# Research on the Impact of Yangtze River Delta Expansion on Urban Development

## -- Take Anhui Province as an Example

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#### **Abstract**

In the context of the accelerating process of global integration, China is promoting the development of globalization in order to actively integrate into the world market. China established the Yangtze River Delta urban agglomeration in 2003, and has carried out five expansions, covering Jiangsu Province, Zhejiang Province, Anhui Province and Shanghai City. As the leader of national economic development, the Yangtze River Delta region supports the vigorous development of China's economy, drives the import and export trade activities between China and other countries, and promotes China to better enter the world market and occupy a place. The expansion of the Yangtze River Delta has a significant impact on the economy, politics, culture and other aspects of the urban agglomeration, and has a significant positive impact, which makes the promotion of the Yangtze River Delta expansion policy of great significance. This project focuses on the residents' cognition, willingness, and future development of the Yangtze River Delta expansion and common prosperity.

## **Keywords**

Yangtze River Delta Expansion; Common Prosperity; Mechanism Research; PSM-DID Regression Model.

# 1. Difficulties in the Integration of Yangtze River Delta Expansion Policy and Urban Development

At present, 40 years have passed since the reform and opening up. After 40 years of development, the development of the Yangtze River Delta has made many achievements in textile materials, automobiles, artificial intelligence, biopharmaceutics and other fields. Some fields have also formed considerable models. However, the development of these industries can only be said to have a considerable position in China, but compared with world-class industrial clusters, The industrial development of the Yangtze River Delta still has many weaknesses, which leads to the obvious gap between the industrial development of the Yangtze River Delta and the world-class industries. There are many factors restricting the industrial development, which are described in the following four aspects: population, economy, society and ecology.

### 1.1. Accelerated Population Growth

Population is an important issue in urban development. The economic development of a city must be based on a certain number of labor forces, so urban development will inevitably face population problems. As a member of urban residents, we are both producers and consumers. In the process of the integrated development of the Yangtze River Delta region, we have created

many employment opportunities and attracted a large number of labor outside the Yangtze River Delta region. The rapid development of the Yangtze River Delta Economic Circle due to the massive injection of labor force, and the current economic aggregate has even ranked first in the country. However, the rapid economic development also makes the population problem gradually appear. As more and more people are employed and settled in the Yangtze River Delta, the environmental capacity of the region has declined rapidly. The rapid growth of population has caused a series of problems in housing, medical care, education and other aspects. Because the migrant population needs to live in houses when they come to the Yangtze River Delta for employment. If the number of existing houses is not enough, they need to expropriate farmland for real estate development. When the employment of people is stable, most of the labor force will choose to settle in the Yangtze River Delta to facilitate future life and work, which will involve a series of education and medical problems. In addition, industrial development also needs a lot of land to build factories, In addition, the pollution problem in the process of industrial development has led to the gradual reduction of urban green area and the worsening of ecological environment. With the passage of time, the land with the same area needs to accommodate the multiplied population, which leads to the urban population problem becoming more and more prominent, thus hindering the further development of the city to a certain extent.

#### 1.2. The Economy Needs to Develop

According to the economic operation of Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Shanghai and Anhui in 2021, Shanghai will achieve a GDP of 432.1485 billion yuan, Jiangsu 11636.42 billion yuan, Zhejiang 7351.6 billion yuan and Anhui 4295.92 billion yuan in 2021. In 2021, the national GDP will be 114367 billion yuan. Therefore, in 2021, the GDP of the Yangtze River Delta will account for about 3.78% of the national GDP, including 24.13% in Shanghai, 10.17% in Jiangsu, 6.43% in Zhejiang, and 3.76% in Anhui. From the data, we can see that Shanghai, as the only city in the Yangtze River Delta with a GDP of more than 4 trillion, has an economic strength unmatched by other cities in the Yangtze River Delta; For Jiangsu Province, there will be 8 cities with a GDP of more than one trillion in the Yangtze River Delta region in 2021, of which Jiangsu will occupy 4. Suzhou will have a GDP of 2271.83 billion yuan in 2021, second only to Shanghai; As the capital of Zhejiang Province, Hangzhou will rank third in terms of its GDP of 1810.9 billion yuan in 2021, and lead the country in medical care, education, scientific research and other aspects; Finally, for Anhui Province, in 2021, only Hefei will become the only prefecture level city in Anhui Province ranking in the top 10 of the Yangtze River Delta with a GDP of 1141.28 billion yuan, and no other city in the top 20 will come from Anhui.

### 1.3. Uneven Social Development

The regional economic development gap in the Yangtze River Delta is large. In general, as the leader in the development of the Yangtze River Delta region, Shanghai's economic quality development level is far higher than that of other provinces. Zhejiang Province and Jiangsu Province rely on their own development advantages and the spillover effect of Shanghai's economic development, and the total economic volume is also expanding. However, Anhui Province has not joined the Yangtze River Delta for a long time, and its economic development is also lagging behind Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Shanghai regions. Moreover, the imbalance of regional development not only occurs among the three provinces and one city, but also the internal development gap among the three provinces and one city is very obvious. The economic development of southern Jiangsu, northern Zhejiang, western Zhejiang, and southern Anhui are quite different. Unbalanced regional economic development will affect the healthy development of the overall economy of the Yangtze River Delta, and even aggravate the contradictions between people in different regions, causing a series of social problems.

#### 1.4. Serious Ecological Situation

The Yangtze River Delta region is in the forefront of China's urban development in terms of economic aggregate, degree of opening to the outside world and scientific and technological innovation capacity, and plays an important role in China's development process. However, high development means high development. Economic development will inevitably lead to the increasingly severe ecological environment situation in the Yangtze River Delta. Even though environmental problems have been paid attention to at present, the mechanism for solving environmental problems among regions is still not perfect, and the environmental pollution problems in some cities still need to be solved.

# 2. Research on the Impact of Capacity Expansion Policy based on PSM-DID Regression Model

#### 2.1. Variable Description

#### 2.1.1. Economic Growth

When measuring the impact of the Yangtze River Delta expansion strategy on economic growth, the logarithm of urban per capita GDP is used to express urban economic growth. Cultural industry development. When measuring the impact of the Yangtze River Delta expansion strategy on the development of cultural industry, the logarithm of tourism income is used to quantify. government performance. When measuring the impact of the Yangtze River Delta expansion strategy on the government efficiency, the financial expenditure share (financial expenditure share=financial expenditure/GDP) is used for quantification.

#### 2.1.2. Yangtze River Delta Regional Expansion (Did)

When the sample cities are included in the Yangtze River Delta region, did=1. When the sample cities are not included in the Yangtze River Delta region, did=0. The 30 cities included in the Yangtze River Delta region before 2020 are taken as the overall cities, the cities included in the Yangtze River Delta region before 2010 are taken as the original cities, and the 14 cities included in the Yangtze River Delta region between 2010 and 2020 are taken as new cities.

#### 2.1.3. Control Variables

According to relevant literature, the main factors affecting economic growth are: government expenditure (gov), which is quantified by total fixed capital investment. Human capital (edu) is quantified by the number of high school students. Science and technology progress (tch) is quantified by the number of patent applications accepted nationwide. Foreign exchange (fdi) is quantified by the national total import and export volume. The domestic trade level (tra) is quantified by the total retail sales of consumer goods. The main factors affecting cultural development are: economic development (eco), which is quantified by the logarithm of per capita gdp; Talent cultivation (cul) is quantified by the number of ordinary colleges and universities; Residents' consumption (con) is quantified by the proportion of residents' cultural, educational and sports consumption in the total consumption. Financial support (fin) is quantified by government financial allocation. The main factors that affect politics are: intellectual property rights protection (kno) is quantified by the number of patent infringement cases closed; The residents' income (wag) is quantified by the minimum wage standard; Discussion coordination and dispute settlement (sol), quantified by the number of dispute settlement mechanisms implemented; Simplify administration and delegate power (sim), and quantify the reduction of administrative approval items.

### 2.2. Model Settings

The DID method is used to investigate the impact of the expansion of the Yangtze River Delta on common prosperity. Set the expansion variable did. When the city is a new city, did=1, and when the city is not a new city, did=0. The model is as follows:

$$Y_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 did_{it} + \gamma z_{it} + u_t + \tau_t + \epsilon_{it}$$

 $\beta_1$  refers to the impact of the expansion of the Yangtze River Delta on the economic growth of new cities,  $u_i$  refers to the individual fixed effect,  $\tau_t$  refers to the time fixed effect,  $z_{it}$  refers to other control variables,  $\gamma$  refers to the coefficient of control variables, and  $\epsilon_{it}$  refers to the random error term.

#### 2.3. Model Analysis

#### 2.3.1. Economic Level

It can be seen from the operation results that before matching, the p-values are less than 5%, indicating that there are significant differences between the experimental group and the control group, but after matching, the p-values are more than 5%, indicating that there are significant differences between cities. At the same time, the t-test does not reject the original hypothesis that the Yangtze River Delta expansion promotes economic growth, indicating that the applicability and effectiveness of PSM-DID are verified.

**Table 1.** Results of propensity score matching balance test (economic level)

		mean value		D. J. J. G. J. J.		
variable		Processing group	control group	Reduction of standard deviation(%)	T statistic	T test(t>p)
gov	Before matching	12.247	14.926	86.9	-1.27	0.001
gov	After matching	12.247	10.790	80.9	0.31	0.703
edu	Before matching	5.2568	4.2436	82.4	2.29	0.031
eau	After matching	5.2568	5.6788	82.4	-0.57	0.695
tah	Before matching	57.640	54.191	65.1	1.33	0.000
tch	After matching	57.640	58.314	65.1	0.38	0.755
fdi	Before matching	12.281	11.569	86.2	2.01	0.032
lui	After matching	12.281	12.033		0.26	0.813
tra	Before matching	10.796	10.217	041	2.11	0.026
	After matching	10.796	10.901	94.1	-0.14	0.905

After the sample data passed the balance test, the regression analysis was conducted on the experimental group and the control group using Stata16.0. In order to verify the robustness of the results, control variables were gradually added, If the coefficient of core explanatory variable is still significant, the operation result is robust.

From the results of control variables, government expenditure, scientific and technological progress, foreign exchange, and domestic trade are all positive at a significant level of 1%, which

indicates that increasing government funding support can significantly promote urban economic growth, because the process of expanding government infrastructure and enterprise business is often conducive to improving social work rate and providing sufficient impetus for stable economic development. Technological progress will not only improve the vitality and efficiency of economic growth, but also affect the speed and duration of economic growth. The impact of trade opening on the quality of economic growth is mainly reflected in the externalities of technology, economies of scale and ecological exchange effects. The overall growth of the total retail sales of consumer goods indicates that consumer demand is expanding, which helps promote economic growth. Human capital is positive at a significant level of 10%, indicating that human capital has a significant role in promoting urban economic growth. Human capital absorbs foreign advanced technology, promotes the upgrading of the economic and industrial structure, and indirectly drives economic growth.

**Table 2.** Double difference estimation results (economic level)

variable	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
3: 3	0.014**	0.039***	0.036***	0.048***	0.055**	0.060**
did	(1.59)	(4.67)	(3.61)	(3.46)	(3.57)	(3.41)
gov.		-0.005***	0.004	0.006***	-0.007***	0.004***
gov		(-7.26)	(1.58)	(-3.98)	(-3.23)	(-2.55)
adu.			-0.004***	-0.015**(-	0.011**	0.217**
edu			(1.32)	2.21)	(2.05)	(-2.46)
tab				0.004***	0.006***	0.007***
tch				(4.37)	(2.01)	(7.13)
fdi					0.018***	0.006***
lai					(5.29)	(3.11)
two						0.132***
tra						(12.54)
Constant town	9.21***	7.68***	9.51***	8.05***	8.11***	8.047***
Constant term	(1.76×1013)	(117.84)	(3.22×1013)	(91.13)	(94.15)	(72.30)
Time fixed effect	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Individual	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
fixation effect		-				
sample size	3710	3452	742	733	317	433
Intra group R2	0.9801	0.9862	0.9885	0.9921	0.9903	0.9934

Note: \*, \* \*, \* \* respectively represent the significance level of 10%, 5% and 1%

#### 2.3.2. Cultural Level

It can be seen from the operation results that before matching, the p-values are less than 5%, indicating that there are significant differences between the experimental group and the control group, but after matching, the p-values are more than 5%, indicating that there are significant differences between urban cultural industries. At the same time, the t-test does not reject the original hypothesis that the Yangtze River Delta expansion promotes the development of cultural industries, indicating that the applicability and effectiveness of PSM-DID have been verified.

After the sample data passed the balance test, the regression analysis was conducted on the experimental group and the control group using Stata16.0. In order to verify the robustness of the results, control variables were gradually added, If the coefficient of core explanatory variable is still significant, the operation result is robust.

**Table 3.** Results of propensity score matching balance test (cultural level)

variable		mean v	·	B. I C I. I.		T test(t>p)
		Processing group	control group	Reduction of standard deviation(%)	T statistic	
0.00	Before matching	ng   0.0293   0.0204		07.0	10.01	0.000
eco	After matching	0.0281	0.2610	87.8	0.24	0.671
aul	Before matching	1.5036	1.4048	84.1	-1.31	0.041
cul	After matching	1.5409	1.5179	84.1	0.34	0.790
go.	Before matching	11.06	10.495	201	3.74	0.001
con	After matching	10.297	11.854	90.5	4.97	0.238
fin	Before matching	10.044	10.172	06.2	5.31	0.000
	After matching	10.002	10.805	86.2	-0.15	0.892

**Table 4.** Double difference estimation results (cultural level)

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variable	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)		
did	0.624**	0.537***	0.551***	0.593***	0.601**		
uiu	(0.231)	(0.119)	(0.126)	(0.128)	(0.129)		
000		6.511***	6.125***	6.056***	7.597***		
eco		(1.210)	(1.196)	(1.182)	(1.177)		
aul			0.194***	0 105**(0 047)	0.081**		
cul			(0.031)	0.195**(0.047)	(0.032)		
aon				0.134***	0.126***		
con				(0.0329)	(0.032)		
fin					0.748***		
fin					(0.134=)		
Constant town	8.921***	8.408***	8.721***	7.045***	-6.221***		
Constant term	(2.01×1013)	(102.34)	(2.13×1013)	(94.67)	(91.25)		
Time fixed effect	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes		
Individual fixation effect	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes		
sample size	3710	3452	742	733	317		
Intra group R2	0.9411	0.9479	0.9372	0.9487	0.9561		

Note: \*, \* \*, \* \* respectively represent the significance level of 10%, 5% and 1%

Analyzing from the results of control variables, economic development, talent training, resident consumption and financial support are all positive at the significance level of 1%, which indicates that economic growth can significantly promote the development of cultural industry, economic growth is the basis of cultural development, and economic development will drive cultural development. Talent cultivation plays a positive role in promoting the cultural industry. The cultural industry is highly dependent on talents, and talents are an important support to enhance the competitiveness of the cultural industry. Expanding residents' consumption can

promote the prosperity and development of the cultural industry. With the improvement of residents' economic income and living standards, people's demand for cultural products and services continues to expand. Increasing financial support can strengthen the construction of public cultural service system, promote the policy guarantee mechanism of cultural reform and development, and significantly promote the development of urban culture.

#### 2.3.3. Political Level

It can be seen from the operation results that before matching, the p-values are less than 5%, indicating that there are significant differences between the experimental group and the control group, but after matching, the p-values are more than 5%, indicating that there are significant differences between urban government effectiveness. At the same time, the t-test does not reject the original hypothesis that the Yangtze River Delta expansion promotes government effectiveness, indicating that the applicability and effectiveness of PSM DID are verified.

**Table 5.** Test results of propensity score matching balance (political level)

Table 3. Test results of propensity score matching balance (political level)								
		mean v	alue	Reduction of standard	т			
variable		Processing group	control group	deviation(%)	T statistic	T test(t>p)		
kno	Before matching	1.2671	0.7425	87.4	5.21	0.000		
	After matching	1.2173	1.2465	87.4	0.15	0.873		
****	Before matching	10.744	10.258	85.2	4.53	0.001		
wag	After matching	10.752	10.901	85.2	-1.21	0.259		
a a 1	Before matching	11.06	10.495	90.5	3.34	0.001		
sol	After matching	10.297	11.854	90.5	1.19	0.284		
sim	Before matching	1.4210	1.6359	05.7	-1.21	0.000		
	After matching	1.4582	1.7313	85.7	0.24	0.892		

After the sample data passed the balance test, we used Stata16.0 to conduct regression analysis on the experimental group and the control group. In order to verify the robustness of the results, we gradually added control variables in turn, If the coefficient of core explanatory variable is still significant, the operation result is robust.

Analyzed from the results of control variables, intellectual property protection, residents' income, discussion and coordination, dispute resolution, and streamlining of administration and delegation of power are all positive at the 5% significance level, which indicates that strengthening the protection of intellectual property can promote social progress and improve government efficiency, because innovation is the primary productive force leading development, and intellectual property protection is related to the modernization of national governance system and governance capacity. The residents' income can promote the improvement of government efficiency. The residents' income is related to the well-being of people's livelihood. The improvement of residents' income can promote social fairness, justice and harmonious development, thus promoting the improvement of government efficiency. Discussion coordination and dispute settlement have a significant positive impact on

government effectiveness. By promoting dispute settlement, it can promote social harmony, promote social harmony, and promote government effectiveness. By streamlining and releasing political power, we can optimize services, promote institutional reform, transform government functions, and promote government governance capabilities.

**Table 6.** Double difference estimation results (political level)

variable	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1: 1	6.505***	6.100***	6.038***	7.415***	7.598**
did	(1.167)	(1.189)	(1.158)	(1.159)	(1.176)
<b>1</b>		0.191***	0.188***	0.078***	0.082***
kno		(0.027)	(0.026)	(0.026)	(0.027)
			0.129***	0.122**(0.020)	0.120**
wag			(0.029)	0.122**(0.028)	(0.027)
aal				0.751***	0.714***
sol				(0.110)	(0.111)
ni					0.060***
sim					(0.030)
Constant town	8.801***	8.598***	6.930***	-0.631***	-0.793***
Constant term	(0.212)	(0.206)	(0.471)	(1.478)	(1.362)
Time fixed effect	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Individual fixation effect	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
sample size	3710	3452	742	733	317
Intra group R2	0.947	0.946	0.938	0.937	0.956

Note: \*, \* \*, \* \* respectively represent the significance level of 10%, 5% and 1%

# 3. Difficulties in the Integration of Yangtze River Delta Expansion Policy and Urban Development - Pain Points

At present, 40 years have passed since the reform and opening up. After 40 years of development, the development of the Yangtze River Delta has made many achievements in textile materials, automobiles, artificial intelligence, biopharmaceutics and other fields. Some fields have also formed considerable models. However, the development of these industries can only be said to have a considerable position in China, but compared with world-class industrial clusters, The industrial development of the Yangtze River Delta still has many weaknesses, which leads to the obvious gap between the industrial development of the Yangtze River Delta and the world-class industries. There are many factors restricting the industrial development, which are described in the following four aspects: population, economy, society and ecology:

#### 3.1. Accelerated Population Growth

Population is an important issue in urban development. The economic development of a city must be based on a certain number of labor forces, so urban development will inevitably face population problems. As a member of urban residents, we are both producers and consumers. In the process of the integrated development of the Yangtze River Delta region, we have created many employment opportunities and attracted a large number of labor outside the Yangtze River Delta region. The rapid development of the Yangtze River Delta Economic Circle due to the massive injection of labor force, and the current economic aggregate has even ranked first in the country. However, the rapid economic development also makes the population problem gradually appear. As more and more people are employed and settled in the Yangtze River Delta, the environmental capacity of the region has declined rapidly. The rapid growth of population has caused a series of problems in housing, medical care, education and other aspects. Because the migrant population needs to live in houses when they come to the Yangtze River Delta for employment. If the number of existing houses is not enough, they need to expropriate farmland

for real estate development. When the employment of people is stable, most of the labor force will choose to settle in the Yangtze River Delta to facilitate future life and work, which will involve a series of education and medical problems. In addition, industrial development also needs a lot of land to build factories, In addition, the pollution problem in the process of industrial development has led to the gradual reduction of urban green area and the worsening of ecological environment. With the passage of time, the land with the same area needs to accommodate the multiplied population, which leads to the urban population problem becoming more and more prominent, thus hindering the further development of the city to a certain extent.

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### 3.4. Serious Ecological Situation

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# 4. Yangtze River Delta Expansion Policy and Urban Development Win win Synergy

Many problems in the economic development of the Yangtze River Delta have hindered the further development of the Yangtze River Delta region to a certain extent. According to the above problems, based on our own understanding and relevant data, we hereby propose the following suggestions to help urban development and win-win cooperation in the context of the Yangtze River Delta expansion policy:

#### 4.1. Integrated Population Policy and Economic Development

Facing the population problem of rapid urban population growth, the government needs to better integrate economic development and population policy. Behind the population problem is the rapid increase of urban population, which leads to insufficient urban land, worse ecological environment, and increased demand for education and health care, leading to a rapid decline in urban environmental capacity. Therefore, in order to better solve the contradiction between economic development and population growth, on the one hand, the government needs to formulate or improve a series of population policies that are suitable for local economic development, keep the population growth within the normal range and ensure the local population, on the other hand, appropriately adjust the local housing, education, medical and health policies, so that residents can feel the dividends brought by economic development. In this way, the contradiction between urban economic development and population problems can be effectively alleviated, and the pressure on urban land can be alleviated without hindering the future economic development of the city.

## 4.2. Coordinate Regional Economic Development

In the process of development of the Yangtze River Delta region, it is necessary to adjust measures to local conditions, reasonably arrange economic development work in combination with its own political, economic, cultural and other aspects of the actual situation, pay attention to training the level of local innovation ability, formulate relevant policies to attract high-quality foreign talents to develop local scientific and technological innovation fields, enhance its own industrial level, and find a path suitable for local economic development. Secondly, the government needs to adhere to the thinking of coordinated development, gradually reduce the gap between urban and rural areas, encourage local rural revitalization, improve farmers' income, and promote the overall development of the city. Finally, we need to improve the industrial chain of industrial development. Only a relatively complete industrial chain can create more employment opportunities, better promote the rapid and healthy development of the local economy, improve policies to encourage the gradual development of local industries to scale and factory, and finally form a good situation of coordinated development and mutual linkage between regions.

#### 4.3. Promoting Regional Integration

The unbalanced development of cities between regions and within provinces requires the government to strengthen the economic driving capacity of central cities, adjust regional development strategies appropriately, and use the radiation function of central cities to drive the economic development of surrounding areas. This can not only gather industries together to promote the industrialization process, but also gather a large number of rural labor forces, drive the process of rural modernization, and promote the rapid development of rural economy, We will improve the living standards of rural people and accelerate urbanization. For the development of the Yangtze River Delta region, it is necessary to promote the central radiation role of Shanghai, drive the integrated development of the Yangtze River Delta region, give play to the advantageous industries according to the characteristics of each province and city, speed

up the economic development, and drive the overall prosperity. It can also let some cities with better development help cities with less development, promote coordinated economic development among regions, make common progress, narrow the regional economic development gap, and achieve common prosperity.

#### 4.4. Organic Unified Production and Living Space

All provinces and cities should improve the ecological environment protection policy, adhere to the national green development path, actively develop green agriculture, promote the transformation and upgrading of agricultural industry, appropriately curb the development of high consumption and high pollution industries, promote industrial upgrading, ensure the standard emission of industrial pollution, and punish individuals or units that damage the ecological environment accordingly. For those counties with good ecological environment, it is more necessary to consolidate and improve the ecological environment policy, pay attention to overall planning, and give full play to local advantages. Ecological friendly industries, such as ecological agriculture, tourism agriculture, ecological leisure agriculture, can be established on the basis of the original local ecological environment. Leisure vacation bases or green agricultural by-product production bases can also be established in areas with good tourism resources, Promote the organic unity of local production space and living space.

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