

Family Echelon Flow of Migration Rural Population

Evidence from Liaoning Province

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Abstract—Based on the field survey data in Liaoning province, this paper analyzed the family echelon flow of migration rural population, compared the differences of family echelon flow among different types of cities and between different generations of migrant workers. The analysis showed that echelon flow character of migration rural population in Liaoning province was obvious. The main flow pattern was husband pioneer echelon flow and trailing wife employment. In big city, whether the husband pioneer echelon flow or the wife pioneer echelon flow, the proportion of the trailing spouse underemployment was generally low, but this phenomenon was not obvious in small-medium cities. Family migration became important symbol which was different between the old generation of migrant workers and the new generation of migrant workers. With the development of family echelon flow, the government should perfect the corresponding policies and system according to the different stages and characteristics of migration rural population.

Keywords—migration rural population; family flow; echelon

I. INTRODUCTION

Since 1990s, one of the most dramatic changes of Chinese society is the rapid expansion of floating population scale. The sixth national census results showed the scale of the floating population reached 221 million people in China (National Bureau of Statistics, 2011). Family migration is becoming an important sign of the population movement in the 1990s which is different from 1970s and 1980s. A number of studies displayed that familial flow tendency of the rural floating population has become increasingly obvious (Hou, 2009; Duan et al, 2008; Zhai et al, 2007). Under the pattern of family flow, the urban living conditions of migration rural population would be improved evidently, to promote the family migration of rural population is an important direction of the process of urbanization (Zhang et al, 2006). While people paid more attention to the family

flow trend, flow characteristics were ignored in the process of the family flow of floating population. It is not enough to describe the scale and trend of the floating population in general, it is necessary to further reflect the internal structure changes and trends.

Dupeng and zhang wenjuan (2010) proposed the concept of the family echelon flow of migration rural population and the pattern of the family echelon flow, namely in the process of migration rural population, one person flowed out in the beginning, then the couple flowed out, when the conditions were permitted, the whole family flowed out. The family members did not flowed out together in the beginning, but got together step by step. Analyzing the characteristics of the family echelon flow of migration rural population would contribute to understanding the transient process from individual flow to family flow from the microcosmic point of view. It will also help the government to guide migration rural population orderly and reasonably, help the government to formulate related policies according to the new situation of migration rural population. The existing literature focusing on the family echelon flow was few. Dupeng and zhang wenjuan (2011) used the survey data of Beijing, Guangdong, and Zhejiang to analyze the family echelon flow, Compared with the big province which labor forces flowed into, we wonder if the migration rural population also had the characteristics of family echelon flow in Liaoning province, if the characteristics of family echelon flow were different among different cities? if the characteristics of family echelon flow were different between the old generation of migration workers and the new generation of migration workers? The paper tried to answer these questions.

II. FAMILY ECHELON FLOW PATTERN OF MIGRATION RURAL POPULATION

In this paper, the nuclear family was as the research object, namely the family included the couple and the unmarried children. There were three types of flow strategies:

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family always stayed in the countryside; family selected echelon flow; the whole family moved to the city in the beginning.

As the income gap between urban and rural areas shrank and the city employment opportunity was small, the family usually stayed in the countryside, if the urban living cost was too high ,it would push families to stay in the countryside. On the contrary, the earlier the family flowed into the city, the more the family got welfare and resources from the city. At this moment, the strategy of staying in the countryside for the family was inferior to the other strategies. With the limit of city employment opportunity, living cost and farmland, the family preferred to echelon flow between the echelon flow and the whole family moving to the city in the beginning. Considering that the husband did well in market job and wife was good at the household production, most families chose husband pioneer echelon flow and wife staying at home for the crop production. With the increase of the psychological costs of separation, the wife began to migrate to the city. The employment experience of the husbands could increase the employment opportunities of the wife, while the employment of the wife would increase the family income, consequently enhanced the economical strength for family to settle down the city. Of course, some family chose the wife pioneer echelon flow ,then the husband migrated to the city, as well as both husband and

wife flowed into the city at the same time. Family echelon flow pattern included: husband pioneer echelon flow and wife trailing(employment or unemployment); wife pioneer echelon flow and husband trailing(employment or unemployment); both husband and wife flow employment simultaneously.The main flow pattern was husband pioneer echelon flow and wife trailing.

III. FAMILY ECHELON FLOW OF MIGRATION RURAL POPULATION

In order to analyze the characteristics of family echelon flow of migration rural population, a massive field survey was held in Liaoning province for the migration rural population in 2014.The survey with the method of review inquired about the employment, migration and so on, to the migrant workers and their spouse. Multistage stratified cluster sampling method was used for the survey, according to the city scale, location and level of economic development. A large city, two medium-sized cities and three counties were sampled in Liaoning province. For the representative of the sample, the sample number and the ratio of industry of migrant workers was determined according to the industry distribution and region distribution of migrant workers which was issued in monitoring data of migrant workers by National Bureau of Statistics. 1242 valid questionnaires were got. "Table I"

TABLE I. FAMILY ECHELON FLOW OF MIGRATION RURAL POPULATION

Family Echelon Flow	Frequency	Proportion of Family Flow	Proportion of Married Families
husband pioneer echelon flow with wife trailing employment	275	41.3%	32.8%
husband pioneer echelon flow with wife trailing unemployment	133	20.0%	15.9%
wife pioneer echelon flow with husband trailing employment	81	12.2%	9.7%
wife pioneer echelon flow with husband trailing unemployment	56	8.4%	6.7%
both wife and husband moved into city and got the job	121	18.2%	14.4%
Family flow	666	-	79.5%
married families (except divorced or widowed families)	838	-	-

Survey data showed Liaoning province, as the old industrial base in northeast, was neither the big province of labor forces outflow, nor the big province of labor forces inflow, 85.8 percent of migrant workers came from the Liaoning province, 14.2 percent of migrant workers came from the other provinces. Among migrant workers, men accounted for 54.5 percent, 9 percent higher than women 75.1 percent of migrant workers were married. In the floating population, a problem that should not be ignored was that divorce accounted for 11.3 percent of married migrant workers, these groups were usually the old generation of migrant workers. The main reason for the phenomenon was that the major migrant workers before the 1990s were men, the old generation, and individual flow. The phenomenon that men worked out of hometown and women stayed at home for crop production for a long time resulted in the instability and breakdown of marriage family. Therefore, understanding the situation and characteristics of the family flow has important significance not only to promote urbanization of migration rural population, but also to improve life quality of migrant workers.

In order to investigate the characteristics of family echelon flow, the employment time of family members out of work was analyzed, due to the lack of children's data, the paper focused on the flow order of the couple. The family flow was defined as both wife and husband moved into city. The results showed 79.5 percent of married families (except divorced or widowed families) achieved the family flow, and showed the characteristics of family echelon flow. For the family echelon flow, the husband pioneer echelon flow, with wife trailing employment accounted for 41.3 percent, the husband pioneer echelon flow, with wife trailing unemployment accounted for 20 percent; the wife pioneer echelon flow ,with husband trailing employment accounted for 12.2 percent, the wife pioneer echelon flow, with husband trailing unemployment accounted for 8.4 percent; both wife and husband moving into city and getting job accounted for 18.2 percent. There was a slight high proportion for those families that both wife and husband moved into city and got the job, the reason was that part of migrant workers were still very young and unmarried in the beginning of flow, as you got older, they got married and had

children in the city. For the family echelon flow, the data indicated that the proportion of the husband pioneer echelon flow with wife trailing was the largest, then was the proportion of the wife pioneer echelon flow with husband trailing, the proportion of both wife and husband moving into city and getting job was the smallest.

IV. FAMILY ECHELON FLOW OF MIGRATION RURAL POPULATION AMONG DIFFERENT TYPES OF CITIES

Migration rural population displayed the characteristics of family echelon flow in Liaoning province. We were interested in if the characteristics of family echelon flow among different types of cities was different, for the purpose the survey data was divided into three types, a big city (Shenyang) "Table II", two medium-sized cities (Fuxin and Jinzhou) "Table III" and three small-sized cities (or counties, Taian, Kaiyuan and Changtu) "Table IV", the sample number was 466, 406 and 354 respectively. The results

showed the family echelon flow would be easier to implement in medium-sized cities and small-sized cities (or counties) than in the big city. The family flow ratio in big city was 65.6 percent, 21.1 percent point lower than the medium-sized cities, 18.5 percent point lower than the small-sized cities (or counties). Although the family flow ratio of migration rural population was different among different types of cities, migration rural population displayed the characteristics of family echelon flow during the process of the flow, and pattern of family echelon flow was different among different types of cities. Whether the husband pioneer echelon flow or the wife pioneer echelon flow, the ratio which the spouse trailed to the city and unemployed was low in the big city. This phenomenon was not obvious in medium-sized city and small-sized city (or counties). The reason for the phenomenon was the high living cost in the big city. If one party could not solve the employment, family had to choose separation under high cost pressure.

TABLE II. FAMILY ECHELON FLOW OF MIGRATION RURAL POPULATION IN BIG CITY

Family Echelon Flow	Frequency	Proportion of Family Flow	Proportion of Married Families
husband pioneer echelon flow with wife trailing employment	78	48.1%	31.6%
husband pioneer echelon flow with wife trailing unemployment	18	11.1%	7.3%
wife pioneer echelon flow with husband trailing employment	15	9.3%	6.1%
wife pioneer echelon flow with husband trailing unemployment	7	4.3%	2.8%
both wife and husband moved into city and got the job	44	27.2%	17.8%
Family flow	162	-	65.6%
married families (except divorced or widowed families)	247	-	-

TABLE III. FAMILY ECHELON FLOW OF MIGRATION RURAL POPULATION IN MEDIUM-SIZED CITY

Family Echelon Flow	Frequency	Proportion of Family Flow	Proportion of Married Families
husband pioneer echelon flow with wife trailing employment	94	35.6%	29.9%
husband pioneer echelon flow with wife trailing unemployment	85	32.2%	27.1%
wife pioneer echelon flow with husband trailing employment	30	11.4%	9.6%
wife pioneer echelon flow with husband trailing unemployment	17	6.4%	5.4%
both wife and husband moved into city and got the job	40	15.2%	12.7%
Family flow	264	-	84.1%
married families (except divorced or widowed families)	314	-	-

TABLE IV. FAMILY ECHELON FLOW OF MIGRATION RURAL POPULATION IN SMALL-SIZED CITY (COUNTY)

Family Echelon Flow	Frequency	Proportion of Family Flow	Proportion of Married Families
husband pioneer echelon flow with wife trailing employment	97	42.5%	36.9%
husband pioneer echelon flow with wife trailing unemployment	30	13.2%	11.4%
wife pioneer echelon flow with husband trailing employment	34	14.9%	12.9%
wife pioneer echelon flow with husband trailing unemployment	32	14.0%	12.2%
both wife and husband moved into city and got the job	36	15.8%	13.7%
Family flow	228	-	86.7%
married families (except divorced or widowed families)	263	-	-

V. FAMILY ECHELON FLOW BETWEEN OLD GENERATION OF MIGRANT WORKERS AND NEW GENERATION OF MIGRANT WORKERS

According to the former literature, the new generation of migrant worker was defined the migrant worker who was born after 1980. For the migration rural population in Liaoning province, the proportion of old generation of

migrant worker was higher than the new generation of migrant worker, the old generation of migrant workers accounted for 57.6 percent, 15.2 percentage points higher than the new generation of migrant workers. The old generation of migrant workers have been married and had children, the unmarried accounted for only 3.8 percent. The unmarried of the new generation of migrant workers accounted for 53.6%. "Table V"

TABLE V. FAMILY ECHELON FLOW BETWEEN DIFFERENT GENERATION OF MIGRANT WORKERS

Family Echelon Flow	New Generation of Migrant Worker			Old Generation of Migrant Worker		
	Frequency	Proportion of Family Flow	Proportion of Married Families	Frequency	Proportion of Family Flow	Proportion of Married Families
husband pioneer echelon flow with wife trailing employment	87	45.8%	37.7%	188	39.5%	31.0%
husband pioneer echelon flow with wife trailing unemployment	41	21.6%	17.7%	92	19.3%	15.2%
wife pioneer echelon flow with husband trailing employment	24	12.6%	10.4%	57	12.0%	9.4%
wife pioneer echelon flow with husband trailing unemployment	10	5.3%	4.3%	46	9.7%	7.6%
both wife and husband moved into city and got the job	28	14.7%	12.1%	93	19.5%	15.3%
Family flow	190	-	82.3%	476	-	78.4%
married families (except divorced or widowed families)	231	-	100.0%	607	-	100.0%

Comparing the new generation of migrant workers with the old generation of migrant workers, the proportion of married families differed greatly. The family flow ratio of the new generation of migrant workers was higher than the old generation of migrant workers, 82.3 percent of the new generation of migrant workers achieved family flow, 3.9 percentage points higher than the old generation of migrant workers. The main pattern of family echelon flow between the old generation of migrant workers and the new generation of migrant workers still was the husband pioneer echelon flow with wife trailing (employment and unemployment).

VI. CONCLUSION

As the old industrial base in northeast, compared with the developed province in which the labor forces flowed cross-region, most labor forces flowed in Liaoning province. In the process of the family flow trend, the family flow was easier to implement in medium-sized cities and small-sized cities (or counties) than in the big city. The labor forces transfer presented the characteristics of family echelon flow, the main pattern of family echelon flow was the husband pioneer echelon flow with wife trailing employment. In big city, whether the husband pioneer echelon flow or wife pioneer echelon flow, the ratio which the spouse trailed to the city and unemployed was low. This phenomenon is not obvious in medium-sized cities and small-sized cities (or counties).

Promoting the stable employment of migrant rural population, accelerating the rural land circulation, promoting the homestead reform, solving the education problems of the transient population children, will in favor of the family echelon flow of migrant population. It is key to solve the

events related to the migrant population's interests and to make the migrant population accept city psychologically in order to promote the family echelon flow of migrant population. Now, it is the transitional period from the individual flow to the core members flow of the migrant rural population. With the development of family echelon flow, it will inevitably bring profound influence on family pension. Individual flow was the main pattern at early stage, the floating population is given priority to young and middle-aged, their spouse stayed at the countryside, there was little influence on family endowment of the left-behind elderly.

With the trend of family echelon flow, the government should perfect the corresponding policies and system according to the different stages and characteristics of migration population. The government which the migration population flowed out need take relevant measures to cope with left-behind elderly endowment challenge in time, while the government which the migration population flowed into need transfer the mode and patterns of management and service to the migration population. The existing policies in the field of household ,education ,employment, social security policy and so on should be adjusted.

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