

Spatial mismatch and smart development path of poverty cluster in metropolis: innovative, inclusive, and link

Lingyan Yao^{1*}, Yu Tian

¹*Tongji University*

**lingyanyao529@gmail.com*

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Globalization, market transition and social structure change in china, which have been accompanied by unemployment, social inequality, immigrants, marginal groups, are creating increasing concentrated poverty in metropolis. Urban poverty clusters are viewed as a critical problem not only in respect of citizenship livelihoods, but also of the social and spatial differentiation that causes society unsafely, and the tremendous local public finance burden. A smart way to alleviate urban poverty is one of the key points to keep sustainable development.

More research attention of urban poverty in china focused on social inequality and wealth distribution, less on spatial problems that cause poverty concentrated and persisted. This article aims to analysis the spatial reasons for urban poverty concentration, and to examine the effect of different spatial development path for poverty clusters, then to discuss how to form a smart spatial development way to alleviate it. We use comparative study, based on three cases of poverty clusters in Shanghai, which have the same social and historical background but different spatial develop paths, to make it concrete. One case is a existent poverty cluster without spatial change; another has been redeveloped to homogenization by Government; The other one has taken a interactive update with artists, forming not homogeneous but a interactive spatial cluster.

The finding suggests that besides historical and social reasons, “spatial mismatch” which limits the personal development opportunity and isolates information flow from outside, have caused poverty clusters worse and continued. Some spatial changes, like urban redevelopment, just make homogeneous urban space meet the

non-poor requirement. However, they shape a new “spatial mismatch” for the poor without bring new space system and create huge financial burden as well. On the contrary, the innovative update with artists joint is not only changing the poverty cluster’s isolation, but also shaping an inclusive unite community which enhances the knowledge and information flow and brings new job opportunities and skills.

It suggests local government should adopt an innovative approach to poverty alleviation, alter spatial mismatch and add the link of poverty to other social class, rather than the “eradication and resettlement” approach or isolated public works.