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## **Facing Economic Tasks of the Chinese Minorities Case of Uyghurs**

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### **.Introduction**

Since its reform and opening up to the world, China has kept up its high growth rate. With the preferential economic, educational and cultural policies of the Central government, the living standard of all ethnicities of China has greatly improved. However, by the beginning of 1990's, the widening of the gap of living standards between different regions became a problem. It has been recognized that the stable development of China is impossible without appropriate attention to this gap. The Chinese government forthrightly admitted the regionally disproportionate development, and tried to change the situation. The policy changeover was done from an initial development strategy of reform and opening up to the strategy to develop the inland areas which were left behind, and was symbolized by the "Western development" strategy instituted in 2000 and which aimed at balanced regional development.

The economy of Xinjiang, one of objects of this policy, attracted public attention, for its high growth rate achieved after the western development policy and by its strategic location, and by its natural resources. At the same time, Xinjiang attracted attention as one of the poverty regions. That is to say, the income gap and the poverty problem of the minority population coexist with the economic growth in Xinjiang. The "double difference" of the income gap between the urban and rural areas and the regional inequality between Xinjiang and the coastal region of China has widened gradually, and the development issues in Xinjiang farm villages are becoming an urgent problem to the economic development in Xinjiang.

The minority population accounts for about 60% of the overall population, and Uyghur, the main ethnic group accounts for 46% of the population of Xinjiang. About 80 percent of the population of Uyghur is farmers. As for the minority agriculture, productivity and any hopes for improvement are limited. This is because cultivated land per person is small, and most of the land is sandy. Increase in income has been said to be impossible without non-agricultural income.

Nowadays, economic problems such as poverty and the income gap do not appear

among industries, but appear between ethnicities in Xinjiang. As indicated in Ohnishi (2000), the solution to the minority issue cannot be achieved without economic prosperity and without employment in modern industry. However, even if they start such modern industry, everyone cannot necessarily become an entrepreneur and capitalist. Some change among the entrepreneurs and others may change the conditions of the workers. Nevertheless, their attachment to modern industry means they have a confrontational relationship with the capital and labor between them and a fair share in the work place.

Before and during the Beijing Olympics, mass media all over the world have reported a lot of biased information concerning Uyghur, and provides illusions to people who did not know the actual circumstance. It is a mistake to make a judgment on minority issues without correct understanding the minority policy of China and the situation of the ethnic minorities.

When considering the long-term economic development of Xinjiang, it is necessary to think about the social, economic, cultural development of Uyghurs. This is a very important problem in the long-term and for the harmonized development of this region. In this paper, China's economic policy in minority regions, the social-economic position and the task of the Uyghur are clarified from the aspect of the comparison among Han, Mongol, Hui, Tibetans, and Koreans.

## **.Preferential economic policy in the minority areas of China**

I will briefly introduce China's economic policy in ethnic minority regions using an article titled "National Minorities Policy and Its Practice In China Preferential Financial Policies for Minority Areas" written by Information Office of State Council of People's Republic of China in September 1999.

### **1. Preferential Financial Policies for Minority Areas**

The state set up "ethnic region subsidies" in 1955, and the Flexible Ethnic Region Fund in 1964, and adopted the preferential financial policy of raising the proportion of the financial reserve fund of the ethnic regions to help minority areas develop their economies and improve the local people's livelihoods. Since 1980, the central financial authorities have adopted a quota subsidy system for the five autonomous regions and the three provinces with large ethnic minority populations--Guizhou, Yunnan and Qinghai provinces. The above-mentioned three preferential policies have also been included in the quota subsidy system. From 1980 to 1998, the autonomous areas received more than 140 billion Yuan of quota subsidies from the central financial authorities. In 1980, the state set up a fund to aid the development of economically underdeveloped areas, of which a large part was used in minority areas. In 1986 the state set up the help-the-poor discount-interest loan

and capital for providing employment as a form of relief, of which a large proportion was used in minority areas. In 1994 China began to reform the “revenue-sharing-scheme” financial management system. In the meantime, all the original subsidies and special financial allocation policies for minority areas were preserved. With respect to the transfer payment method for the transition period which China adopted in 1995, the state specially added the policy-related transfer-payment contents for the five autonomous regions, including Tibet, and the autonomous prefectures in Yunnan, Guizhou, Qinghai and other provinces, offering preferential policies to the ethnic minority areas. The policy-related transfer-payment sum has constantly increased along with the growth of the state's financial capacity.

## **2. Preferential Trade and Tax policy in Minority Areas**

The state adopts preferential policies toward ethnic trade. For instance, since 1963 it has adopted a threefold policy in this regard. This ensures a portion of reserved profits, self-owned capital and price subsidies for minority peoples. To respect the folkways, customs and religious beliefs of ethnic minorities and satisfy their needs for special articles of daily use, the state guarantees the production of more than 4,000 varieties of ethnic articles, which fall into 16 categories, such as garments, shoes, hats, furniture, silks and satins, foodstuff, production tools, handicrafts, ornaments and musical instruments. It has also extended some preferential policies, such as setting up special production bases, giving priority to the guarantee of production capital and the supply of raw and processed materials, reduction of and exemption from taxes, low-interest loans, transportation subsidies, etc.

Since 1991, in light of the new situation of reform and opening-up, the state has made appropriate readjustments in the preferential policies concerning ethnic trade and the production of ethnic articles for daily use. During the Eighth Five-Year Plan period (1991-1995), the state offered preferential treatment to commercial, supply and marketing and pharmaceuticals enterprises and more than 2,300 designated enterprises for producing ethnic articles for daily use in the 426 designated ethnic trade counties in terms of credits, investment, taxation and the supply of commodities, and offered special discount-interest loans for the construction of an ethnic trade network, and the technological transformation of designated enterprises for producing ethnic articles for daily use.

## **3. Preferential Poverty Reduction policy in Minority Areas**

Although the minority people's life has witnessed tremendous improvement since the founding of the people's Republic of China, restricted by geographical conditions, a low social development level, bad production conditions, and lack of scientific, technological and cultural knowledge, western China, where minority peoples live in concentrated communities, is relatively backward as compared with the coastal areas in eastern China. In

some minority areas, production and living conditions are fairly difficult, and the people's basic needs of some people are not assured. Since the mid-1980s, when China started a large-scale help-the-poor drive in an organized and planned way, the state has always attached importance to helping the minority peoples and minority areas.

During the help-the-poor efforts in the past decade or so, poverty-stricken minority areas have enjoyed the preferential help-the-poor policy offered by the Chinese government to other poverty-stricken areas, as well as a series of special policies formulated by the state: (1) Expanding the sphere of aiding the minority areas. (2) Giving priority to poverty-stricken ethnic minority counties in terms of the distribution of help-the-poor capital and materials. (3) Arranging special help-the-poor funds for the poverty-stricken ethnic minority areas. (4) Actively conducting cooperation with international organizations in poverty alleviation and development in the poverty-stricken ethnic minority areas. (5) Organizing the provinces and municipalities in east China to start help-the-poor cooperation with the minority areas.

## **.Recent conditions of Uyghur**

### **1. Change in composition of population**

According to the data of the China census in 2000, five most populated ethnic groups are that Zhuangzu (about 16.18 million), Manju (about 10.68 million), Huizu (about 9.82 million), Miaozi (about 8.94 million), and Uyghur (about 8.4 million). Additionally, the population of the Mongol and Tibet who have the autonomous region are about 5.81 million and 5.42 million respectively. And the population of the ethnic Korean who is the one of the object of comparison is 1.92 million. The population of Zhuangzu and Manju exceeds 10 million. Only Uyghur resides mainly in Xinjiang though the other ethnic groups like Hui are distributing in various parts of China.

To improve the quality of the ethnic minority population and accelerate the economic and social development of the ethnic minority autonomous areas, the people's congresses of these areas have formulated their own family planning policies toward the ethnic minorities in light of the spirit of the state's regulations concerning the need also for minority peoples to practice family planning. These policies are more lenient than those with the Han people. Under these policies, an ethnic minority family generally may have two or three children; in frontier areas and areas with adverse geographical conditions, families of ethnic minorities with very small populations may have more than three children each; and Tibetan farmers and herdsmen in the Tibet Autonomous Region may have as many children as they like.

Table 1 the comparison between the population and the increase rate of population

	1953年(10 thousand)	1964年(10 thousand)	1982年(10 thousand)	1990年(10 thousand)	2000年(10 thousand)	1964/1953	1982/1964	1990/1982	2000/1990
total Population	57786	69122	100391	113051	124261	1.2	1.45	1.13	1.1
total of minorities	3401	3988	6643	9057	10449	1.17	1.67	1.36	1.15
Han	54282	65130	93667	103919	113739	1.2	1.44	1.11	1.09
Zhuangzu	686	839	1338	1556	1618	1.22	1.6	1.16	1.04
Manju	240	270	430	985	1068	1.12	1.6	2.29	1.08
Hui	353	447	723	861	982	1.27	1.62	1.19	1.14
Uyghur	361	400	596	721	840	1.11	1.49	1.21	1.17
Mongol	145	197	341	480	581	1.35	1.74	1.41	1.21
Ethnic Korea	111	134	177	192	192	1.21	1.32	1.09	1
Tibet	275	250	385	459	542	0.91	1.54	1.19	1.18

Source: 1990, 2000 census data.

The minority population accounts for 8.41% of the nationwide population in 2000, and the increase rate of population of the minority is higher than Han. From this table we can see that the populations of these ethnic groups have increased considerably until 1982. In this period the population of Hui and Monggul has increased faster than others. One-child policy has induced in 1979. The effect of this policy is clear from the table. In a word, increase rate of Manju was high, but increase rate of other races was low in the 1990's. Zhuangzu and Hui Received the policy impact most and their population ratios in 1990 towards 1982 are 1.109, 1.162, and 1.191 respectively.

In addition, the population ratios of 2000 towards 1990 of Han, Zhuangzu and Manju are almost near 0. Korean population hardly increased and which was considered caused by the factors other than birth control policy. In 1990s Mongol, Uyghur, Hui's population increase rate has decreased compared with the 80's, but have kept comparatively high increase rate. The population of Uyghur was 8.4 million in 2000 and was about 1.165 time of that in 1990. According to the Xinjiang statistics yearbook in 2007, the population of Uyghur in 2006 was 9.41 million, and the average increase rate of year in the 1990's was 2.82%, and it was 1.91% from 2000 to 2006. It will exceed 10 million after 2010 if it keeps increase in this increase rate (Table 1).

Next, let's see the distribution of these various ethnicities in the urban areas, villages and rural areas. According to the census in 2000, 24% of the nationwide population lives in urban areas, 13% lives in villages and 63% lives in the rural areas. The urban population ratio of Korean (46%), Hui (31%), and Han (25%) are surpassing of national average of 24%. urban populations of others have fallen below the national average. 16% of Mongols and 10% of Uyghur lives in cities. The lowest level is Tibet that only 4% of them live in cities. Oppositely, the rural population of Tibet (87%) and Uyghur (81%) is high and exceeds 80 percent.

Because of the way of economic development of Uyghur not suitable for the main streams economic development in Xinjiang, the tendency of Uyghur concentration on the farm village has not changed in 2 decades.

## **2. Educational level of minority and their nature**

The nature of population usually includes ideological nature, moralistic nature, physical nature and cultural nature of population. The ideological and moralistic nature of population indicates the manual therapeutics such as political attitude, quality of morality, the ideological concept, and the cultivation of individuality, etc. Physical nature of population is mainly judged by 0-years old baby's mortality rate and the index of the average life expectancy etc. cultural nature of population is mainly judged by years of education, structure of cultural level and knowledge etc.

At the entire Xinjiang's level, the academic level of its population is higher than the average level of other minority regions, Han districts of the more developed areas in China and average level of whole country.<sup>1</sup> When only Uyghur are taken out, it is much lower than others. According to the fifth population census material, in 2000, the ratios of population which had been educated and had been educating in universities, high schools, junior high schools and primary schools in total population of Uyghur are 1.0%, 4.3%, 24.6%, 53.1%. We can see the academic level of Uyghur has risen compared with 1990's level. The academic level of other ethnicities has also improved except the Tibet. However, the academic level of Uyghur is much lower than others. Especially, the difference of the population with the academic level over than the high school is greater than that of other ethnicities and nationwide levels.

The important thing is ethnic Korean's academic level is remarkable. Uptrend of their academic level is still continuing. As for the ethnic Korean, their average academic level is known as the highest among the ethnicities in China. It can be pointed out to the background that the peculiar ethnic culture is accomplishing the key role. That is, ethnic Korean had received the Confucianism culture in a long history process, and the Confucianism thought has played a ruling role in their social decision making. The social climate that valued the education was made up in the entire race while the minority to reside in other frontier poverty areas often had old educational ideas. Land is fertile and the area of land per person of the farmer is wide in the district where the ethnic Korean lives. Especially, it can be said that under the influence of minority preferential treatment policy of China and rapid economic development of South Korea, the spirit that make effort optimistically, and positively, and like stress the education was promoted reasonably (Cun

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<sup>1</sup> According to the "China Statistical Yearbook 2000", illiteracy and the half-illiteracy over 15-year-old population was 9.77% in Xinjiang, 18.69% in other Minority Region, and 14.01% in the Han concentrated area. Moreover, the ratio of the population without elementary education was 8.11% in Xinjiang, 15.16% in nationwide minority regions, 11.23% in the Han concentrated area.

1999). The Korean's spirit that attaches great importance to education is a base of the height of their economical position. It is necessary for other minorities to learn from them.

Table 2 Ratio of educated population over six-year-old (%)

	1990				2000			
	university	high school	junior high school	primary school	university	high school	junior high school	primary school
national Avg.	0.8	9.2	33.4	53.2	1.2	8.6	36.5	38.2
Ethnic Korean	2.8	21.3	41.0	28.3	3.8	19.8	43.1	20.4
Mongol	1.1	11.5	31.6	50.9	1.7	10.2	34.7	37.3
Hui	1.0	10.7	34.1	49.8	1.3	8.3	29.0	36.8
Han	0.8	9.3	33.9	52.6	1.3	8.8	37.3	37.6
Uyghur	0.7	5.7	19.5	70.7	1.0	4.3	24.6	53.1
Tibet	0.6	3.4	17.2	73.3	0.4	1.7	7.7	35.2

Source: 1990, 2000 census data.

In addition, the ratio of university and college graduates is 6.69% in Xinjiang, 2.1% in nationwide minority regions, and 3.11% in the Han concentrated area. Next to Tibet it is Uyghur that the academic level is low. According to the population census material, among over six-year-old population of Uyghur, illiterate who had not been to the school were 44% in 1982, and the illiteracy rate and half-illiteracy rate of over 15-year-old population accounted for 26.6% in 1990. In short, one person in 3.76 was illiterate in 1990. The illiteracy of over six-year-old population decreased to 8.8% in 2000. In China most of the populations who don't go to school are illiterates. In the 90's, Literacy class has set up in each farm village to wipe out illiteracy, and 3% of the population has attended in this class in 2000. However, the attendant of this class actually does not have any difference with illiterate.

When considering the final academic background there are a lot of elementary school graduates in the entire population of Uyghur. The junior high school graduates less than other ethnicities, and the high school graduates, junior college graduates and the university graduates greatly falls below than others. For instance, based on the census data in 2000, the population who had the educational level above high school(graduates of high school, junior college, Specialized secondary School, university, and graduate school graduates are included) is 10.66%. It is 16.14% for Han, and 15.89% for Hui, 20.07% for Mongol, and 33.32% for ethnic Korean, and they exceeded the figure of Uyghur (Table 2).

Actually, the low degree of the cultural level of Uyghur is more severe from the situation that has been seen. The reason is, firstly, the attendant to the literacy class at the beginning of 1990 even can read the character somehow, as a matter of fact, it is far beyond the level of understanding through reading material and the advertisement of the humanities etc.

Next, in January 1965, Uyghur had changed Uyghur character which based on the Arab character that had been used for a long time into the new Uyghur character which was

made based on the Latin alphabet. However, it was returned to the old Uyghur character again in 1984. Therefore, the population who educated in these 20 years cannot use an old Uyghur character on their work, and a part of graduates of elementary school, junior high school, and high school in this period has become illiterate. This problem is not taken into consideration in the population census (YILIHAMU 1995).

About physical nature, the mortality rate of Uyghur is high, and the life expectancy is low. The average life expectancy of 0-years old child is 59.64 years for Uyghur, for other minority regions is 64.71years, and 69.83 years for Han regions in the more developed areas in China. The infant mortality rate are 50.31 ‰, 32.34 ‰, and 12.68 ‰ respectively (Onishi and others 2004). As for the physical nature of Uyghur, the difference with the national average is expanding, and it has misgivings about the adverse effect on the next generation.

As described above, the low degree of racial nature is the main reason of current condition like over 80% of the population are engaging in primary industry, and only 5% of them are in the secondary industry, Such a situation had hardly been changing since 1982. It is needless to say, the improvement of the nature of the population of the ethnicities by education plays a definite role to raise nationality's social economic position, and in prosperity and promotion of its economy. From the worldwide aspect, the Japanese is the good example for this. Among the minority of China, contrasting with Uyghur, the ethnic Korean's serious consideration of education improved their position and they succeeded in overcoming the social troubles which Uyghur is confronting now.

when looking back on the modern Uyghur society, the religious education had been taken for a long time to the minority of Xinjiang, they were left to be unknown in the field of general school training.

After the liberation, especially after the reform opening-up policy executed the school educational environment has improved. However, because Uyghur has valued Islam for a long time, the school training tended to be disregarded. Moreover, because of the limitation of the family registration system and deep impact of the traditional culture, there were no many Uyghur who go somewhere else to learn. Geographically, Xinjiang is located in the frontier of China west, and extends over a vast region around the Oasis cities. Therefore, the distances between the city and city, city and farm-village, and farm and farm are long, and traffic is inconvenient. Cultural educational media such as publication and Television Broadcasting are very scarce in these districts. It is a problem that an educational investment is insufficient, and the educational scale is small. One big problem of the school training in Uyghur is that there are a lot of students who give up studies on the way. Until 2000, most school training has been done in Uyghur language. Because of the limitation of the teaching materials made in Uyghur language and poor nature of minority teacher's etc., the difference with the student of other ethnicities who have been valuing Chinese

education has extended. This tendency has strengthened Even in the junior college and the university. Therefore Currently the Uyghur students can hardly find job like Han students even if they can graduate. Within the severe competition of market economy, a lot of state-owned enterprises have privatized, the receptacle for minority students employment which prepared by the government like in the past is losing.

Moreover, the illogicality of the educational structure is the key factor to the degree of the population nature of Uyghur. More than 80% of Uyghur concentrates on Kashgar, Khotan, Aksu, Kizilsu Kirgiz Autonomous Prefecture, Bayangol Mongol Autonomous Prefecture, Turpan district, and accounts for 80 percent of total population of south Xinjiang. When consider the distribution of the population between city and farm-villages, 81% of a total population of Uyghur lives in the farm-village. Because the natural rate of growth of the rural population is higher than that of the city part, the children who live in the farm-village is more than 81%. There are a big difference between city and rural area in respects of training facilities, teacher's qualities, the school sizes, and the academic administration, etc. The basic education is an educational activity for people to acquire knowledge and a skill necessary live, it is necessary and indispensable to the improvement of the nature of population. The high school in Xinjiang concentrates on north Xinjiang, and there are only two high school named “Kashgar Teachers Collage” and “Tarim University” in the area of one million km<sup>2</sup> of south Xinjiang. The distance to the high school from each city and prefecture of south Xinjiang to north Xinjiang is between 1000km and 2000km, and has little effect. It is a big burden that should be solved for the resident in south Xinjiang with a high poor rate.

### **3. Industrial structure and occupational structure**

Before the 1949, economic development of Xinjiang was very late, and mainly composed of light industries that centered on the manual industry and self sufficient agriculture. The accumulation of the capital and the technology for the development of modern industry had been hardly performed. After the liberation, economic development of Xinjiang has relied on the direct investment of central government.

As for the population of the employed in the primary industry in 1990, the ratio of Tibet and Uyghur was highest that of 87% and 85% respectively, and was surpassing the national average of 72% greatly. This ratio of Han, Hui and the Ethnic Korean was lower than that of the national average. This ratio for Hui and ethnic Koreans is especially low, 62% and 53% respectively. As for the population of the employed in the secondary industry, the ratios of Korean, Hui and Han were all higher, they were 22%, 19% and 16% respectively. The ratio of Mongol (9%), Uyghur (5%), and Tibet (2%) were lower than others.

Table 3 Industrial structure of population in 1990 and 2000

	1990				2000			
	Sum	First Industry	Secondary Industry	Tertiary Industry	Sum	First Industry	Secondary Industry	Tertiary Industry
Avg.	100	72	15	13	100	64	17	19
Han	100	71	16	13	100	63	18	19
Hui	100	62	19	19	100	60	14	26
Uyghur	100	85	5	10	100	80	5	14
Mongol	100	72	9	19	100	71	8	21
Tibet	100	87	2	11	100	86	3	11
Ethnic Korean	100	53	22	25	100	47	17	36

Source: 1990, 2000 census data.

In tertiary industry, the ratio of the population employed was positively related to the ratio of the population employed in the secondary industry. They were 25%, and 19% for Korean and Hui respectively. The national average of the population ratio of primary industry decreased and increased in secondary and the tertiary industry in 2000 comparing to that 1990. In the secondary industry, the ratio of employed of Hui and ethnic Korean decreased while Han's increased by 2%. This ratio of Uyghur has hardly changed. As for the tertiary industry, the ratios of employed in tertiary industry were increasing except Tibet (table 3).

The tertiary industry contains commerce, the service industry, public affairs, traffic transportation industry, telegraphic communication industry, bank, and insurance. According to the regulations concerning the classification of the tertiary industry of China National Statistics Bureau, it is divided into the distribution sector and the service division.

The population of the employed in the tertiary industry increases more than the population of the employed in the secondary industry, and shows a considerably high increase rate in all ethnicities in the 1990's.

14.4% of the Uyghur manpower belongs to the tertiary industry and the ratio is lower than other ethnicities except Tibet. After the western development policy was executed in 2000, the infrastructure investment of Xinjiang has increased and traffic infrastructure of some farm village has maintained. However, the distance of the road for per area of land is still short, and the quality of the road is also poor. Moreover, telegraphic communication and the communication facilities are insufficient. In the distribution sector, ratio of Uyghur is lower than other ethnicities. Moreover, the ratio is low in finance, insurance, a geological features inquiry industry, a real estate industry, public affairs, a resident service industry, a travel industry, a consultant, and an information service division and various technological service divisions.

Table 4 Composition of tertiary industry in 2000

	Sum	Distribution sector	Production and life sector	Sector that improves scientific cultural level and residents nature	Social public demand service sector
Ethnic Korean	35.69	16.97	6.11	8.07	4.55
Hui	26.12	14.88	3.82	4.18	3.23
Mongol	21.08	7.23	2.85	6.44	4.56
Han	19.31	9.61	3.22	3.87	2.61
Avg.	18.81	9.27	3.10	3.84	2.60
Uyghur	14.38	5.39	1.74	4.33	2.93
Tibet	10.93	2.53	0.97	3.72	3.70

Source: 1990, 2000 census data.

In the sector that improves scientific cultural level and resident nature, the worker of Uyghur accounts for 4.33%, higher than national overage and the ratios of Han and Hui. This index is higher because of being limited to the part of the culture and the art. It is said that Uyghur is popular in art, be known that "It is possible to dance if coming to stand, and it is possible to sing if comes to be able to speak". The ratio of workers related to the art is higher than that of other ethnicities. However Basic hygiene and the medical service are limited, and the basic preventive medicine and the medical service left far behind in south Xinjiang where Uyghur concentrates. Moreover, manpower to be engaged in the social welfare work service is not enough. Besides, advertising media such as magazines and the newspapers are very few, and there are a lot of problems in the inflow of external information.

The scientific inquiry and the general technical service are remarkably poor compared to other ethnicities. Occupational population ratio of Uyghur is truly same to the Tibet. About 80% of Uyghurs are employed in agriculture, 6% are employed as industrial and transportation equipment operator. Occupational techniques and commercial service staffs are 5%, and only about 1% of Uyghurs are working government organs, political party organization, and in social group (Table 4).

### **.The tasks the Uyghurs have to fulfill**

Today the Uyghurs are enjoying the greatest chance for development that they have ever had. Strong managers, researchers, artists and so on are emerging and playing a role in homeland and overseas. Their standard of life is increasing greatly. Although the Uyghurs' life has witnessed tremendous improvement since the founding of the People's Republic of China, there still remain problems such as restricting geographical conditions, low level of social development, bad production conditions, and lack of scientific, technological and cultural knowledge, compared to other ethnic groups in China. The biggest task facing them is their need for self-renewal. They have to fulfill tasks with respect to education, entrepreneurship, cultural barrier and to the spirit of self-effort. And with the preferential policy of CCP they might be able to get rid of poverty and catch up with other minorities.

### **1. Education**

The low level of education is the key factor contributing to the low level of economic status. The Central government is taking a more preferred educational policy to the minorities.

From 1980, the Ministry of Education has established ethnic minority classes in key high schools in the inner land, and from 2000, has established Xinjiang Senior High School classes in the inland cities<sup>1</sup>, and educated a lot of minority students. Recently, they have sent a lot of minority scholars to the more developed areas in China and overseas breeding up a lot of graduate students. The problem is Uyghurs themselves ignoring the value of education.

### **2. Entrepreneurships**

Since Uyghur agriculture is over populated, it is hard to improve its economic condition through agriculture. They need to move some of their labor forces to secondary and tertiary industries. After 2000, some competitive Uyghur modern entrepreneurs appeared. With the preferential trade policy of China, the trade with the central Asia countries and western Asian countries is flourishing. The strategic position of Xinjiang and the cultural and linguistic similarities of the Uyghurs with other Turkish nationalities in central Asia provide the Uyghurs with a potentially great market. For this reason, Uyghur economy has a large development potential. The expansion of entrepreneurship could create lot of work for minorities like Uyghurs.

### **3. Overcoming the cultural barrier and establishing the spirit of making effort**

As described above most of the Uyghurs believe in Islam. They rely too much on “Allah” spiritually and also practically. On average, compared to the Han and ethnic Koreans, the Uyghur peasants, students, parents and so on lack the spirit of making effort to improve their lives.

Nowadays ethnic minority university and college students are facing crucial problem on job searching (JIA others 2006 and QI others 2007). Hard and active effort on Chinese language and on practical knowledge will work much better than complaint to the policies.

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<sup>1</sup> In order to enhance the talents of minorities in Xinjiang, in 2000, the CPC Central Committee and State Council established the major strategy to operate special classes for minorities in Xinjiang in high schools located in some economically developed cities of the Mainland. In September 2000, 13 universities in 12 cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, Nanjing, Hangzhou, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Dalian, Qingdao, Ningbo, Suzhou, Wuxi have established such classes. Since then, classes have expanded to 50 Universities in 28 cities. The total sum of students accumulates to about 18,600.

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