

# **Herdsmen moving into cities: A survey on the employment of relocated residents of Junggar community in Toli County, Xinjiang for poverty alleviation**

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**Abstract:** *Junggar Community in Toli County, Xinjiang is the largest relocation poverty alleviation community in the county. It is adjacent to Karamay City. Most of the herdsmen in this community are employed in Karamay City. The article discusses two main issues: the career choices of herdsmen in relocation poverty alleviation communities in Junggar communities and the main factors affecting employment, and further analyzes the great significance of moving to cities and towns for Xinjiang's nomadic society.*

**Keywords:** *Xinjiang Toli; relocation and poverty alleviation; herdsmen; urbanization; employment*

## **1. Introduction**

The ZHUNGGAR community in Xinjiang County is a poor-relief community that is relocated to another Karamay. Its main body is the herdsmen of Kazakhs. From July to August 2018, we conducted a survey of occupational choices and influencing factors in the community. On the basis of the investigation materials, this paper makes a detailed anthropological description of the occupation types, income structure, the differences of occupational choices of the community residents and the factors influencing the occupational choices, the paper also makes a preliminary analysis on the problems and development trend of this group's employment.

## **2. Investigation background and purpose**

Tuoli County is located in the north of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, to the west of the Junggar Basin and to the southeast of the Tase Basin. Tuoli County is located in the north of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, to the west of the Junggar Basin and to the southeast of the Tase Basin. Tuoli County was listed as a poverty-stricken county with key support in 1986. It has been wearing the "poverty hat" for 30 years. In 2016, Tuoli County implemented a relocation project to help people live in a stable and prosperous environment, benefiting people of all ethnic groups, and it was officially lifted out of poverty in 2017.

Since 2016, the Tuoli County Government has implemented construction projects such as relocation and nomadic settlement in Junggar communities. Due to policy reasons, a large number of herdsmen left their original places of residence and moved to unified planned communities - small relocation poverty alleviation areas. Choosing this place as the destination for the relocation of herdsmen for poverty alleviation is based on the potential for future development of the area and the rich resources of Karamay City. Therefore, the local community and management personnel solved the employment problems of most residents through consultations with Karamay. At the same time, a series of career selection, employment and adaptability issues also emerged. Urbanization and economic development influence and interact with each other. On the one hand, it is the impact of the level of economic development on urbanization, which we call economic development or urbanization effect. On the other hand, there is the impact of urbanization level on village economic development, that is, the economic effect of urbanization.[1]

The relocation poverty alleviation community is part of the entire Junggar community. The Junggar community is located in the Tuoli Development Zone. Through construction, it has achieved small results. The infrastructure is increasingly improving and the transportation is relatively developed. It is

adjacent to the Kuiya Expressway, National Highway 211, and Jinzhun Avenue. The choice of this location for poverty alleviation and the residence of nomadic herders was based on the potential for future development of the area and the rich resources of Karamay City. The reason why urban suburbs are the best places to receive relocation and poverty alleviation development is mainly because their environment is better than that of farms and remote rural areas.<sup>[2]</sup> Therefore, the local community and management personnel solved the problems of employment and schooling for most residents through consultations with Karamay.

The life and adaptation issues of residents after relocating to cities are worthy of attention. In particular, the employment difficulties of settled herdsmen after entering cities, employment tendencies, and changes in the way of adaptation and upgrading have arisen. From an emic perspective, we explore the problems and reasons for the employment of herdsmen in the process of urbanization, and explore ways to solve these problems and promote the integration of this group into urban life.

### 3. Overview of Tianye Point

Tuoli County is located in the Tacheng area of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, in the broken mountainous area on the northwest edge of the Junggar Basin. It reaches Tacheng City in the east, Yumin County in the west, Wusu County in the south, the Republic of Kazakhstan in the southwest, and Emin County junction, with a total area of 21,300 square kilometers. The terrain of Tuoli County is high in the middle and low on the edges. It has a temperate continental semi-arid climate with cool summers and windy and snowy winters.

There is a Regal Hotel to the southeast of the resettled poverty alleviation community; Brothers Garment Factory provides garment sewing worker training to poor households in the relocated poverty alleviation community of Junggar Community and provides jobs after training; there is a logistics park to the southwest of the local poverty alleviation community; There is a water plant in the northwest of the local poverty alleviation community. The water plant was put into use in 2015, but a standardized mechanism has not yet been formed.

### 4. Crowd profile

The Junggar community's ex-situ poverty alleviation community is a poverty alleviation project in Tuoli County. The poor herdsmen have a 70-square-meter two-bedroom and one-living house in the ex-situ poverty alleviation community and have the right to use the house. The residents of the community are all poor households.

*Table 1 Source of residents in Junggar community*

source	Number of people (people)
Akberidou Township	1
Dolat Township	1
Karamay	1
Kufu Township	18
Miaoergou Town	1
Tiechanggou Town	7
Torrey Town	2
Wuxuete Township	122

As shown in Table 1, It can be seen that the largest number of residents are from Wuxue Township. Before the establishment of the relocation poverty alleviation community, the Wuxue Township Migrant Population Management Station was established. This was mainly due to the large number of people from Wuxue Township working in Karamay and the development zone. In order to An organization established to facilitate management, the Wuxuete Township Migrant Population Management Station is still being established.

After traditional herdsmen entered cities and towns, their livelihoods changed. During the change process, individuals continued to adapt. Mr. Zhao Junchen has also studied this issue and gained a lot from it. In the book "Relocation and Development for Poverty Alleviation - Case Analysis and Research in Yunnan Province, China"<sup>[3]</sup> edited by Mr. Zhao Junchen, the relocated poor farmers became

urban industrial workers, which describes in detail the poverty alleviation and development of poor farmers due to relocation. The changes that occurred due to the project were analyzed, the main factors were analyzed, and the successful experiences were summarized. Luo Yi also did research on the migration of people in poor areas in his book "The Lost Prairie: History, Society and Ecology of a Prairie Community"<sup>[4]</sup>, but these two gentlemen described it from a broad perspective Migration of people, and this article focuses on the adaptability issues that migration brings to the population. It mainly discusses the changes in the livelihood patterns of the migrating people, the social problems it brings, and various countermeasures.

## 5. Occupational status of residents Overview

The vast majority of residents in the relocated poverty alleviation communities are Kazakhs. Some were engaged in agriculture and animal husbandry before moving to the Junggar community, and some have worked in cities and towns for many years. Ninety-nine percent of the residents in the community are Kazakhs. These Kazakhs are generally divided into two categories. One is those who have been working in the cities and towns for a long time before moving here, and the other is those who have been engaged in agriculture and animal husbandry in pastoral areas. , this part of the Kazakhs who have never lived in towns and later came to towns due to the poverty alleviation and relocation policy. The boundaries between these two types of people are relatively obvious and are reflected in many aspects. For example, in terms of their employment tendencies, people with long-term working experience in cities and towns are more likely to choose to find jobs in Karamay city because they have worked in Karamay or other towns before and know what the general salary levels are. On the other hand, these two types of people also have different occupational requirements, such as salary level, working environment, professional status, etc. People who have worked in cities and towns before have higher job requirements, while those who have less experience in urban life People who do not have such high requirements for their jobs.

The employment situation of residents in relocated poverty alleviation communities is relatively complicated. First of all, in terms of work content, there are more people doing odd jobs, fewer people with stable jobs, and a larger proportion of people without jobs. Secondly, among those who have jobs, there are many jobs such as porters, security guards, cleaners, and waiters. In terms of occupational scope, most people work in Karamay, and a small number work in Tuoli Development Zone. The working places are within the range that they can travel to and from every day.

The occupational characteristics of the residents in the relocated poverty alleviation communities are relatively obvious, and the differences between men and women are obvious. In addition to the physiological factors of men and women, it is also because it is very common for women to take care of children at home. According to the survey, there are many nuclear families in the community, which requires women to take care of the children at home, or to work but take care of the family. Therefore, the number of men working is much higher than that of women. However, women in the community have a strong desire to work. Women with young children want to work after their children go to school. Women in families with children already in school want to find a job that allows them to pick up their children during working hours.

The employment tendencies of residents in relocation poverty alleviation communities can be roughly divided into five categories: easy, stable, high income, free working hours, and whether there are development opportunities. Among them, the most people choose stability, followed closely by ease and high income.

The factors that affect the employment of residents are divided into two aspects: subjective factors and objective factors, the subjective factors are: the level of the national common language, educational background, vocational skills, social network and living habits of residents. The objective factors are mainly the low level of economic development in the neighborhood of this community, less employment opportunities, low wage levels. According to the community staff, the community is still under construction, and many things have not been perfected, and there are few employment opportunities. Therefore, the employment problem of the newly-moved residents in the community is a thorny problem, after the community workers communicated with the enterprises around the community, they provided some jobs to the residents who did not have jobs in the community, but the wages were relatively low, mainly because it's in the middle of Tory County and the Karamay, and it's not doing so well economically. At present, the residents are undergoing a change in their lives. This change brings them vitality, but it also inevitably brings contradictions and problems.

## 6. Factors affecting employment

It is a great challenge for the residents and community workers to find jobs in the relocation of the residents in the poverty-relief community. For the residents of the community, the employment problem is mainly manifested in three aspects: low employment rate, unstable work and low wage level; for the government staff, in the work of improving the employment situation of the residents of the community, the difficulties faced include the serious shortage of community workers, the lack of a clear division of labour among institutions, the fact that most residents of the community do not have employment skills and the need to organize training for the residents of the community, and the lack of adequate facilities around the community, there are fewer job opportunities and so on. There are three kinds of factors that affect the residents of Zhungeer community, one is the reasons of the residents themselves, the other is the imperfect construction of the government and the unclear division of labor among the organizations, the third is the social and environmental factors, such as discrimination, the floating population brings inconvenience to the employment.

First, from the point of view of the residents themselves: first, a considerable part of the residents have just moved here, and some of the residents have working experience, residents with work experience have formed new social networks in cities and towns where they can introduce each other to work.

Secondly, the education level of relocated poverty-relief areas is generally low, the education level also limits the employment of residents, affecting the employment of residents. According to the survey, most of the interviewees did not continue to study because of the bad family situation or because their parents were sick and had to take care of their parents. Among them, the situation of their families was not good. Apart from simply living on herding animals, a large part of them could not afford the education expenses of so many children because there were too many children at home. It was difficult for parents to raise so many children, and even more so, they could not afford the education expenses of so many children, so instead of going to school, they choose to farm at home, work outside or get married when they reach a certain age.

Third, because there is no work skills, skills, and the thinking mode of the residents of the community is relatively backward. As a result of long-term nomadic society, easy to meet, think that food can be, such thinking patterns and habits also prevent them from looking for work. Herdsmen, who have lived on their own for a long time in the mountains, grazing or farming, are now moving to Karamay and settling in the cities. They need to work to earn money, but they can not stick to it, not willing to work too hard to make money "Have this meal can, do not want to do the next meal" this concept of employment and living habits hindered their development. In the course of the survey, when asked what they should do when they can not make ends meet, residents of the community calmly replied, "If you have money, spend it; if you have more money, spend more; if you have less money, spend less.". From this kind of consumption concept, one can also see how the residents of the community view money. They will use as much as they can, so they will not want to earn more money. In this way, they can live a better life. Instead, they will think about how much money they can earn today, today, how much money to spend, which has also affected the occupation choice of residents, there are many residents because the wages of odd jobs is a daily knot and to choose odd jobs.

## 7. Conclusion

In this relocation poverty alleviation project, the government's supporting measures have been improved, which not only allows the herdsmen to live in the city, but also allows them to take root in the city. Assistance targets are very active in vocational skills training and learning of the national common language, which is very conducive to the group's integration into the city. This is one of the indispensable factors in the process of the group's smooth integration into the city. For Xinjiang herdsmen, entering cities has greatly improved their quality of life and happiness index, and will also promote the social and cultural transformation of herdsmen. This is both an opportunity and a challenge. The opportunity is to move from poverty to a moderately prosperous society, while the challenge is the adaptability issues brought about by changes in livelihood patterns. From the perspective of the immigrant group, the process of integrating into the place of migration is also difficult. Therefore, difficulties in employment require efforts from all aspects, including government assistance, active integration, and acceptance among people. The "rooting" problem of poor herdsmen is complex and dynamic, and only active, scientific, and multi-faceted responses are the way out. It is undeniable that the development of poverty alleviation targets through relocation and the adaptability issues arising

during the relocation process still require more in-depth exploration and research.

### References

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