



## Targeted Poverty Alleviation and Rural Restructuring in China: Hints from Guizhou Province

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**ABSTRACT** China's Targeted Poverty Alleviation of 2013 contributed to both rapid and major changes in rural areas of central and western China, particularly in Guizhou Province. These changes differed from the changes caused by the Reform and Opening-up policy of the 1970s. Present research confirms statistically that the economic growth and living standards were effectively improved by the Targeted Poverty Alleviation (TPA) activities. There has, however, been little research critically examining how the TPA activities changed the rural areas both socially and culturally. This study examines how TPA activities changed the rural areas. The researchers found the dramatic changes caused by TPA are concluded as economic, social and spatial restructuring: 1) Economic Restructuring: Village collective economy and farmers' cooperatives became more significant relative to households as the basic economic unit. Widespread land transfer transformed farmers into workers. E-commerce became a significant platform extending the local rural economies; 2) Social Restructuring: Family structure was divided deliberately to facilitate utilization of policy. Social relationships became more complex; and 3) Spatial Restructuring: The land transfer made the individual scattered family farms more standardized, altering traditional farming culture. Relocation and resettlement for poverty alleviation resulted in social inclusion dilemmas, potentially fracturing the traditions of cultural inheritance. In order to promote effectiveness of poverty alleviation, local culture based research was suggested to be intensified.