

# Research on the Evaluation Index System of Social Harmony

Li Fen<sup>1</sup>, Zhu Xiuli<sup>2</sup>, Deng Mingran<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> School of Management, Wuhan University of Technology, Wuhan, P.R.China, 430070

<sup>2</sup> Department of English, Shijiazhuang Railway Institute, Shijiazhuang, P.R.China, 050051 (E-mail: lifen\_1988@126.com, xiuli@163.com, mingrand@mail.whut.edu.cn)

**Abstract:** With the Scientific Development View as guidance, to build the socialism and a harmonious society have been a common understanding and consentaneous action in China. However, the lack of quantitative criteria influences the evaluation of the important strategy. With Hebei province as example, the paper puts forward the evaluation index system of social harmony, which consists of five indices, the degree of social development, social impartiality, social insurance, social security, and social civilization. The purpose of the paper is to make the abstract concepts concrete, to improve the operation and the evaluation, which will accelerate the building pace of a harmonious socialist society.

**Key words:** Harmonious society; Index system; Evaluation

## 1 Introduction

The hottest issues are people's livelihood and harmony in the government reports and cadres' speeches at all level, and highlights in media during the national CCPC and NPC, and at all levels, indicating that construction of a harmonious socialist society has become the strongest note, and common undertaking concerned by whole society, and of course, have been one of the tip-top issues of our party and government.

Since the Central Government initiated the construction of the socialism and the harmonious society, especially when the Central Government worked out the Decision on Several Important Issues Concerning the Construction of the Socialism and the Harmonious Society, all provinces made great efforts in implementing it. So did Hebei Province. One year before this, the Committee of Hebei Province had worked out the Hebei Provincial Communist Party's Instructional Proposals on Important Issues Concerning on the Construction of "Harmonious Hebei", tried hard in implementation, and achieved certain effects. However, because of lacking quantitative assessing criteria, it is difficult to evaluate the overall effects and accurately compare the specific degree of social development in different provinces. As a result, some provinces and departments did not sense the pressure. On the other they concentrated on GDP while ignoring construction of the society. Consequently, it is necessary under the situation to work out a set of realistic and authoritative assessing system of Indices of Harmonious Society that can embodies the requirements of the Scientific Development View.

## 2 Literature Review

Many provinces, , such as Beijing, Jiangsu, Shandong and Guangdong, government departments, the National Bureau of Statistics, and some experts have started to study such problems as the "indices of social harmony" or "quantitative evaluation system of degree of social harmony". Some of them even studied relevant contents like indices of happiness, evaluation criteria of harmonious community, etc.

After combing these studies, we found out that everyone is exploring while there is no mature and widely accepted conclusion, and that the criteria made by different departments in different provinces vary greatly owing to differences in region, function, aspect and method. For example, the evaluation system of social harmony is classified into three categories in Beijing city, which reflects the objective situation of social conflicts, current situation of coordination of social conflicts, and the social claims of social issues, while National Bureau of Statistics classifies the social harmony according to six major features,

that is democratic monocacy, impartiality and righteousness, credit and friendship, vitality, stability and orderliness, and harmony between human being and the nature. Although each has its peculiarity, which is right cannot be decided.

### **3 Building the Evaluation Index System of Social Harmony**

#### **3.1 Basic principles**

The basic principles should be obeyed.

First of all, the classification should accurately reflect the essential connotation of the socialism and harmonious society, the direction cannot be awry.

Secondly, it should reflect the basic requirements of a harmonious socialist society. The denotation should be circular, and can form an enclosed and complete chain.

Thirdly there should be a reasonable structure among all subsystems and elements within the system, and its weight should be scientific.

Fourthly, the classification should be concise but distinct, so that it is easy to understand, add up, and compare, therefore, it should be quantitative.

All of this, the most important thing is to work out criteria, in making which there are two critical factors. One is how to decide the items to assess, that is, what work should be listed among the items to be assessed. The other is how to make the quantitative criteria, that is, how to grade the weighing coefficient of the items assessed.

#### **3.2 Evaluation index system of social harmony**

We classify the social construction into five categories. As shown in table 1.

Category 1: Degree of Social Development (hereinafter referred to as DSD). It refers to the advancement of the whole society, especially the degree of matching the economic development. Starting with its content, the three sub-categories, general situation, social undertaking, and social vigor can be set. The general situation includes such items as gross product per capita, average housing, rate of urbanization, Engel's index, happiness index and etc. Of course, happiness index needs to be counted with another system. The social undertaking covers items like the ratio between investment in social undertaking and gross financial investment, ratio between educational expenditure and GDP, and the ratio between expenditure in medical treatment and sanitation. Although the expenditure in education and expenditure in medical treatment and sanitation have been included in the overall investment in social undertaking, they are singled out for the reason that they are closely related to people's life and have far-reaching impact. Employment, social insurance, and etc. are certainly important contents of social undertaking, however, they will be evaluated in Category of Degree of Social Fairness for the simple reason that we don't have a standard statistics of employment in cities as well as in countryside, and therefore, the rate of employment is difficult to count; while the social insurance will be assessed in other category, and consequently, we don't single it out here. Being vigorous is essentially the basic feature and important of social harmony, however, it is mainly composed of such abstract contents as the vigor of the system, vigor of consciousness and vigor of individual and etc, and there is nearly no quantitative criteria and it can be hardly listed as a category. What is more, it belongs to the category of DSD, therefore, it is listed as a sub-category here.

Category 2: Degree of Social Fairness (hereinafter referred to as DSF). Index in this category emphasizes the social equilibrium, which is the Degree of Fairness of certain amount of social wealth and public resources among different groups of people in different regions, which consists of the most important index of social harmony. We classify it into fairness in income, opportunity and judicial administration. By the fairness in income, we can see the gap between citizens in cities and countryside, citizens in different regions and citizens of different groups. Fairness in Opportunity refers to the fairness in education and

employment. The former is the fairness from the starting point of life; the latter is basic in people's livelihood. Therefore the fairness in education and employment is the most fundamental one. Fairness in Judicial Administration is the last defense of social fairness, and it is of vital importance to guarantee the social fairness. However there are only a few quantitative criteria, of which we focus on two. One is the rate of appealing to higher authority for help in law, which can reflect the litigants' direct recognition of fairness in judicial administration. The other is their satisfaction with the fairness in judicial administration, which reflects a wider recognition by more citizens.

Category 3: Degree of Social Insurance (hereinafter referred to as DSI). DSI is known as a social insurance net under a market-oriented economic, an important re-distribution form in maintaining the social fairness. In nature, it can be classified into social insurance, social welfare and social relief. But it is difficult to count and compare, and it cannot reflect the current situation of respective administration by cities and the countryside. Therefore, we classify social insurance into urban social insurance, rural social insurance and off-farm workers' social insurance. It should be pointed out that off-farm workers are special social groups currently. Although they make up a very important part of industrial workers, they are still farmers. While working in cities, they still belong to the countryside in terms of household register, migrating between cities and countryside. They are not entitled to urban social insurance and they don't have the chance to enjoy rural social insurance. Therefore, we should categorize them into an independent main body that doesn't belong to the city or the rural area. According the obvious problems, we set up rate of insurance, level of salary and whether paid in time, and their children's education locally. Of course, as far as social harmony is mentioned, the three indices cannot cover all, even though it is fairly good to solve them judged by the current situation. With the social development, the indices concerned can be adjusted correspondingly.

Category 4: Degree of Social Security (hereinafter referred to as DSS). Only living in peace and contentment can we work in peace and contentment. Safety and order are important symbols of social harmony. We can classify this index into public order, public sanitation and production safety. Public order covers rate of cases involving more than 10,000 persons, rate of solving cases, and public satisfaction of public order. We especially put forward the rate of solving all cases arisen. In virtual work, the rate of solving cases is a comparison between the numbers of cases solved and registered, which is obviously nonscientific.

Table 1 - The Social Harmonious Index System

1 <sup>st</sup> level	2 <sup>nd</sup> level	3 <sup>rd</sup> level	Expected	Actual	3 <sup>rd</sup> level percentage	1 <sup>st</sup> level percent	3 <sup>rd</sup> level score	1 <sup>st</sup> level score	Memo
Degree of social development	Basic situation	01 national Per-capita GDP	>5000 ¥	14782 ¥	2	21			11th five-year plan ¥ 17050
		02 per-capita GDP in province			1				
		03 urbanization rate	>50%	37.5%	2				11th five-year plan 45%
		04 Engel index			2				
		05 happiness index			2				According to figures
	Social scheme	06 social industry input per FIN			2				
		07 education input per GDP	5%		1				11th five-year plan 4%
		08 public health per FIN			1				
	Social vitality	09 population turnover			1				
		10 patent application per 10,000	1.5	0.96	2				
		11 trademark registration per 10,000			1				
		12 enterprises registration per 100,000		1.5	1				
		13 new products R&D rate			2				
		14 social organization growth rate per 100,000		17	1				

(Continued Table 1)

Degree of social fairness	Income fairness	16 GINI index	<4.0		2	19		Economically Prosperious ends
		17 urban income per rural	<1:2.5	1:2.6	2			
		18 income rate between two ends			2			
	Opportunity fairness	19 school enrolment per drop-out rate			2			
		20 urban employment rate per rural			1			
		21 gender equity			1			
	Civil rights	22 satisfaction of judicial system			2			
		23 appeal rate			2			
		24 satisfaction of social equity			2			
Degree of social security	Urban social security	25 insurance purchase rate			2	21		National standars ¥ 169 monthly per person
		26 low-level insurance standards and scope	300 monthly	157 monthly	2			
		27 three-non-property family			2			
		28 affordable housing rate per	20%	11%	2			
		29 cheap housing supplies			2			

(Continued Table 1)

	Rural social security	30 low-level insurance standards and scope	100 monthly	65 monthly	2			11th five-year plan ¥ 40 monthly, per person	
		31 rural households enjoying five guarantees living condition			2				
		32 rural cooperative medical service standards and scope	100%	8%	2			11th five-year plan 85%	
	Migrant workers security	33 insurance purchase rate	>80% overall	Medical 10%,	2			Depends on different insurance type	
		34 lowest monthly income and on-time dispense rate	1000 ¥	440-580 ¥	2				
		35 children enrolment rate on-site	100%	42000 students	2				
		36 union member rate, working contract rate	100%		1				
		37 social aid rate per FIN			2				
	Degree of public security	Public security	38 commitment rate per 10,000			2			
			39 commitment rate per solution			2			
40 satisfaction of public security			95%	90%	2			According to figures	

(Continued Table 1)

	Public health	41 food safety incidents rate			2	16			
		42 EIDs rate			2				
		43 antiepidemic agencies per			2				
	Industrial safety	44 casualty accidents of enterprise staff per 100,000 workmen	1	2.1	2				
		45 industrial safety per total input			2				
Degree of social civilization	Political civilization	46 citizen political involvement rate			1	23			According to figures
		47 public servant integrity rate			1				According to figures
		48 offense against civil rights rate			1				
		49 satisfaction of civil rights rate			2				
	Cultural civilization	50 breach of contract rate			1				
		51 consumption complaint rate			1				
		52 specific criminal (civil) case rate			2				
		53 volunteering activity rate			1				

(Continued Table 1)

		54 volunteer no. per population			1			
		55 donations per GDP	1%	1,600,000 till end of 2006	2			First charity organization existed in Hebe in June 2006
		56 righteous behaviors			1			According to figures
		57 satisfaction of cultural civilization			2			According to figures
Environmental system		58 forest coverage rate in the province	30%	23.5%	1			Chengde reaches 46%
		59 urban greening space per person	15 sq.m	7.8 sq.m	1			Langfang reaches 17sq.m
		60 days no. which reach level-two air quality	310 days	283 days	2			Langfang reaches 310 days
		61 industrial waste harmless disposal	>95%		1			
		62 satisfaction of public ecological			2			According to figures

For one reason, it disguises the real situation of public order, and for another, it encourages policemen not to register and not to solve problems, which postpones the efficiency to blow the criminals. Thirdly, it weakens policemen's social responsibilities, which threatens the public's safety. Rate of solving all cases arisen is to compare the cases solved with cases arisen, which can reflect objectively the current situation of social safety and the effect of blowing the criminals. Public sanitation on the issue is more and more obvious in recent years. As least we should set foodstuff safety, situation of infectious diseases coming on and ability of treatment. Production safety sets occurring rate of accident involving more than 100,000 persons and amount of money invested in production safety.

Category 5: Degree of Social Civilization (hereinafter referred to as DSC). A socialistic and harmonious society is not only the accumulation of wealth and enjoyment of materials, but also the respect of democratic rights, the exaltation of spiritual civilization and the improvement of people's living environment. If we don't emphasize this, however affluent the material is, it is only a world of utterly worthless people. In fact, without materials, the civilization of material cannot be realized. The social civilization is important, but most of it is subjective and it is difficult to measure quantitatively. So we can try in terms of political civilization, spiritual civilization and ecological civilization. Political civilization can be specified as degree of public's political involvement, the public servants' incorruption and rate of cases of infringing the public's democratic rights. Of course, the first two are comparatively complicated and need to be surveyed in different ways. Items from spiritual civilization cover more. It should include rate of breaking contract, and rate of claiming, which measure the social credit, and readiness to help others for a just cause, which measures the social responsibility. Criteria for ecological civilization are comparatively specific and have more evidences, for example, the covering rate of forest, average green area in cities, air quality, recycle disposal of trash and etc. The above mentioned five categories cover in all 15 sub-categories, and 62 items. Thus, the indices basically give attention to both collectivity and keystone, static and dynamic, objective and subjective. Of course, no matter how to classify, we cannot be flawless, but we should at least cover those that are dominating and can solve the problem.

### **3.3 Quantitative criteria**

To assess conveniently, we can count 100 as full mark. That is the weighed total should be 100 points, and 20 on average to each major category, but there is the difference among them, for example, DSS has less items, so it takes up less than 20, DSD covers 21, DSF 19, DSI 21, DSS 16, and DSC 23. At last, the points will be distributed to the sub-category, which is the basis of the evaluation. Of course, the weight of each sub-category differs. For example, some of the weighed point is 1, while others will be 2, which is determined by its significance.

We adopt the comparison between the harmonious value and the real value. First, we set a recognized harmonious value for each sub-category, which is comprehensively decided according to the internationally accepted standard, degree of average development, national average level, and pace of social development and concrete situation of Hebei Province. For example, the harmonious value of Geordie Index is 0.4, and compare it with the real digit, that is, the real value. Then we decide the weight according to the gap between the two values. And then we add up points of all sub-categories and have the point of the category, and then add up all five categories and we will have the total points of the overall index of social harmony, which make the abstract social harmony a concrete, digital one.

## **4 Conclusions**

This evaluation system is only under preliminary consideration, and there unavoidably

exist some deficiency. While Hebei lacks data of raw material for social harmony, the system cannot be utilized to measure the harmonious degree in Hebei. So we should collect enough data to prove it in Hebei Province as soon as possible.

### **References**

- [1] Howard T. Odum. Environmental Accounting: EMERGY and Environmental Decision Making[M]. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc, 1995
- [2] Christian Azar, John Holmberg, Kristian Lindgren. Socio-ecological Indicators for Sustainability[J]. Ecological Economics, 1996
- [3] UNDP. Human Development Report 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1996[R]. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997
- [4] Dr. Laszlo Pinter. International Experience in Establishing Indicators for the Circular Economy and Consideration for China[M]. Report for the World Bank, 2006
- [5] Guo Huibin. Re-establishment of Sustainable Competitive Advantage[M]. Beijing: China Economics Press, 2009 (In Chinese)