

An Overview of the Interests and Thoughts of the Rural Left Behind Group in China

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Abstract

Since 1980s, China’s shifting labor force has become the backbone of urban and rural social economic development, however, the urban and rural economic and social structure makes the hundred million rural migrant workers live both at urban and rural areas, and therefore creates a huge rural left behind group and the problems of this group has caused wide public concern. This article reviews and summarizes the relevant literature about the rural left behind the group at home and abroad. Through studying the background, quantity scale of the problems of rural left behind group, this article comes the research on this problem and puts forward the practical countermeasures and therefore, it is of important reference value.

Key words: Left behind group; Number; Countermeasures

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INTRODUCTION

With the rapid advance of industrialization, urbanization and agricultural modernization, the gap between urban

and rural areas in China is widening. To get more family income and enjoy a better quality of public services, a large number of young and middle-aged labor in rural areas flow to the city. It is in such a social context, the rural left behind the group gradually emerges. In today’s increasingly serious phenomenon of family hollowness, the problem of the rural left behind the group is increasingly becoming a prominent problem that restricts the development of rural areas for a long time.

Since 1990s, with the economic development of our country, urban employment opportunities gradually increased, the rural economic development lags behind the city, which makes rural labor force shift to the city on a large scale. However, due to the limited economic strength and the fact that urban and rural dual structure and system has not been completely broken and other reasons, farmers are unable to migrate in the form of the whole family. Therefore, at the time when the rural labor force moves into the city, they form a special rural left behind groups: Rural left behind children, rural left behind women and rural left behind elderly. According to the State Planning Commission “China population development report 2013”, China’s floating population in 2012 was 236 million, of which more than half are the new generation and the average age is 28 years old and married rate is 66.4%. The departure of such a large number of young and middle aged rural labor force directly leads to the formation of a large number of left behind population. Accumulation of Left behind children’s insufficient custody, the insufficient security of the left behind old people and the heavy burden of the left behind women will inevitably become hidden danger to the social stability and social justice. Analysis of the living conditions of the rural left behind group, concern about the group’s state of thoughts, the interests of the demands of the group and the interests of the channels of expression so as to come up with solutions to the problem becomes necessary.

1. LEFT BEHIND CHILDREN, LEFT BEHIND WOMEN, LEFT BEHIND OLD PEOPLE HAVE DIFFERENT INTEREST DEMANDS

1.1 The Research on Left Behind Children

The interest demands of the left behind children focus on lack of guardianship, family education, mental health and the lack of law. There are a variety of opinions on this issue. The main points of view are listed as the following. Susie Spense points out that as the parents go out, the role played by the grandparents becomes the guide. The emotional interaction between grandparents and grandchildren becomes more important and continues to influence the development of children's psychology; we should establish the system of information communication between the school and the parents of the left behind children in school as soon as possible and discuss the diversified support method for the left behind children. If Left behind children can not get the care of their parents in the growth process directly, the health of their growth may be affected negatively; the safety problem of the left behind children in rural areas is reflected in two aspects. One is to be hurt by another person. The other is out of control, embark on the road of crime and even commit suicide and thus endangers their personal safety and life; After both parents go out to work, the life of the left behind children is in a special form due to the changes in the form of guardianship. The main manifestation is: The weak monitoring, the unrest monitoring, the "backward" monitoring and "dynamic" and the dynamic left behind and so on; rural left behind girls are more vulnerable than left behind boys. Left behind girls' consciousness of education is relatively weak and they have big mental health problems. Most of the rural left behind girls do not have the knowledge of self-protection and scientific knowledge of physical health, so their risk of being violated is relatively large; The government as the main body should make clear of the rural parents duty in custody and education of the left behind children in rural areas. The government should revise and improve the Juvenile Protection Act and enhance the effectiveness of the law.

1.2 Study on the Interest Demands of the Left Behind Women

The interest demands of the left behind women mainly manifests as the problems of responsibility and power, poverty, physical and mental pressure, safety and public affairs. It is pointed out that the main business of agriculture is not that women are dominant in agriculture, and the power is still in the hands of men. Under the dual pressures of production responsibility and life responsibility, left behind women in rural areas are consumed a lot of practice and energy, which limits their

development space, and then affects their physical and mental health. Left behind women's leisure activities after work is also very monotonous and tasteless and lack of spirit. The left behind women are faced with tremendous pressure of life and psychological pressure, but they have no one to talk to. They lack of male's care. On the one hand, they are worried that their husbands will abandon them and on the other hand, they are also worried that their husbands are suspicious of them. This kind of pressure produces a variety of psychological problems for them, but they have no normal way to release the pressure. So this is in fact the lack of human nature.

In the process of new rural construction, owing to the absence of men, left behind women are pushed to the forefront of the construction. Through experiencing the new role, they begin to change their original self perception gradually and begin to recognize their own self-worth and social value. Research reveals that left behind women can not lead a normal husband and wife life because of the separation, and they are ashamed to speak it out, which is the direct reason that leads to the emotional confusion of the left behind women. In daily life the sense of security of the Left behind women is far lower than that of the non-left-behind women. It's not just the risk of being stolen. Bad weather, the old man's body being sick, the children being sick and other emergency incidents are enough to bring them a strong sense of insecurity. They are easier to become the object of being bullied and harassed. In this case, some left behind women turn to religion for comfort and sustenance. For the absence of the husband in the home, the economic decision-making power of the left behind women in the home has also increased, and they have more power than before. The feminization of agricultural production has caused many problems such as the heavy burden and too much labor intensity of the left behind women. After the husbands left their wives behind to go out to work, the proportion of the left behind women's participation in the village's public affairs is higher than before the husband goes out. At the same time between the election of the village elite and providing public products, left behind women show more concern for the latter.

1.3 Study on the Interest Demands of the Left Behind Elderly

There are great differences between Chinese and western cultures. In the western culture, the emphasis is put on the children's independence. The children and the elderly generally do not live together. So there is no such saying as "left behind children". In our country's research on left behind old people, old people's interests demands are mainly expressed as such problems as inadequate economic support, life care, emotional comfort and lack of pension security system. Rural labor transfer to cities to seek employment has become a common phenomenon in rural society of China. Although rural children go out

to work has increased the rate of the economic support for the elderly in rural areas, raising children, heavy household chores and farm work tend to make the old people tired, and increase their physical and mental burden. The main caregivers of the daily life of the rural elderly are their children. Thus children's going out makes the left behind elderly in rural life become people who are not taken care of. Having no money to see a doctor and having no person to accompany them has become the most difficult thing in life for rural left behind elderly. Children going out to work will increase family income, improve family economic conditions, so children going out to work will not affect the family pension. The changes in the structure of the labor force, the change of the living distance has weakened the function of the family's pension directly and indirectly, resulting in the reduction of the intergenerational support, especially the emotional support. The government's long-term investment in rural old-age security is not enough and the current social relief is mainly limited to the basic life support, the coverage is small and the protection level is at a low level. Some of the left behind the elderly who have children are isolated outside the system of five guarantees.

2. OVERVIEW ABOUT THE EXISTING PROBLEMS OF THE LEFT BEHIND GROUP AND ITS SOCIAL IMPACT

Firstly, the current research results are mainly concerned with the description of the phenomenon and analysis of the causes about the education and mental health of the left behind children, the psychological pressure and the life pressure of the left behind women, the pension demands of the left behind elderly and the lack of social care for the left behind elderly. The analysis of the content is lack of dynamic tracking and case depth investigation, therefore, such research lacks research depth.

Secondly, the interests demands of the left behind group are simplified to the interests of the inner family in many studies and the external demands are ignored. For example, personal interest demands of the left behind children are represented by the family. The image of the left behind the group is still limited to the phenomenon of lack of awareness. But silence doesn't mean no sound. Under the background of building a harmonious society, the research on how to help the left behind group to make their voices, to achieve more effective discourse expression and then affect the public agenda is almost blank in the past, which is also the most important Lack of research.

Thirdly, the countermeasures about the current living conditions of the left behind group are mostly ignoring the exploration of the individual advantage, and lack the concept of "helping people to help themselves". The coping strategies are focused on government and social

support and the operability and effectiveness is to be discussed in the field of practice.

According to the relevant research and analysis, the difficulties and problems faced by the left behind group are not only related to a specific family, but have a profound impact on the entire regional economic and social coordinated development, coordinated development of urban and rural areas, building a new rural area, building a harmonious society and a harmonious society. First, such difficulties and problems have a profound impact on rural family stability and social peace. That family members can not get together for a long time, that the old people can not meet the children for a long time, that young children can only be reunited with their parents in the time of celebrating New Year's Eve, each year only with reunion, that family members neglect communication with each other will inevitably makes the members of a family be weak in emotion, even lead to the strangeness between left behind children and their parents and the communication between them is difficult. Support disputes will occur between the left behind old people and the children. Long term separation of the husband and the left behind women will lead to the cracks of feelings between them and bring about the disintegration of marriage and family. These have a strong impact on the traditional rural family structure, which has a strong shock on the harmony and stability of rural families. Secondly, the whole process of the new rural construction is also affected. A large number of young and middle-aged labor flow to urban areas. Those who leave behind in rural areas are mainly the elderly as the main body. This will bring the following consequences: The quality of agricultural population is low and agricultural science and technology promotion lack human support; the desire of the farmers to accept the modern production technology and knowledge is not high; Rural areas not only lack labor but also lack scientific and technological driving force; agricultural development capacity is a serious shortage; the relatively slow process of rural civilization has become more prominent, thus affecting the process of building new rural areas as a whole. In the long run, the sustainable development of the rural areas will also be affected. At the same time, the increase of the left behind the group will also have an impact on the healthy growth of young people. Investigation shows that due to the rural left behind children lack of affection, lack of care, coupled with the advanced age of the left behind elderly and generational custody being not effective, it is easy to make teenagers follow their own inclination. Their life has no rules and their personality gets distorted. Many children are not interested in learning, some of them are addicted to Internet cafes, falling in love, gang fights, quarrels, and even do things stealthily. The survey finds that there exist different kinds of problems in the left behind children in general. If they encounter unexpected events, they will feel helpless and their initiative to face and deal with

such problems is at a low level. Concerning the above mentioned problems, from the angle of constructing a well-off society comprehensively and accelerating the construction of new socialist countryside, it is compulsory to take active and effective measures to deal with or show concern for the problems.

CONCLUSION

Because the three groups of children, women and the elderly in the left behind the group have their own characteristics, their demands are also different. Left behind women's pursuit focuses on the relationship between two sexes and family pressure. Left behind children's demands focus on the education and family. Left behind elderly people's demands focus on the care of the elderly. Therefore, making analysis about the problems by dividing them into sub-groups can better make a description of the situation and characteristics of each group. Therefore, the focus of this paper is to understand deeply the existing problems of the interest demands, to explore the difficulties and challenges, and express the interests of the left behind groups through the objective

description of the survival status and ideological status of the left behind groups. To explore, to improve the living conditions of the left behind groups, and to explore the mechanism of effective expression of the interests of the left behind groups. The countermeasures and suggestions to improve the living conditions of the left behind the group will be put forward on the basis of this and the mechanism of the effective expression of the interest demands of the left the behind group will be discussed.

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