

Research on Current Social Integration of New-generation Migrant Workers Against the Background of New-type Urbanization and Its Countermeasure*

Hongxia Zhang

School of Humanities
Tianjin Agricultural University
Tianjin, China 300384

Abstract—The core of new-type urbanization is the urbanization of people and its objective requirement is to gradually lead migrant workers to realize urban social integration. Therefore, selecting 797 new-generation migrant workers across the country as the survey samples, this research investigates their current situation of social integration in three dimensions, namely, economic, social cultural and psychological dimensions, and puts forward countermeasures to promote social integration of new-generation migrant workers from two aspects including building the external guarantee mechanism and internal mechanism of impetus-ability mechanism, aiming to improve the quality of new urbanization.

Keywords—new-type urbanization; new-generation migrant workers; social integration

I. INTRODUCTION

Since the reform and opening up, China's urbanization has been making progress constantly. According to the statistics, in 2013, China's urbanization rate of permanent population increased to 53.7% [1], but that of registered population was only 36%. Shackled by the household registration system, a large number of rural migrants fail to enjoy basic public services equal to urban residents, making it difficult for migrant workers to truly integrate into urban society. We can see that the traditional low-cost urbanization mode is characterized by many disadvantages. In its report at the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the CPC central committee clearly put forward that China has to take the new-type urbanization path with Chinese characteristics and comprehensively improve the urbanization quality, the new-type urbanization shall put people first and it is the objective requirement of new-type urbanization to gradually lead people to realize social integration of migrant workers. In this context, this research defines the social integration of new-generation migrant workers as "the process of migrant workers actively and extensively participating in urban economic,

social, cultural and political activities, sharing social experience and basic social welfare, and realizing self-identity psychologically", identifies this process as the integration in three dimensions, that is, economic, social cultural and psychological aspects, explores the current situation in the three dimensions through empirical investigation and then puts forward the corresponding countermeasures, aiming to facilitate the integration of new-generation migrant workers into the urban society and promote the process of new-type urbanization.

II. INVESTIGATION METHOD AND SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS

A. Investigation Method

In this research, there were 1000 questionnaires were given out in total and 824 were returned, with the return rate of 82.4%, including 797 valid questionnaires, with valid rate of 96.7%. The data collected were given statistical analysis through SPSS17.0.

B. Basic Characteristics of Samples

Among the 797 valid samples, 432 are male, accounting for 54.2%, and 365 are female, accounting for 45.8%; 590 are married, accounting for 74.0%; in terms of education background, 63 have primary school education or below, accounting for 7.9%; 314 have junior middle school education, accounting for 39.4%; 211 have senior high school education, accounting for 26.5%; 127 have junior college education, accounting for 15.9%, and 82 have university education or above, accounting for 10.3%.

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III. INVESTIGATION RESULTS OF THE SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF NEW-GENERATION MIGRANT WORKERS

A. Social Integration in Economic Aspect

1) Average monthly income and social welfare

TABLE I. AVERAGE MONTHLY INCOME OF NEW-GENERATION MIGRANT WORKERS

Item	Max.	Min.	Average	Standard Deviation
Average monthly income	10000	800	2978.42	1307.21

^a. Unit: Yuan

As shown in "Table I", the average income of the new-generation migrant worker respondents was 2,978.42 Yuan in 2012, slightly higher than the national average monthly income of 2,246.58 Yuan released by the National Bureau of Statistics in 2012. On the surface, although the absolute value of monthly average income of the new-generation migrant workers is higher than that of urban residents, the "gold content" of wage income of migrant workers is not high. Most of them engage in jobs requiring longer work hours. According to the sample survey data of migrant workers nationwide in 2011, migrant workers worked more than 8 hours a day and more than 25 days a month on average, and their hourly income was relatively low. Most migrant workers get higher income at the cost of labor security and related welfare. In the investigation, we found that among the respondents, 419 signed labor contracts with employers, accounting for 50.1% of the total; in terms of urban welfare (as shown in "Table II"), only 39.9% of migrant workers enjoy the three insurances or five social insurances and one housing fund provided by their employers, 44.0% enjoy urban public health services, and the percentages of them enjoying free job introduction and training and their children accepting public education and other welfare are even lower, which are 18.9% and 23.7%, respectively.

TABLE II. DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS OF WELFARE NEW-GENERATION MIGRANT WORKER RESPONDENTS ENJOY

	Three Insurances or Five Social Insurances and One Housing Fund	Public Health Service	Free Job Introduction and Training	Their Children Accepting Public Education
Frequency (person)	318	351	151	189
Percentage (%)	39.9	44.0	18.9	23.7

In order to further analyze the factors influencing the average monthly income of new-generation migrant workers, this research conducted multivariate regression analysis by taking the background characteristics of migrant workers (including gender, age, education background and working years) as the independent variable and the monthly income as the dependent variable. The results are shown in "Table III". As can be seen from the table, each variable has a significant impact on the monthly income level.

TABLE III. MULTIVARIATE REGRESSION ANALYSIS RESULT OF THE INFLUENCE OF THE BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS OF MIGRANT WORKERS ON THEIR AVERAGE MONTHLY INCOME

Background Characteristic	Regression Coefficient B	Standard Error	T Value	Significance
Gender	400.825***	85.467	4.690	.000
Education background	134.180***	38.593	3.477	.001
Working years	247.239***	48.961	5.050	.000
Age	67.877***	12.700	5.345	.000
F value	36.206			
Adjusted R2	0.181			
Significance	0.000			

^a. Note: ** means significance at the statistical level of 5%; *** means significance at the statistical level of 1%

2) *Job type*: As shown in "Table IV", most migrant workers engage in physical work, accounting for 46.9% of the total, followed by migrant workers engaging in technical work, accounted for 37.8%, and only 15.3% of the respondents engage in management work, which shows that most of new-generation migrant workers are engaged in dirty and fatiguing jobs characterized by lower occupation stratum and lack of safety guarantee.

TABLE IV. STATISTICS OF JOBS NEW-GENERATION MIGRANT WORKERS ENGAGE IN

	Technical Work	Physical Work	Management Work
Frequency (person)	301	374	122
Percentage (%)	37.8	46.9	15.3

B. Social Integration in Social Cultural Aspect

1) *Housing integration*: As can be seen from "Table V", 90.6% of the new-generation migrant worker respondents have no housing in the city, among which 42.5% live in the company dormitory; 18.8% rent their own houses and obtain rental allowance from the company; 29.2% rent their own houses but are not subsidized by the company; only 9.4% of migrant workers have bought houses in the city. Thus, it can be seen that the situation of new-generation migrant workers in housing integration is worrying situation. The vast majority of migrant workers cannot afford to buy houses in cities, so they can only live in company dormitories or rent houses in "urban villages" with cheap rent, which makes them those living in edge of cities.

TABLE V. HOUSING SITUATION OF NEW-GENERATION MIGRANT WORKERS

	Frequency (Person)	Percentage (%)	Cumulative Percentage (%)
Without house, living in company dormitory	339	42.5	42.5
Without house, living in rented house with housing allowance from company	150	18.8	61.4
Without house, living in rented house without housing allowance from company	233	29.2	90.6
Have purchased house	75	9.4	100.0

2) Main communication targets

TABLE VI. MAIN COMMUNICATION TARGETS OF NEW-GENERATION MIGRANT WORKERS IN LIFE

	Frequency (Person)	Percentage (%)	Cumulative Percentage (%)
Urban resident	241	30.2	30.2
Fellow villager	352	44.2	74.4
Other outlander	204	25.6	100.0

According to the investigation result (see "Table VI"), 44.2% of respondents mainly communicate with fellow villagers, 25.6% mainly communicate with outsiders from other cities, and 30.2% mainly communicate with urban people.

3) Community participation

TABLE VII. SITUATION OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION OF NEW-GENERATION MIGRANT WORKERS

	Frequency (Person)	Percentage (%)	Cumulative Percentage (%)
Never	441	55.3	55.3
Seldom	330	41.4	96.7
Often	26	3.3	100.0

In terms of the community participation of new-generation migrant workers (see "Table VII"), 55.3% of the migrant worker respondents have never participated in urban community activities, and 41.4% participate in urban community activities sometimes. Through analysis of the current situation of communication targets and community participation of new-generation migrant workers, we found that their social relations is still dominated by strong relationships such as blood and geographical relationship, lack of heterogeneous social relations marked by friendship, working relationship, etc., especially lack of communication with urban residents, showing that the breadth and depth of their integration into the city are not enough, which is not conducive to social integration.

4) *Mastery of urban dialect*: Whether the migrant workers can master the dialect of the city is a main representation of their cultural integration into the urban society. Among the new-generation migrant worker respondents, only 20.7% can speak the local dialect, and nearly 80% cannot speak the local dialect, which further indicates that the integration level of new-generation migrant workers in social cultural aspect is not high (see "Table VIII").

TABLE VIII. NEW-GENERATION MIGRANT WORKERS' MASTERY OF LOCAL DIALECT

	Frequency (person)	Percentage (%)	Cumulative percentage (%)
Can speak local dialect	165	20.7	20.7
Cannot speak local dialect	632	79.3	100.0

C. Social Integration in Psychological Aspect

1) *Urban residents' attitude towards new-generation migrant workers*: In terms of urban residents' attitude towards migrant workers, we adopted 1-8 grading score. The lower score indicates the higher the enthusiasm, while the higher score indicates the higher indifference. The result is shown in "Table IX" and we can see that the average score of urban residents' attitude towards new-generation migrant workers, showing that urban residents have neutral attitude towards new-generation migrant workers. Although such an attitude is an improvement, compared with the previous attitude of exclusion and alienation towards migrant workers, psychological barriers between urban residents and migrant workers formed due to cultural differences are difficult to reduce, and urban residents have not fully recognized and accepted new-generation migrant workers psychologically.

TABLE IX. URBAN RESIDENTS' ATTITUDE TOWARDS NEW-GENERATION MIGRANT WORKERS

	Max.	Min.	Average	Standard Deviation
Urban residents' attitude	8	1	4.35	1.73

2) Self-identity

TABLE X. SITUATION OF SELF-IDENTITY OF NEW-GENERATION MIGRANT WORKERS

	Frequency (Person)	Percentage (%)	Cumulative Percentage (%)
Urban resident	128	16.1	16.1
Rural people	313	39.2	55.3
People living in urban-rural fringe	234	29.4	84.7
Indefinable	122	15.3	100.0

In terms of self-identity (see "Table X"), only 16.1% of respondents identify themselves as urban people; 39.2% still identify their "ascribed" status, that is, farmers; 29.4% identify themselves as neither urban nor rural, and their self-identity is fuzzy. This shows that the social integration of new-generation migrant workers in the psychological aspect is not ideal, and they fail to have the sense of identity of urban residents.

IV. CONCLUSION AND COUNTERMEASURES

A. Conclusion

The social integration of new-generation migrant workers is accompanied by the process of urbanization, which will be a complex process of gradual evolution of economy, social culture and psychology. Through the investigation, we found that the social integration of new-generation migrant workers has been improved on the whole under the current conditions, but the current situation of the integration is not ideal.

Social integration in economic aspect is the foundation for new-generation migrant workers to integrate into the urban society. At present, although the average monthly income of new-generation migrant workers have greatly improved than ever, but as a whole, their income does not match their

working time, they cannot enjoy the same basic public services as urban residents, and most of the new-generation migrant workers in cities can only engage in “dirty and fatiguing” jobs that urban residents do not want to do and are characterized by long working hours and high labor intensity. In addition, their occupation stratum in urban society is low and it is difficult for them to enjoy equal treatment with the urban residents.

The social integration in social cultural aspect reflects the breadth of the integration of new-generation migrant workers into the urban society. However, at present, most of the new-generation migrant workers cannot afford to buy houses in cities, so they can only live in dormitories or cheap rented houses. The formation of these “urban villages” has divided urban residents and migrant workers into different corners of cities [2]. The isolation in living environment limits the social communication targets of the migrant workers to the circle they build based on the ties of consanguinity, friendship and geographical relationship and prevents them from participating in urban community activities. Besides, most of the new-generation migrant workers cannot say local dialect, which limits their communication with urban residents, so their social capital to integrate into the urban life is relatively scarce.

The social integration in psychological cultural aspect reflects the depth of the integration of new-generation migrant workers into the urban society, which is the symbol of their comprehensive realization of integration into the urban society. Through investigation, we found that although most of the new-generation migrant workers yearn for and have been used to urban social life, the long-time urban-rural dual life makes them feel confused about self-identify and fall into a special situation of urban and rural but non-urban and non-rural in the same time. In addition, urban residents have not completely abandoned the discrimination and exclusion attitude towards new-generation migrant workers, which has become a psychological barrier hindering comprehensive social integration of new-generation migrant workers.

B. Countermeasures

The current situation of the social integration of new-generation migrant workers is less optimistic, which requires us to actively build an external guarantee mechanism led by the government, enterprises and communities and an individual mechanism centering on the internal impetus-ability system for the new-generation migrant workers to promote the realization of social integration through external empowerment and internal enhancement.

1) Construction of external guarantee mechanism: From the perspective of the government, it is necessary to deepen the structural reform, build a urban-rural integrated household registration management system, separate household registration from public management services and establish a fair sharing public service system, so that the new-generation migrant workers can truly enjoy the citizenship treatments; from the perspective of enterprises, it is necessary to regularly provide corresponding technical guidance and training for the new-generation migrant workers to help them improve the human capital of urban life, and carry out group activities to

provide them with a platform to communicate, which is conducive to promoting the social integration of the new generation migrant workers in social cultural aspect; from the perspective of communities, they need to create a mechanism beneficial to the social communication and community participation of migrant workers and construct heterogeneous social relations dominated by friendship, working relationship, etc. to improve the communication frequency between the new generation migrant workers and urban residents, which is also helpful for migrant workers to learn the urban social life mode, so that they can have self-identity psychologically and integrate into the urban society more comprehensively.

2) Construction of internal impetus-ability mechanism:

The establishment of the external guarantee mechanism only creates the possibility for the new generation migrant workers to integrate into the urban society. Their own internal needs, willingness and ability are the key factors to determine the degree of their social integration. Therefore, as the new generation migrant workers, on the one hand, they should take the initiative to improve their ability and quality, and actively participate in training to improve their human capital and employment strata [3]; on the other hand, they need to change their ideas and ways of thinking, enhance their sense of citizenship and actively communicate with urban residents, so as to promote their identity as urban people, which is conducive to the comprehensive realization of social integration.

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