

# 中国人民大学 中国社会发展 研究报告 2005 走向更加和谐的社会



RESEARCH REPORTS ON CHINA SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, 2005  
BY RENMIN UNIVERSITY OF CHINA  
MOVING TOWARDS A MORE HARMONIOUS SOCIETY

顾问 袁宝华 程天权  
主编 郑杭生 李路路  
副主编 洪大用

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## 出版说明

近几年来，中国人民大学年度系列发展报告（即《中国人民大学中国社会发展研究报告》、《中国人民大学中国经济发展研究报告》和《中国人民大学中国人文社会科学发展研究报告》）的出版发行，引起了社会各界和广大读者的广泛关注，产生了较大的社会影响，成为我校一个重要的学术品牌，这让我们深感欣慰，也增加了我们继续做好这项工作的责任和信心。正是基于这样的责任和信心，加上近一年的努力，我们又编写出版了中国人民大学系列发展报告 2005。

中国人民大学系列发展报告 2005 的各个子报告均由编委会负责审定选题、整体框架、主要内容和编写体例，并由其组织有关专家召开研讨会，审核写作提纲。各报告实行主编负责制，主编由校学术委员会主任、秘书长会议确定，学校聘任；主编聘请副主编或执行副主编。各报告根据主题，分别聘请相关部门的领导和知名学者担任顾问。中国人民大学社会学理论与方法研究中心、中国人民大学中国经济改革与发展研究院和中国人民大学中国社会科学发展改革研究中心分别作为《中国人民大学中国社会发展研究报告 2005》、《中国人民大学中国经济发展研究报告 2005》和《中国人民大学中国人文社会科学发展研究报告 2005》的依托单位，在组织和写作方面发挥了主要作用。



报告的编写出版工作现已纳入学校的年度工作规划，成为一项常规性工作。

由于报告所涉及的问题大多具有重大、复杂和前沿性的特点，加上写作与出版周期较短及研究水平的局限，尽管我们尽了努力，报告中的不足或易引起争议的地方仍在所难免，欢迎专家和学者批评指正。

中国人民大学发展研究报告编委会

2005年3月3日



## Abstract

Primarily on the basis of materials from a large scale social survey, this report analyzes the social structure, especially the stratum structure of China from the perspective of promoting social harmony with the attempt to reveal the key problems in present social structure and the fundamental measures to guide the social structure to develop towards a more reasonable and more optimized direction.

The social survey on which this report is based is under the support of the second phase funds of the national "211 project" and mainly includes two parts. The first part is a national general social survey (GSS), a large scale social survey titled "Research Plans on China Social Change" organized and conducted by Center for Studies of Sociological Theory & Method of Renmin University of China and the Department of Sociology of Renmin University of China. The first phase of this survey was conducted in 2003, which focused on class/stratum structure, occupational mobility, social network, social attitude/social identification and environmental consciousness. The second part is a historical survey in specific regions titled "Changes in Eighty



Years in Rural Area of Northern China” which was organized and conducted by Center for Studies of Sociological Theory & Method of Renmin University of China and the Department of Sociology of Renmin University of China. The first phase of this survey is mainly by means of observation and interview and till now has collected large quantities of data and video materials.

This report points out that the core of social structure is social stratum structure. The reason why social stratum structure is the most important structural factor determining the whole status of social structure and its changing process is that it is the most important social foundation which constitutes social inequality, forms social identity and social movement and determines social interest structure and social contradiction and conflict. The social significance of class/stratum structure is that it is the basic boundary of social relationship, the core mechanism to determine social power and the distribution of social resources, the fundamental organizational principle of social action, therefore the decisive factor to determine other aspects of social structure. Class/stratum relationship limits other social relationships, and the essence and forms of other social relationships are explained by class/stratum relationship under most circumstances. As the social foundation of social groups' existence and action, social stratum structure constitutes the foundation of social stability or social conflict.

Therefore, this report focuses on analyzing the influences of social stratum structure of contemporary China and its changes on social harmony. The fundamental key of the report is that reasonable and optimized social stratum structure is the critical foundation and mechanism to promote social harmony. Meanwhile, this report also pays close attention to other aspects of social structure, such as regional relationships, political opportunity structure etc. We especially notice the close relationships between social harmony and environment conditions. In a broader sense, social structure should include the relationships between society and environment. Therefore, we use one chapter to discuss the present environment circumstances of China and the public's environment protection consciousness.

This report includes an overview and eleven chapters.



The overview generalizes the momentous significance of regarding social harmony as the goal of government policy, analyzes the relationship between social structure, especially social stratum structure and social harmony theoretically, and points out that social harmony is originated from social structure, especially the coordination and integration of social stratum structure.

On the basis of the relationships between social members (mainly the differences in social power), the first chapter combines the power and resources possessed by social members and puts forward a social stratum structure based on power and resources with six types of occupations as its form of expression. According to GSS in 2003, in this structure, 12.69% are administrative personnel, 13.46% are professional technical personnel, 13.17% are clerks, 48.03% are workers, 10.52% are self-employees, 2.11% are peasants in cities. This chapter focuses on four analytical dimensions to analyze the status of the above strata which include the possession of resources and power, behavior and social interaction, attitude and social identification and social mobility.

Chapter two analyzes the income distribution of urbanite and points out that at present in China the gap of urbanite's income is relative large in general. The occurrence of the income gap admittedly has its reasonable aspects, but it also has its unreasonable aspects in a considerable degree.

Chapter three discusses the basic differences for different urban social strata in education, income, social mobility opportunity and points out that the distribution of important life opportunities between different regions and different strata is unequal.

Chapter four describes the daily life status of residents of different strata in the specific aspects of family life, expenditure, leisure time and social interaction, especially analyzes the social network of residents to reveal the differences and common grounds of residents of different strata and in different regions.

Chapter five briefly analyzes the stratum consciousness and social identification of urbanite in China from six aspects: social stratification consciousness, basic status of stratum identification, dimensions of stratum identifica-





tion, relative deprivation, consciousness of social unjustness and social conflicts. It is pointed out that urbanite commonly have the consciousness of social stratification which has been strengthened during the past ten years; there is a clear tendency of "towards lower strata polarization", that is most people classify themselves in the lower strata or middle-lower strata; in all dimensions of social stratification, the most distinct and unanimous stratum identification is caused by public power and the difference in power is believed to the biggest social difference.

Chapter six thoroughly analyzes the stratification phenomenon of urbanite with more complicated analytical techniques and reveals the correlation of urbanite's objective stratification with choice of residence, life style, group identification etc. It is also pointed out that there is a tendency of closure for the lowest stratum.

Chapter seven analyzes the migrants to cities in the process of urbanization, reveals the constitution of their gender, age, education degree, analyzes their status of employment, income, stratum and social mobility, discusses their encounters in city life and puts forward several targeted suggestions on policies.

Chapter eight analyzes the social differentiation of rural residents. It is pointed out that since the beginning of 1980s, there has occurred a radical differentiation in rural society with the social transformation and the reconstruction of economic system. The differentiation among rural residents is also widened. The differentiation among rural residents is reflected in the distinct differences occurred in the aspects of economic income, occupation, life style and value concept etc.

Chapter nine discusses the reform of political opportunity structure in rural areas and points out that after the reform and opening, there is a great progress in the construction of democracy in rural areas. The development of villager autonomy and the breakthrough of democracy in the township level provide a broad space for the political participation of rural residents and extremely arouse the fervor of billions of rural residents for political participation. However, the participation status of the vulnerable groups such as



women and farmer workers in the construction of democracy in rural areas is not so optimistic and there even occur some illegal behaviors such as bribe in election which need careful treatment and resolution.

Chapter ten emphasizes that making overall plans for regional coordinated development is one of the critical mechanisms to achieve a more reasonable social structure and more harmonious social life. Therefore, this chapter reviews the dynamic process of the regional differentiation and analyzes specifically the current status of regional differentiation in China. Several questions are put forward concerning the promotion of regional coordinated development.

Chapter eleven points out that it will not be a full-scale analysis if we do not pay close attention to the influences of environment on social harmony. In fact, favorable environment conditions are important foundations for social harmony. Therefore, this chapter briefly analyzes the relationship between environment and social harmony and then around the topic of the public's environmental consciousness discusses how to increase the public's participation to the environment protection to create a better environment foundation for social harmony.

To sum up, this report primarily concludes following points:

Firstly, the social structure of contemporary China to a great extent is unbalanced and unreasonable. There exists obvious disharmony in the relationships between different strata, different regions and between urban areas and rural areas, between society and environment which is prone to conduce to social conflicts and threaten social order.

Secondly, There exist some prominent problems at present in the core part of social structure—stratum structure: (1) The scale of the middle stratum is quite limited and can hardly become a supportive force for social stability. (2) The subjective identification of different strata is still not quite clear which on one hand can avoid stratification, on the other hand may cause difficulties in coordinating the relationships between different strata. (3) Power plays an important role in stratification which leads to the incapability of many common people to improve their social status and conduces to



unfair judgment to stratification. (4) In the process of stratification, the borders of strata are tended to become solidified. Social mobility, especially the upward mobility for lowest stratum will meet more restrictions. (5) Household register is still a critical barrier for mobility and peasants and non-peasants are largely unequal in development opportunities. (6) Under the condition of social stratification, the basic common sense of coordinating social relationships is still not clear which leads to difficulties in social integration and is in the way of realizing social harmony.

Thirdly, from the perspective of participation, under the circumstances of increasingly aggravation of social stratification, there is still not a perfect institutionalized channel for different social strata to participate in public affairs and express their demands, which will possibly accumulate social conflicts and obstruct social harmony.

Fourthly, as the foundation of social structure, the environment of China is deteriorating. What is more important is that the public is devoid of deep-seated environmental consciousness and lacks of the self-conscious, active and voluntary participation in environment protection, which goes against the improvement of environment status of our country and will essentially threaten social harmony.

Therefore, this report calls on paying close attention to the various restricting factors to a harmonious society and especially committing ourselves to optimize social stratum structure, promote orderly and reasonable social mobility, coordinate legal rights and interests of different social strata and enhance the common sense on basic values.

This report emphasizes the importance of adjusting income gaps and perfecting social security system to foster the growth of middle-income stratum. A large-scale middle-income stratum is a critical foundation for the harmony and prosperity of a society.

This report stresses the importance of enhancing the educational justice and calls on improving the equality in the opportunities of receiving education and the content of education. Relative researches show that education plays a key role in promoting social mobility and building social common sense.



This report insists on immediately holding back the differentiation between urban areas and rural areas and between different regions and endeavoring to promote their coordinated development to create equal development opportunities for all social members.

This report believes that in an increasingly stratified society, we should regard perfecting social participation mechanism for different social strata as an important content to promote social integration, and should endeavor to ensure the interests of different strata to be fully expressed, respected and maintained.

This report pays close attention to the importance of promoting the public's participation in environment protection and calls on perfecting relative systems and mechanisms to effectively guide the public to actively participate in environment protection so as to expedite the pace of environment protection and improve the effectiveness of environment protection in order to lay solid environmental foundation for the sustaining and harmony of Chinese society.



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