Migrating Cities
How to redefine the regional development in China

Guo Chen

Blekinge Institute of Technology
Karlskrona
Sweden
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Tutor: Prof Jana Revedin Arch PhD
Abstract

With the rapid development of the urbanization in China, more and more migrants who are mainly from the relatively poor areas move to big cities in order to obtain the economic benefits. However, rather than living condition of migrants and rural development, people pay more attention to the economic development of the city. Migrants cannot achieve reasonable living condition in the urban context, at the same time, they may lose their land and source of income if they come back hometown although they have devoted themselves to the construction of big cities and economic development of rural areas.

I analyze the characters of migrants’ living conditions in the big cities and the transfer of labors in rural areas, claiming that we should consider the situation of migrants scientifically when we are conducting the urban planning and urbanization. To explain the phenomenon of migration intuitively, I choose the Zhejiang village in Beijing and four villages in Henan Province as the example to study and analysis in the following. Firstly, Beijing is the capital of China so that it is the most popular place for migrants to move in. Zhejiang village is the famous historic problem in China and there are a lot of literatures and data collections that can be useful for my thesis. Secondly, Henan Province has the largest population in China and the migration is popular there. After the case study and survey, I analyze the reasons of the problem from different perspective such as government, economic differences, migrants’ education and so on. The paper suggests the solutions to solve the problems from relevant aspects.

Keywords: Migrants, living condition, urbanization, rural areas
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1 Chapter: 
    Introduction

1.1 Background

1.1.1 The role of migrants in the development of society

With the development of urbanization, high employment opportunities and high returns generated huge pulling power in economically developed areas, especially in big cities in China. Large numbers of Chinese surplus labors in rural move to big regions and cities in search of new employment opportunities, which causes the large-scale flow of rural labor migrants to cities and non-agricultural industries. This massive migration flows mainly concentrated in the eastern coastal areas, particularly in the Yangtze River Delta, Pearl River Delta and Beijing-Tianjin-Tangshan regions, such as in Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, Shenzhen and other large cities where the floating population has reached more than 300 million people. Although the migrants bring some social problems, they have become an integral part of the social and economic development overall. In some places which have large amount of the migrants, they have become the mainly composition of the industries and the basic infrastructure and the local economy will come to a standstill without them. For example, the construction teams in Shenzhen are almost composed by temporary migrants, and more than 70% of the sanitation workers in Guangzhou are migrants.

The transfer of the migrants brings the loss of labor and the sluggish of agricultural development in the rural areas, at the same time, promoting the development of social, economic and cultural in arrival cities. Migrants are involved in all aspects of social life, which has become the focus of academic research. From a national perspective, the main output of the rural labor force is Midwest provinces of Henan, Sichuan, Anhui, Hunan, Hubei, Jiangxi, Hebei, Shanxi and other places, where the development of economy is relatively slow. Migrants bring a lot of money, technology and information to these areas by sending money home, seasonal flows and shuttle home business, etc. Thus, although urban migrants will bring some social problems, the positive role they play should not be ignored.
1.1.2 The poor living condition of migrants

At present, the living conditions of migrants are very worrying. In big cities, migrant workers are always crowded in a small room or a self-built shack, and even sleeping in the station terminals, under the overpass. These places have poor sanitation, ventilation and lighting condition without water and electricity. At the same time, Migrants have trouble in communicating with the locals due to the lack of living, education and security management.

1.1.3 The loss of population in the rural context

As the necessary unit of long-term living, inhabitation and reproduction, village is the basic unit of rural society, which is the working and living place of farmers. Farmers are the main part of economic activities in rural areas. With the implementation of Chinese reform, opening up and modernization policies, the government is devoted to the elimination of urban-rural dual system and integrates urban-rural development for migrating rural population, which gets concern from the society apparently. In 2011, Chinese urbanization rate is 51.27%, which also contributed to the rural-urban migration, while migrants generate the profound influence in both economic and social structure.

1.1.4 The government management

Even though the government has been award of the importance of solving the problem of migrants, the solution is single and less effective. First, it does not guarantee the living rights of migrants and the ordered guidance from the view of policy. For example, the government has not established the lowest living standard of migrants and the low-rent housing system for vulnerable group including low-income population and migrants. Secondly, the government fails to realize that it is an effective way for solving the housing problem of migrants to construct the collectivity community with the lack of housing market.

1.1.5 Insufficiency of urban planning

Traditional planning and construction disciplines tend to do theoretical research in planning and design divorced from social background, lacking of attention to social issues. Architects and planners cannot fully play a positive role in stressing the social problems. From the perspective of the present
planning disciplines, the study for living conditions of low-income migrants in developed areas of metropolitan is not very good, most of the study remains in the theoretical stage, including the analysis of changes in urban spatial form and the analysis of current situations and the causes of migrants’ neighborhoods. The studies have the narrow coverage and lack of countermeasures in research planning so that it is not useful in the actual operation.

1.2 Research questions and aim

The research questions of the thesis is:

How to solve the problem of migrants’ poor living condition in the Chinese urban context?

How to promote the development of economy and achieve a revival of migration in the Chinese rural context?

Conducting the analysis of urban migration and the corresponding countermeasures planning has profound theoretical and practical significance, mainly in the following areas:

a. The study for the migrants’ living condition is different from the normal study for residents in urban planning because of its unique characters such as population mobility, instability and etc. It is a novel research area, which has a special significance.

b. It reflects the principal of social justice. The migrants have made great contributions to the social, economic and cultural development so that they have the rights to obtain the corresponding returns, which means that their living environment can reach the standard level.

c. It conforms the requirements of the times. In the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlement in 1996, the "providing the adequate shelters for all people" and "the sustainable human settlements development in urbanization" have been the major issues to promote that it is important to formulate the rebuilt of residents and slums in the urban context.

d. The peaceful living condition can create the enjoyable working environment. For the developed areas, the issue about the migrants' inhabitancy has the key relation to the social economic development. Due to the large number of rural population base, there are still a lot of surplus labours in rural area. The research of rural migration and their
influence on the economy shows the basic regularity of population movements, the main constraints and economic effects on rural place development, and also has some policy implications for guiding the rational and orderly rural population migration.

1.3 Outline

The article is structured with three sections.

The first section includes the introduction that suggests the research question, introduces the background of the topic and finds the gaps, the literature review which provides the literature to support and establishes the theoretical framework.

The second section is the method of research including two parts: Life in arrival cities and Life in rural areas. In each of the two parts, the situation of area will be analyzed firstly. Then, the survey and case study will be conducted in different regions and different migrants' neighbourhoods to study its current characteristics and formation mechanism. Based on discussing migrant habitation condition in developed metropolitan cities and the economic situation in rural, the corresponding solutions will be suggested in the following.

The last section is the conclusion, which summarizes the thesis and comments on some drawbacks.
2 Chapter: Literature Review

Human migration is the movement by people from one place to another with the intention of settling temporarily or permanently in the new location. The movement is typically over long distances and can be from one country to another in the internationally aspect. However, the concept of migration in this paper mainly discusses the internal migration in China.

2.1 Theory of migration

2.1.1 Ernst Georg Ravenstein

British demographer Ernst Georg Ravenstein thinks that large-scale migration can make great influences on the areas of origin and destination because of the imbalance and selectivity of migration in space. (Ravenstein, 1885) Population movements directly change the population distribution of the area. In addition, the population moving will also have a direct impact on the regional ecological environment. He established a theory of human migration in the 1880s that still forms the basis for modern migration theory. It considered the implications of distance and different types of migrant. The theory provides a qualitative explanation for migration (Todaro 1970).

2.1.2 Push and pull theory

Then, Lee's laws divide factors causing migrations into two groups of factors: push and pull factors. Push factors are things that are unfavourable about the area that one lives in, and pull factors are things that attract one to another area (Lee 1966). The push factors include few jobs, rare opportunities, inadequate conditions, desertification, famine or drought, political fear or persecution, slavery or forced labour, poor medical care, loss of wealth, natural disasters, death threats, desire for more political or religious freedom, pollution, poor housing and war while the pull factors are job opportunities, better living conditions, the feeling of having more political freedom, education, better medical care, security and etc.
2.1.3 Dual economy model

W. A. Lewis set up a classic dual economy and labor force model to explain the motive and process of labor migration (1954). Lewis believes that the economy of developing countries is a typical dual economy and its economic system can be divided into conventional (traditional agricultural sector) and modern (modern industrial sector) two departments. The point at which the excess labor in the subsistence sector is fully absorbed into the modern sector, and where further capital accumulation begins to increase wages, is sometimes called the Lewisian turning point. It has recently been widely discussed in the context of economic development in China. (Bloomberg, 2010)

2.2 Development of cities

Overall, the Chinese government has tacitly supported migration as means of providing labour for factories and construction sites and for the long-term goals of transforming China from a rural-based economy to an urban-based one. Some inland cities have started providing migrants with social security, including pensions and other insurance.

In 2012, there are a reported 167 million migrant workers, but with trends of working closer to home (within their own or a neighbouring province) but with a wage drop of 21%. Migrant workers in China are notoriously marginalized, especially by the hukou system of residency permits, which tie one stated residence to all social welfare benefits (Wong 2013). There are four spatial patterns of internal migration (Deshingkar & Grimm 2005):

a. Rural-rural migration: in many poor countries like Senegal, rural-rural migration occurs when labors from poorer regions travel to agriculturally-rich and irrigated areas which have more work.

b. Rural-urban migration: seen in the urbanizing economies of Asia, migration of poor agricultural workers moves to larger cities and manufacturing centers.

c. Urban-rural migration: migration that occurs when individuals retire back to their villages. Often, migrants who return bring back skill sets that benefit their home areas tremendously.

d. Urban-urban migration: as the predominant form of internal migration, this movement takes place from the center of towns to the outer areas of the town.
In the 20th century, the term of urbanization have been accepted by most scholars internationally. In the 1970s, the term was introduced into China (Zhou 2003). As a global phenomenon, urbanization really started in the industrial revolution. From 1800 to date, the world population grew six times, including the world's urban population increased by nearly 60 times. Urban development has four continuous processes including urbanization, suburban urbanization, counter-urbanization and re-urbanization. The urbanization means that population concentrates into the urban and the countryside is transforming into the urban, which is the first stage of the whole urbanization process, especially in developing countries. The suburban urbanization is that part of the urban population move to the suburban and the nearby suburban is becoming the urban. The phenomenon always happens in industrialization development countries. The counter-urbanization means that large urban centres begin to have traffic congestion, rising crime rates and other issues with the development of the city so that the urban population begins to flow to the suburbs. The city centre is a recession as the "city of hollow". There is similar phenomenon in many large cities in developed countries (Hu 2014 ). The last one-re-urbanization is that the government and other social organizations take actions to make people move to urban again. Nowadays, China is in the transformation period of suburban urbanization which is relevant to the floating population. However, the government and the society pay less attention to the living condition of migrants rather than the economic development so that more and more migrants move to big cities for job opportunities without the appropriate management. It is the time that we take measures on migrants to prevent the counter-urbanization and even more serious situation.

2.3 Migrants and living spaces

From 1960s, a lot of scholars began to study the problem of floating population from rural to urban including the research about the living condition of migrants. There are some theories about the social spatial and population movement. Highlighting the socio-economic status of the circle pattern, it uses the "invasion, succession and led" process model to describe its ecological changes. For the large number of immigrants who move into the rapid development of the city, it offers urban living space to observe changes in the explanatory framework (Burgess 1925). Hoyet (1939) provide an alternative perspective for the model of urban development in social and economic structure to observe changes in the neighborhood and residential mobility. Power of migration caused from the availability chain of high
society and the penetration process of lower social. Rossi (1955) studied the relation between the life period of family and housing movement. It is considered that life cycle will result in changes in family structure, thus causing demand for housing. However, the main function of housing movement is to meet this demand by adjusting family housing. From the perspective of urban economics, it is said that residential location, job location and income are interrelated. It provides an explanation for the motivation of immigrants’ living election in the city in economics (Alonso 1960). With social, regional and ecological factors, the social attributes of modern urban living space are influenced by three main characteristics including economic status, family type and of the ethnic background through analyzing the urban spatial structure and social living differences (Murdie 1969). In the process of neighborhoods, it is necessary to reflect when we are conducting the transformation in immigrants’ communities (Jacobs 1961). What will be remembered about the twenty-first century, more than anything else except perhaps the effects of a changing climate, is the great, and final, shift of human populations out of rural, agricultural life and into cities. (Saunders, 2011) From 2007, Doug Saunders embarked on a three-year project to examine migrant neighbourhoods in about 20 places on five continents. After he published the book, people pay more attention to the arrival city and the migration.

Because of the differences among the economy, culture and policy in different countries, it is unique to solve the problem of migrants in China. Compared to the international examples, some theories are not applied in the floating population, especially the low-income group. People in China have paid attention to the floating population in recent years. There are a lot of literatures and researches on the field with the depth understand for migrants and the government:

a. Study the social structure of floating population from the urban sociology perspective, such as “Communities across the border - Beijing Zhejiang village life history” (Xiang 2000), “Relations, social capital and social transformation - Shenzhen Ping Village research” (Liu 2002) and etc.

b. From the perspective of social geography, do the research on the internal structure of areas and the variety of floating population in spatial spaces.

c. Considering the generation, present condition and future development of floating population from the perspective of urban management, it is
useful to suggest corresponding management measures, such as “Floating population in China” (Wang 1996).

d. From the angel of urban planning, do the research on the present characteristics of population centers, the formation mechanism and its impact on urban development research, proposing appropriate transformation strategy.

e. Study the living construction from the angel of architecture.
3 Chapter: Life in Arrival Cities

3.1 Living situation of migrants in the urban context

3.1.1 Migrants’ settlement mode

Settlement patterns of migrants are related to their types of employment (or occupation), which can be divided into the following two categories:

a. Mixed mode

Some migrants may live in the mixed neighborhoods where people are from different social and economic levels. People who live in this settlement patterns are mostly employed in urban households or tertiary industry including the individual traders. Most of them are bachelordom or households. This part of the population shares a smaller proportion of migrants.

Migrants in the mixed mode can be sufficiently contacted with urban residents, and be influenced by urban culture in the process of interaction. They can be assimilated in all aspects of life such as habits, behavior and etc.

b. Collectivity mode

The mode includes the collectivity community organized by migrants spontaneously and the resettlement area organized by government. The collectivity living mode is aimed to the migrants who move into the old city center, the agricultural areas and the former agricultural areas in urban. (Tang 2013)

Some of neighborhood members come from the same hometown so that they have strong geo-characteristics or genetic characteristics, homogeneity and can make the special community sub-culture easily, such as Zhejiang Village of Beijing, Xinjiang town and Chinatown in many different countries.

3.1.2 Migrants’ housing source

a. Provided by enterprise

About half of the migrants live in dormitories provided by the enterprise (including normal housing units and the construction site), these areas often have poor living environment because even dozens of people live in one room
equipped the basic beds, public toilets and terrible lighting and ventilation condition. Migrants who are engaged in the secondary industry generally live in the factory with the noise, emissions and other pollution. Without the living facilities, the areas far away from the commercial centre can be said that the quality of living condition is quite low.

b. Rentable houses

Most of the migrants tend to rent individual houses by farmers, which are located in cities and urban-rural agricultural area or before agricultural areas. Migrants rental market is so large that local residents often break building standards stipulated by the government because of the economic interests, for example, expand the owners illegally, increase the density and floors of buildings. While lots of open space, greenery and even farmland are occupied, the residence has poor traffic and infrastructure conditions. Grim living quality of these places seriously affects the urban landscape and thus causes a series of social and security problems.

c. Urban residents’ houses

This is mainly because the family servant and relatives of urban residents, somehow involved in the urban life, that’s why their living conditions are better.

d. Build by themselves

In the urban corners or edges with weak management, some migrants use simple materials to build their own “houses”. Most of the people are busy with the farming business. The spatial distribution of illegal construction is always crowded, messy and poor quality. These illegal buildings affect the urban landscape and urban management, also become a breeding ground for crime and disease.

e. Build by government

Based on Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing, Guangzhou and other cities of the survey, we found that the source of the floating population housing is very limited.

f. Cheap hotels
Table 3.1 Limited housing sources of migrants in 4 major cities (Weiping Wu & Hansheng Wang 2002)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Beijing</th>
<th>Shanghai</th>
<th>Nanjing</th>
<th>Guangzhou</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provided by enterprise (Normal housing units)</td>
<td>39.6%</td>
<td>38.5%</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
<td>41.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provided by enterprise (Construction site)</td>
<td>21.4%</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td>27.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rentable houses</td>
<td>29.3%</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban residents’ houses</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotels</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>38.9%</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.1.3 Living space distribution

The spatial distribution characteristics in housing condition of migrants is because of its various way of migrants distribution, and by means of different migrants types, market economy level, the gap of consumption level and housing urbanization level. Coastal area in the eastern China is developed area, the population density there is high, and government enacts strictly in land management so that there is not much space for private house. (Liyue, Yu Zhu, Pengfei Liang & Baoyu Xiao, 2014) In addition, the migrants moving into eastern part mostly belong to low income groups, they cannot afford such a high price, for this reason they can only rent for living.

3.2 Method: Case study of centralized residence -- Zhejiang village in Beijing

3.2.1 Geography site

“Zhejiang village" refers to the settlement which is formed by business workers from Wenzhou to Beijing. It is neither natural villages nor
administrative villages. Areas are mainly distributed in dahongmen Fengtai District, Haidian District, Chaoyang and other suburban that can be interacted with each other.

Figure 3-1 the location of Zhejiang village and other migrant communities in Beijing (Florence, 2010)

3.2.2 Mixing of people

Mainly are from Wenzhou, 75% are from Yueqing town and 25% from Yongjia town. Most migrants have low education in common, 5% of them are high school degree, 13.5% are middle school degree and 10% are illiteracy.

3.2.3 Living condition

a. High density

In the past, Zhejiang Village covered 38.6 hectares and the volume ratio was about 2.2, which is quite a high level in density. It not only provided the living spaces for 110,000 migrants, but also took the economic functions (see Figure 3-2). Many migrants shared one room because of the limited space and the high rents. It is the common phenomenon for migrants to use only one kitchen and toilet in the same floor so that the sanitary condition is terrible. Otherwise, it was common for people to use the outside space for several reasons. (Yanchun Meng & Guangzhong Cao 1997) On one hand, due to the limited housing, migrants can only continue to use outer space and build
shanty in the courtyard. On the other hand, local farmers added the floors in order to attract more accommodating migrants and increase the rental income.

Figure 3-2 High-density living condition (Florence, 2010)

Figure 3-3 New construction of compound (Florence, 2010)

b. New construction of compound

Since the rents of Zhejiang village rose increasingly, local village committee began to build the compound for migrants due to the profits. For example, the compound of JinOu clothes, it covers 50 hectares, which can contain 5000 people and 1000 rooms. The buildings are arranged as the barracks, which are separated by the streets and alleys. They are similar with each other consisted of one-storey housing that are simple and lack of recognition. It is worth noting that the area has its own management agents who are in charge of daily affairs. After the establishment of the agency, the security situation improves considerably.
To some extent, the compound can be seen as the prototype of the resettlement area for migrants. On the one hand, the compound has high density and poor living conditions and it is easy to form isolation of groups from other neighborhoods by living in the separated compound. On the other hand, the relationships between migrants are strengthened under the care with each other and the demand of security sense.

c. The transition of inhabitation

In 1995, the government published a series of documents in order to control the inhabitation condition of migrants in Beijing, especially in the big colony like “Zhejiang village”. However, it did not work in a long time because the migrants would come back again when the government left. “In 1995, the local government regulated here and removed all the shed, but soon, people rebuilt all the shed, as well as some two-story houses rented for migrants by Zhejiang businessman.” One of the residents remembered the situation in 1995.

Recently, Beijing government decides to manage them thoroughly after several failed experiences. They removed all the old buildings and sheds that are called illegal constructions. Otherwise, the government appeals the local land agents to build new neighborhoods in the same area to replace the old districts. (Qiongying Li 2013) However, people have different opinions towards the governance. Some people move out of the village in advance since they consider that they should live in a better environment with the green space and supporting facilities. Some are not willing to leave because they believe that the area is their origin and homeland and they have so much memory of childhood or youth there.

Figure 3-4 The transition of inhabitation(Florence, 2010)
d. Work-store-living integration

This is the most common way for migrants who live in the "Zhejiang Village". While the space is used for living at night, it is also used as production and commercial area as well as the storage room in daylight. (Figure 3-5) In these years, Zhejiang village has become one of the most popular commercial areas in Beijing because so many business centres are being built here. (Xiaotian Xue 2011) In one hand, people who come from Wenzhou are adept in business and the system of production, transportation and distribution has been mature. On the other hand, the local government pays more attention and provides a lot of preferential policy for migrants. However, the integration of work-store-living style does not change and most migrants used to have the bedroom in their storefront.

![Figure 3-5 The transition of work places](Florence, 2010)

3.2.4 Characteristic of neighborhood

a. Self-regulation, self-service

“Zhejiang village” not only has its own markets, restaurants, clinic and kindergarten, but also has the service system of transportation and distribution. However, it lacks the complete management and planning system, most of the migrants consider it as a temporary shelter and are lack of the sense of belonging and identity.

b. Local social network

Migrants arrange the internal social network according to the relationships between them. It is the traditional market-oriented social networks for the village to remove, work, exchange information and cooperate with each other.
The area has been influenced by the culture of Wenzhou which means that the food, language and culture in “Zhejiang village” is assimilated by migrants.

3.2.5 Management of neighborhood

From 1985 to the end of 1991, the Beijing Municipal Government organized seven or eight times of clean-up cooperated with public security, industry and commerce, taxation, health and other administrative departments, which result the vicious circle of clean, scape, resurgence and clean again. This shows that the urbanization by the trend of economic benefits is unstoppable in common. Recently, the government takes measures to manage the problem again and most temporary housing and the illegal buildings are pulled down. The newest planning is to build the modern community and business buildings. However, whether the result of the management is successful needs to be proved in the future. Anyhow, the government should face up to this phenomenon; change the combat-based management of the floating population.

3.3 Analysis of the migration in the urban context

3.3.1 Lack of government attention

In 1982, the government published the policy that migrants can move into big cities so that the population in big cities rose increasingly and the urban became crowded. Recently, with the increasing economic development, the government seldom takes effective measures to prevent and solve the problem of migrants. Since 2003, several policies were published and the State Council issued the "State Council on solving the problem of migrant workers" in March 2006. What is more, in January 2010, the State Council promulgated the "Guiding Opinions of the General Office of the State Council on Further Improving the training of migrant workers work," and a series of policy related to migrant workers such as settlement in cities, payment of wages and medical insurance. Although the policy on the protection of migrant workers’ rights is a lot also, but when solving the problems of migrants’ housing, the relevant government departments just made some symbolic guidance which is not practical.
3.3.2 Lack of responsibility from employers

At the moment, there are few employers taking the initiative to resolve the accommodation problem for migrant workers. Few legal provision rules that the employer must provide accommodations for migrants who work in this company. In addition, more and more migrants move into big cities so that the market is in a state of oversupply, which makes the company pays less attention to the workers’ requirements.

3.3.3 Reasons of migrants

Because migrants are limited by their education and not aware of the laws, they do not realize that they can use laws to protect their profits. In addition, the low wages of migrants make them at low-income people for a long period of time so that it is difficult to buy houses in the city. They can only rent the house in poor conditions which is mostly function of the weak, low-rent areas, mainly in the old city and villages.

Migrants always go to their hometown in the Spring Festival and economic crisis. Low-income migrants are not able to afford the cost of their life so that they can only live between the city and suburban. According to the sixth national census in 2010, migrants take the middle and primary school education mostly. Only more than half of migrants have participated in some work training of simple skills, as well as some migrants have participated in short-term vocational training. Their expertise is not so high that it is difficult to have high wages and solve the problems of their living issues.

3.4 Suggestions

3.4.1 Develop the resettlement areas of migrants

The resettlement areas of migrants are part of the urban settlements, so it is inevitable to follow the general principles of planning and design of residential areas. However, the migrants are different from urban residents and have many different features, so that the planning design in the resettlement area is also different from the design of urban residential areas, mainly in the following areas:

a. The design of dwellings
The usage of resettlement area determines that the size for living is very limited. The residential dwelling size should be reasonable, which means that the per capita area should reach more that 8 square meters. The standard in designing public housing dwelling size is "small but fine." It is also significant to pay attention to separate the internal spaces according to their functions, avoid excessive traffic areas and improve the utilization of dwelling size.

According to the news in 2012, public housing in Beijing is divided into nine categories. Among them, the smallest units of construction area are less than 30 square meters, which are suitable for 1-2 people while 60% of the units are 40 square meters, which are suitable for 2-3 people. (Figure 3-6)

In figure 3-7, it is clear to show the design of the new public housing in Beijing. Walls will not separate the living spaces and residents can determine it. For example, it is convenient to divide the big room into different functional spaces by the television or bookcase. Every dwelling has its own balcony, which is between two to three square meters.

![Figure 3-6 New public housing in Beijing (Si Chen. 2012)](image)
In addition, in terms of housing design, it should follow the principle of simple and effective. We can use inexpensive coating in order to reduce the cost and ease of maintenance and renovation. For example, Singapore HDB, the buildings have the repair and painting on facades, corridors, roof, stairwells and other public places every five years. Emphasizing public participation, residents can change the colors and patterns so that the neighborhood is brand new every time and attract community residents more interesting and love for the environment.

Figure 3-7 the details of the public housing in Beijing (Si Chen. 2012)
b. The design of outdoor environment

Because of the small indoor environment, outdoor environment design is very important for the resettlement areas. Outdoor environment should be designed to benefit effectively from the user point of view, to create a natural-based environment which is also combined with economic and practical artificial facilities. In limited circumstances, we should maximize activity spaces for residents.

c. Improve the public service and facilities

Resettlement areas should have perfect service facilities and infrastructure, especially the education, health care and other facilities migrants in urgent need of. Resettlement areas require better public services and facilities to achieve "self-sufficiency" standard because of the urban-rural location.

3.4.2 Improve housing security policies of migrants

The government has published a lot of documents to solve the problem of migrants’ living conditions. In the December 5, 2007, the State Council promulgated the "Guiding Opinions on improving the living conditions of migrants" in order to alleviate the housing problems of migrants. To some degree, these documents stress the pressure of migrants and improve their basic requirements of life. However, it will take a long period to solve the problem totally. Currently, the social security system of migrants includes the employment injury insurance, the medical insurance, the endowment insurance and the compulsory education insurance of migrants’ children. It is a pity for the government not to set some laws on the living conditions of
migrants, the employers and the companies also. Even though there are a lot of policies on the low-rent housing and affordable housing, it is difficult for migrants to apply for these houses because one of the most important rules is that the applicants must live in cities for several years. Under the circumstances, it is urgent to bring the problem of migrants’ living conditions into consideration of laws.

### 3.4.3 Improve the professional skills of migrants

At present, one prominent issue in the employment of migrants in the city is that their professional skills are not high and they are not competitive in the labor market while a large number of migrants are blind to find a job lack of the information. As a result, the new form of employment comes out to help migrants and laid-off employees find suitable jobs. It means that the employers provide employment information for the local labor department, including the type of work, the number of salary and technical requirements. After the summary of these information, the labor department publishes the needs for export areas. Finally, according to the detailed requirements, the export areas organize migrants training and deliver to the employer on purpose. This approach is kind of a win-win model which allows employers achieve maximum social benefits.
4 Chapter:
Life in Rural Areas—The Case of Henan Province

4.1 Labor condition of migrants in the rural context

4.1.1 The transfer of labors at the planned economy period

Although not all employees are farmers in rural areas, compared with the huge amount of agricultural labors, the proportion of other rural workers is quite small and it will not affect the judgment in the transfer of labors.

According to Figure 4-1, before the reform and opening up, diversion population from agriculture has remained less than 15% of the total rural population (In 1958, 1959, 1960, it is a result of natural agriculture suffered three years disasters, as well as special social problems caused by individual phenomenon, not as the overall trend considerations). Due to institutional constraints, the rural population has been in relatively low condition.

![Figure 4-1](image)

Figure 4-1 From 1949 to 1978, the number of non-agricultural rural accounted for the proportion of the total number of employees in Henan Province(National Bureau of Statistics of the People's Republic of China)
4.1.2 The transfer of labors from planned economy to market economy period

After the reform and opening up, the flow of rural labors has become an irresistible trend. Henan is the most populated province, which has the large rural population and limited land resources. In the relatively liberal policies, the rapid outbreak of population happened in Henan Province. According to figure 4-2, from 1979 to 1983, after several years of development, with advances in agricultural science and technology, it is helpful to solve the problem of shortage of supply of agricultural products. Rural labors transfer from a single operator of farming to a diversified economy which accelerate into the secondary and tertiary industries. From 1984 to 1988, it is the best time to transfer the migrants. There is the retrogress of migrants in 1989 while the second climax period came in 1992. From 1992 to 2007, the government published some policies and migrants face the opportunities and challenge at the same time after China join in the WTO.

![Figure 4-2 From 1979 to 2007, the number of non-agricultural rural accounted for the proportion of the total number of employees in Henan Province](National Bureau of Statistics of the People's Republic of China)

4.2 Method: Survey of four villages in Henan Province

4.2.1 Gongyi

Gongyi is located in the midwest of Henan Province, which belongs to the hilly regions. It is a model of economic development in Henan Province, known as "the first county in the Central Plains." There are a lot of local enterprises and rural industries. In 1990, the rural industry revenues accounted for 82.6 percent of total rural income while it reached 90% in 2003. Rural
industry and township enterprises developed rapidly and the main source of income is dependent on industries and workers. The proportion of farm income in total income is small while it demands a lot of labors.

4.2.2 Linzhou

Linzhou is located in the northwest of Henan province, with a total population about 100 million. Due to its mountainous area, there is very less agricultural acreage, the condition of agricultural production is quite poor, and those make the export of labor service becomes one of the biggest source to Linzhou economics. The main income of local residents is mostly from migrants except some tourism income. In 1970s, a large number of craftsmen who were rich experienced left their hometown and began to work in construction field, which became more and more popular. In 1989, there were about 2500 construction teams with over 115 thousand migrants. In the early 1990s, Linzhou’s construction labor started to enter international market, export construction workers.

Nowadays, the construction workers of Linzhou city are all around China, and gain over a billion RMB every year. ‘Linzhou Construction’ has become one of the four famous brands in China. Henan province builds the organization of labor export management service in order to set up the base of construction labor export. In addition, government also establishes skills training center and technical school for migrants and students.

4.2.3 Lankao

Lankao County is located in eastern Henan Province, with a total population of 760,000, of which agricultural population is 660,000 and the rural surplus labors are nearly 250,000. Although the labor economy in Lankao started lately, it has the rapid development under the help of government.

In 2006, the output of county surplus labors is 16.8 million who earned back the funds of about 600 million RMB. At the same year, Lankao County set up a human resources development and training Center intergrated with training, management and coordination. Through the services of labor information, legal aid and insurance, it solves the problems of migrants in their hometown and guarantees the maximum rights and interests of them. Migrants are the main source of income in Lankao County. Workers are
mainly concentrated in the Yangtze River Delta, Pearl River Delta, Beijing, Zhengzhou and other places.

4.2.4 Gushi

Gushi County is in the southeast of Henan Province, which is the most populous county and population is 1.59 million in 2007. It is also the main labor-exporting area where the number of labor output is nearly 400,000 each year. While it exports massive labors, Gushi county migrants are also willing to return home to do business. In recent years, migrant returnees invested in over 300 projects with an annual turnover of over 20 million RMB, accounting for one third of the county's GDP.

Currently, successful people have returned home to do business that have a total investment of 3 billion RMB and open more than 1,000 enterprises of all types. Driven by the return of migrants, the urbanization in Gushi County is also rising. In 1996, urban area is 7.5 square kilometers and the population is only 60,000 while the urban area has reached 42 square kilometers and the population is more than 300,000 at present.
4.3 Analysis of the migration in the rural context

4.3.1 Economic differences between urban and rural areas

Growing income gap between urban and rural residents is one of the most important causes that farmers abandon agricultural production. Lewis considers that Whatever the reason is, the result of the expansion of urban-rural income gap will make people remove from rural to urban and the population of migrants will greatly exceeds the absorption capacity of the city. (1954) Overall, the income gap between urban and rural areas in Henan province shows a growing trend. At the same time, the corresponding proportion of the rural population is increasing.

Regional economic differences refer to the phenomenon of different per capita economic development among the regions of the country. Since the reform and opening up, China's eastern coastal region has made remarkable economic achievements, but the differences of economy between different areas became obviously increasingly. Henan Province is located inland so that the speed and extent of economic development started relatively slowly.

4.3.2 The positive impact on the rural areas

a. Increase Farmers' Income

The main reason that farmers move from rural to urban areas is to get more revenue that the most intuitive impact is the improvement of family income during the movement. The migration of rural surplus labors to non-agricultural areas, or to cities and developed areas not only eases the employment pressure in the local areas, but also change the original unused human resources into wealth and effectively increase the farmers' income.

b. Improve the quality of rural Human Capital

Most rural residents who move to urban areas are to have a higher income. The process of migration not only increases the individual's income, but also increases the personal work experience and study relevant information and skills, which itself is a human capital investment and accumulation process. Migrants with high human capital are generally more employable and competitive, while they will have more opportunities to get a higher income.

Migration cannot only improve their own quality and upgrade the existing level of human capital, but also may increase investment in human capital for
future generations. In pre-school education, a lot of young migrant parents are more willing to send their children to nursery school in advance. Migrants will also increase investment in higher education of their children.

4.3.3 The negative impact on the rural areas

a. Reduce land use efficiency

Migration improved agricultural labor productivity, however, due to the reduction of young labor in rural area, it also did some negative effects on utilization rate of arable land, mainly showed in following aspects.

First, it reduces the rural labor quality, and affects the development of rural land. Mostly, there are usually the elderly and children staying at home who are not well educated and do not have skills. They only want to be self-sufficiency so that the lands are not managed efficiently and some places even become the wasteland.

Second, after the rural migrants getting rich, they are able to build more houses in hometown which reduces the agricultural acreage. With the increase of migrants’ amount in Henan province, farmers get higher income and become rich. Although they have to live and work in urban areas, most of them will still go back to their hometown eventually so that some lands are occupied because they need more land for building own house, which causes more loss in cultivated land

b. Social security problems

Because most young rural labor was not at home, they left only the old and sick people, which gives criminals an opportunity to exploit and increases the difficulty of rural crime prevention and public management. At the same time it is not beneficial to manage the social security, crime prevention and social stability in the arrival cities.

4.4 Suggestions

4.4.1 Land reform

As the fundamental factor of agricultural economic development, the land has always been the life of Chinese farmers. If the land problem cannot be solved, it is difficult to solve the problems of rural migrants. Because the migrants lack the protection of policies in big cities, they are difficult to
survive there and can only choose to return to the countryside when they are old or sick. At that time, the land will become an important source of their income again. If the migrants can not find the right people to help them manage the land, they will not give up their right to contract for land, but plant casually and even make the land empty, which constitutes the land resources a great waste. We should keep contract relations between migrants and the existing lands. When farmers come into the city, they can sell and transfer the management rights of land. When farmers return home, they can recover the right to operate their own land. This is the future of migrants encountered at the city employment, pension and other problems. Reducing the cost of farmers, it is beneficial to the flow of rural surplus labors.

4.4.2 Implementation of rural reflux policy

Government should adjust policy measures to create a good environment of business development to attract more aspiring workers return home.

From the policy and institutional, local governments should actively seek innovation and breakthrough institutional, strengthen the service functions of market, technology, and information, striving to provide a variety of convenient services for returnees.

From the management system, we should reform the irrational urban household registration system, enable farmers engage in various business activities and reduce farmers' cost of doing business.

4.4.3 Improve the quality of rural population

The rural labor training is a public welfare, which meets the life and development of migrants first, basing on agriculture and long-term interests of rural area, accelerating the urbanization and industrialization process. Government should play the leading role to strengthen planning part and give financial support in training reformation. In addition, government should also develop technical education especially in primary and secondary education.

In rural area, education especially the skill training is the most important. This can make farmers not only have certain knowledge but also get hold of high level production skills. Government continues to strengthen agricultural technology, spreading these high and new methods on migrants by broadcast, TV and Internet so that they can apply these scientific knowledge to practice.
Chapter: Conclusion

5.1.1 Conclusion

In my thesis, the main research questions of the whole thesis is “How to solve the problem of migrants’ poor living condition in the Chinese urban context” and “How to promote the development of economy and achieve a revival of migration in the Chinese rural context”, which has been stated in Chapter one.

With the purpose to answer the questions, I study the conditions of migrants in the arrival cities and rural areas separately. In the research of the first question, the method of case study is used in chapter three. As a result, I have the following conclusions from three perspectives. First, renew the resettlement areas of migrants, such as the design of public housing, outdoor environment and public facilities. Secondly, it is urgent to publish some policies for migrants to guarantee their living rights in urban areas. Last but not least, the migrants’ selves should improve their professional skills in order to get more opportunities in the employment.

For the second question, it is beneficial for the thesis to use the method of survey in four villages in Henan Province. The four villages are in different conditions of migrants. Through the research and analysis, there are a lot of suggestions in the following. Firstly, the reform of the land in rural areas can give the migrants last insurance when they return hometown from the cities. What is more, the policies are quite significant for migrants that can attract more people return their hometown and develop local economic industries. Finally, the rural government should provide the training for migrants so that they can achieve enough competitiveness in the labor market.

5.1.2 Self-critical

A case study approach can mean that the research investigates a single phenomenon, instance, or example (the most common usage). (Gerring, 2004: 342)

1. Although the previous investigation has made a questionnaire on family status, living conditions, residential intension and social security situation,
it is only investigated in some small regions because of the limited ability so that the statistics may not be broadly representative.

2. Due to the sensibility of some data, there are several difficulties when inquiring relevant bureau. That may have the in authoritative source which leads to the inaccuracy.

3. The analysis on relevant area and design example are not sufficient, I hope to have chance to further improve in my future study and work.

Actually, the research on urban migrants has a wider coverage, which involves in the reformation of migrants household registration system, social security, employment institution, etc. Due to the limited space, it is not showed in this thesis.
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