

A Survey on Floating Population Migration Process under the New Urbanization

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Abstract. To understand the migration process of the New Urbanization, this survey takes a total of 1827 floating population in Guangzhou and Liannan as examples, systematically analyzing the features of localization and hollowing, the choices of migration and the factors which influence population floating, further trying to put forward a research framework of China's floating population suiting for the new period. The results illustrate that: 1) Floating population of Guangzhou shows the monotonous character of information channel, family composition and social network, which makes the difficulties of their social integration. 2) The degree of hollowing in Liannan is serious and the interest allocation mechanism of rural household is the key factor to influence migration intention. 3) Floating population in two places both presents the same patterns that they continually migrate to higher level urban, which is mainly affected by economic factors. More than 50% of respondents has a tendency to move back, whose main destination is the city with a population of 0.5-1 million. 4) Choices of migration, urbanization and social integration jointly constitute the research framework of floating population in the new period. On the basis of the above findings, we propose the relative development strategies due to the different urban scale.

Keywords: New urbanization; floating population; migration process; urban scale; social integration; Guangzhou; Liannan.

1. Introduction

Migration has an important and profound influence on the development of China society, which is one of the core parts in China modernization.

At the end of 19th century, British scholar Ravenstein [1] summarized the rules of population migration for the first time by analyzing the statistical data of more than 20 countries. In 1966, the American scholar Lee [2] discussed the amount, the direction and the choice of migration in his book *Population Migration Theory*. In 1969, Burge [3] and other scholars focused on the mechanism of population migration and proposed the famous theory Push-Pull Model. After 1980, Russel [4] and Jacobson [5] proposed some new theories to explain population migration, emphasizing the importance of family as the main decision respondent of population migration. They put forward that the stratified phenomenon, existing in the urban economy and national economy, led to the population migration motivation and pointed out that social network had become the significant influence factor for population migration.

China's current academic researchers have already solve the basic issues of floating population migration, such as the characters, direction and mechanism of migration. Zhang [6], Duan [7] and other scholars pointed out that the pattern of China's population migration had changed from the sparse area to the centralized area since the reform and opening up from the perspective of macro-scale. According to the different migration theories and models, Zhou [8], Cao [9] investigated the impact of the population size, income disparity, national policy, space distance and other macro factors on floating population migration and urbanization. Wang [10], Xie [11] not only investigated employment and living conditions of migrant workers, but also analyzed the relative factors and the newly trends.

However, academic circles have limited understanding of the destination choices, social integration and hollowing of floating population in the new period. For the reason of the wide using

of macro data in the analytical method of Chinese population floating whereas lack of micro data, it is hard to carry out more profound analyses of the floating population migration.

From the perspective of floating population, this survey focuses on the individual needs in the different stages during the migration process. To acquire a more sophisticated and comprehensive finding of floating population migration process, we establish a urban classification model in the view of the classification standard in 2014 to divide the migration destination into 5 grades by urban scale, in order to clear the migration choices of floating population. Based on the Pearl River Delta region, we take Guangzhou and Liannan floating population as respondents. The results have a certain significance to improve the existing theoretical framework, guiding the relevant departments to formulate population management policy and environmental resources policy.

2. Research Design

2.1 Research Method.

Urban scale classification model

Urban scale in China has a significant impact on urban development and policy setting. Referencing *the Notice of the State Council on Adjusting the Standards for Categorizing City Sizes*, this paper divides the cities into five grades. Thus, it is convenient to determine the migration direction of the floating population and make connection with the urban policy (Table 1).

Table 1 The urban scale classification table

Population size (10000)	Urban grade	Research grade
above1000	Megacity behemoths	5
500-1000	megalopolis	4
100-500	Large city	3
50-100	Medium-sized city	2
10-50	Small city	1

Questionnaire and interview survey

After inquiring the basic information of respondents in questionnaire, this study focuses on the floating population migration experience, moving back intention, influence factors and the condition of hollowing and social integration. Meanwhile, we make interviews with part of respondents who were in different occupation, age, gender and family composition. Consequently, the most representative contents were selected as evidence through transcribing and semantic analyses.

Comparative study

Considering there will be a huge difficulty in finding the same floating population who comes from Liannan to Guangzhou that contains tens of millions floating population. The comparative study are designed to analyze the floating population belongs to immigrant areas and out-migrating areas based on the city classification model. The floating population of Guangzhou and Liannan respectively represents the maximum and minimum level in urban classification model, thereby they can entirely present the characteristic and trend of the migration process of floating population.

Guangzhou

Guangzhou, the central city in Pearl River Delta region, has a permanent population of 11.9268 million in 2013, and a floating population of 6.867million. According to urban scale classification, it represent the megacities which is the immigrant areas in China. The main research site in Guangzhou is the *Zhong Da cloth Market*. Surrounded with lots of urban villages and the old town, this site contains the strong typicality of floating population and sufficient samples.

Liannan

Liannan located in the northwest of Guangdong province, governing six towns which totally hold a population of 165.6 thousand. It is one of the smallest cities in China's urban scale classification. The local economy is backward in Guangdong. Every year, there is A large amount of population outflowing. Hence, it is a typical representation of out-migrating area. The main research sites contain 2 town and 6 village in Lianan. Half of these villages dominated by agriculture, while the other villages owning industries. They can comprehensively reflect the Liannan migration characteristic.

3. The Migration Patterns of Guangzhou and Liannan Floating Population

3.1 The Characteristics and Trends of Floating Population Social Integration in Guangzhou.

Social integration is generally in the low level

For 63.2% of the respondents, blood relationship and country association are the major information channels among migrant workers, even though nearly 95% of them gradually accumulate interpersonal networks relying on industrial relationship. However, their secondary social relationship is too single which means they usually only meet other floating population that results in the low degree of social intergration .

Family and social network is simple

Family composition of migrant workers in Guangzhou is simple. 33% of respondents will migrate with their spouse, but the number of their relatives and friends is small. As well as, the floating population have more migrant friends than local friends, even more than 16.8% of respondents do not know any local people.

3.2 The Characteristics and Trends of Hollowing in Liannan.

The problem of aging is serious

40% of the remaining villagers are over 50 years old whose education level is quite low. There are nearly 80% of these villagers only receive junior high school or even more lower education certificate, likewise their income level is still low.

90% of the elderly respondents has intention to return hometown.

The tendency of returning home is closely associated with age. Respondents who is in different age lead to different pursuits. 89.4% of the elderly respondents (age from 40 to 65) have the intention to return hometown. However, the young respondents hold lower intention.

Rural household benefit mechanism affects migration intention

Based on the respondents of Liannan, the villagers who live in the village with industry have lower intention to move out, while migrant workers have strong intention to return. Such as Nangang ,a town with developed tourism, the respondents who lived there hold the intention to move back reaches 100%. By the same token, Sanpai town and Guankeng village with more development hydroelectric industry, the respondents there hold high intention to move back separately reaches 52.7% and 64.9%.

3.3 The Migration Patterns of Guangzhou and Liannan Floating Population.

The floating population in two places both continuously move to a higher level urban

In the statistical analysis of Guangzhou, the majority of respondents directly come from hometown to Guangzhou and the other respondents who had gone to other cities besides Guangzhou accounted for 34.5%(Fig.1). After analyzing the 203 samples of respondents who have two or more times migration experience, we found that respondents generally hold in a rising state and tend to move from lower scale country to higher scale city when they are in the process of migration

In the statistical analysis of Liannan, the respondents move to Guangzhou and Shenzhen accounted for 22%. After analyzing the respondents who have two or more times migration experience, we found that 40% of them eventually stayed in Guangzhou or Shenzhen (Fig.1). That means t the migrating pattern of Lianna floating population is also in a rising state and tend to move from lower scale country to higher scale city.

The economic factor is the main driving force for the floating population

According to the investigation in Guangzhou, 64.5% of respondents believe that economic factor is the primary factor for the migration choice. Nearly 95% of the respondents choose to migrate to Guangzhou because of its strong economic strength. At the same time, according to the investigation in Liannan, 60% of the respondent hold the view that the economic factor is the main factor. In the interview in Liannan, nearly 80% of the interviewer reckon that it is valuable to migrate to a richer city since it hold a better economy

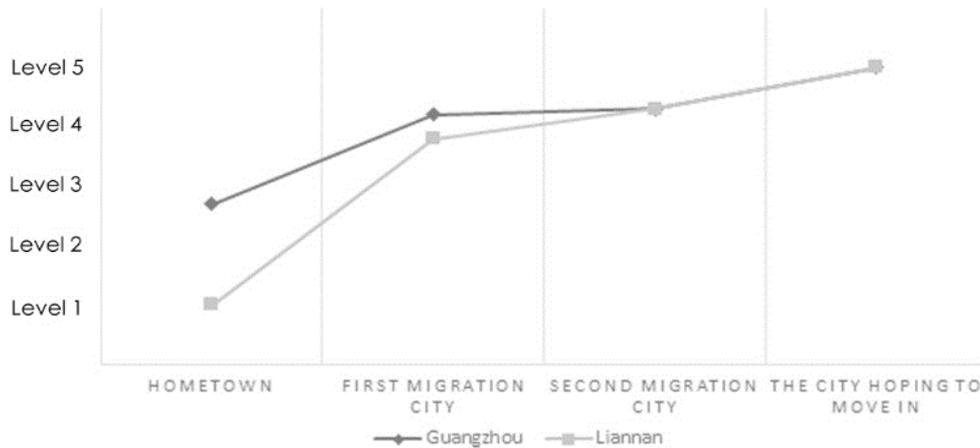


Fig.1 City scale selection of Guangzhou and Liannan floating population

More than 50% of the respondents in both two places have the intention to move back

More than 50% of the respondents in Guangzhou indicate that if they fall disease, unemployment or suffer family misfortune in the future, they would move back to hometown eventually. They said that working outside was just a temporary migration and they would finally come back home in the end. Likewise, 60% of the respondents in Lianan intend to move back, but most of them hope to move back to the county of Liannan rather than the countryside.

The second level cities are seen as the best choice for floating population moving back

For respondents in Guangzhou who willing to move back, more than 30% of them choose the the second level city with a population size of 0.5-1 million, similarly nearly 20% of the respondents in Liannan choose the second level cities as well(Fig. 2). The reason is that when they choose to move back, most migrant workers would tend to stay in urban areas which can provide more opportunities and higher incomes than countryside. Because the huge gap of economy and living environment between urban and countryside makes people indisposition in returning to their hometown. Therefore, the second level cities become the top selection for floating population as it usually provides more opportunities than countries and takes less cost to live in

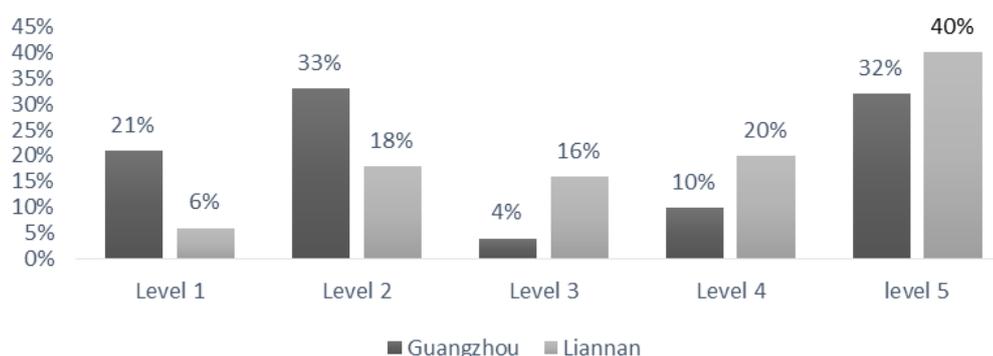


Fig.2 Return movement city selection of Guangzhou and Liannan floating population

On the other hand, the third level cities with a population size in 1-5 million become the least attractive to the floating population. In China, most migrants who decide to move back were influenced by household registration, family pressure, low income but high outcome. However, The third level cities does neither completely open their registration limtation nor has enough job opportunities for floating population. At the same time, the living cost there is higer than the first and the second cities. For example, the floating populations in Liannan countryside would like to go to Guangzhou rather than the third level city such as Qingyuan because of convenient traffic and undifferentiated living cost. This phenomenon further weakened the attraction of third level cities.

4. Conclusion

(1) Research Framework for Floating Population.

On the basis of the above findings, this paper tries to put forward a floating population migration research framework under the New Urbanization (Fig. 3).

The framework generalizes two important stages: migration site selection and urbanization. At first, migrants will fully consider their individual characteristics before the migration of the floating population, including the economic factors and non-economic factors to make migration decision. Then migrants will compare benefits with costs when they have migrated to a new site. If they find that realistic situation is not satisfied, they will migrate to another site again for the internal and external force. They will repeat this process until they achieve satisfaction or choose to end the migration. At this point, social integration hold the stages between migration site selection and urbanization, which has the major impact on the floating population’s choice of settlement or return.

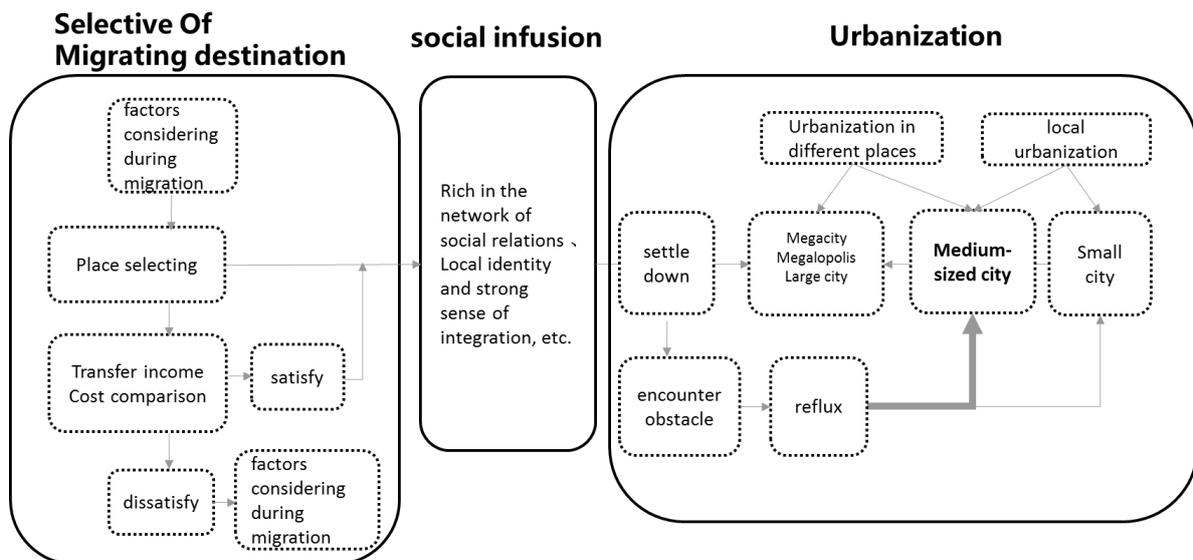


Fig.3 Research framework of floating population migration under the new-type urbanization

(2) Policy Proposal for Floating Population.

The research finds that no matter the floating population choose to settle or return will both consider the urban scale as the key influence factor. On this basis, we propose the development policy in light of the divisions of urban scale:

Establish the inclusive development strategy of megacities. large cities or above, as the absolutely immigration place, will lead to parts of floating population moving back to hometown, since its economic industry gradually transform to “innovation driven” and “capital intensive”. It results in the quality of the labor enhancing, labor demand reducing and the limitation of the employment type. Thus, for the megacities, whose population size is close to environmental capacity, should strictly control the urban scale and keep a more tolerant attitude to accept migrants with capacity to ingrate to city, improving their degree of social intergration.

Establish the increasing development strategy of large and medium-sized cities. Owing to the increase of labor requirements, higher living cost increasing and employment risk in megacities, more and more floating population will choose the place which is close to their hometown. Therefore large and medium-sized cities will have the great potential to be the main type cities that attract migrants. By improving the city’s economic strength and development opportunities, they will attract local people to obtain employment near the hometown, likewise they will attract migrant workers who carry technology and capital. As the results, these approaches will make cities grow reasonably and promote their urban scale to some extent.

Establish the smart rural development strategy. To develop the villages and rural areas, goverment should understand the necessity for the boom of city. Considering the trend of population declining, rurals should carry out orderly of “smart” investment of land scale, guiding a rational flow of cultivated land and non-agricultural construction land and raising the efficiency of land use. At the

same time, government should reconstruct positively infrastructure and public service facility system, improving rural living standards, narrowing the gap between urban and rural and achieving the urban and rural integration.

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