

# Path selection for equalization of basic public services in Qingdao from the perspective of public finance

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**Abstract:** “Taking from the people and using for the people” is one of the basic characteristics of China’s public finance, which determines its important role in the equalization of basic public services. Public finance plays a fundamental role in promoting the equalization of basic public services reform. Studying the equalization reform of basic public services in China from the perspective of public finance is of great significance for promoting social equity. Based on this, the article conducts research and analysis on the path selection of equalization of basic public services from the perspective of public finance, taking Qingdao City as an example, in order to provide some reference for relevant practitioners.

**Keywords:** Public finance perspective; Qingdao City; Basic public services; Equalization; Path selection; proposal

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## Introduction

In today’s society, public finance, as an important governance tool, plays a crucial role in ensuring the popularization and equalization of basic public services. As a vibrant city, the level of basic public services in Qingdao is directly related to the quality of life of its citizens and the stable development of society. Public finance, as an important resource allocation mechanism to support public services, provides strong financial support for cities. When exploring the path selection of equalization of basic public services in Qingdao from the perspective of public finance, the importance of public finance in service distribution and fairness cannot be ignored. It is not only a means of resource allocation, but also a guarantee of social fairness and overall development. By deeply understanding the role and challenges of public finance in service equalization, we can better explore and propose effective path choices to achieve the popularization and fairness of basic public services, and make important contributions to the sustainability of urban development.

## 1. The Current Situation of Basic Public Services in Qingdao City

### 1.1 Education sector

There is a certain degree of inequality in the education sector in Qingdao. On the one hand, high-quality educational resources are concentrated in the urban area, and school facilities and teaching staff are relatively strong, resulting in higher teaching quality; On the other hand, some schools in rural or urban fringe areas have relatively backward teaching conditions due to resource scarcity and insufficient teaching staff. This has led to an uneven distribution of educational resources between urban and rural areas, affecting students’ right to education.

### 1.2 Healthcare sector

In the field of healthcare, there is a certain degree of differentiation in basic public services in Qingdao. The central urban areas have advanced medical facilities and resources, providing high-level medical services; However, in some remote and rural areas, medical resources are scarce, and the level of grassroots medical services is not high, resulting in difficulties for residents to seek medical treatment and imbalanced health services.

### 1.3 Transportation and infrastructure

Qingdao also faces inequality in basic public services in the fields of transportation and infrastructure. The transportation infrastructure of urban main roads is relatively complete, but the transportation construction in some remote areas within the jurisdiction lags behind, public

transportation is inconvenient, and the road quality is not high, which affects the travel and quality of life of residents. In addition, the difference in infrastructure between urban and rural areas is also one of the factors affecting the equalization of public services.

## **2. Path selection from the perspective of public finance**

### **2.1 Increase fiscal investment and optimize resource allocation**

In the path selection to achieve equalization of basic public services in Qingdao, increasing financial investment and optimizing resource allocation are the primary considerations. The government should further increase financial investment in basic public services, especially in areas such as education, healthcare, and transportation. This requires ensuring the effectiveness of investment, not only increasing the scale of fiscal expenditure, but also emphasizing the rationality and inclusiveness of resource allocation. Through fiscal budget arrangements, ensure a more balanced allocation of resources to various regions and fields, and narrow the service gap between urban and rural areas and regions.

### **2.2 Policy formulation and reform mechanism**

Qingdao needs to formulate relevant policies and reform mechanisms from the perspective of public finance to promote the equalization of basic public services. This includes establishing a sound policy framework to promote development in areas such as education, healthcare, and transportation. For example, formulating educational equity policies, promoting balanced allocation of educational resources through adjusting school layout, resource integration, and other means; In the field of healthcare, establish a sound medical security mechanism, improve the level of grassroots medical services, and ensure the right of everyone to enjoy basic medical security.

### **2.3 Promote the participation of government, citizens, and all sectors of society**

In addition to the government's efforts, it is also necessary to promote broad participation from the government, citizens, and all sectors of society to jointly promote the equalization of basic public services. The government can establish a multi-party participation mechanism to encourage private capital to participate in the construction and management of public services, and improve the diversification and coverage of services. At the same time, it is necessary to strengthen the education of citizens, enhance their understanding and support for the equalization of basic public services, encourage them to actively participate in social public welfare undertakings, and jointly promote the improvement of public services.

## **3. Suggestions for Promoting the Equalization of Basic Public Services in Qingdao City**

### **3.1 Information transparency and supervision mechanism**

Establishing an open and transparent fiscal expenditure system and supervision mechanism is a key measure to ensure the compliance and effectiveness of the use of public fiscal funds. By improving the information disclosure system, citizens can have a clear understanding of the specific items and amount allocation of fiscal expenditures, making it an important force in supervising fiscal expenditures. At the same time, establish an effective supervision mechanism, including third-party evaluation, audit supervision, etc., to comprehensively supervise the use of fiscal funds, identify and correct possible problems and waste phenomena. This supervision mechanism should have timeliness and authority, ensuring real-time tracking and evaluation of the use of fiscal funds, and providing scientific basis for government decision-making. The establishment of information transparency and supervision mechanisms not only helps to improve the transparency and efficiency of fiscal expenditures, but also enhances the standardization and credibility of government behavior, thereby promoting the equalization process of basic public services.

### **3.2 Key areas of investment**

The equalization of basic public services in Qingdao requires targeted investment in key areas. The government should focus on increasing financial investment in areas such as education, healthcare, and transportation to prioritize the development of basic public services. In terms of education, strengthen the construction of school facilities and teacher training, ensure equal distribution of educational resources, and eliminate the gap between urban and rural educational resources. At the same time, investment in the medical and health field is also crucial, promoting the equal distribution of health resources by improving the level of grassroots medical services, building medical institutions, and strengthening the construction of medical staff. In addition, investment in transportation infrastructure is also an important measure to promote service equalization, especially to improve road construction and public transportation networks in remote areas, in order to enhance the convenience and safety of residents' travel. The investment in these key areas needs to be combined with policy formulation and resource integration to achieve the overall goal of equalization of basic public services. When formulating investment strategies, the government should consider the urgency and level of demand in various fields, accurately allocate resources, and ensure the inclusiveness and accessibility of public services. By increasing investment in key areas, Qingdao can gradually eliminate the service gap between urban and rural areas and regions, and improve the quality of life and happiness of residents.

### **3.3 Supporting remote areas and weak links**

To promote the equalization of basic public services in Qingdao, special attention needs to be paid to supporting remote areas and weak links. The government should take targeted measures to increase support for these areas and links, in order to narrow the gap in public services between urban and rural areas and regions. For remote areas, the government can establish special funds, increase financial investment, improve infrastructure construction, especially transportation and communication facilities, to solve the problem of service lag caused by inconvenient transportation. The government needs to establish more precise subsidy and support mechanisms to ensure that resources can be more directed towards these areas and weak links, and to achieve true inclusiveness of public services.

### **3.4 Policy support and comprehensive considerations**

Policy formulation should be forward-looking, rather than a temporary supplement in a single field. This means that the government should adopt comprehensive policy measures, comprehensively consider the development needs and gaps in various fields, and ensure coordination and coordination among policies. Meanwhile, policies should focus on long-term development goals rather than short-term solutions. Comprehensive consideration means that in the policy-making process, it is necessary to comprehensively understand the differences between urban and rural areas and regions, fully consider the characteristics and needs of different regions and groups, avoid simple transportation modes, and adapt to the local actual situation. Policy support must have synergy, and various policies need to be interconnected to form an organic whole. This includes policy coordination in areas such as education, healthcare, and transportation, ensuring consistency and mutual promotion among various policy directions. In addition, policy support also needs to focus on timeliness. With the changes of the times and social demands, policies should be adjusted and optimized in a timely manner to adapt to the constantly changing needs of social development.

## **Conclusion**

In summary, in the exploration of promoting the equalization of basic public services in Qingdao, through in-depth analysis of the current situation of basic public services in Qingdao, we recognize the inequality problems between urban and rural areas and regions. However, by increasing fiscal investment and optimizing resources, formulating policies and reform mechanisms, promoting multi-party participation, and comprehensively considering policy support, we can break the unequal situation. Focusing on supporting remote areas and weak links, establishing transparent supervision mechanisms, is also an important path to ensure equal access to public services. As a rapidly developing city, Qingdao needs the joint efforts of the government, citizens, and all sectors of society to achieve equalization of public services. Only

through policy coordination, rational allocation of resources, and cross departmental collaboration can we ultimately achieve the universality and fairness of basic public services. Let us work together, supported by public finance, to promote the equalization of basic public services in Qingdao, and contribute to the sustainable development of the city and the happy life of residents.

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