

Study on the Citizenization of the Ethnic Minority Migrants in Cities

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Abstract—The urbanization is essentially the population mobility from rural area to cities. The citizenization of ethnic minority migrants is the key for the minority migrants to integrate into the city. In the context of the dual-system of household registration system in China, the minority migrants want to integrate into the city, it must break through the traditional system. At the same time, the government should establish a social security mechanism for ethnic minority migrants, and reduce the social cost of citizenization of ethnic minority migrants to promote the citizenization of ethnic minority migrants.

Keywords—ethnic minorities; city; migrants population; citizenization

I. INTRODUCTION

In the process of urbanization, a large number of rural population flows to the city, and on the other cultural level, the migrants population contains a large number of people with different nationalities. It has become a new issue that how to integrate ethnic minority migrants with their own cultural characteristics into urban life. This paper will discuss the issue that how to deal with the citizenization of ethnic minority migrants in the city, so as to find out the existing problems and put forward corresponding countermeasures.

II. URBANIZATION PROCESS AND GEOGRAPHIC MIGRATION THEORY

Generally speaking, urbanization refers to the historical process that with the development of social productivity, the progress of science and technology, and the adjustment of industrial structure in a country or region its society has gradually changed from a traditional rural society dominated by agriculture to a modern urban society dominated by non-agricultural industries such as industry (secondary industry) and service sector (tertiary industry). Geographic migration is a dynamic portrayal of the static opposition between urban and rural areas. It is an indisputable fact that population flows from rural areas to the city and then expands the scale of the city. Especially since the industrial revolution, the rapid development of productivity has led to a large number of people flowing to the city and the rapid expansion of the city scale. Population migration has received attention as a social phenomenon, and relevant geographic migration theories have been proposed one after the other.

A. Push and Pull Theory

In 1885, E.G. Ravenstein published a paper entitled “Law of Migration” in the Journal of the Royal Society, which marked the end of the era of population migration without theoretical basis. The “law of migration” of population involves seven aspects, and they are mainly: 1. The migration of population is mainly short-distance, and the direction is toward the cities with developed industry and commerce; 2. The floating population first moves to the surrounding areas of the cities, and then moves to the cities; 3. The migration is similar all over the country, that is, the rural population concentrates to the cities; 4. Each large migration also brings reverse flow as compensation; 5. The long-distance mobility is basically the flow to the big city; 6. The mobility rate of urban residents is much lower than that of rural residents; 7. The mobility rate of women is higher than that of men. In 1983, Hebbel systematically summed up the push and pull theory. He believed that the migration of population was caused by a series of forces, part of which was push and part of which was pull. The migration of population is the result of the joint action of the push of the emigration place and the pull of the immigration place. The push and pull theory includes two basic assumptions: one is that people's migration behavior is rational; the other is that migrants have a relatively sufficient understanding of the information of the original residence and the migration destination. Then the corresponding choice is made by comparing the strength of pull and push.

B. Development Economics Theory and Geographic Migration Theory

Lewis divides a country's economy into agricultural sector and industrial sector. The low marginal income ratio of agricultural labor force leads to the flow of rural labor to the urban industrial sector. Meanwhile, the urban industrial sector gains excess profits due to its high productivity and low labor production cost, and constantly expands the industrial sector to absorb rural labor force. But Lewis's theory focuses on discussing the labor mobility between economic forms from macro perspectives. It lacks persuasive evidence to prove the theory when facing the economic situation in 1970s. At this stage, the urban unemployment problem in many developing countries is quite prominent, but there is still a large inflow of rural population. In view of this situation, Todaro, an American development economist, proposed in 1969 to explain this phenomenon by the “expected revenue” of rural human resources to cities, which is called the “Todaro Migration

Model". The model holds that the expansion of the expected income gap between urban and rural areas is the reason for the continued expansion of rural migration in developing countries. At the same time, Todaro migration model considers that the economic structure of a country is composed of the agricultural sector, the traditional urban sector and the industrial sector. After entering the city, the agricultural labor force firstly enters the traditional urban sector for employment, then it is possible to enter the industrial sector, and its income increases in turn. It is in line with the "dual labor market theory" proposed by sociologist Piore. This theory holds that in the modern industry there are the primary labor market with "high income, superior labor environment and welfare treatment" and the secondary labor market with "low income, poor working environment and inferior welfare benefits". As the secondary labor force flows to the primary labor market, the rural labor force is needed to fill the secondary labor market.

C. The connotation of Citizenization of the Urban Minority Floating Population

Based on the above scholars' views and under the background of urban-rural dual structure in China, the citizenization of urban ethnic floating population has a special meaning, the key of which lies in the process and state that the floating population of ethnic minorities obtains urban household registration and has sustained economic self-sufficiency. Because in the urban-rural dual structure, political identity and economic capacity play a fundamental role in the stratification of a person's social status. The urban ethnic minority migrants who get urban household registration but with low economic capacity will inevitably face the risk of being marginalized, and the household registration is the basic premise for enjoying social resources in the region.

III. FACTORS AFFECTING THE CITIZENIZATION OF ETHNIC MINORITY MIGRANTS

A. Acculturation

Acculturation refers to the process in which groups and their members with different cultural backgrounds change their culture and psychology through continuous and direct contact with each other.¹ Cross-cultural adaptation is generally composed of three elements: cognition, behavior and emotion. In the empirical study, they correspond to the three dimensions of attitude, behavior, and psychological cultural adaptation. When it comes to the citizenization of the urban ethnic minority migrants, the attitude acculturation refers to the attitude of the ethnic minority migrants towards their own national culture and the mainstream culture of their immigration destination. Behavioral acculturation refers to the ability of the ethnic minority migrants to contact with the local society and improve their integration into the local social culture and environment. Psychological acculturation is the psychological and emotional response of individuals or groups through interaction, including satisfaction with the environment, sense of identity and sense of belonging.

B. Political System

The urban-rural dual household registration system that

¹Berry J W. Immigration, acculturation and adaptation [J]. Applied Psychology, 1997(1): 5-34.

China has long implemented has become a threshold that must be crossed for the citizenization of ethnic minority migrants. There are profound social reasons for the existence of urban-rural dual structure household registration system. The time of large-scale transfer of rural population in China is obviously lagging behind that of industrialization, and they are disconnected from each other. After the founding of the People's Republic of China, the development strategy of agriculture supporting industry has been implemented in China. Its negative effects were agricultural recession, the low level of rural commodity economy, and the further widening urban-rural differences, forming a dual social structure with great differences. The independent operation of industry within the city did not indirectly promote agricultural development, and the link between industry and agricultural development was artificially cut off. This imbalance between industry and agricultural development resulted in a large backlog of rural labor. In order to prevent the hidden social dangers caused by the free flow of population, the urban-rural dual structure household registration system has been forced to remain as a powerful tool to maintain stability. The economic forms of ethnic minorities in China are mainly agriculture and animal husbandry, so they cannot be separated from the background of the special development path of industrialization and agriculture in China, which are also restricted by the difference system of the urban-rural household registration.

C. Social Discrimination

National equality is the fundamental principle of national policy in China, and it is guaranteed by law. If the system and the law have provided the guarantee for our national relations, then the prejudice and discrimination against ethnic minority migrants at the social and psychological levels are indisputable facts. In other words, based on the differences in ethnic characteristics and the gap in various aspects of development, urban residents have prejudice or discrimination against the ethnic minority migrants. In reality, this kind of prejudice or discrimination is to typify and label the characteristics of some ethnic groups, and many similar stereotypes are mostly negative impressions. National prejudice is a kind of attitude towards the culture, religion, or economic ability of other nationalities, and the degree of prejudice is also different. However, the internal prejudice which is translated into the external behavior is the discriminatory behavior. Although some people have prejudice in their hearts but do not show it in their external behavior, they may show prejudice in some opinions. Once this kind of negative attitude towards other nations is detected, it will cause psychological harm to other nations. The legal and political system in China ensures that no nation can be discriminated against in terms of rights and systems. However, there may be some psychological prejudice and discrimination based on differences in people's cognition at the social level, although there are few or even less obvious against discriminatory acts against a certain nationality or more ethnic groups. It cannot be denied that there are some implicit or explicit manifestations of discrimination in some special situations.

On the other hand, the traditional governance model in China is dominated by management, control and blocking, and

is especially deficient in early warning and guidance. In the practice of governance, some local governments have adopted the "closed-doorism" model of preventing and restricting the ethnic minority migrants. Through various "blocking" policies, the minority floating population is restricted to enter cities. Some management personnel and law enforcement personnel work rudely, which reflects a kind of morbid psychology of treating the ethnic minorities migrants as foreigners or even enemies. Or they have adopted a "laissez-faire" model, which is indifferent to the practical problems faced by ethnic minority migrants in urban work and life. Or they have adopted the "connivance doctrine" model. When dealing with prominent events involving ethnic and religious factors, political thinking takes the lead, instead of seriously studying the nature of the events, to minimize problems and hide issues, then smooth things over by one-sided material means.

All of the above factors have become obstacles that hinder the citizenization of ethnic minority migrants, including the subjective psychological factors of ethnic minority members, external political system factors, and attitudes toward ethnic minorities in the local society.

IV. APPROACHES TO CITIZENIZATION OF URBAN ETHNIC MINORITY MIGRANTS

A. *Strengthen the Construction of Multi-ethnic Culture in Cities, Optimize the External Environment for the Acculturation of the Ethnic Minority Migrants, and Promote the Attitude Acculturation of the Ethnic Minority Migrants*

Guided by the socialist core values, cities should actively absorb the cultures of other ethnic groups on the basis of Han culture through multi-ethnic cultural activities, promote the multi-ethnic integration and development of urban culture, enhance the absorption of the ethnic minority migrants to the values and lifestyles of different excellent ethnic groups, reduce the cultural conflict and collision, and strengthen the attitude acculturation of ethnic minority migrants. Cities should strengthen the construction of public services for ethnic minorities, expand the urban cultural capital and social networks of ethnic minority migrants, and improve their ability of adaptive behavior. Cities should strengthen the language training for ethnic minority migrants, and incorporate it into the employment and entrepreneurship guidance for ethnic minority migrants, improve their language communication and understanding, as well as their work efficiency and social communication skills. We will promote the construction of urban communities in an open, inclusive, harmonious and shared manner, bring the management of the ethnic minority migrants into the scope of community public affairs, implement the equalization of basic public services, and promote spatial coexistence and community integration. Diversified community affairs and activities will effectively connect ethnic minority floating populations and local residents, enhance mutual communication and exchanges, and expand the urban communication space for ethnic minority migrants.

B. *Eliminate Institutional Barriers and Accelerate the Process of Citizenization of Ethnic Minority Migrants.*

The integration of the ethnic minority migrants into the city is an inevitable requirement of social development. However, in terms of the current situation in China, there are still many difficulties and obstacles for ethnic minority migrants to achieve substantial integration with the city. On the surface, the most direct obstacle to the citizenization of ethnic minority migrants is the household registration system, which results in the separation of identity, occupation and role of ethnic minority migrants. But, seen from the deeper layer, social discrimination as an informal system also hinders the identification and close relationship between the ethnic minority migrants and the urban society. This kind of social discrimination not only comes from the general urban resident groups, some of which are even regulated by the government in the form of documents, thus transforming into regional institutional discrimination. For the government, only by actively eliminating the barrier system and creating conditions for the free movement of population can the process of labor transfer be promoted and accelerated.

C. *Establish and Improve the Social Security System and Reduce the Social Cost of the Ethnic Minority Migrants' Citizenization*

After playing an important role in history, the traditional household registration management system in China did not naturally withdraw from the historical stage, thus limiting the development speed of urbanization in China. In addition, the violent deprivation based on only simple relief and appeasement policies has limited the process of rural labor transfer in some countries represented by the United Kingdom to a certain extent. Therefore, the government's compulsory intervention should be based on the respect for economic laws. When a large number of ethnic minority migrants flow into cities and towns, and it is difficult to rely on spontaneous market activities to protect the rights and interests of ethnic minority floating populations, the government should establish a series of social security systems, such as unemployment relief, endowment insurance, labor skills training and medical services, so as to reduce the negative effects brought by the inflow of floating population of ethnic minorities into the city and minimize the social cost of urbanization.

V. CONCLUSION

Whether it is driven by push-pull theory or analysis of the motivations of population migration, under the impetus of urbanization, the influx of ethnic minorities into cities and the urbanization of ethnic minority floating populations have become a trend. This has also put forward new issues and requirements for urban ethnic work. To guide the smooth integration of ethnic minority floating population into the city, we must start from many aspects. As the main body facing the integration of urban life, ethnic minority floating population needs to correctly understand urban life and culture, and then integrate into urban life; on the other hand, break the dual system of household registration system and reducing the social discrimination brought about by this is also an objective requirement for the urbanization of the floating ethnic minority

population; finally, a sound social security system can reduce the social cost of the urbanization of the floating ethnic minority population and become an important guide for the urbanization of the ethnic minority floating population.

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