reform of the household registration system and promote rural population urbanization

A. Establish cost-sharing mechanism. According to the cost classification of rural transfer population to establish and perfect the cost-sharing mechanism of with the participation of governments, enterprises and individuals to guarantee rural transfer population become citizen and make sure the costs and expenses. The governments should bear the costs of compulsory education, labor employment, basic pension, basic medical and health, affordable housing and municipal facilities of rural transfer population turning into citizen. The enterprises should put the rural transfer population and urban workers equal-pay system into practice. They also should increase the input of staffs skill training and pay the costs of pension, medical care, work injury, unemployment, maternity and other social insurance for rural transfer

population in accordance with the relevant laws. Meanwhile, rural transfer population should also actively participate in social insurance, vocational education and skills training in towns, and pay relevant costs in accordance with the provisions to enhance their ability to integrate into the urban community.

B. Determine the duties of different levels of governments in the reform of the household registration system rationally. According to the urban population of Shaanxi province, the cities can be divided into the following categories: Xi'an can moderately control the scale and rhythm of settlements with the urban population of 8 million; The population of Xianyang, Weinan, Baoji, Yulin and Hanzhong were about 3-5 million. People with legal and stable employment who have reached a certain number of years and have a legal and stable residence (including leasing), them and their common living life of spouses, minor children, parents, etc. can apply for registration of permanent residence in the local; Cities with the population of 1-3 million can be ordered to open up restrictions. The urban population under 1 million small cities and towns can be fully liberalized settled restrictions, including county-level cities, the seat of county government.

4.5 Actively explore the new model of ecological civilization

A. Change the mode of development and adhere to the sustainable strategy. Shaanxi Province needs to change the current “simple pursuit of economic growth in the development” model, adhere to the idea of the development along with the governance based on the concept of Not excessive consumption and damage to energy to find a balance between Social demand, environmental health, and economic prosperity. (Shang Juan, 2013) At the time to meet the needs of the public life and work, it is necessary to ensure that people in the future can do the same thing. In the specific implementation process, the government should actively take a lot of energy saving, water saving, environmental protection and ecological measures, while setting up the whole society to comply with environmental laws and regulations of the integrity of the mechanism.

B. Improve the evaluation system and actively practice the idea of Ecological Philosophy. Governments, departments and environmental protection agencies should

strengthen institutional innovation and education guidance, Continue to improve all kinds of ecological laws and regulations, deepen the reform and innovation of environmental impact assessment system, and put resource consumption, environmental pollution and ecological benefits into economic and social development. And further development of ecological education for urban residents and create a good atmosphere of the joint venture In the community, campus, family and other fields by hold all kinds of activates to Improve the awareness of ecological civilization of urban residents, so that it has become a participant in the construction of ecological civilization and urban are also needed. Large scale of urban infrastructure and housing construction need to consume a large amount of cement and steel. And the negative effects brought by these energy sources will bring many challenges to environmental pollution emissions. Therefore, in the process of urbanization, Shaanxi should actively adopt new energy alternative to fossil fuels, promote the construction of green city, the implementation of ecological construction and ecological economy.

5. Conclusion

Under economic new normal conditions, it is a difficult and complex historical task for Shaanxi Province to promote the construction of new urbanization in Shaanxi Province, to improve the level of urbanization, to explore the development model and the path of urbanization. It is necessary to understand new normal, adapt to new normal, and guide new normal for Shaanxi. Firmly establish the concept of the market play a decisive role in the allocation of resources is very important to promote the construction, govern and innovation of new urbanization. (Qiao Shuwei, etc, 2015) Government of different level should strive for healthy and orderly development of urbanization in Shaanxi Province, in order to promote the sustainable and healthy development of the region's economy.

Reference,

HOU weimin & LI linpeng. 2015. The Dynamic and Path Selection of Urbanization of China Under New Normal. Economic Review. 4.pp. 11-16

XU Ruisheng. 2014. The Development of Urbanization Under the “New Normal” Thought. Journal of China Executive Leadership Academy Jinggangshan. 6.pp. 9-16

CHEN Yanni & LI Jiayang. 2015. The Position, New Features and New Thought of Chinese Urbanization Under New Normal. Guangxi Social Science. 5. pp. 149-152

PENG Mingchang. 2015. Study on the Mode and Path for New Urbanization Development in the Northern Areas of Jiangsu Province. Reformation & Strategy. 8.pp 122-126.

Shaanxi Geography Website. <http://www.sxsdq.cn/sqgk/zhjs/>

GE Long & SUN Zhongmin. 2014. The Research on Shaanxi Province ' s Urbanization Development Level Based on Principal Component Analysis. West Finance. 7.pp. 71-74

FENG Yuwen, YANG Jie, WANG Jiankang, WANG Changshou. 2015. Study on Comprehensive Evaluation and Spatial Differentiation of New Urbanization Quality in Shaanxi. Theory Guide. 2.pp. 81-85.

WEN Wen , SHI Huaiyu , SHI Huijuan. 2014. Exploring the Path of Districted Urbanization in Shaanxi Province. 12.pp.88-96.

NIU Xiaochun , DU Zhongchao , LI Tongsheng. 2013. Evaluation of regional urbanization level based on new urbanization: a case of 10 provincial cities in Shaanxi Province. *Arid Land Geography*. 3.pp.354-363.

SHANG Juan. 2013. An Empirical Study on the Influence Factors of Urbanization in Shaanxi Province. *Statistics & Information Forum*. 8. pp.78-83

QIAO Shuwei , YANG Xiaoming , SONG Zhenyu. 2015. Boosting New-type Urbanization Construction of Bengbu City under the New Normal. *Journal of Bengbu University*. 4.pp. 185-189.