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Developing Service Industry to Solve Environment Conflict: A Case of Yuyang District, China

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Abstract

This paper is to explain the mode of developing service industry to fight against environmental conflicts. Yuyang District of Yulin City, Shaanxi Province is chosen as a case, which faces both economic development task and environment protection task. Based on literature review, field studies have been done in Yuyang, focusing on how to develop modern service industry. Obvious problems are identified in terms of applying service industry to help solve environmental conflict. It is found that service industry, both industrial service sector and consumption service sector can help Yuyang out of problems of environment pollution at the same time of economic growth.

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Keywords: service industry; environmental conflict; Yuyang District

1. Introduction

Shaanxi Province ranks first in China in terms of the potential economic value of mineral resources. In developing economy, exploitation of natural resource is an indispensable way. According provincial development project, certain industries such as coal, chemical, and electricity should be emphasized and developed. Yuyang District is in the frontier of coal and chemical industry. The development faces environmental conflicts, both naturally-oriented and human activity-driven. At the same time, both the national growth plan and local community call for building environment-friendly economy. How to develop economy and protect the environment together becomes a vital issue.

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Based on literature review and field study, environmental conflict Yuyang District is facing is analyzed; by studying the structure of the primary, secondary and tertiary industry of Yuyang, it is put forward that developing service industry can help regions of environmental vulnerability in solving environmental conflicts; specific measures are pointed out for Yuyang District.

2. Where is Yuyang?

Yuyang District is an administrative district of Yulin City of Shaanxi Province. It is located in the northern part of Shaanxi Province, covering an area of about 7000 square kilometers. It is situated in the middle of Wuding River, footing on Maowusu Desert and the Loess Plateau. The Great Wall built in Ming Dynasty (1368–1644 AD.) separates the district into two parts in terms of topographic feature: to its north, it is sandy marsh; and to its south, it is hill and gully. The yellow dot in the following map is Yuyang District.

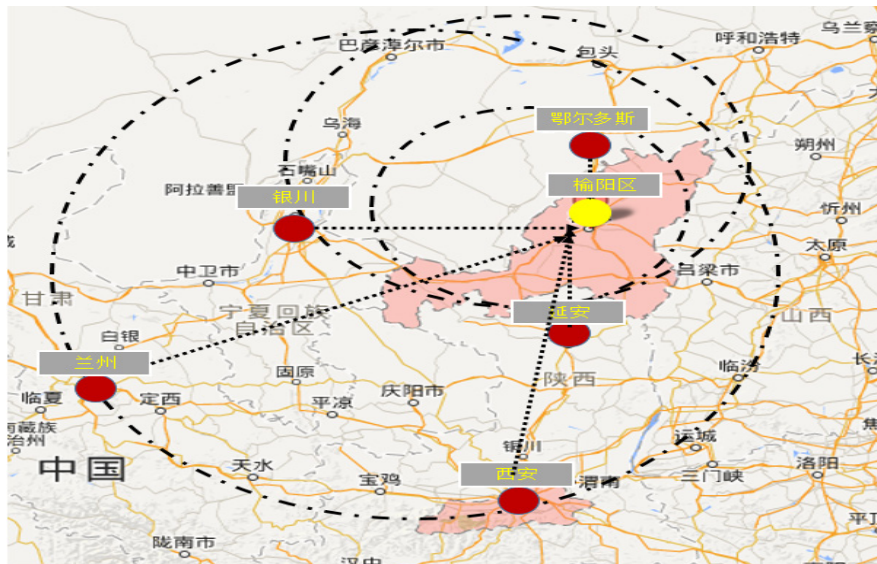


Fig. 1. Map of Yuyang District

3. Methodology

In this study, literature review is the base and sufficient field investigations have been done from the last quarter of 2014 to the first quarter of 2015.

The literature review includes two parts. The first type is academic research. The relation between industrial structure and economic growth has been emphasized, because rational industrial structure can promote the economy grow to higher level, while the irrational structure can hinder the growth of economy. Hoffman (1931) proposed that with the process of industrialization, the ratio of the net revenue of consumption resource to the capital resource decreases continuously. Kuznets (1966) studied 50 countries and showed the relationship between industrial structure and economic growth, mentioned the industrial structure of an economy is decided by its production method. Scholars have also showed that promoting the industrial structure and regional industrial harmony depends on the design and execution of industry policy. Yiyang Li (2011) studied Gansu Province in terms of the correlation between industrial structure and economic growth, drawing the conclusion that the top phase of industrial structure development is the one in which service industry takes the dominant role, followed by the secondary industry.

The second type of literature include policy and related statistical reports, including “National economy and social development statistics bulletin of Yulin City”, “National economy and social development statistics bulletin

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