

Original Research Article

Research on the construction of the youth development index evaluation system in Jilin Province

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Abstract: The core of constructing the youth development index evaluation system in Jilin Province lies in defining six core dimensions around the key points of policy orientation, the actual needs of young people, and data availability. This paper first sorts out relevant literature to select preliminary indicators, then conducts expert consultations to improve the indicator system, and finally verifies the connotation of indicators to eliminate redundancy. The analytic hierarchy process (AHP) is adopted to determine the weight of each indicator, thus forming a three-level indicator evaluation system. In addition, four application strategies including data support and precise application are put forward. It is expected that these research results can quantitatively reflect the current situation of youth development in Jilin Province, identify the weak links in development, and provide a quantitative basis for the precise adjustment and effective implementation of regional youth development policies.

Keywords: Jilin Province; youth development; index evaluation system; construction strategy

1. Introduction

The vitality of regional development is directly reflected in the actual development status of young people. As an indispensable key province in the Northeast Revitalization Strategy, the growth path and development trend of young people in Jilin are closely related to the success of economic and social transformation in this region. Most existing research on youth development evaluation focuses on the national level or economically developed regions. At present, there is basically a blank in the special evaluation system tailored to the specific characteristics of Jilin Province. When implementing policies, it is often difficult to formulate or optimize youth development-related policies due to the lack of accurate quantitative indicators as support. Therefore, combining the actual needs of youth development in Jilin Province to build a scientific evaluation index system can not only fill the gap in regional research, but also provide practical reference for local youth development work.

2. Establishment of core dimensions for youth development in Jilin Province

When defining the core dimensions, we should not rely solely on theoretical deduction, but also take into account policy compatibility and operational feasibility. In terms of data, priority should be given to dimensions corresponding to data that are accessible and verifiable through existing statistical channels. In terms of policy orientation, we should not only closely follow the guiding principles of the national youth development plan, but also align with the key arrangements specified in Jilin Province's local policy documents on youth development, so as to match the regional development strategy. In terms of demand orientation, we need to focus on the top concerns of young people during their growth and proceed from their actual needs at different development stages, so as to prevent the indicator system from being disconnected from the real-life scenarios of youth development. After comprehensive consideration of the above aspects, six core dimensions can be initially identified, namely economic development, education enhancement, employment and entrepreneurship, physical and mental health, social integration, and cultural participation. These dimensions cover the main fields of youth growth and development, and can also comprehensively reflect the overall situation of youth development in Jilin Province^[1].

3. Specific construction of the evaluation system for youth development index in Jilin Province

3.1. Principles and process for indicator selection

Scientificity: Each indicator should have a clear and understandable connotation, and it should be able to truly reflect the level of youth development corresponding to the respective dimension. Systematicness: Pay attention to the internal connections among various indicators and their complementary effects. Targetedness: Need to closely align with the regional characteristics of youth development in Jilin Province and the current prominent practical problems to set the indicators. Operability: In simple terms, it is necessary to check whether the data of these indicators can be obtained smoothly and whether there is a way to quantify them into specific numerical values. Finally, dynamicity: The indicator system should have the possibility of adjustment in the future ^[2]. In the selection process, start by referring to relevant literature and materials, sort out and summarize all similar indicators involved in the existing research, and conduct a preliminary screening. Then, seek opinions from experts in related fields, combine theoretical research and different perspectives of practical work, and conduct a second round of screening. Finally, conduct detailed verification of the connotations of the remaining indicators, and eliminate redundant indicators that have repetitive meanings or are not representative enough.

3.2. Design of the three-level indicator system architecture

The first-level indicators are the six core dimensions that have been clearly defined previously. The second-level indicators are the detailed subdivisions based on the first-level indicators, with the number controlled within 20 to 25. The third-level indicators are the most fundamental and directly quantifiable raw data indicators, such as per capita disposable income, higher education enrollment rate, and entrepreneurship success rate, which all fall into this category. The number is approximately 40 to 50. Through this hierarchical division, a clear hierarchical structure can be formed, with smooth connections between each level.

3.3. Method for determining indicator weights

The determination of indicator weights is based on the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP). First, a hierarchical structure needs to be constructed to clarify the hierarchical relationship of the indicator system; then, experts should rate based on their own research and practical experience to form a judgment matrix. Subsequently, a consistency test should be conducted to ensure that the logic of the experts' ratings is reasonable and there are no contradictory situations. If the test passes, the weight distribution of each level of indicators can be further calculated; if it fails, experts need to re-rate or adjust the hierarchical structure. The setting of grading standards should be combined with the actual level of youth development in Jilin Province and refer to relevant evaluation norms in China. It is divided into four grades: excellent, good, medium, and need for improvement. The index range division corresponding to each grade should be determined based on the youth development basic data of various cities in Jilin Province. The subsequent interpretation and evaluation results will not provide a reference.

4. Application strategies for the evaluation system of youth development index in Jilin Province

4.1. Strengthen data support and solidify the evaluation foundation

When establishing the data sharing platform for youth development in Jilin Province, relevant personnel should first clarify the data source categories of different entities such as the Human Resources and Social Security Department, the Education Department, and the Communist Youth League, and establish standardized interface specifications to break through the barriers preventing data integration - the interface specifications mentioned here are simply a unified standard for enabling data from different departments to "exchange information"; At the same time, a cross-disciplinary coordination team should be established to standardize the statistical criteria for core indicators, thereby preventing issues such as inconsistent data specifications and the inability to perform comparative analyses. For data updates, update frequencies should be differentiated according to indicator characteristics: time-sensitive indicators such as employment and unemployment rates should be

updated monthly, whereas more stable indicators such as educational structure may be updated quarterly or semi-annually. Furthermore, throughout the update process, a dual-review mechanism comprising "initial review by the responsible entity followed by secondary review by the platform" should be implemented to ensure data accuracy^[2]. Regarding the data quality verification system, in addition to routine logical checks, algorithms for identifying outliers should be introduced to trace the sources of deviations, clearly define correction procedures and timelines, and prevent such deviations from causing systematic distortions in assessment outcomes.

4.2. Refine assessment application and precisely align with demands

For the annual regular assessment, all the nodes and outputs throughout the process should be clearly defined: in the data collection stage, summaries and initial verifications should be completed; in the analysis stage, indicator scores and preliminary conclusions should be obtained. The annual report should not only reflect the overall situation of the entire province but also clearly explain the differences in various dimensions^[3]. For special assessments, they should focus on key regions, such as the Changchun metropolitan area, Yanbian Prefecture, and other places, as well as key groups, such as college graduates and young people returning to start businesses. Targeted adjustments and optimizations of indicator weights should be made to address specific issues. For example, when assessing young people returning to start businesses, the weights of indicators such as policy enjoyment rate and project survival rate can be appropriately increased, so as to accurately identify weaknesses. Additionally, an active feedback mechanism at different levels should be established to provide relevant conclusions on policy compatibility to the decision-making departments, give feedback to universities on the matching between talent cultivation and market demand, and establish a tracking and evaluation process to ensure that the assessment results can truly be transformed into targeted improvement measures.

4.3. Improve the linkage mechanism and pool development synergy

The assessment of the Youth Development Index cannot be accomplished by a single department alone. It requires the collaborative efforts of multiple entities. Therefore, improving the linkage mechanism becomes the key to pooling synergy. Regarding this, relevant personnel should establish a framework where "the government takes the lead, universities provide support, enterprises participate, and young people are the main body". The government should take the initiative to formulate relevant plans and policies to ensure efficiency, avoiding the situation where each department acts independently and inefficiently. Universities are responsible for providing technical support for index optimization and method innovation, as well as data analysis services. Enterprises should submit data related to young people's career development and also provide feedback on their own needs. Young people themselves should also participate. Only in this way can the assessment be tailored to the actual situation. During this process, the responsibilities of each entity should be clearly defined through a list of powers and responsibilities. For example, the human resources department is responsible for providing employment and social security data, the education department coordinates universities to provide technical support, and a cross-departmental joint meeting system should be established to solve the problems of coordination among departments. Through online surveys and youth councils, feedback from everyone on the rationality of the indicators and the practicality of the results can be collected. After classification and sorting, an adoption and feedback mechanism should be established to strengthen the sense of identity of young people as the main body.

4.4. Dynamic optimization system, adapting to development needs

The assessment system cannot remain static; it needs to be dynamically optimized to keep up with the changes in development. The core lies in closely adhering to the policy orientation and the iterative updates of demands. To this end, a policy strategy tracking mechanism should be established to promptly capture the relevant national youth development deployments, as well as the new requirements for youth development proposed by local industrial upgrading and rural revitalization strategies in Jilin. These requirements should be transformed into the direction of index adjustments. Moreover, the impact of emerging fields such as digital economy and green development on youth development should be tracked. New indicators such as young people's digital skills and the participation rate of digital entrepreneurship should be added, while outdated indicators such as the proportion of employment in traditional industries should be eliminated to ensure that the system is both streamlined and precise. When drawing on experiences from both domestic and foreign sources, one should not simply copy and paste; instead, it should be based on localization. Key reference should be made

to the mature assessment practices of other provinces and advanced international concepts. Then, the system should be optimized in light of Jilin's regional characteristics and industrial features. The weight allocation can adopt a comprehensive weighting method combining analytic hierarchy process and entropy weight method - as mentioned earlier, the analytic hierarchy process involves decomposing the problem into layers and then determining the importance through expert scoring, while the entropy weight method determines the weights based on the dispersion degree of the data. The combination of these two methods can reduce the deviation of a single method, and at the same time, iterative assessment and calculation models should be updated to enhance the scientificity and precision of the system.

Summary: In conclusion, the application of the Youth Development Index Evaluation System in Jilin Province should focus on four key dimensions: data support, evaluation application, linkage mechanism, and dynamic optimization. First, by establishing a standardized data platform, setting differentiated update frequencies, and improving quality verification, the foundation can be solidified; then, through the dual-track application model of "normal + special" and the hierarchical feedback mechanism, the precise application of the evaluation can be achieved; relying on the list of responsibilities and cross-departmental joint meetings, the efforts of the government, universities, enterprises, and young people can be coordinated; closely following the changes in policies and demands, iterating indicators and methods, so that the system can adapt to development. If these dimensions are coordinated and connected well, it can enhance the scientificity and practicality of the evaluation, provide effective support for the formulation and adjustment of Jilin Province's youth development policies, and help achieve a positive interaction between the comprehensive development of young people and high-quality regional development. Currently, there is still room for improvement in terms of the efficiency of multi-party collaboration and the timeliness of data updates. In the future, it can be further improved by combining more practical feedback.

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