

# Study of Planning Problems in the Construction of Small Towns in Southwest

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## ABSTRACT

Today, with the rapid development of China's economy, China's urbanization process is also accelerating, and the implementation of the urban-rural integration policy has made the pace of China's urbanization development faster and faster. The construction of small towns is one of the most important core contents of China's urbanization system, and at the same time, it is also the first step of accelerating the urbanization process and shortening the difference between urban and rural areas and regions in the southwestern part of China. The state has paid great attention to the construction of small towns, which has created a favorable policy environment for the construction of small towns all over the country. In the process of implementing China's western development strategy, the construction of small towns has not only promoted the process of China's agricultural industrialization, but also promoted the process of China's industrialization in the southwestern region. This paper is in such a background, with the characteristics of Yibin Sichuan Province, small town construction planning as an example, small towns in the southwest region of the problems existing in the planning of in-depth research and analysis, and for these problems put forward the corresponding measures to solve them, I hope to be able to Southwest China's urban and rural development of the integrated development of a certain degree of reference significance.

## KEYWORDS

Small Town Construction; Characteristic Town; Town Planning and Design.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

After the Reform and Opening Up, China's urbanization process has been advancing especially in the eastern region of the small towns have been well developed, the construction of small towns can not only achieve the purpose of urban-rural integration, but also for the country's economic development and social stability has an important significance, accelerating the construction of the southwest region of the small towns can effectively alleviate the southwest region of the "agriculture, rural areas and farmers' problems", promote the development of agricultural industrialization, and promote the social and economic development of the southwest region.

Due to the geographic environment of small towns in southwest China is very different from the natural conditions of the eastern region, even though the construction planning of small towns in the eastern region has more mature experience and cases, but in the process of learning from the experience of the eastern region for the construction of small towns, due to the existence of the problems of copying and blindly learning from the experience of the eastern region, there are still many things to be improved in the construction planning of small towns in the southwest region. The article is based on the characteristics of the development of small towns in the southwest region of China, on this basis, for the actual situation of the region, puts forward the corresponding

countermeasures, hoping that it can be helpful to the urban-rural integration development in the southwest region, and in the continuous practice, promote the coordinated development of the economy of the southwest region, reduce the differences in the socioeconomic development of the eastern, central and western regions, so as to promote the sustainable development of China's social and economic development.[1,2]

## **2. THE CURRENT SITUATION OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF SMALL TOWNS IN THE SOUTHWEST OF CHINA**

At present, the State is actively promoting the integration of urban and rural areas. After there form and opening up, the economy of the southwestern region has developed rapidly, and the construction of small towns has also entered a new period. However, due to the influence of many factors such as geographic environment and regional policy system, the development of small towns in the southwest region has been lagging behind.[3]

Therefore, it is necessary to carry out more scientific planning for small towns in accordance with the actual situation in the southwestern region, which can not only promote the integrated construction of urban and rural areas, but also enhance the linkage and development of the two Southwest China is a vast region, but compared with the eastern and central plains of the terrain, Southwest China has a complex geographic environment, so it is difficult to form large cities.[4] Southwest China is mainly small and medium-sized towns, and towns and towns are far away from each other or inconvenient transportation, it is difficult to form a large-scale economy transportation and all kinds of infrastructure facilities are relatively lagging behind, and become a bottleneck that restricts the economic development of the region.

At present, although there have been many studies on small town development planning in the southwestern region, there are still many problems, which need to be combined with the specific local conditions in order to make it better practiced and realized in reality.

## **3. PLANNING PROBLEMS IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF SMALL TOWNS IN SOUTHWEST CHINA**

### **3.1. Lack of Long-term and Developmental Stability**

At present, China is vigorously promoting urbanization, in the process of planning and design the southwest region blindly imitated the planning and construction of other regions, without taking into account the actual problem, most of them only focus on the immediate interests, the pursuit of the fastest economic benefits and the largest social benefits, did not do the long-term planning, and the construction of the construction is always in the changing environment, resulting in a large amount of material and financial resources and other social resources are wasted.[5] Therefore, the planning of small town construction in Southwest China should focus on the long term in order to make the smooth development of urbanization.

### **3.2. Lack of Distinctiveness**

Every town has its unique humanistic and regional characteristics, only by effectively shaping the personality characteristics of small towns and deeply excavating their cultural features can they be made dynamic and thus enhance their attractiveness and competitiveness. There are many ethnic minorities in Southwest China, and in the planning process of urbanization each small town should make a deep impression with its unique characteristics according to its own reality. However, most of the towns and cities in Southwest China nowadays are similar to each other, lacking traditional ethnic customs and unique humanistic landscapes.

At present, many small towns in the construction planning did not find their own positioning more not combined with their own characteristics to carry out scientific planning, and in the planning, just simply copying. Therefore, it is necessary to start from the reality, to carry out the correct positioning, in order to scientifically plan and arrange the construction of small towns.

### **3.3. Lack of Protection of the Local Environment and Cultural Heritage**

At present, the problem of neglecting overall planning is common in the planning of small towns in China. Moreover, in the planning, often ignoring their own characteristics, resulting in the overall planning of the lack of blind expansion has also brought great damage to the local environment. With the acceleration of urbanization in China, many towns in the southwest with a long cultural history have been uniformly planned as tourist attractions, losing the original significance of town planning.

### **3.4. Homogenization of Regional Development**

As China vigorously promotes the integration of urban and rural areas, it has accelerated the process of urbanization in the southwestern region, but in the process of rapid development, there is no great difference between different towns in terms of their conditions, resources, policy systems and other factors, and because the development conditions are too similar, the towns of a particular region are markedly homogeneous in terms of their industrial development and the shaping of their town characteristics. [6] This situation makes it impossible for cities and towns to develop synergistically with each other, and instead creates a competitive relationship. This is detrimental to the development of the region as a whole.

### **3.5. Infrastructural Support Facilities are Lagging Behind**

Under the promotion of urban-rural integration, the average income of urban residents in Southwest China has risen sharply, but the construction of infrastructural facilities has not yet kept pace with the construction of small towns, such as unbalanced education and medical care facilities and a lack of municipal facilities such as water supply and drainage systems in cities and towns. The backwardness of infrastructure constrains the convenience and comfort of urban residents, and the residents' happiness index remains at a relatively low level compared with that of other regions. [7]

## **4. CASE STUDY: PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION OF SMALL TOWNS WITH CHARACTERISTICS IN YIBIN**

### **4.1. Analysis of the Problems and Reasons for the Planning and Construction of Small Towns with Special Characteristics in Yibin**

#### **4.1.1. The Relatively Low Level of Urbanization.**

Although Yibin City has a better foundation, there are still some problems in the urbanization process, mainly due to the traditional urbanization development model. At present the problems of small size and weak strength of cities in China are more serious, the competitiveness, radiation and bandwidth of its core cities are not strong enough, the size of most counties are very small, the development of small towns is not enough, the development of small and medium-sized towns is still very backward, the function and image of the city need to be improved, and the population growth rate of the city has not reached the requirements of the planning. However, there is an obvious gap between the level of urbanization in Yibin City and that of the whole country, the province and sister cities and states, which is a great obstacle to its healthy development. [8]

#### 4.1.2. Lack of Personalization in Town Construction.

At present, as the process of urbanization accelerates, "individualized" development has become the key to building regional economic development. However, due to communication transportation, information and many other factors constrain the vitality of small town development, but also to take into account the economy, geography and other elements of development, ignoring the importance of individualization, resulting in the small town planning of the rough, big, lack of local characteristics, so that the standard of urban planning and construction is caught in the dilemma of the situation. This, together with the inadequacy of management, has resulted in many small-town plans being similar and homogenized.

#### 4.1.3. The Phenomenon of "Semi-Urbanization" is Prominent.

The population of the towns comes mainly from the transfer of the surplus agricultural population in the south-western region, but the population of the rural areas of the south-western region has a low level of education, receives little technical training, and is relatively backward in its thinking and culture, and, owing to the influence of the household registration system, some peasants are still in a state of temporary residence, thus hindering the urbanization of peasants. The phenomenon of "semi-urbanization" is highlighted by the relative lagging behind of public services, mainly in the form of the initial work on guaranteed housing the scarcity of educational resources, and the strain on medical resources.

### 4.2. The Construction Basis and Motivation of Small Towns Withspecial Characteristics in Yibin

#### 4.2.1. The Construction Basis of Characteristic Small Towns in Yibin

##### 1) National policy guidance.

Narrowing the gap between urban and rural areas and promoting urban-rural integration is a major issue facing China's economic and social development in the 21st century. In 2013, the CPC Central Committee and the State Council issued the National New Urbanization Plan, which put forward higher requirements for promoting the quality of urbanization; in March 2014, the State Council issued the National New Urbanization Plan (2014-2020); and on October 14, 2016 the Ministry of Residential On October 14, 2016, the Ministry of Construction released the first list of 127 Chinese characteristic towns. Overall, Yibin's characteristic towns are cultivated to promote regional economic development, create industrial forms with special characteristics while providing more job opportunities and more business forms, and make the construction of the city more coordinated and perfect, so as to continuously optimize the facilities and services.

##### 2) The cohesion of industrial clusters characteristics of the construction of small towns need to have characteristics of resources to support.

Through the excavation of resource industries with potentials, characteristics and innovations, Yibin combines famous and special products, cultural and tourism resources, traditional manufacturing industries and new industries to establish a modern industrial system that suits the characteristics of the Yibin area. According to the statistics of relevant departments, the industrial added value of Yibin City in Sichuan Province has jumped to the third place in the province in recent years. The liquor brewing and processing industry represented by Wuliangye Liquor Industry has been formed, while the characteristic modern resources such as rail transportation and intelligent terminals are also being gradually strengthened.

##### 3) The emergence of economic advantages

The good development trend of Yibin has laid a good economic foundation for the comprehensive promotion of urban construction and the rapid development of small towns with special characteristics. Especially driven by the tertiary industry, Yibin, as a famous civilized city, has

harvested a wide range of economic benefits from tourism and agricultural products. Bamboo, tea, animal husbandry, textile and other special economic industries have obvious advantages. By 2022, Yibin's gross domestic product (GDP) reached 342.784 billion yuan, up 4.5% from the previous year.[9]

#### 4.2.2. Promoting the Development Dynamics of Small Towns with Characteristics in Yibin

1) The driving force of urban planning, the development of small towns with characteristics in Yibin is based on the layout of urban development and geographic and natural environments, presenting different planning characteristics.

According to the Yibin City Master Plan(2012-2030) issued by Yibin Municipal Party Committee and Municipal Government, Yibin City will follow the development concept of urban ecological civilization construction for the construction of featured towns in the future, divide the metropolitan area along the river, and design the cultivation of economic growth points by planning for different areas to form a radial town spatial layout structure of "one nucleus, one belt, two lines and eight points", so that urban planning will provide a strong assistance for the construction of featured towns. The radiating town space layout structure of "one core, one belt, two lines and eight points" will provide a strong assistance to the construction of the characteristic town by urban planning.

2) Support for urban construction and development.

In recent years, the GDP of Yibin City has been rising, of which the added value of the primary industry is 39.596 billion yuan, an increase of 4.3%; the added value of the secondary industry is 172.321 billion yuan, an increase of 5.2%; and the added value of the tertiary industry is 130.867 billion yuan, an increase of 3.9%. This also reflects that the economic foundation of Yibin city construction has been relatively solid, Combined with the local economic policy orientation, Yibin special towns have laid a solid foundation for the tertiary industry of Yibin in the process of building special industries.

## 5. OPTIMIZATION MEASURES FOR SMALL TOWN CONSTRUCTION PLANNING

### 5.1. Implementation of Overall Rational Planning and Scientific Advancement

In order to realize the goal of small town construction in southwest China, there are many problems hindering the construction of small towns in the process of realizing it, such as unreasonable construction planning and inaccurate positioning, etc. The root cause lies in the lack of talents, backward level of construction technology, and insufficient investment in material and financial resources. But the main reason is the lack of a macroscopic view of urban planning and construction. The three factors affecting urban planning include inaccurate direction, low starting point and unsustainable development, and therefore require targeted implementation of corresponding measures. In the process of urbanization, it is necessary to find the right direction, solve the problem of a low starting point and establish a direction for sustainable development. On the contrary, failure to adopt targeted responses to different problems will result in serious backwardness in urbanization and a narrow development path. Therefore, the planning of small towns needs to be considered from a comprehensive perspective, taking a long-term view of construction, based on which urbanization can develop in a more permanent and stable manner.[10]

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## **5.2. Urbanization Adheres to a People-centered Approach**

The core essence of urbanization is to serve the people so that they can live more conveniently and better. Therefore, urbanization construction needs to adhere to the principle of people-oriented, so that people can lead a better life through urbanization construction, and town construction planners should fully mobilize people to participate in the process of small town construction, so as to truly achieve the goal of making town construction more comfortable.

## **5.3. Actively Publicizing the Construction of Towns and Cities and Raising People's Awareness of Planning**

In the construction of small towns, people are one of the most important influencing factors and they play a vital role in the development of small cities. Therefore, in the development planning of small towns, it is necessary to let the residents actively participate in the construction of small towns. Incorporating residents' opinions into the planning of small towns is beneficial to the development of urbanization. By means of television, advertisements, newspapers, micro-letters and other means, the publicity of small town construction should be strengthened, and information technology should be effectively used to enhance the residents' awareness of the importance of small town planning, so that they can put forward their opinions in a timely manner, and the planners will continue to make improvements, thus making the small towns better adapted to the needs of the people.

## **5.4. Focusing on Planning at the Regional Level**

The development of small towns is not only affected by macro-policies, but in the overall planning of small town construction, we should not only plan for small towns, but also take into account such development factors as transportation, resources, industrial development and talent cultivation in the surrounding areas of the city, so as to achieve comprehensive consideration. When planning, we emphasize the efficient integration of various resources in the region. [11] In the industrial division of labor within the region, focus on strengthening their own strengths and improving their weaknesses. This will allow for the mismatched development of the intraregional industrial division of labor and for the coordinated development of the various elements, thus promoting the industrial development of each region and enriching the lives of the people.

## **5.5. Focusing on People-centered Infrastructure Development**

The city is a city where production and living are the main activities, and its carrying capacity is carried by the city, whose functions directly affect the quality of life of the residents. Against the background of serious shortage of basic service facilities, the planning should take people-centeredness as the guiding principle of construction, face the increasing needs of residents for public facilities and services, look at the problems from the practical perspective of residents' daily life, and focus on the construction of infrastructures from the perspective of diversification, individualization, and equalization to achieve the improvement of the quality of life of residents and to make the city more comfortable and livable.

## **6. SUMMARY**

In the process of promoting urban-rural integration, small towns, as the key nodes connecting cities and villages, have entered the golden period of development, and their construction planning is the central link in the development of small towns, and the planning and construction of small towns will have a direct bearing on the direction of the future development of the city and the level of urbanization, especially in the southwestern region of the small towns, which is particularly prominent. Therefore, in order to make the long-term stable development of small towns, it is necessary to

implement the overall rational planning, adhere to the people-oriented construction and development concept and actively publicize the construction of towns and cities to enhance the public's awareness of planning. Planning is carried out at the regional level, emphasizing people-oriented infrastructure construction and other related measures. At the same time, when planning the construction of small towns, attention should be paid to the protection of the local environment and cultural heritage, the construction of towns and cities should be reasonably guided, and the actual situation of the region should be combined with the characteristics of different towns to carry out in-depth excavation, and the characteristics of the towns and cities should be protected and developed, and the construction should be reasonably planned, so as to realize the long-term and stable development of the small towns and cities.

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