

Chapter 1 : The Social Welfare Development and Reform Project

China - Social development Social welfare programs cover workers in state-operated enterprises and institutions, which include virtually all employees of government agencies, mining, manufacturing, industry, railroad, shipping, and construction units.

Share via Email A Chinese man enters a community clinic for medical treatment in downtown Beijing, China. Working in Shijiazhuang offers double the local income and infinitely better career prospects, but also, the year-old hopes, better benefits and public services. Yet as a migrant, Ren does not have the same right to these benefits as those born in the city. In little more than 10 years, the country has constructed a basic welfare system that took the west decades to build, with immediate results. While coverage has expanded rapidly, provision remains inconsistent, inadequate, inefficient and often riddled with corruption. And paying for even current, meagre levels of support will prove increasingly difficult because China is ageing so rapidly. Last year, its working-age population shrank. Minimum income guarantees have been rolled out to the countryside, benefiting more than 50 million residents in impoverished areas such as Chicheng. Ten years ago, just over million people had pensions, mostly in the cities; now, almost million are covered. But Ren has no medical insurance in the city; should he fall ill there, he would have to return home. Though he praises the social insurance scheme that should guarantee him injury, unemployment, pension and other payments, he does not actually benefit from it: And more generally, as a migrant, he is not eligible for all the benefits and services those registered as urban citizens enjoy. But though social spending has soared over the past decade, the Gavekal Dragonomics consultancy points out it is roughly flat this year as a share of both the economy and total expenditure. The focus is increasingly on improving the system rather than simply spending more. Stein Ringen of the University of Oxford and King lun Ngok of the Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou have argued that "there is not one welfare state, but many and radically different ones" pdf: It is hard to administer, hard to understand and inflexible in a fast-changing and increasingly mobile society. It is also blatantly unfair. In cities, there are different pension systems for civil servants, public services workers, urban employees and urban residents: The system is also dogged by excessive overheads, noncompliance by companies, mismanagement and corruption. Experts say creating a better and sustainable welfare system will mean making tough political decisions: All of those are likely to meet serious opposition. But the future of Ren and hundreds of millions more depend on them.

Chapter 2 : China's evolving social welfare system

China's 12th five-year plan makes it clear that improving the safety net is a priority, not just to reduce inequality and improve well-being - million people were living on less than \$1 a.

This article needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. August Social welfare in China has undergone various changes throughout history. Welfare in China is linked to the hukou system. Those holding non-agricultural hukou status have access to a number of programs provided by the government, such as healthcare, employment, retirement pensions, housing, and education. Meanwhile, rural residents are generally expected to provide for themselves. Child care, education, job placement, housing, subsistence, health care, and elder care were largely the responsibility of the work unit as administered through state-owned enterprises and agricultural communes and collectives. As those systems disappeared or were reformed, the "iron rice bowl" approach to welfare changed. Article 14 of the constitution stipulates that the state "builds and improves a welfare system that corresponds with the level of economic development. This is largely due to the fact that "different cities in China have different resource environments available to NGOs. At present, the rules are modified and people can have more than one child, provided they pay a fee. This fee goes into funding necessary infrastructure or anything else the government deems fit. Furthermore, for many of the minority groups, there are some benefits available. In the early s, when the definition and identification of ethnic minorities was established, China implemented social welfare policies and programs to assist ethnic minorities, designed to improve their capacity for human capital accumulation. As Hasmath and MacDonald note, the number of dibao recipients had reached nearly twenty million by The basic concept of the programme is that each urban household is entitled to a minimum guaranteed subsistence income, regardless of the occupation held previously. Theoretically, each local authority sets its minimum income qualification threshold considering local conditions, while in reality it is more often the availability of government resources rather than local conditions that determine how the dibao is dispensed. Among these hindrances is a significant degree of mistargeting- households that theoretically should be ineligible for receiving subsidies ie. According to Hasmath and MacDonald, these implementation errors partly result from the discretionary nature of the dibao application process- receiving subsidies is often contingent on knowledge of the programme and consulting with its providers, who in turn must also be willing and proactive in seeking out impoverished prospective applicants and assisting them in the application process. There is a high level of government discretion in implementing the dibao, and as such, as Hasmath and MacDonald argue, "the programme may be especially susceptible to this pressure. The social safety-net scheme is an initiative to provide free or low-cost insurance to both urban and rural residents. Premiums are partly paid by the government, and the premiums are waived for the poorest residents.

Chapter 3 : Social issues in China - Wikipedia

Social welfare in China has undergone various changes throughout history. The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security is responsible for the social welfare system. Welfare in China is linked to the hukou system.

This evolution has great bearing on the livelihood of the people. He offered a synopsis on the development of social welfare systems in China. Dou said that in , the State Council had promulgated a series of favorable policies directed toward non-government-supported social welfare, taking into account of the opinions from 11 ministries including the Ministry of Civil Affairs. The local governments also have issued related policies in favor of it. However, the undertaking of non-government-supported social welfare still leaves much to be desired, according to Dou. On one hand, the policies are not in full play. On the other hand, there is a huge potential need, yet the need has been dampened by traditions that placing parents in nursing homes is seen as stigmatic. Financial problems have also put a damper on its development since most welfare institutions are still not affordable for the general population. Dou mentioned three management types for Chinese social welfare institutions. The government runs some of them. Some are collectively run in rural areas. And the rest are enjoying favorable policies devised by their grassroots communities or individuals. Years of efforts have brought positive results. Currently there are more than 39, social welfare institutions. To create more job opportunities for handicapped people, the government has established some 30, welfare enterprises that offer , placements. There are institutions and other supporting departments in place to help the orphans. In general, the welfare system has made great strides forward. But more efforts are needed in view of the huge strain resulting from the increasing ageing population. By the year , it will have hit an estimated million, million in , and approximately million in . Currently China has 16 million octogenarians. This number will surpass 20 million in , and 30 million in . Such a large ageing population has rendered fiscal output insufficient because China is still a developing country. China must take preventive measures to address this serious problem. At present the social welfare service system is based on the family and communities and complemented by organizations, said Dou. Supporting parents is a long-standing Chinese tradition. Most old people have their own houses and this eases the bed shortage inside social welfare organizations. At the same time Chinese law recognizes filial obligation: The number of the empty-nest elderly and single seniors has increased. So the social welfare service system must also depend upon local communities because communities can easily reach and care for the elderly. Since some aged people are often not in good health, they need more professional attention. Hence, the social welfare service system has to be complemented by other organizations. The first initiative suggests that the aged loan their spare houses to welfare organizations and receive their living expenses for this arrangement. After they die, their families still can inherit the houses. The second plan suggests that the aged entrust their houses to welfare organizations and turn their lives over to the care of the welfare organizations. After they die, these organizations would inherit their houses. The third idea suggests that the old people sell their houses to the welfare organizations and get paid a lump sum. They would still continue to live in their house, paying nominal rent to the welfare organizations. Time is necessary to perfect any social security system but funds and services for the aged are currently in short supply. For families with many difficulties, the above proposals are good choices. But to popularize them, more time is needed for further research and study; eventually appropriate regulations and laws will be made.

Chapter 4 : Social welfare in China - Wikipedia

China, by contrast, is only now building its welfare system, strengthening its social safety nets and improving the delivery of social services to the population. In doing so, you can learn from the experience of OECD countries, building on their achievements and avoiding their mistakes.

It is great to be at the China Development Forum. We are going through challenging times, marked by widening inequalities, population ageing and labour market uncertainties. These challenges need to be addressed, in large part, through fairer and more sustainable welfare systems. Welfare systems are under threat in many OECD countries. Population ageing is expected to put a strain on government budgets in the years to come. According to our projections, health care and pension spending will rise from Progress in China China is currently strengthening its social safety nets and creating a modern welfare state. A minimum income standard is in place for all residents, and nearly everyone benefits from at least some measure of health insurance. A growing number of companies are doing their part by enrolling their workers in government programmes that grant industrial injury benefits, maternity leave and unemployment benefits. China has come a long way in a very short time. Going forward, further reforms are needed to meet the demands of an increasingly urban population. A first lesson is that governments should pursue a pension system that is simultaneously universal and sustainable. Most OECD countries have provided a universal system for over 50 years, but some have ignored the rural sector or have not ensured good coverage of the pension system in urban areas. They are now facing problems with old-age poverty. Making sure that the systems are sustainable requires aligning the retirement age of women with that of men and increasing retirement age to 67 or Some OECD countries have recently implemented reforms to this end. The second lesson is that welfare needs to be more cost-effective. In the last decade, governments have invested in the promotion of healthy lifestyles and the prevention of chronic diseases. It should be possible for China to generate funds to expand its system, without raising taxes, by implementing reforms such as moving primary care out of hospitals and delinking doctors income from the drugs and examinations that they prescribe for patients. A third lesson from OECD countries is that social protection should be seen as a form of investment. For example, when combined with training, unemployment benefits can help to better match people to jobs. Likewise, investing in kindergartens and childcare facilities can help boost female labour force participation and promote gender equality. Social protection does go hand-in-hand with economic progress and Inclusive Growth. They are now faced with several challenges, as their population ages and government budgets are stretched. They need to restore the financial sustainability of pension systems, reform labour market policies to combine effective protection for the jobless, and stem the increase in the costs of health care. A heavy legacy indeed. China, by contrast, is only now building its welfare system, strengthening its social safety nets and improving the delivery of social services to the population. In doing so, you can learn from the experience of OECD countries, building on their achievements and avoiding their mistakes. They are expensive, wasteful and difficult to reform. We at the OECD are looking forward to continuing to work with you, to design, promote and implement better welfare policies for better lives.

Chapter 5 : Project MUSE - Urbanization and Social Welfare in China (review)

China's Social Welfare: The New development in social welfare (since) 1. The key issues in social welfare policy since 1. If or not back to the.

China China - Social development Social welfare programs cover workers in state-operated enterprises and institutions, which include virtually all employees of government agencies, mining, manufacturing, industry, railroad, shipping, and construction units. Welfare in rural areas is administered by the state and collective farms, which provide clothing, shelter, and food for sick and disabled people and place the aged in homes. Recreational and cultural services are also supported through welfare payments. Although wage scales in China remain low, the range of benefits has been expanding. According to the Labor Law, male workers and professional women are eligible to retire at age 60, female non-salaried workers at 55, and other women at age 50. The amount of the pension is decided by the local or city government based on the standard of living in that area. Maternity leave at full pay is provided for up to 90 days. In addition, numerous health, day-care, and educational benefits are provided free of charge. A campaign to increase literacy among women, formerly denied education, also opened doors to increased employment opportunities. Despite constitutional provisions, women may face discrimination in the workplace. Women continue to report that unfair dismissal, sexual harassment, demotions, and wage disparity are significant problems. In addition, some enterprises are reluctant to hire women because of the additional costs of maternity leave. Violence against women remains a serious problem, and spousal abuse goes largely unreported. The suicide rate among women is three times the global average. A serious human rights problem is female infanticide by families wishing for sons. The imbalance of sex ratios in the country has led to a shortage of women of marriageable age, and a dramatic increase in the abduction of women for this purpose. The government continued to condemn and took steps to curb traditional abuse of women. Ongoing human rights abuses include arbitrary and lengthy detention, forced confessions, torture and the mistreatment of prisoners. Repression of political dissent continues. Prison conditions are poor and China does not allow any independent monitoring of its prisons. Widespread human rights abuses have also been reported in Chinese-occupied Tibet. The government does not tolerate any political dissent or proindependence movements in Tibet. Comment about this article, ask questions, or add new information about this topic:

Chapter 6 : Promoting a Fair and Sustainable Welfare System in China - OECD

As time changes and society moves forward, a more decentralized social welfare system will eventually be the inevitable choice in building the foundation for China's social welfare system.

That income disparity is growing in Hong Kong is indisputable. The slow growth in real wages is less than 0. Hong Kong has a small government, but few would disagree that sound social policies are important for society. So what progress, if any, have we made in social policies in the 20 years since the handover, and what might the future hold? Discussions on improving health care financing, including through a series of consultations since 1995, have not seen any real progress. Though the government concluded its study into a voluntary health insurance scheme in 1997, it took two years to decide to implement a non-legislative framework for such a scheme, hopefully by 2000. The Sars epidemic was the biggest health challenge Hong Kong has faced in the past 50 years. It was both a curse and a blessing. Severe acute respiratory syndrome killed people in Hong Kong alone, but the subsequent improvements in infection control in our health system have saved, and continue to save, thousands of lives every year. In the years to come, apart from the escalation of health care costs due to technological advancements and rising public expectations, our ageing population will also be a growing challenge. Better primary and secondary health care and improved coordination for health and welfare programmes would be the key strategic directions. The Social Welfare White Paper of 1995 and the Rehabilitation White Paper of 1996 paved the way for the development of the welfare system to the end of the 20th century. But, smarting from the Asian financial crisis and the continuous fiscal deficits in the initial years of the special administrative region, the government developed a psychological resistance to social welfare planning. A Hong Kong budget for officials and cartels, not ordinary people. The formulation of the Elderly Service Programme Plan, which started in 1998 and is due to be completed by the end of this administration, marked the revitalisation of social welfare planning in Hong Kong. Growing income disparity and poverty have become important items on the policy agenda since the 1990s. The Commission on Poverty, re-established in 1998, took on the work of setting an official poverty line in 2000. Consultation on retirement protection began in December 2000 and its conclusion, leading to proposed improvements in the Old Age Living Allowance, will be implemented in phases starting from this month to the middle of next year. Though it fell short of the expectations of many, the establishment of the public annuity scheme, giving the elderly a fixed monthly income, has nevertheless marked an important development in our retirement protection system. Ageing Hong Kong must ensure quality of life for its elderly, and new annuity scheme ticks many boxes. Education usually ranks as one of the most important public concerns in Hong Kong. Education reform that started in 1998 had seen significant progress, yet it has always been controversial. A review of the reforms is perhaps overdue. The implementation of 12 years of free education, and, starting from the coming school year, 15 years of free education, are two key government achievements in the past two decades. In recent years, Hong Kong has realised the importance of strengthening vocational training. The next administration hopes to provide a clear vision of what our post-secondary education should look like. In his policy address, then governor Chris Patten announced the target of 10,000 public housing units and 10,000 units in the private sector from 2000 to 2004, that is, 84,000 units a year. In the strategy review that ended in early 2001, an annual target of 85,000 units was set. However, the Asian financial crisis and the Sars epidemic subsequently suffocated the strategy after 2001. The rapid increase in private housing prices since 2002 and the lengthening of the public rental housing queue have revitalised the Home Ownership Scheme. Many people believe the policy has come too late, although it is better late than never. Lastly, the SAR government has taken one significant step in its labour policy: The issue of standard working hours remains very controversial and it is unlikely that the unions and employers will reach an agreement. As the growing income disparity and relatively low statutory minimum wage show, Hong Kong still has a long way to go to improving labour rights in the coming years. This article appeared in the South China Morning Post print edition as:

Chapter 7 : Hong Kong people still need better social welfare protection | South China Morning Post

CCCH China: Culture, State and Society Social Development Challenges in China [This course is under the thematic cluster of 'Sustaining Cities, Cultures, and the Earth'.]

In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content: Liu, and Kevin H. Urbanization and Social Welfare in China. In China, economic growth has been accompanied by urbanization. Many factors are responsible for this, including the increasing structural shift from a rural- to an urban-based economy, employment in manufacturing and services, foreign investment and trade, the privatization of state-owned enterprises, rural-to-urban migration, and the ways in which domestic spending is allocated. The prereform pre socialist welfare system having been identified as a major barrier to urbanization and economic development, the Chinese government has conducted various welfare reforms in order to address this challenge. A central question for China, therefore, is how the social welfare system should be changed to meet the needs of an urbanized society. More precisely, what aspects of this system can be interpreted as a barrier to urbanization in China and should thus be reformed, and what aspects of the system can be understood as the consequence of the evolving economic process? The editors of this book have compiled seventeen essays written primarily by economists. These contributing authors, from their macro-economic perspectives, have paid enormous attention to issues like urban poverty, income inequality, and disparities in health care, housing, and the provision of services. They adopt a shared ideological view that the ongoing urbanization process needs to harmonize the well-being of the population and market-dominated economic development. The book begins with an introduction to the new social welfare system in China, including the social-security pension system, health-care insurance, and housing. The old social welfare system, which was established incrementally following the Communist takeover in , was a structuralist approach that blended production and welfare into a single central economic and social-planning system. That is, the urban populace, due to their strong ties with state-owned enterprises, enjoyed full state benefits while rural people had to depend on a collective system that did not have much state support. Without a reform [End Page] of this structuralist approach to welfare, urbanization simply would become a nightmare for Chinese government planners by adding millions of people to its welfare rolls. Since China began to adopt the new welfare system in the mid s, mainly due to the necessity of separating welfare functions from the employment system and to the increase in the labor force in the non-state sector, cities in China have followed moderate policies toward newly urbanized rural migrants. They are allowed to stay in the cities, but they are treated differently from persons who are within the hukou system in terms of, for example, housing, health care, and education. The defined benefit, a flat-rate benefit, is only for those who have worked a full forty years, and access to this pension benefit is further restricted to urban residents. As Feldstein puts it, "the current system focuses on a limited fraction of the population, primarily urban workers in state-owned enterprises" p. Regarding the health care system, Robert W. Fogel chapter 2 predicts that urbanization will lead to a higher demand for health You are not currently authenticated. View freely available titles:

Chapter 8 : Social welfare in China | Revolv

the development of social welfare. Our focus is on whether and how the development of the social welfare systems is subordinate to economic development.

Research has broadly served two purposes. First, it provides information describing what has been a rapidly changing set of extremely complex policy areas. Second, it has increasingly sought to go beyond just describing policy and prescribing changes in order to explain why and how developments turned out as they did. At the same time, work on social welfare has taken advantage of increasing amounts of information being made available, opportunities emerging to conduct various types of fieldwork and data gathering, and increased interaction between Chinese scholars and their colleagues around the world. This means that the study of social welfare is now methodologically diverse, building theoretical contributions and engaging with international examples and comparative studies. In the English-language literature, examples are found of collaboration as well as individual contributions from Chinese scholars and scholars from outside China. Studies of social welfare have left behind the broadly descriptive questions of what and when, although there is still a need to update our foundational knowledge and understanding of developments in China. Researchers have now been able to focus more on questions of where, how, why, and who. These more critical studies of social welfare in China both challenge our existing understanding of developments and have helped to begin a more nuanced discussion of what the outcomes and implications of social welfare policy have been and will be in a country as populous and diverse as China. The study of social welfare in China is the provision of both a narrative and explanation of change that affects millions of people. Studies of the period before the s are still uncovering and explaining the overwhelming diversity of what can be understood as social welfare in China, as well as the notable policy continuities that are still felt today. Scholarship addressing developments since reform and opening started has dealt with what has been a broadly pessimistic series of developments where the tendency has been to view the Chinese state as reacting, sometimes very slowly or ineffectively, to the collapse of traditional forms of welfare brought about by the consequences of economic change. This is not to say that the state has not been trying to deal with these challenges, and a great deal of the recent scholarship has addressed the question of how much the state intended certain outcomes, while also teasing out the process of policy change. In wrestling with these extensive changes, the study of social welfare has produced a diverse literature that not only adds to our understanding of particular policy areas, but also of the overall transformation of China over the last hundred years. General Overviews The split between pre-reform and reform treatments of the topic is somewhat arbitrary, but it does reflect a division in the relative volume of work produced. There is, however, work emerging that challenges these divisions. Arguably, the reform era that began in has its own periodization, but with regard to social welfare this has not been particularly influential. Instead, general studies have dealt with explaining and analyzing developments as they emerge. Users without a subscription are not able to see the full content on this page. Please subscribe or login. How to Subscribe Oxford Bibliographies Online is available by subscription and perpetual access to institutions. For more information or to contact an Oxford Sales Representative click here.

Chapter 9 : Social development - China - problem, average, area, system

In particular, the project supported the development of an objective, rigorous national household targeting system called Listahanan to better direct the social programs implemented by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and other government agencies.

Social welfare in China Save Social welfare in China has undergone various changes throughout history. Welfare in China is linked to the hukou system. Those holding non-agricultural hukou status have access to a number of programs provided by the government, such as healthcare, employment, retirement pensions, housing, and education. Meanwhile, rural residents are generally expected to provide for themselves. Child care, education, job placement, housing, subsistence, health care, and elder care were largely the responsibility of the work unit as administered through state-owned enterprises and agricultural communes and collectives. As those systems disappeared or were reformed, the "iron rice bowl" approach to welfare changed. Article 14 of the constitution stipulates that the state "builds and improves a welfare system that corresponds with the level of economic development. This is largely due to the fact that "different cities in China have different resource environments available to NGOs. At present, the rules are modified and people can have more than one child, provided they pay a fee. This fee goes into funding necessary infrastructure or anything else the government deems fit. Furthermore, for many of the minority groups, there are some benefits available. In the early s, when the definition and identification of ethnic minorities was established, China implemented social welfare policies and programs to assist ethnic minorities, designed to improve their capacity for human capital accumulation. As Hasmath and MacDonald note, the number of dibao recipients had reached nearly twenty million by The basic concept of the programme is that each urban household is entitled to a minimum guaranteed subsistence income, regardless of the occupation held previously. Theoretically, each local authority sets its minimum income qualification threshold considering local conditions, while in reality it is more often the availability of government resources rather than local conditions that determine how the dibao is dispensed. Among these hindrances is a significant degree of mistargeting- households that theoretically should be ineligible for receiving subsidies ie. According to Hasmath and MacDonald, these implementation errors partly result from the discretionary nature of the dibao application process- receiving subsidies is often contingent on knowledge of the programme and consulting with its providers, who in turn must also be willing and proactive in seeking out impoverished prospective applicants and assisting them in the application process. There is a high level of government discretion in implementing the dibao, and as such, as Hasmath and MacDonald argue, "the programme may be especially susceptible to this pressure. The social safety-net scheme is an initiative to provide free or low-cost insurance to both urban and rural residents. Premiums are partly paid by the government, and the premiums are waived for the poorest residents.