

# **The Tentative idea on Compiling "Women's Atlas of the People's Republic of China "**

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Since 1595 when Mokato chose the warrior , Atlas , who was said to support the sky in the ancient mythology, as the synonym of the book of maps, the diversity of atlas has been increasing continuously. The publication of a state atlas stands for the country's level of scientific technology and culture. By for more than 80 countries have already drawn up and published their state atlas. In these recent years, state atlas on various subjects such as state nature atlas, state economy atlas, state population atlas, etc. In 1995, the fourth International Women's Conference was held in Beijing , and this drew great attentions from all walks of life to the special group , women. Attaching importance on women, understanding women and knowing their present situation, their function and problems urges us to bring up this assumption of compiling " Women's Atlas of the People's Republic of China". We're looking forward to seeing that the atlas gets enough attention from people of all walks of life and comes into being as early as possible.

I. The significance of compiling "Women's Atlas of the People's Republic of China".

Along with the growth of population in China, the population of women also increases and has taken up 49.1% of the total population. Women are performing a very important role in our country's economic development and social progress. To compile "Women's Atlas of the People's Republic of China" can show the changes of women's social status in China, reflect the living conditions and social function of women in the society. The atlas will be a conclusive achievements in woman study in our country. And it will also be important consulting sources for woman study and the best way of thoroughly understanding women's circumstances and changes for people from all walks of life.

1.1 To show the changes of women's social status in China.

Marx once said," any person of a bit historical knowledge also understands that without the ferment of women the great change of the society will be impossible. The social progress can be measured with women's social status." (p571, volume 32, "Complete Works of Marx and Engles" ). Women's status refers to the rights,

opportunities as well as the degree of recognition toward women, the special group, gain from the social living and relationship. Legal rights, state of employment, level of participating in politics, educational state, family status form up the essential factors of women's social status. They also are important measurement for testing the level of women's social status. The main factor that influences the change of women's social status is the main part of women's consciousness, sense of value, life period. While the level of economic development, social systems, women concept in the social culture serve as the social factors of influencing and confining the change of women's status.

During the 50 years after the founding of our new country, great historical changes of women's social status has taken place. We not only confirmed women's equal status to male's in every aspect of social life, but also supplied economic foundation way of developing and ideology atmosphere to seek equality between the two sexes in practice. The distance between the two social statuses of the two sexes is shortening. The change is especially obvious in the aspects such as women's participating in politics and handling social affairs, proportion and level of employment , state of education , family status and health conditions. Certainly , the changes and developments of women's social status vary according to the different regions and levels , which can be directly indicated on the map in space , time , etc. Namely, the development in city is higher than that in countryside and women of higher education gain higher social status than those of lower education.

1.2 The numerous women is the main force of economic construction.

The birth of our new China created the most advantageous social circumstances for women's development, which is adored by women in the world. The numerous women throw themselves into the socialist construction of modernization, becoming an unneglectable in our country's economic development. At the very beginning of the new country, woman workers took up only 7.5% of the total workers. But now 50%. They have become true to their name of "half-sky". They also highly improved themselves by learning cultural and technical knowledge. Girl students have increased near 20 times in number from that at the beginning of the new China. Female doctors, scientists, educators have shown up with brilliant achievements. With their creative labor and active research work in production practice, they contributed much to our country.

As the master of the country, China's women take part in handling state affairs, join in the people's congress of various levels and discuss over state policies. More and more women such as woman entrepreneurs , factory directors, managers ,mayors ,ministers, etc, are put onto leader's posts, directly participating in the management affairs of the country and the society. Women enjoy equal rights in obtaining employment. The number of women in employment keeps growing, taking up 46% of the total number, higher than the world's average

34.5%. the fields for women to get into are also very wide. Of the twelve trades in state economy, nine have employed more than one million woman workers, such as industry, agriculture, architecture, transportation, business, hygiene, education and party and government and social groups, etc.

### 1.3 Women's special function

Women in our country play on irreplaceable role in the socialist spiritual and material civilization development, in family and in the social progress.

#### 1.3.1 Women's function in implementing the state policy of family planning .

Nowadays, the seriousness of population problem and the necessity of birth control have been universally realized by the society. And the achievements of birth control are getting more and more noticeable. The recent national population census shows that the mainland population of our country in the past ten years decreased 0.4% in the increasing rate than that of 1980s. Our country's population has entered into a low increasing stage. The population's growth to a certain degree is controlled. While women perform an important role in birth control and population quality, which is indicated as follow: (1)women receive education. The more education they receive, the higher their marriage age becomes, the less the birth will become. Women are willing to observe policy of " late marriage and late childbirth, less birth and higher qualification", which will benefit the next generation. (2)women have the decision-making power in birth :women of childbearing age can talk over and equally decide with their husbands whether or not to bear the child, which reduces pregnancy to the minimum possibility and does good to birth control and women's health. (3)women obtaining employment. The growth of women's participating in social activities inevitably leads to late marriage which is helpful to reduce childbirth. And as a result, family size changes correspondingly and women's position in the family is highly improved. Modern China's family model is one in which the two parts of the couple is equal and helpful to each other and they give birth to children by plan.

#### 1.3.2. Women's function in social stability

The reform and open policies of our country provide the numerous women with adequate places and good opportunities to their abilities into play. Meanwhile , their own qualification got an obvious promotion. The rates of entering school, staying in school and getting further school education have apparently risen. In the schools of various kinds and levels, female teachers take up 30% to 44.5% of the total members. In the field of culture and art , China women's intelligence and talents get full display. Woman writers, performing artists, directors and musicians appear continuously. In the field of physical culture, women share the equal opportunity with men in joining various physical training and international games. What's more, they've made

excellent performances. In the field of women and children's hygiene work, women took up 55% of the total number of workers. Women also play important roles in enhancing the social civilization and progress in ethics.

The stability and progress of families are based on that of society. Chinese women have obtained their own decision-making power; their rights and interests are also guaranteed as expected. This not only enhances the qualification of marriage and equality of husband and wife, but also guarantees the family's stability. Most workers in the resident's committee are women who mediate disputes, solve problems, and thus have prevented folk disputes which might be sharpened into criminal cases. Many women help to change juvenile delinquents change their ideas and help those released from imprisonment in employment and marriage as well. This serves much in the fame of China as one of the nation's lowest rate of criminal cases and serious crimes in the world.

II. The assumption of compiling "Women's atlas of the People's Republic of China".

"Women's atlas of the People's Republic of China" is a comprehensive atlas of special subjects with women as the theme. It aims to reflect all-sided women's participating in politics, employment, education, marriage and family, childbearing and health, law, population, medium, region, literature, history, customs and national characters, etc. the atlas consists of three map groups and forty- five maps of twelve themes.

2.1 The map groups of reflecting the basic situation of the changes of women's social status.

The map groups include three themes, eleven maps.

2.1.1 Women's population:

- (1). women's population scale and sexual constitution
- (2). women's age constitution
- (3). natural changes of women's population
- (4). reasons for women's population migration.

2.1.2 Women's social participation:

- (5). rates of women's participating in politics.
- (6). women's organization and activities.
- (7). woman study institutes and achievements

2.1.3 Women's development:

- (8). women's population during 1949 to 1999
- (9). rate of women's participating in politics during 1949 to 1999

(10). rate of women's employment in 1949 to 1999

(11). rate of women's staying at school during 1949 to 1999.

2.2 Construction achievement map groups reflecting women's "half-sky" function.

The map groups include four themes, fourteen maps.

2.2.1 Women's education:

(12). level of women's education

(13). women and children's education ( girl students of school-going age)

(14). women and special education

(15). women's adult education

(16). woman illiterate and half-illiterate

(17). number of schoolgirls in schools of various levels and kinds.

2.2.2 Women's employment:

(18). women's position constitution

(19). rate of women's employment

(20). women's salary and income

2.2.3 Scientific study and physical culture:

(21). women of scientific technology

(22). sportswomen, women of judge

(23). women athletes and women in scientific study and physical culture.

2.2.4 Women's administration of justice and crime:

(24). women's judicial work

(25). circumstances of women crime

2.3 The map groups reflecting women's specialty

Consisting of five themes twenty maps.

2.3.1 Women's health:

(26). maternal and child hygiene

(27). women hygiene and health care

(28). diseased and death

(29). rate of pregnant women's death and causes of death

(30). average due life span

### 2.3.2 Marriage and family:

- (31). women's marriage situation
- (32). changes of women's marriage
- (33). age of marriage
- (34). family scales and types

### 2.3.3 Birth-control:

- (35). number of women of childbearing age
- (36). rate of women's bearing
- (37). means of birth-control and contraception and the degree of their universalization

### 2.3.4 Distribution of women's living time

- (38). women's working time
- (39). women's leisure time
- (40). average distribution of time of women's day

### 2.3.5 Women of minority nationality

- (41). ration of population of every nationality
- (42). rate of minority women's participating in politics
- (43). rate of employment of minority nationality women
- (44). cultural constitution of minority nationality women
- (45). marriage customs of minority nationality

## III. Evaluating measurements involved in the compiling of "Women's Atlas of People's Republic of China"

### 3.1 Women's social status measurements

The rate of women's participating in politics is an important target reflecting the equality between the two sexes in politics. This takes the ratio of women representatives to state congress representatives as symbol of the level of participating in politics. According to statistics the ratio in different periods.

### 3.2 Women's economic activity measurements

It refers to the situation of women's participation in economic activities , including women's employment, ration of women to the whole staff in specialist work, women occupation of and women's average income.

Rate of women's employment: as needed, this measurement can be calculated according to age, city or countryside, or occupation, etc, and indicated by the ratio of women in employment to the total worker's in employment. Rate of employment reflects the circumstances of women's employment in economic activities.

Ration of women to the whole staff in specialist work: to some degree, this reflects the level of education women receive, women's cultural qualification, ideology qualification and physical qualification, etc.

Construction of women's occupation: the percentage of women in every walk of life, reflecting women's work division. In the population census of our country, there are eight types of work, i. e. technical specialist, persons in charge in the party and government, enterprises and institutions, office workers, businesswoman, commercial service people, laborers in farming , forestry, husbandry, fishery, works in production and transportation, and so on.

### 3.3 Measurements for women's education

This refers to the level of education women receive, including the rate of girl children's entry into school, dropping out of school, number of girl students in schools of various level and types, ratio of various cultural education of working women, half-illiterate, etc.

### 3.4 Measurements for women's hygiene and health

This includes: the number of maternal and child health care stations, epidemic prevention stations, and capitals equipped with department of gynecology, the death rate of infants , death rate of women , women's diseases and other death rates and women's average due life span. These measurements comprehensively reflect the level of social development, circumstances of women's population health and levels of medical departments.

### 3.5 Measurements for women's life period

This includes the average age when women leave school, starting age of childbearing and ending age of childbearing. These reflect the level of education women receive, and influence the length of various periods of women's life and finally influence women's social status.

### 3.6 Measurements in birth planning

This includes the number of women of childbearing age, rate of birth, means and rate of married women's controlling birth and avoiding pregnancy, rate of popularization and total birth rate.

### 3.7 Measurements for women's family status

This refers to women's rights of possessing and controlling toward family sources and the respects they get in family, including women's time spent on child care and housework, women's no payment working time and women's working time.

In short, compiling "Women's Atlas of People's Republic of China" is a systematic project. We have to take into all-side consideration from the compiling idea, organization, content, method and process to the final official publishing so as to enrich and purify the atlas content and change the assumption into reality.

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