

# Policy Performance of County-level Economic and Social **Development Based on Multi-dimensional Indicators**

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**Abstract:** Performance evaluation of county-level economic and social development policies is an important link in optimizing local governance. Based on system theory and policy science theory, this paper constructs a multi-dimensional index evaluation system including economic development, improvement of peoples livelihood, ecological environment, innovation drive, etc., and deeply analyzes the implementation effect of county-level development policies. It is found that the current policies have some problems, such as insufficient coordination between economy and ecology, limited innovation driving effect, and unbalanced regional development. In view of these problems, some suggestions are put forward, such as establishing a multi-dimensional evaluation mechanism, optimizing the policy formulation process, and strengthening regional coordinated development, so as to provide theoretical guidance and policy reference for improving the implementation efficiency of county-level development policies.

Keywords: county-level economy; Multidimensional indicators; Policy performance; Coordinated development

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#### Introduction

County is the basic unit of Chinas economic and social development, and the implementation effect of county-level development policies is directly related to the implementation of national development strategies. With the deepening of the concept of high-quality development, a single economic growth indicator can no longer fully reflect the level of county development, and it is urgent to build a multi-dimensional and multi-level policy performance evaluation system. The existing research mostly focuses on a single field or specific indicators, and lacks a systematic policy performance evaluation framework. Based on this, by constructing a multi-dimensional index evaluation system, this paper deeply analyzes the performance of county-level development policies from the theoretical and policy levels, in order to provide decision-making reference for optimizing county governance.

## 1 Theoretical Evolution and Paradigm Reconstruction of County-level Development Policy **Performance Evaluation**

#### 1.1 Basic theory of policy performance evaluation

Policy performance evaluation originates from public management theory and policy science, emphasizing systematic investigation and value judgment of policy implementation effect. From the theoretical origin, policy performance evaluation is rooted in the new public management movement, and absorbs the essence of multidisciplinary theories such as system theory and cybernetics. Policy performance evaluation not only focuses on the efficiency dimension of input and output, but also emphasizes the achievement degree of policy objectives and social impact<sup>[1]</sup>. The performance evaluation of county-level development policies needs to be based on the reality of regional development, comprehensively consider all links of the policy process, and establish an evaluation framework covering input, process, output, effect and other levels. In the concept of evaluation, we should adhere to the principles of objectivity, comprehensiveness and operability, which should not only reflect the requirements of scientific norms, but also consider the needs of practical application.

#### 1.2 Construction method of multi-dimensional index system

The construction of multi-dimensional index system needs to follow the principles of systematicness, scientificity and

feasibility, and use the method of combining qualitative analysis with quantitative calculation. The index system should cover the dimensions of economic development, social progress, ecological protection, innovation drive, etc., and reflect the overall characteristics of county-level development. In the process of construction, it is necessary to comprehensively use scientific methods such as analytic hierarchy process and Delphi method to reasonably set up the index hierarchy structure. The selection of indicators should be based on the characteristics of county development, taking into account the representativeness, availability and comparability of indicators. The index weight can be determined by combining subjective weighting with objective weighting, and quantitative calculation can be carried out by entropy method, coefficient of variation method and other methods.

#### 1.3 Selection and application of evaluation indicators

The selection of evaluation indexes should be based on the actual development of the county, and an index database with reasonable structure and rich connotation should be established. In the dimension of economic development, we should pay attention to core indicators such as GDP growth rate, fiscal revenue and industrial structure; In the dimension of social and peoples livelihood, it is necessary to examine key indicators such as residents income, employment status and public services; In the dimension of ecological environment, we should pay attention to important indicators such as environmental quality, resource utilization and ecological protection; In the innovation-driven dimension, relevant indicators such as R&D investment, talent gathering, and scientific and technological achievements should be included. In the process of index application, attention should be paid to the standardized processing of data to eliminate the influence of dimensions.

### 2 Systematic Analysis and Dynamic Evaluation of County-level Development Policy Performance

#### 2.1 Performance evaluation of economic development policies

The performance of county-level economic development policies is reflected in the optimization of industrial structure, the improvement of economic quality and the conversion of development kinetic energy. In terms of industrial structure, traditional agricultural counties have promoted agricultural industrialization and large-scale development by implementing agricultural modernization strategies, and the agricultural output value has steadily increased; Relying on technological transformation and industrial upgrading policies, industrial counties and districts have promoted the traditional manufacturing industry to the middle and high end, and the proportion of emerging industries has increased significantly; By optimizing the business environment, service-oriented counties and districts attract modern service industries to gather, and the industrial energy level continues to jump<sup>[2]</sup>. In terms of economic quality, the county economy has changed from scale expansion to efficiency improvement, the fiscal revenue structure has become more reasonable, and the proportion of tax revenue has steadily increased. In terms of development momentum, the innovation-driven strategy promotes the transformation of county economy from factor-driven to innovation-driven.

#### 2.2 Analysis of the effectiveness of social and peoples livelihood policies

The effectiveness of social and peoples livelihood policies is reflected in the dimensions of residents income growth, improvement of employment quality and optimization of public services. In terms of residents income, the income growth rate of rural residents is generally higher than that of urban residents, and the income gap between urban and rural areas is gradually narrowing. However, the channel for increasing farmers income in some remote counties and districts is still single. In terms of employment quality, vocational skills training policies promote the improvement of labor force quality, new industries and new formats drive the increase of jobs, and the employment of key groups is effectively guaranteed. In terms of public services, the allocation of educational and medical resources is more balanced, and the standardization level of basic public services has been significantly improved. However, high-quality public service resources are still relatively concentrated in economically developed counties and districts. The social security system is becoming more and more perfect, the coverage of peoples livelihood security such as old-age care, medical care and housing is constantly expanding, and the level of security is steadily improving. However, compared with the growing needs of the masses for a better life, the diversity and convenience of public service supply still need to be strengthened.

#### 2.3 Implementation effects of ecological and environmental policies

The implementation effect of ecological policies is reflected in the improvement of environmental quality, the improvement of resource utilization efficiency and the protection of ecosystems. In terms of environmental quality, through the implementation of the action plan for the prevention and control of air, water and soil pollution, the environmental quality of counties has continued to improve, but the pressure of pollution control in some industrial counties and districts is still high<sup>[3]</sup>. In terms of resource utilization, the energy consumption structure has been gradually optimized, and the proportion of renewable energy utilization has increased. However, the resource utilization efficiency of some counties and districts is still low, and the intensive and conservation-oriented development model has not yet been fully established. In terms of ecological protection, the protection of key ecological functional areas has achieved remarkable results, the ecological compensation mechanism has been continuously improved, and the construction of ecological civilization has been further advanced.

# 3 The Innovative Direction and Practical Breakthrough of Performance Optimization of County-level Development Policy

#### 3.1 Improve the policy formulation and evaluation mechanism

The perfection of policy formulation and evaluation mechanism needs to start from three aspects: system design, organizational structure and operation mechanism. At the system design level, establish a policy life cycle management system, standardize the operation processes of policy formulation, implementation, evaluation, adjustment and other links, and strengthen the institutional constraints of policy pre-evaluation and post-evaluation. In terms of organizational structure, set up a special policy evaluation agency, integrate government departments, experts and scholars, social organizations and other forces, and build a professional evaluation team. At the same time, we should establish a scientific evaluation index system, refine quantitative indexes, and improve the objectivity and credibility of evaluation results [4]. In terms of operation mechanism, establish a feedback and application mechanism for policy evaluation results, and link the evaluation results with policy adjustment, resource allocation, performance appraisal, etc. to form a virtuous circle of evaluation, feedback and improvement.

#### 3.2 Promote multi-dimensional coordinated development

Multi-dimensional coordinated development requires the overall planning and balance of policies in the economic, social, ecological and other fields. In terms of economic development, we should optimize industrial policies, guide the transformation and upgrading of traditional industries, cultivate new kinetic energy for development, improve the market-oriented allocation mechanism of factors, and improve the efficiency of resource allocation. In terms of social development, we will make overall plans to promote peoples livelihood policies such as employment, education, medical care and old-age care, improve the basic public service system, innovate social governance methods, and enhance the inclusiveness and fairness of development. In terms of ecological environment, strengthen the synergy between environmental governance and ecological protection policies, improve the ecological compensation mechanism, and establish and improve a long-term mechanism for environmental governance. Establish an inter-departmental policy coordination mechanism, strengthen the convergence and cooperation between policies, eliminate policy barriers and blind spots, and realize the organic unity of policy effects.

#### 3.3 Innovative policy implementation methods

The innovation of policy implementation methods should be based on the background of digital transformation and use modern technological means to improve the efficiency of policy implementation. Promote the digital reform of government services, build a smart government platform, and realize accurate push of policy information and full monitoring of policy implementation. Build a big data analysis platform, grasp the effect of policy implementation in time, and improve the scientificity and timeliness of policy adjustment. Innovate policy incentive mechanisms, design differentiated policy support schemes, and improve the accuracy and effectiveness of policies<sup>[5]</sup> . Improve the policy

coordination promotion mechanism, establish a cross-departmental linkage working mechanism, break down information barriers, and improve the efficiency of policy implementation. Establish an early warning mechanism for policy implementation risks to identify and prevent potential risks in policy implementation in advance. Innovate policy propaganda methods, use new media platforms to strengthen policy interpretation and guidance, improve policy awareness and recognition, create a good policy implementation environment, and ensure that policy effects are fully exerted.

#### 4 Epilogue

By constructing a multi-dimensional index system, this paper systematically analyzes the performance of county-level economic and social development policies, and reveals the problems and shortcomings existing in the current county-level development policies. The research shows that establishing a scientific policy performance evaluation mechanism is helpful to improve the efficiency of policy implementation and promote the coordinated development of county economy and society. In the future, it is necessary to further improve the evaluation theoretical system, innovate evaluation methods, strengthen policy coordination, and promote the formation of a more scientific, standardized and effective county-level development policy evaluation system.

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