

Livelihood development among settled nomads after Nomad Sedentarization Project in rural China

– cases of Xinjiang and Inner Mongolia in China

CHEN JING

Keywords: Livelihood, Nomads, Sedentarization, Xinjiang, Inner-Mongolia

As a practice widely applied in the world, the Nomad Sedentarization Project (NSP) intended for ecological restoration, and poverty alleviation has been implemented in large grassland areas. It has changed the nomadic lifestyle in rural China. To gain a better understanding of the current livelihood of nomad as well as the determining factors for enhancing the sustainability of the nomadic livelihood under the current sedentarization policy, this paper uses case studies in arid pastoral area as well as relatively humid pastoral area to assess the livelihood assets and types of livelihood objective of settled nomads. The findings of the study show that the total of livelihood assets was 0.733 in the arid pastoral area in Xinjiang and 0.685 in the relatively humid area in Inner-Mongolia. Both of them belong to the “Good” category. The findings also indicate the motivation of livelihood improvement, which is affected by people’s livelihood objectives may affect the efficiency of the government’s policy implementation as well. Thus, it should also be taken into consideration during the policymaking process. Besides, livelihood vulnerability context is found to be very different among different types of pastoral area. Therefore, to achieve more sustainable livelihood development, approaches based on local context are necessary.