

 **CAO XU, YOULIN XIE****Engaging the social participation of young people in rural areas****ABSTRACT**

Over 53 % of the world's population live in rural areas and more than 70 % of the poor population reside in rural areas. Engaging the social participation of rural youth in society is beneficial to reducing the intergenerational transmission of poverty and improving human resources in rural regions.

The essential to enhancing social inclusion is to involve more individuals in society. Existing studies mainly are improving the integration of immigrations into local communities, education and employment of disabled people, and social participation of certain groups. The current dilemma is that most youth policies ignore the rural, and most rural policies ignore youth. We aim to identify the challenges that young people in rural areas face and to provide solutions to promote young people's social engagement. Although the share of young people in rural areas is declining in Europe due to an aging society, declining birth rate, and migration of young people to more urbanized areas, this group occupies a considerable proportion on a global scale.

For data collection, a desk review using secondary sources was employed such as relevant literature, legislation, national youth strategies, and programmes from the relevant authorities. Moreover, thirty-two questionnaires were collected from Hungarian rural and suburban regions. We find that improving the channel of acquiring and transmitting information to young people in rural is critical. Influencing variables includes financial concerns and awareness of the necessity of education. Therefore, one of the achievable and effective methods is advocacy activity. Besides, increasing mobility make difference such as short-term exchanges, and study tour programs.