

Acculturation of the Second-Generation of Labor Migrants in the Process of New Urbanization in China

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Abstract: *The acculturation of second-generation labor migrants has become a problem faced by urbanization in China. Cultural adaptation is divided into three stages: cultural aspiration period, cultural shock period, and cultural change and integration period, and the problems faced by cultural adaptation are different for different stages. The cultural adaptation of the second-generation labor force is related to the subject's cultural level and objective living environment, and the three main factors affecting cultural adaptation are labor status, subject's psychology and cultural environment. By creating youth-friendly cities to improve the labor environment, realizing the dialectical unity of establishing common values and respecting multiculturalism, and promoting the construction of primary psychological medical care, the cultural adaptation of second-generation labor migrants is dramatically improved.*

Keywords: *New Urbanization; Second-generation Workforce; Acculturation*

1. Introduction

Entering the 21st century, in the context of new urbanization, while the ability of Chinese labor migrants to understand and transform the world has increased significantly, traditional values have been greatly challenged. Along with the emergence of the environmental crisis, the issue of cultural territoriality has regained attention. In a convergent spatial and temporal environment, cultural values often maintain a plausible relationship with the region, and people in different regions feel similar living contexts, so that the traditional and diverse regional cultures are separated from the "validity of presence".^[1] This paper aims to analyze the cultural adaptation of the new generation of labor migrants from philosophical, sociological and psychological perspectives in order to provide a new perspective on the principles of urbanization in China.

2. Research Background

Since the 1980s, with the implementation of the reform and opening up policy and the establishment of the market economic system, the process of China's modernization and urbanization has been accelerated, resulting in a large number of rural surplus labor force began to flow into the city, and there appeared the first generation of Chinese labor migration group, namely the "off-farm workers" group with Chinese characteristics. Since entering the new era (2016—present), the construction of new urbanization has become the focus of China's modernization. New urbanization not only includes the urbanization of people's identity, occupation, residence, living style and public service, but also includes people's integration and adjustment of urban life and social culture, as well as people's identification and sense of belonging to the town. In other words, the fundamental concern of new urbanization should be the modernization of farmers' culture and psychology. At the same time, the first generation of labor migrants have been updated and withdrawn from the labor market, known as the second generation of labor migrants, that is, new generation of off-farm workers have gradually become the main body of the labor market. The biggest difference with the first generation of labor migrants is that they are not only satisfied with the purpose of survival, but also hope to integrate into the city. They are eager to get rid of the discriminatory "off-farm workers". Due to the different growth environment and education, these two generations of "off-farm workers" have different social identity and life expectations, which leads to their different personal preferences and different behavior decisions. Some scholars point out that "unlike the older generation of migrant workers, the new generation of migrant workers have convergent growth experiences with their urban peers and are more concerned about their health and

psychological needs.^[2] At present, the integration of urban life, social identity, cultural and psychological structure adjustment and other aspects of the new generation of labor migrants pose challenges to the current system and policy, and become the problems that must be solved and urgently need to be solved in the process of China's urbanization. Therefore, the migration of the second generation of labor migrants and its cultural adaptation are faced with frontier and realistic challenges.

3. Problems and causes of acculturation of second-generation labor migrants

In 2021, the total mobile population in China will be 244 million, among which the proportion of new generation mobile population born after 1980 has exceeded 60%. Compared with the first generation labor force, the new generation population shows obvious adaptability and higher willingness to integrate into urban society, but there are still many problems.

3.1. Stages and problems of acculturation of the second-generation workforce

The second-generation workforce faces different problems at different stages of acculturation.

First, the cultural orientation period. The cultural longing period is the first stage of cultural adaptation and lasts for a relatively short period of time, just like the newlyweds who travel on their honeymoon and feel new and excited about everything around them.^[3] The new generation of laborers is the inevitable product of China's urbanization and modernization process. Driven by the desire for a better life, they flow into the more developed cities for social work, and social existence determines social consciousness. Faced with the cultural differences from their original environment, the new generation workers are more excited and happy, and they prefer the urban cultural atmosphere among the rural culture and urban culture.

Second, the culture shock period: Culture shock is the second stage of cultural adaptation, in this stage individuals start their actual life in the new environment and also slowly experience the differences between the new culture and the mother culture. The first is the impact of lifestyle. Although their household registration is in the countryside, they are not familiar with agriculture, the countryside, the land, and farmers. Due to various restrictions and institutional barriers, they are hindered in the process of integration into the city: household registration; poor living conditions, most of them live in low-cost housing; low education and culture level compared with city people; loss of contact with their peers in their hometowns, and difficulty in communicating with local people, unable to return to their hometowns, unable to integrate into the city, and in a dilemma, torn between "citizen" and "farmer". They are torn between the status of "citizen" and "farmer"; they are engaged in dirty, tiring, low-paid and stressful jobs. Income and housing become the main difficulties for them to settle in the city. The second is the impact of psychological adaptation. The pressure of work and survival makes the new generation of migrant workers anxious, and the lack of dignity, unwarranted prejudice, discrimination and insults make them feel inferior and discouraged. In order to maintain superficial prosperity and stability, Chinese government and enterprise management ignore migrant workers' rights and do not extend a helping hand when they need protection, which leads to the epidemic of new generation migrant workers' sufferings and the intensification of social inequality, and the psychological crisis is not channeled in time and eventually collapses.

Third, cultural change and integration period: cultural change is the third stage of cultural adaptation and the longest stage in the process of cultural adaptation. In this stage, individuals become aware of the new environment, accept some new values, and integrate into the new cultural background. However, there is still the issue of "degree of adaptation", and there is a deep intrinsic connection between cultural adaptation and labor rights of the migrant population. Culture itself is produced by labor, and is transmitted and exchanged in labor. The cultural adaptation of labor migrants ultimately comes down to the labor itself.

3.2. Factors influencing acculturation of second-generation labor migrants

The cultural adaptation of second-generation labor migrants is related to the subject's cultural level and objective living environment. In the questionnaire survey, China Human Resources Development Network found that there are four main reasons for the psychological problems of second-generation labor migrants: occupational pressure and job burnout, interpersonal relationship anxiety, psychological shock of unexpected events, and psychological crisis of personal life. Some people attribute them to: the unequal economic benefits and unfair resource allocation caused by the dual structure between urban and

rural areas make second-generation labor migrants feel deprived and generate pessimism; discrimination by urban residents makes them inferior and dissatisfied; they lack the spirit of hardship and endurance and psychological tolerance of their fathers. The tense social environment, indifferent interpersonal atmosphere, excessive corporate requirements and inhumane management are the external factors leading to the psychological crisis of the second generation labor migrants, while their own psychological quality is the internal factor. The exogenous and endogenous factors influence each other, restrain each other and work together to form a powerful synergy, making the second generation labor migrants anxious and unable to extricate themselves.

First, the labor environment and labor conditions of the second generation labor migrants are the fundamental factors affecting their cultural adaptation. The fundamental purpose of mobility is labor employment. Unlike the first generation labor mobility, most of the second generation labor migrants are not completely isolated from the city during their education, so in terms of cultural identity, the second generation labor migrants identify more with the city culture than the first generation labor. However, the identification during the education process is special and one-sided, and the reality of alienated labor makes all objectified cognition and sensation alienated, to which Marx has depicted that "man becomes objective to himself, and at the same time, to be precise, becomes alien and inhuman. His expression of life is the externalization of his life, his actualization is his unreality, the reality of alienation." [4] The labor conditions of the second generation of labor migrants are worrisome and further lead to inadequate living conditions. Life needs such as clothing, food, housing, transportation, friendship and marriage are not met, and basic human rights are not guaranteed, not to mention cultural adaptation and integration.

Second, the second generation labor migrants' own cultural and psychological level is the main factor affecting their cultural adaptation. Although many second-generation labor migrants graduated from higher education institutions, the strong labor pressure after entering urban work makes their spare time life lacking and they have no time to care about the continuous improvement of spiritual culture, which leads to cultural shock and lack of knowledge. In addition to cultural factors, psychological factors make the cultural adaptation distinctly individual differences. Second-generation labor migrants come to the city with colorful youthful dreams to achieve self-transcendence and create social wealth, but the city is not ready to accept them, and they are marginalized and have no sense of belonging. According to the report titled "China National Mental Health Development Report (2019-2020)" released by the Institute of Psychology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, young people aged 18 to 34 are the most anxious group among adults. 2020, the depression detection rate of China's youth is 24.6%, among which there is bound to be no shortage of second-generation labor migrants.

Third, the diverse composition of second-generation labor migrants is a direct cause of their cultural adaptation. China is a multi-ethnic and multi-regional country with a large population. The coexistence of multiple cultures is an indisputable objective fact in today's society, and any ethnic group has to interact with other ethnic groups in various forms, including reciprocity, conflict, and tolerance. But no matter what the relationship is, cultural pluralism will continue, and the adaptation of cultures to coexisting cultures will not be holistic and reciprocal, but only at certain points of integration. At these points, there are both give and take; there is both tolerance and demand. Whether a balance can be reached in the end requires a consensus among the adaptation parties. As individualistic tendencies rise due to the market economy, reciprocal cultural exchanges become less and less frequent, while internal discrimination and ridicule increase. Some studies show that second-generation labor migrants have more psychological conflicts than "traditional migrant workers, reflected in a sense of inferiority, closed interactions, lack of belonging, and immature self-defense mechanisms." Cultural adaptation is a multi-directional process, while second-generation labor migrants are adapting to urban life in one direction, and it is difficult to encounter the "taste of home"

4. Solutions to Enhance Acculturation of Second-Generation Labor Migrants

Acquaintance society relies more on emotions to sustain development, while stranger society relies more on contracts to bind each other. This actually reflects two different cultural patterns. The former is a rural acquaintance culture based on emotion; the latter is a modern rational culture based on contract. How can the second generation of labor migrants make a smooth transition from the rural acquaintance culture to the modern rational culture?

4.1. Creating a culture-friendly youth city and safeguarding the labor rights of mobile workers

Youth cities are important social environments that guarantee the realization of youth rights and

promote youth development. As far as the existing policy texts are concerned, the youth development policies of some cities only focus on a small number of top talents and neglect the majority of ordinary youths; they emphasize on grabbing people ""attracting people"" and neglect "nurturing people"". Nurturing people". In addition to policy and treatment to retain people, we also need culture to retain people, paying attention to the spiritual and cultural interaction between the city and people. It is necessary to take policy services as the main direction and important point of force to provide the most fundamental and effective services for youth development. Precisely focus on the common concerns of youth employment services, entrepreneurial environment, housing security, education and health and other key areas, the real policy dividends to the youth. For example, Shandong Province continues to run a good talent attraction docking activities, the first half of the province to attract 1.1 million young talent, ahead of schedule to complete the two-year goal of gathering a million college students. Jinan City clearly "youth station" for graduates to provide free accommodation and comprehensive services. These initiatives are conducive to realistically improving the labor environment for second-generation labor migrants. In addition, we will continue to meet the diversified, multi-level and multi-faceted spiritual and cultural needs of talents; advocate the city spirit of mutual respect and tolerance, and embody the city culture of "everyone can become a talent"; focus on promoting common material and spiritual prosperity, and promote the innovative development of the city's cultural contents, cultural forms, cultural carriers and cultural systems.

4.2. Gathering hearts and minds with common values and respecting the mutual integration and appreciation of multiple cultures

After more than 30 years of reform and opening up, China's economic and social development and social undertakings have made tremendous achievements today, while in the transition period to the socialist market economy system, the diversity of values has increased and the mutual impact has been strengthened, and this impact serves to show that national consciousness, civic consciousness, public consciousness and legal consciousness are weak and easily influenced by extreme ideas and separatist thoughts, and also in personal life It also manifests itself in the distortion of value orientation, materialism, money worship and utilitarianism, and in the over-valuing of self-worth without regard to the needs of social development and social responsibility. Zhu Kaojin (2003) found that working conditions, income and security have an impact on migrant workers' emotions and living space, and they lack a sense of belonging although they have integrated certain modern concepts. ^[5] Therefore, it is necessary to lead the pluralistic concept of the second generation of labor migrants, to lead the regulation of various social trends with Marxism, to establish common values, and to promote the construction of values for harmonious social development. Cultural pluralism inevitably requires categorization and "differentiation". The second generation of labor migrants have different growth experiences and development characteristics, and their needs and paths are also different. It is necessary to fully consider the actual situation of each place, focus on the policy according to the people and groups, reflect the advantages and characteristics, and not to make a "one-size-fits-all" approach. In the cultural adaptation to reflect the needs of young people, in the cultural integration of youth factors.

4.3. Promote the construction of the psychological medical system at the grassroots level, and provide timely guidance and intervention

China's modernization is fast and its achievements are high, but the fast growth has put great pressure on the new generation of labor force to adapt to the simultaneous development of society, coupled with the large difference in living environment between generations, which has caused the psychological problems of the new generation of labor force to be difficult to solve in the family. The report of the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China states, "We should strengthen and improve ideological and political work, focus on humanistic care and psychological guidance, and cultivate a self-respecting, confident, rational and calm, positive social mentality." Humanistic care focuses on meeting people's multi-level and multi-faceted feelings and needs psychological guidance focuses on solving people's psychological barriers. The two complement each other and are supplementary, seeing both things and God. To solve people's practical problems and ideological problems organic unity, both education, guidance, inspiration, but also respect, understanding and care for people. The current reform of China's primary health care system needs to adhere to the principle of government control as the mainstay, supplemented by the market. The main contradiction of China's medical and health system is the lack of public welfare and the problem of "difficult to see" and "expensive to see", the second generation of labor migrants are already busy with work, tired of life, have the time and financial resources to carry out psychological treatment few and far between, so enterprises should also Therefore,

enterprises should also gradually promote mental health work and regularize psychological positions according to the proportion of staff.

5. Conclusions

Urban adaptation is a progressive adaptation at the economic, social, cultural, and psychological levels, starting with occupation, moving to the integration of lifestyle and social status, and finally to the assimilation of values. Second-generation labor migrants' adaptation in the economic and social dimensions, which are materially oriented, generally increases gradually over time, but cultural and psychological adaptation may gradually decrease over time, and the more culture they accept, the more opposed they become to traditional concepts and the more serious their psychological barriers become. The cultural adaptation of second-generation labor migrants differs in gender, age, education, marriage, family members, geographical and ethnic characteristics, and their social relationship reconfiguration affects the flow of resources and personal gains within the network, mostly based on the principle of rational tools. Therefore, it is necessary to adhere to the principles of improving the labor environment, focusing on precise policies, and strengthening basic protection to avoid the trend of polarization between second-generation labor migrants and citizens in terms of social identity and operation, and to walk out of the new urbanization path with Chinese characteristics.

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