

# *On the Traits and Changes of the Floating Minority Women in the Border Area of Yunnan*

*Yuan fang*

School of Finance and Public Administration, Yunnan University of Finance and Economics

Kunming, P.R.China

[2513020416@qq.com](mailto:2513020416@qq.com)

**Abstract**—From the perspective of feminist sociology, the paper studies the floating minority women in the border and minority area of China as the subject rather than a variable. From the gender perspective, their movement reveals their differences in age, education, profession and marriage, and has their own traits of moving in different directions. The key to improving their movement relies on improving their education.

**Keywords**—minority women in the border area; floating population; move to better professions; education; change

## I. INTRODUCTION

In the past 40 years since the reform and opening up, the floating population has been a closely watched group, and it is also the focus, focus and difficulty of all sectors of society. Some scholars have studied the female floating population of different regions and nationalities. The survey found that the structure, type and characteristics of women's movement in minority nationalities have different characteristics in different regions and ethnic groups, and they are constantly changing.

Compared with other floating population, the flow of minority women has the commonness and universality of other groups, as well as its distinctive national characteristics and gender characteristics. The attention to these features and characteristics can be more comprehensive understanding of this group helps to enhance the overall ability of the minority women, is advantageous to the ethnic minority areas in building a harmonious socialist society.

## II. THE STATUS QUO OF WOMEN'S MOVEMENT IN BORDER AREAS

Since the reform and opening up, with the development of market economy, the traffic conditions, information channels and cultural life of ethnic minority areas have been improved. At the same time, due to the implementation and stability of the household contract responsibility system, a large amount of surplus labor and surplus time is brought to the countryside. Urban employment opportunities, development prospects and higher wages, better than rural education and sanitation conditions, such as prompted some ethnic minority women out of the mountains, into the floating population.

According to the national bureau of statistics in 2006, the main data of 1% population sampling survey showed that the total population of China was 13,06.28 million, of which 147.35 million were floating population. The floating population has exceeded 10% of the total population. About a third of the vast rural migrant population is female, mainly from underdeveloped provinces and poorer rural areas and border minority areas.

Population statistics show that more and more women in border areas have spread to the hinterland and coastal areas from the areas where they live. For example, minority women, such as Lisu, Nu, Lahu, Wa and Dai, have been distributing more and more widely in the mainland provinces in the last 30 years. Some border minority women even go abroad to work and marry. Therefore, the outflow of women from the border ethnic minority areas has become a remarkable phenomenon.

### *A.Changes in the age structure of the floating population of women in ethnic minorities*

In the 1980s, Female floating populations were mainly young people. Later, the elderly population began to participate.

According to census data, in 2000, the total number of floating population in Yunnan province reached 3.872 million, an increase of 6.15 times that of the total number of floating population in 1990. In 2000, the floating population in Yunnan province accounted for 9.1% of the total population, and the density of floating population was 9.8 people /km. The sex ratio in floating population is obviously higher, and the proportion of strong labor force is larger. According to the data, in 2000, there were 2168,000 men and 173,000 women in Yunnan's 3.872 million floating population, and the sex ratio reached 127.3, exceeding the total population sex ratio (110.6).

According to the actual survey of the floating population of minority women in frontier areas, the age of minority migrant women is low. The majority of women are in the age of marriage, including underage girls and a small number of elderly women. Young women are the main body of the floating population of minority women.

### *B.Changes in the marriage structure of women floating population in ethnic minorities*

The marital status of women in ethnic minorities is usually the same as that of other women. Among them, unmarried is majority. According to the survey results of the marital status of floating population in Yunnan, the unmarried subjects accounted for 76.56%, the married couples were 22.88%, and the divorced widowed was 0.56%.

### *C.The situation of education in the floating population of minority women*

The floating population in Yunnan is generally low by education. According to the sample survey of migrant workers in Kunming in 2003, among the migrant workers surveyed, primary school and junior middle school were the two main levels, with 16.47 percent of primary schools, 55.67 percent of middle schools and 23.76 percent of high schools. The floating

population is at a disadvantage in the competition of urban employment due to the low number of education years.

There is no denying that education, a minority ethnic group in Yunnan province, is developing at a rapid speed, and the education level of some ethnic minorities has reached a relatively high level. Some ethnic minorities have the same level of education development as the Han, such as Naxi and Bai. Some of them are higher than education of Han nationality, such as Manchu, Mongolian and Hui. But ethnic minorities living on the frontier still lag behind the rest of Yunnan, let alone other provinces. Among them, women from ethnic minorities in the border areas are less likely to receive education. The reasons for this are complicated.

## III. THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF ETHNIC MINORITY MIGRANT WOMEN

The flow of minority women has a certain impact on the inflow and outflow areas. In the process of breaking through the closed areas and moving towards an open social environment, minority women are exposed to the outside culture. In the new cultural environment, their self-consciousness is gradually strengthened, and more emphasis is placed on the ideal and aspiration of the self. The flow of women in the border areas of Yunnan province is shifting from subsistence to development. The movement of this group shows an increasing trend, which is bound to have a lot of impact on individuals, families and society.

### *A.Accelerated the aging of frontier ethnic areas*

The migration of workers has accelerated the aging of the population in rural areas. The same is true of frontier minority areas. The daily life of the elderly living alone is not taken care of, and the spirit is not comforted.

### *B.Problems of left-behind children*

Influenced by economic factors, most minority women cannot bring their children to the city and live with them. Young children can only stay at home and be cared for by the elderly or other relatives. Thus, left-behind children appeared in frontier minority areas. Compared with other children in left-behind children, the lack of parental care tends to lead to problems in nutrition and physical health. On the

psychological side, left-behind children lack the object of confiding and seeking help. In education, left-behind children are struggling to complete the education in middle school.

#### *C. The decline of traditional culture*

The flow of minority women has led to the rapid decline of traditional cultural activities. Cultural heritage faces crisis. In frontier minority villages, women are the main inheritors of traditional culture. The flow of women makes the content and scale of cultural activities narrow. Young women who go out to work have embraced new cultures and are increasingly unfamiliar with the traditional culture of their nation. Therefore, the traditional culture of frontier minority areas is facing the problems of inheritance, development and innovation!

#### *D. Economic poverty*

The professional composition of female migrant workers can be divided into three categories: ordinary migrant workers, featured business types and blind mobile types. In addition to the women who carry out the characteristic business activities, and the income of women who have already become the management of the enterprise, other women have lower income. In Kunming, the capital city of Yunnan province, ethnic migrant women are employed mainly in factories, catering and leisure services, urban cleaning and homemaking industries, with salaries ranging from 1,200 to 2,500 Yuan per month. Some women do not have regular jobs or sell goods on the street. In a word, the economy of minority women is relatively poor.

#### *E. Social status edge*

The marginality of the social status of minority migrant women is closely related to its "triple identity" (migrant workers, ethnic minorities and women). On the one hand, the household registration system still plays a fundamental role in the allocation of social and economic resources in China. Because of the lack of urban household registration, migrant women cannot enjoy the benefits of housing, medical treatment and social security. Many scholars have expounded on this problem. The author's survey also confirms this. On the other hand, due to the minority status, some urban residents deliberately kept their distance from the minority migrant

workers. Some government workers are rude when they perform their functions. The floating population is the vulnerable group in the city, among which the females become the vulnerable groups in the disadvantaged groups. Married women belong to their husbands in the city. Women have to take care of their husbands' lives after work. Unmarried women are more engaged in low-end production and processing, or are employed in the service industry, with lower income. Due to their limited consumption ability and closed life, they cannot enjoy the city's cultural life. In the service industry, they need to overcome the problems caused by cultural adaptation and cultural conflicts, and learn to deal with various kinds of people in cities. They can't change the status of the urban fringe in a short time.

### IV. MEASURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Although the movement of minority women brings a series of problems, it is the general trend. In order to improve the existing problems and promote the better adaptation of mobile women to social development, the following measures and recommendations are available.

#### *A. Enhance gender awareness*

In the development of modern society, we put too much emphasis on economic growth and development, such as GDP and urbanization rate. Behind the boom lies a number of shields, or, in the bright colors of the economy, inequality. For minority migrant women, it is important to emphasize their contributions and achievements, and to give them a corresponding stable living and production environment to protect their legitimate interests. We need to enhance their sense of self-protection and action by promoting gender awareness, and strive for the benefit of women.

#### *B. Improve policies and regulations to protect the social rights and interests of migrant women*

There are significant gender differences in the migration of ethnic minorities, and the whole society should pay attention to it. In the process of mobility, minority women should enjoy equal rights with men and other women in terms of career choice, health, education and social security. Especially in the flow process, should not be subjected to violence and sexual assault. In the process of flow, the minority women are the

occupational-disease, sexually transmitted diseases of the vulnerable people. They should strengthen the protection of occupational diseases, carry out the propaganda of STD and AIDS knowledge, and prevent education. Minority women flow caused by the outflow region population sex ratio imbalance, appear the problems of the left-behind elderly and children, to the harmonious development of the ethnic minority areas and new rural construction has brought certain difficulties, should take measures to strengthen the education of left-behind children, rural family endowment functions and the establishment of the social security system.

#### *C. Promote the human capital of minority migrant women*

We will strengthen regulation and management of the floating population and regularly forecast and release demand information. We should make rational use of the human resources of the floating population. The human capital of minority women is the precondition for the minority women to obtain labor and improve their status. Only with certain knowledge, can the workers receive the training of skills, and therefore, to develop the human capital of minority women, it is necessary to invest in education for women. Education is invested in countries and households. In poverty-stricken areas, especially in Yunnan ethnic minority areas, education investment is mainly done by the state, mainly through the school formal education. To improve the education years for minority women, education should be completed on the basis of education. Actively develop professional education.

#### *D. Establish a social organization and service management system for floating women of ethnic minorities*

Improving the organization of social individuals is conducive to enhancing their ability to resist marginalization.

After all, the organization will be their "umbrella" to protect their legitimate rights and interests in the process of migration. At the same time, the establishment of social organizations is conducive to regulating the population flow, promoting the harmonious development of the society and the benign movement. Minority women, who live in unfamiliar urban environments, are too weak to resist marginalization. Therefore, improving their organization and improving their ability is the key to solve this problem.

In conclusion, practice has proved that the outflow of women from ethnic minorities is a social reality in the process of China's reform, opening up and globalization. In this process, the male patriarchal consciousness in various ethnic societies has been impacted and challenged. The consciousness of female subjects in ethnic minorities is constantly awakening and changing. About the flow of minority women, however, how to improve their position, how to improve their situation, what to do with the change of the roles in the family structure, set up new ideas and consciousness, the gender role in building a harmonious gender, equality of gender culture, promote the development of women, we are facing a new topic and new missions.

#### REFERENCES

- [1] Guocai Yang. 2015, "A study of Mobility of Ethnic Minority Women from the Feminine Sociology", Yunnan minorities press 132~139.
- [2] Yunnan provincial statistics bureau. Yunnan floating population 2007.
- [3] Li qin. The influence of the outflow of minority women on local society [J]. Journal of yunnan university of nationalities (philosophy and social science edition), 2005.
- [4] Fu gong county women's federation. The migration of ethnic women in fugong county [R]. 2008-10.