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## 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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**Abstract:** this article is based on the investigation data of migrant workers in immigrant population gathering area in Beijing, which discusses the current life and consciousness of migrant workers who live and work in extra large cities. This way is adopted to summarize the characteristics of immigrant population gathering areas and development for migrant workers. The major conclusions are as follows: (1) Immigrant population gathering areas have been the major working and life space of migrant workers, however, most migrant workers are living in a "migration of the whole family" form; (2) Most migrant workers bear life stress and feel unfair and their sense of happiness for life is relatively low. It does not only come from basic natures of individuals such as gender, age and education level, but also is affected by the labor condition in gathering areas; (3) As the improvement of expectation for urban life, the life consciousness of migrant workers is different as before, this reflects their rational development trend and the development of rational consciousness may become a crucial factor affecting them on whether "stay or leave" and how to live a life.

**Key words:** extra large city; immigrant population gathering area; current life; Life consciousness

### I. Study Background and Issues

Based on the investigation results of Beijing, the study report discusses the current life and consciousness of migrant workers who live and work in extra-large cities. In this way to summarize the characteristics of immigrant population gathering areas and development for migrant workers. The background for problem analysis is the reconstruction of immigrant population gathering areas in Beijing in recent years, namely reconstruction for "shantytown". The production and development of immigrant population gathering areas in Beijing come from urbanization process, which have been a major region of immigrant population in Beijing, and bear corresponding system function.

<sup>①</sup> However, the "shantytown" where immigrant population gathers is gradually regarded as "problematic phenomenon", for example, these regions have poor life infrastructures and lack of social management as well as less communication with local residents, all these are regarded as the edge zone of "dirty, mess and poor" in the city, where social orders are relatively poor and social problems are prone to take place. <sup>②</sup> Therefore, Beijing starts the improvement and reconstruction towards "shantytown" in recent years.

Beijing starts large scale "shantytown" reconstruction guided by the government since 2009. <sup>③</sup> This not only has important influence on local villagers' life but also exerts decisive influence on immigrant population's life. The "shantytowns" are located in rural-urban fringe zone in the suburb, immigrant population rents a low-cost house, even develops into a social space. Most immigrant population among the "shantytown" is "migrant workers", who engage in medium and low industries such as construction industry, manufacturing industry, logistics and transportation, wholesale and retail trade and other commercial service industries. As the continuous labor practices of immigrant population, the gathering areas where they live gradually develop into manufacturing areas such as building materials, logistics, product manufacturing and wholesale of commodities. Beijing starts to 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, <sup>④</sup> which is regarded as an important step to implement urban and social governance in Beijing.

However, the theory for reconstruction in immigrant population gathering area is achieved by upgrading and reconstructing industries. This arouses mass of discussion not only in real life, but also among the network media. <sup>⑤</sup> For example, some believe that the formation of "shantytown" will cause regional "anomie", further to lead to high crime rate in this region and bring difficulties for social governance; <sup>⑥</sup> but some believe that "shantytown" comes from social structure changes, which has its own value and significance in China's urban-rural dual system. <sup>⑦</sup> The reason why this may cause arguments is that: how on earth should we regard the immigrant population gathering area? What's the association with "shantytown"? If we want to answer this question, we need to focus on the immigrant population who lives and works here, namely figuring out their current life and consciousness so as to judge their function and significance to cities. Therefore, the problem this article focuses is how the current life and consciousness will be of immigrant population in gathering areas? For this, this article will give tentative answers by analyzing investigation data of Beijing and make predictions for the influences

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<sup>①</sup> Zhai Zhenwu, Hou Jiawei, immigrant population gathering area in Beijing: mode and development trend, population studies, 2010 (1).

<sup>②</sup> Feng Xiaorong, discussion on Beijing "shantytown" reconstruction-cooperation and treatment of transient population gathering area, population studies, 2010 (6).

<sup>③</sup> Li Sheng, reshape important villages: "local people" and "outsiders" in reconstruction of rural-urban fringe zone in Beijing, Oriental Outlook 2014 (8).

<sup>④</sup> "Beijing will move and reconstruct wholesale market such as the Zoo Wholesale Market and the Great Red Gate", source:

<http://www.chinanews.com/gn/2014/01-07/5708659.shtml>, January 7, 2014.

<sup>⑤</sup> "Moving of 'Zoo Wholesale Market' in Beijing": upgrading of industries is the solution to urban problems? Source: China Youth Daily, February 10, 2014.

<sup>⑥</sup> Zhang Jing, research on six factors of rising crimes in China, Journal of Chinese People's Public Security University (Society and Technology), 2011 (5).

<sup>⑦</sup> Zhang Jingxiang, Luo Zhendong, He Jianshuo, institutional transformation and spatial restructure of cities in China, Southeast University Press, 2007:120-140.

brought to social order and urban development by immigrant population.

## II. Analysis on Investigation Data of Immigrant Population Gathering Area in Beijing

The data of this article comes from “Collaborative Innovation Center of Beijing Society-Building & Social Governance” of Beijing University of Technology as well as data from special research on immigrant population gathering area in Beijing provided by Institute of Sociology, Chinese Academy of Social Science in June, 2013. Random sampling is implemented for the investigation according to the list of transient population provided by market management office or village transient population management station. The sampling volume shall be 2416. The survey respondents focus on migrant worker groups in Beijing, who undertake medium and low end construction industries and manufacturing industries, wholesale and retail of commodities, home economics and catering occupations. Based on the investigation data analysis, this article focuses on the life condition in gathering area of immigrant population and discusses their life consciousness and potential influence factors.

### (I) Life condition of migrant workers

#### 1. Living in gathering area

The immigrant population gathering area investigated is "shantytown" area in the suburb. These areas are gradually becoming "village with increasing population from rural areas" as the constant moving in of immigrant population and constant moving out of local people. The reflection of immigrant population gathering effect is to form economies of scale industries for commodities, most areas investigated are large scale "markets" famous for wholesale of agricultural and sideline products, building materials wholesale, wholesale and retails of clothing and commodities. These gathering areas not only bring strong "heterogeneous" feelings (namely this is a gathering place for immigrant population) to local people, but also give strong "heterogeneous" feelings to immigrant population in gathering area. It can be seen from the investigation and statistical results in Table 1, only 13.6% respondents whose neighbors are local people, most neighbors are outsiders; and over half of (51.8%) respondents feel that the percentage of transient population in living area is over 60%. The transient population gathering area in Beijing has become "heterogeneity" communities with local people and people from other provinces. However, "heterogeneity" feeling is an important factor to attract them.

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

Neighbors (effective N=2,409)		Estimated Proportion of Transient Population (effective N=2378)	
<b>Local people in Beijing</b>	<b>13.6</b>	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	12.2	<b>61%-80%</b>	<b>28.4</b>

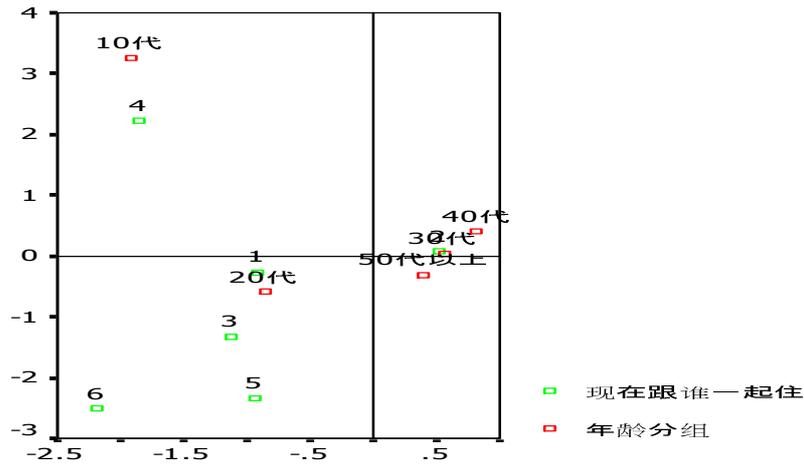
outsiders			
Not known	7.8	<b>Above 81%</b>	<b>23.4</b>
Total	100	Total	100

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 area. It is not difficult to understand from the corresponding analyzing in Fig. 1 that transient population living in "migration of the whole family" form is mainly migrant workers groups with ages from 30, 40 and 50 who are married and have children. People under 20 are usually with colleagues and compatriots. Compared with the former ones, the living form of 20s varies a lot. It can be clearly seen from the analyzing results that different from the living condition of previous migrant workers who come to work by oneself, immigrant worker groups now are living in a migration of the whole family form, all these stimulate the population gathering effect in "shantytown".

**Table 2: Living Condition in Gathering Area (%)**

Housing Type (effective N=2386)		Living Form (effective N=2,405)	
Self-purchased house	8.0	Live by oneself	14.7
Live by renting a 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

**Figure 1:Corresponding Analysis Figure of Different Ages and Living Forms in Gathering Area**



10代	Over 10
20代	Over 20
40代	Over 40
30代	Over 30
50代以上	Above 50
现在跟谁一起住	Live with whom
年龄分组	Ages

Notes: The code of living forms (live with whom), "live by oneself"=1, "live with one's family"=2, "live with one's girlfriend (boyfriend)"=3, "live with one's colleagues or compatriots"=4, "live in local people's houses"=5, "others"=6.

## 2. Informal employment in gathering area

Migrant worker groups live in "shantytown" and work in medium and low end industries nearby, "shantytown" develops into relevant living service business for immigrant population such as catering, retails of daily necessities, bathing and haircut as the increasing demand for life. Therefore it attracts more immigrant population to gather. However, the characteristics of migrant workers show instability and uncertainty in general and it is an "informal employment" in gathering area. It can be seen from the statistical results in Table 3 concerning the employment form that the number of "non-employee" is more than that of "employee", but the groups with maximum proportion are employees without any administrative power, taking up nearly 1/3. Seen from the investigation results of employment channels on "how to find jobs", the groups with maximum population are those recommended by friends or compatriots (38.2%), if "introduced by family" is included, the proportion of migrant workers who obtain jobs via existing "strong relationship" social network are over half of the whole population (54.9%).

In addition, it can be found during investigation that concerning the "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. With regard to working time, 57.9% employed migrant workers among respondents work over 8 hours per day and the average working hours per day reaches 9.5 hours. In addition, 70.1% employed migrant workers work over 22 days per month and the average working days reaches 26 days.

This working hour and intensity are in excess of the working hour system requirements of "employees shall not work over 8 hours per day and the average working hour per week shall be no more than 44 hours" specified by Labor Law of China. Migrant groups in Beijing not only engage in medium and low end industries but also their labor intensity is heavy, labor guarantee is far from perfect in general, therefore, "informal employment" arises.

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

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

With regard to the incomes of migrant workers, it can be seen from Table 4 that most people's (nearly 3/4) actual monthly incomes are less than RMB 4,000, the number of employed migrant workers among respondents with monthly incomes between RMB 2,000~2,900 and RMB 3,000~3,900 take up a large proportion (about 2/3), the average value for monthly income shall be RMB 3,230 via further analysis. When being asked "how much money shall you earn", about 3/4 believes they should get more than RMB 4,000 per month, among which there are 1/3 holds the view that they should get more than 6,000 per month. In addition, the percentage of actual monthly incomes over RMB 6,000 is less than 10%, the average monthly income of all employees in Beijing is 5,793 in 2013.<sup>®</sup> It can be inferred from that the incomes of most migrant workers in gathering area are below the average line, they belong to lower groups of the society.

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

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

<sup>®</sup> Data source: statistics of "Beijing Municipal Bureau of Human Resources and Social Security" (JRSGF [2014] No. 116) , [http://www.bjld.gov.cn/xwzx/zxfbfg/201406/t20140606\\_35629.htm](http://www.bjld.gov.cn/xwzx/zxfbfg/201406/t20140606_35629.htm)

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 show over half (51.3%) of migrant workers feel much pressure on life and work, and nearly 3/4 (74.1%) people feel unfair about the society. Nonetheless, the proportion of people who are satisfied with their current life reaches 41.4%.

Logistic regression model is adopted in this article to analyze the factors that affect the life consciousness of migrant workers. Dichotomous dummy variable handling is implemented for the three analyzing dependent variables, the detailed operations are as follows: (1) The code of regarding "very heavy and relative heavy" of work and life pressure shall be 1, or the code shall be 0; (2) The code of feeling "fair and relatively fair" for current life and work shall be 1, or the code shall be 0; (3) The code of feeling "happy and relatively happy" for current life shall be 1, or the code shall be 0. Influence factors included in model analysis are: (1) Basic properties such as gender, age, <sup>⑨</sup> education level and marriage; <sup>⑩</sup> (2) Labor achievements involve living and <sup>⑪</sup> incomes; <sup>⑫</sup> (3) Whether employed or not, <sup>⑬</sup> sign labor contract or not, <sup>⑭</sup> working hours per day and working days per month.

**Table 5: Analysis on Influence Factors of Migrant Worker's Life Consciousness in Gathering Area (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

<sup>⑨</sup> Variable operation of ages: 1=over 10, 2=over 20, 3=over 30, 4=over 40, 5=over 50.

<sup>⑩</sup> Variable operation of marriage: 1=married (including remarriage), 0=unmarried (including divorce and bereft of one's spouse).

<sup>⑪</sup> Variable operation of living: 1=self-purchased house or renting a house, 0=provide shelters (including provided by employers, relatives and friends)

<sup>⑫</sup> Variable operations of incomes: 1=RMB 1,900 and below, 2=RMB 2,000~2,900, 3=RMB 3,000~3,900, 4=RMB 4,000~4,900, 5=RMB 5,000~5,900, 6=RMB 6,000 and above.

<sup>⑬</sup> Variable operation of employment: 1=employed, 0=unemployed.

<sup>⑭</sup> Variable operation of Labor Contract: 1=signed Labor Contract, 0=unsigned of Labor Contract.

Education level						
Middle school and below	-1.365(.359) ****	.255	.631(.454)	1.879	.272(.357)	1.312
High school /technical	-.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	.069(.205)	1.071	1.440(.207)	4.219	1.149(.211) ****	3.154
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	

Note: \*P<0.05, \*\*P<0.01, \*\*\*P<0.005, \*\*\*\*P<0.001. The ones in the parentheses shall be standard error.

It can be seen from analysis of regression model in Fig.5 that:

1. In terms of the basic attributes of individuals, the gender, age, education level and marital status will all have great influence on feeling of pressure. That is to say, the men who are thirty or forty years old and belong to married migrant workers with relatively high education level are more likely to have the feeling of pressure. However, as for sense of fairness, only the influence of age is obvious, that is to say, compared with the older generation of migrant workers, the younger generation is more likely to have the sense of unfairness. In addition, 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".
2. In terms of acquisition for labor, the income factors have great influence on the three analyzing dependent variables. Compared with the groups whose monthly wages are more than 6,000yuan (above the average wage level of workers in Beijing), migrant workers who have lower monthly wages may have greater sense of pressure and unfairness and less life happiness. In addition, the workers whose bosses could provide them places to live may be more likely to have the sense of social fairness and life happiness.
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. In addition, 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 the generation of sense of social fairness. It's not difficult to see from the above analysis that marriage, residence and labor contract give the migrant workers living in "shantytown" more life happiness, which may be the reason why there exists aggregation effect in the gathering areas of external population. The "shantytown" in Beijing provides the migrant workers with larger space for upward mobility (possibility of labor work) and relatively cheap "places to stay" (residence), so that they can "live in family" (marriage). By continuous labor, they can feel the changes in life levels, thus are willing to live in the gathering areas. However, as for the areas with poor living environment quality like "shantytown", the migrant workers also have problem consciousness on it. As shown in Table 6, most respondents thought that the current working and life qualities have been improved (by 62.4%) compared with before. As referring to "the biggest difficulties in Beijing", most people said they were the high prices, residence difficulties and low wages, and as for the "most unsatisfactory social phenomena related to work and life", most answered they were the prices, children's education, environmental pollution and housing price, etc.

**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

From the above analysis results, we can get the following conclusions.

(I) Informal employment and improvement of life level of migrant workers in gathering areas

As the "city corner" of Beijing, the relatively cheap "land rent" of "shantytown" provides the migrant workers space to live and work. With the continuous development of city, the migrant workers get more job opportunities here. For the extra large cities like Beijing, with the continuous flow-in of migrant workers, "shantytown" becomes the gathering areas of migrant workers and 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", or to say the gathering area represents the space for city's "informal employment". Although the migrant workers here mainly work on relatively lower-end profession in the city, then can have higher incomes compared with before. Although their living environment ("shantytown") is unsatisfactory, they can still feel the changes of life and have the life happiness, which is the main reason for migrant workers to do work in cities. Then by working in cities, the migrant workers "move" their family into the cities, and have higher life quality, realizing the upward social mobility. In this sense, the population gathering areas formed on the basis of "shantytown" has the function to decide the social mobility of migrant workers.

(II) Shaping of life consciousness of migrant workers in gathering area

The life consciousness of migrant workers is shaped in gathering area, the practice of work and life shapes their life consciousness. As some scholars indicates, the community like gathering areas of migrant population is not the "miniature" of the whole society, but the stage for people to practice under the background of "large society"<sup>°</sup>. The geographical origin of migrant workers becomes the major "path dependence" factor which influences their future development, the township and geographical networks create them the shortcut for successful "imbedding" in urban society with the social space of immigrant gathering as the support<sup>°</sup>. The urban spatial form of "shantytown" is similar to the rural community, thus the migrant workers are more likely to adapt to such living space. Although the population structure of "shantytown" is "heterogeneous", and the economic form is "informal", such social space still provides the migrant workers with channels and opportunities for upward mobility and reshapes their life consciousness.

It's not difficult to see from the above data analysis that the migrant workers living in gathering area 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". The Chicago School of America has studied the migrant population of American city. They considered the urban migration was the transition from adaptation to assimilation to the city and the "marginal man" of a city who are at the margin of two societies and cultures, no matter they are international migration or migration from domestic rural areas to cities<sup>°</sup>.

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<sup>°</sup> Xiang Biao, what Can Community Do—Study on Migrant Population Gathering Area in Beijing, Sociological Research, 1998 (6).

<sup>°</sup> Xia Jianzhong, Urban Sociology, China Renmin University Press, 2010:61.

<sup>°</sup> Li Zhigang, Gu Chaolin, Spatial Structure Transformation of Chinese Urban Society, Southeast University Press, 2011: 210-211.

In addition, "marginalization" not only refers to the economic low-end and informal employment, but also the deviation from and rejection to the current situation of society and culture, including the cultural psychologies like living conditions, thought and words and deeds. ° The marginal population may form some psychological deviation and role dislocation and have the pressure and anxiety on life in certain and heterogeneous "social and cultural space field" lacking of mainstream value. ° Thus it can be speculated that although the gathering area is in the space form of "shantytown", it can be impacted by the development of economy, culture and society of the city because that it belongs to the extra large city. With the continue of life experience of migrant workers in gathering area, they will be influenced by different social cultures, and the life pressure will be greater. If the urban society continues to push them to the "margin", it may further amplify their social mentality of panic and anxiety, which goes against the formation of life consciousness of fairness and happiness.

### (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. Although due to the demands of urban development, job is not problem for migrant workers, they will still take a lot of time and energy to gain the wealth. The extra large cities provide the migrant workers with space and opportunities for living and upward mobility, and shape their rational life consciousness. As mentioned above, the migrant workers will have the life consciousness like pressure, farness and happiness different from in rural society.

The quality of "bear hardships and stand hard work" adopted from the rural area by the migrant workers is the basis to shape the rationality in the "smelter" of city. While accepting the assimilation of the city "smelter", they take pursuit of material wealth as the major life goal, and their comparison object will also turn to the city dwellers. They will apply the rational "card playing" to various aspects in life like residence, employment and labor incomes. With the continuation of life, they may have higher and higher life expects, which has effect on the formation of their life consciousness. As the studies indicated, although the migrant workers have higher labor incomes in city than in rural areas, with the improvement of living expectation and individual consciousness of right, they will not be content with the low to medium income levels in cities, which may influences the social attitudes and behavior selection of migrant workers. ° The above data analysis also indicates that although many migrant workers have felt the improvement of life quality, they may still have problem consciousness like dissatisfaction about residence environment, prices of commodities and children's education. The continuous shaping of rational consciousness may influence the life course of migrant workers in cities, and

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° Zhang Zhanxin, Hou Yafei, *Floating Population in Urban Community—Investigation of 6 Cities including Beijing*, Social Sciences Academic Press, 2009:196.

° Zhang Hongyan, Xie Jing, *Urban Evolution: Social Problems and Management Innovation in Process of Urbanization in China*, Southeast University Press, 2011:93-94.

° Li Peilin, Tian Feing, *New Generation of Migrant Workers of China: Social Attitudes and Behavior Choice*, Society, 2011 (3).

decide "whether to leave or stay" and how to develop in the city. In this sense, with the continuation of life experience in city, we should take the migrant workers as a major part of "city dwellers", but not the major social group which causes "city diseases".