

Analysis on Current Life and Consciousness of Immigrant Population Gathering Area in Extra Large Cities——Based on the Investigation of Beijing

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I. Background and Issues

- Based on the investigation results of Beijing, the article discusses the current life and consciousness of migrant workers who live and work in extra-large cities.
- The background is the reconstruction of immigrant population gathering areas in Beijing in recent years.
- The gathering areas is gradually regarded as "problematic phenomenon".
- Beijing starts reconstruction of "gathering areas " guided by the government since 2009 and promote and renovate low-end industries in 2013. It is planned to gradually move these population-gathered and wholesale distribution-oriented industries out of there.

I. Background and Issues

- The article focus:
how is the current life and consciousness of immigrant population in gathering areas?
- This article will give tentative answers by analyzing investigation data of Beijing and make predictions for the influences brought to social order and urban development by immigrant population.



II. Analysis on Investigation data

- The data of this article comes from “Collaborative Innovation Center of Beijing Society-Building & Social Governance” of Beijing University of Technology in 2013.
- Random sampling is implemented for the investigation according to the list of transient population. The sampling volume shall be 2416.
- The survey respondents focus on migrant worker groups in Beijing.
- Their work: construction industry, manufacturing industry, wholesale and retail, home economics, catering industry, etc.

(I) Life condition of migrant workers

- 1. Living in gathering areas
- These gathering areas not only bring strong "heterogeneous" feelings to local people, but also give strong "heterogeneous" feelings to immigrant population in gathering areas.
- It can be seen from the investigation and statistical results in Table 1.

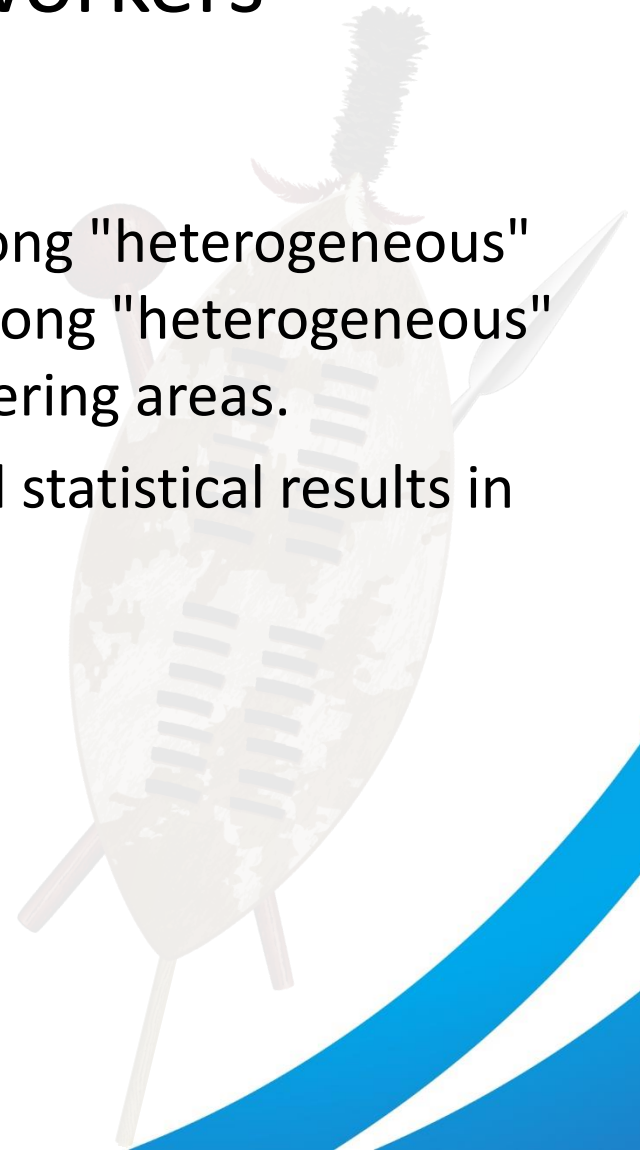


Table 1: "Heterogeneity" of Population in Gathering Areas (%)

Neighbors (effective N=2,409)		Estimated Proportion of Transient Population (effective N=2378)	
Local people in Beijing	13.6	Below 20%	6.5
Outsiders (same province)	25.2	21%-40%	12.2
Outsiders (different provinces)	41.2	41%-60%	29.5
With local people and outsiders	12.2	61%-80%	28.4
Not known	7.8	Above 81%	23.4
Total	100	Total	100

(I) Life condition of migrant workers

- 1. Living in gathering areas
- It can be seen from the investigation results of living condition in Table 2 that the housing type is mainly "rented houses" in immigrant population gathering area, such cases like purchasing houses themselves and living in houses provided by employers are rare.
- With regard to the living form, migrant workers occupy a high proportion with a whole family living together, indicating that transient population is living in "migration of the whole family" in gathering areas.

Table 2: Living Condition in Gathering Areas(%)

Housing Type (effective N=2386)		Living Form (effective N=2,405)	
Self-purchased house	8.0	Live by oneself	14.7
Live by rented house	81.7	Live with one's family	70.4
Houses provided by employers	6.7	Live with one's girlfriend (boyfriend)	6.9
Live in relatives and friends' houses	1.6	Live with one's colleagues or compatriots	6.0
Others	2.0	Live in local people's houses	0.9
		Others	1.1
Total	100	Total	100

(I) Life condition of migrant workers

- 2. Informal employment in gathering areas
- The characteristics of migrant workers show instability and uncertainty in general and it is an "informal employment" in gathering areas.
- “Signing of Labor Contract”: nearly 1/3 migrant workers have never signed, which directly results in about 1/4 migrant workers have experienced arrears of wage.
- “working time”: 57.9% employed migrant work over 8 hours per day and the average working hours per day reaches 9.5 hours. 70.1% employed migrant workers work over 22 days per month and the average working days reaches 26 days.

Intensive low-end industries in gathering areas



Table 3: Employment of Migrant Workers in Gathering Areas(%)

Employment Type (effective N=2376)		Employment Channel (effective N=1655)	
I am the employer I employ others	14.6	Introduced by family members	16.7
I will not employ anyone	25.4	Recommended by friends or compatriots	38.2
I work for my family	13.2	Go to interviews	22.9
I am an employee, but I have subordinates	9.0	Job fair	2.3
I am an employee without managing anyone	31.3	Online application	2.1
Others	6.5	Others	17.8
Total	100	Total	100

Table 4: Incomes of Migrant Workers in Gathering Areas(%)

Actual Monthly Income (effective N=2,280)		Expected Monthly Income (effective N=2,402)	
RMB 1,900 and below	9.2	RMB 1,900 and below	2.4
RMB 2,000~2,900	31.2	RMB 2,000~2,900	4.5
RMB 3,000~3,900	32.2	RMB 3,000~3,900	16.9
RMB 4,000~4,900	9.6	RMB 4,000~4,900	16.4
RMB 5,000~5,900	8.0	RMB 5,000~5,900	25.9
RMB 6,000 and above	9.7	RMB 6,000 and above	33.9
Total	100	Total	100

(II) Life consciousness of migrant workers

- Life consciousness is the feeling and altitude towards daily life and work, there are three operating variables mentioned in this article to judge migrant worker's life consciousness:
(1) Feeling of pressure; (2) Sense of justice; (3) Happiness.
- Investigation results :
over half (51.3%) of migrant workers feel much pressure on life and work;
nearly 3/4 (74.1%) people feel unfair about the society.
41.4% people are satisfied with their current life.

Table 5-1: Analysis on Influence Factors of Migrant Worker's Life Consciousness in Gathering Areas (logistic model)

Argument	Model 1 Feeling of Pressure		Model 2 Sense of Justice		Model 3 Happiness	
	B	Exp (B)	B	Exp (B)	B	Exp (B)
Gender (male=1)	.298(.122) **	1.348	-.155(.136)	.857	-.117(.123)	.889
Ages (control group:50)						
10	.202(.372)	1.224	-1.261(.407) ***	.283	-.569(.382)	.566
20	.335(.271)	1.398	-.922(.282) ***	.398	.037(.267)	1.037
30	.533(.262) *	1.704	-.732 (.268) **	.481	-.245 (.258)	.783
40	.527(.278) *	1.694	-.584(.286) *	.557	-.171(.276)	.843
Education level (control group: bachelor degree and above)						
Middle school and below	-1.365(.359) ****	.255	.631(.454)	1.879	.272(.357)	1.312
High school /technical secondary school	-.867(.352) **	.420	.574(.448)	1.775	.236(.351)	1.266
Junior college	-.588(.388)	.555	.853(.480)	2.347	.541(.386)	1.717
Marriage (married=1)	.604(.162) ****	1.829	-.090(.184)	.914	.407(.163) **	1.503
Living (provided by employer=1)	.069(.205)	1.071	1.440(.207) ****	4.219	1.149(.211) ****	3.154

Table 5-2: Analysis on Influence Factors of Migrant Worker's Life Consciousness in Gathering Areas (logistic model)

Argument	Model 1 Feeling of Pressure		Model 2 Sense of Justice		Model 3 Happiness	
	B	Exp (B)	B	Exp (B)	B	Exp (B)
Income groups (control group: RMB 6,000 and above)						
RMB 1,000~1,900	1.238(.320) ****	3.448	-1.426(.356) ****	.240	-1.807(.325) ****	.164
RMB 2,000~2,900	.992(.264) ****	2.696	-.597(.260) *	.551	-1.165(.253) ****	.312
RMB 3,000~3,900	.799(.265) ***	2.224	-.734(.264) ***	.480	-1.088(.254) ****	.337
RMB 4,000~4,900	1.017(.304) ***	2.765	-.223(.303)	.800	-.378(.294)	.685
RMB 5,000~5,900	.708(.336) *	2.031	-.530(.348)	.589	-.530(.324)	.589
Employment (employed=1)	.102(.127)	1.108	-.216(.141)	.806	-.060(.128)	.941
Labor Contract (signed=1)	-.037(.125)	.964	.464(.145) ***	1.590	.524(.129) ****	1.689
Working hours per day	.147(.032) ****	1.158	-.017(.035)	.983	.045(.031)	1.046
Working days per month	.033(.017) *	1.033	-.035(.018) *	.966	-.025(.017)	.976
Constant	-2.976(.694) ****	.051	.687(.751)	1.987	.143(.669)	1.154
Chi-square	129.743****		100.611****		121.363****	
Proposed R2	0.122		0.104		0.115	
N	1,363		1,363		1,363	

(II) Life consciousness of migrant workers

- It can be seen from analysis of regression model.
- 1. In terms of the basic attributes of individuals:

The gender, age, education level and marriage will all have great influence on feeling of pressure.

For sense of fairness, only the influence of age is obvious, compared with the older generation of migrant workers, the younger generation is more likely to have the sense of unfairness.

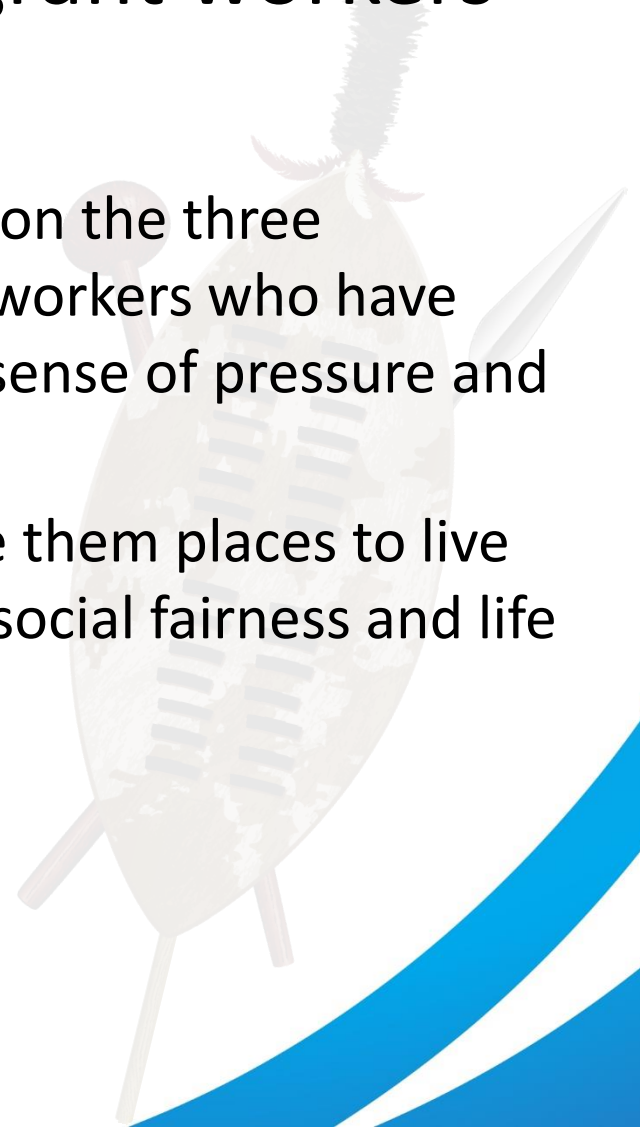
Although marriage may pose life pressure, it may also bring strong life happiness to the migrant workers. This may be the reason why migrant workers choose to live in the gathering areas in "family".

(II) Life consciousness of migrant workers

- 2. In terms of acquisition for labor:

The income factors have great influence on the three analyzing dependent variables. Migrant workers who have lower monthly wages may have greater sense of pressure and unfairness and less life happiness.

The workers whose bosses could provide them places to live may be more likely to have the sense of social fairness and life happiness.



(II) Life consciousness of migrant workers

- 3. In terms of labor conditions:

Whether the migrant workers are employed has no obvious influence on the life consciousness, but the signing of labor contract is more likely to give the migrant workers sense of social fairness and life happiness.

The working time factor which represents the labor intensity also has great influence. The migrant workers whose daily and monthly working times are longer will have greater life pressure, and such labor intensity is not good for social fairness.

Table 6: Consciousness on Working and Life(%)

Biggest difficulties in Beijing (effective N=2402)		Most unsatisfactory social phenomena related to work and life (effective N=2402)		Feelings on improvement of current working and life qualities (effective N=2403)	
Residence difficulties	23.3	Public security	6.6	Significantly improved	12.6
Lack of social relations, feel lonely	7.5	Environmental pollution	12.0	Improved	49.8
No object to marry	2.8	Children's education	13.9	Improved not obviously	26.6
Suffer from discrimination	2.5	Seeing a doctor	9.7	Declined	4.4
No job	3.2	Employment	2.7	Significantly declined	2.7
High prices	34.0	Social security like old-age security	5.9	Not clear	3.8
Low wages	15.6	Corruption	9.5		
Others	11.1	Commodity price	14.4		
		Housing price	11.8		
		Gap between the rich and the poor	9.0		
		General mood of society	4.5		
Total	100	Total	100	Total	100

III. Conclusions and Discussions

- (I) Informal employment and improvement of life level of migrant workers in gathering areas
- For the extra large cities like Beijing, with the continuous flow-in of migrant workers, " gathering areas " the "heterogeneous" areas in population structure.
- Due to the mobility features of migrant workers and the imperfection of labor security, most of the jobs of migrant workers in gathering areas are "informal employments“.
- The gathering areas has the function to decide the social mobility of migrant workers.

III. Conclusions and Discussions

- (II) Shaping of life consciousness of migrant workers in gathering areas
- The life consciousness of migrant workers is shaped in gathering area, the practice of work and life shapes their life consciousness.
- The migrant workers living in gathering areas have strong sense of life pressure and social unfairness, and many of them can't feel the happiness, which shows up their feature of "marginalization".

III. Conclusions and Discussions

- (III) Rational development of life consciousness of migrant workers
- A large number of farmers mobilize from countryside to Beijing, which not only reflects the development path of Industrialization and marketization of extra-large cities, but also the rational selection of better life by farmers.
- The extra large cities provide the migrant workers with space and opportunities for living and upward mobility, and shape their rational life consciousness. The life consciousness of migrant workers is different from in rural society.

Thank you!

