

Research on China's Rural Population Migration and its Countermeasures

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Abstract

Rural population migration is an important phenomenon in the process of China's modernization development. With the trend of urbanization and modernization, the loss of rural population in China has intensified, and many rural areas have the characteristics of "hollowing out" and "aging." In 2017, the proposal for the Rural Revitalization Strategy also attracted a large number of rural people to return. First, this article analyzes the basic situation of rural population loss and the causes of population loss, and finds that it can make the age structure of rural areas imbalance and restrict the development of rural agricultural modernization. Then, by analyzing the current situation and reasons of rural population return, it is found new technologies in cities can be introduced to provide more employment for the rural population. Finally, it is recommended that the region alleviate the loss of rural population through financial support from government departments, improve the living standards of rural residents, optimize talent introduction, and build a modern agricultural industry system, and attract more rural people return.

Keywords

Population movement, Population loss, Population return.

1. Introduction

With the development of urbanization and the continuous improvement of the level of industrialization, each city has successively introduced a promotion mechanism for the civilization of the agricultural transfer population to provide living security for the rural population who have flowed into the city. Driven by this, the rural population continues to gather in cities, and the outflow of a large number of young and middle-aged people in rural areas has caused many rural areas to begin to exhibit the characteristics of "hollowing out" and "aging." The 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China proposed the Rural Revitalization Strategy, which has become a driving force for the modernization of agriculture and rural areas. At the same time, it has also brought the issue of rural population migration to the public's attention. The key to rural rejuvenation lies in "people". People are an important force to promote the development of rural agricultural modernization. Only by retaining the rural residents and guiding the return of the rural population, can we provide sufficient intellectual and labor resources for tasks such as improving infrastructure construction and adjusting the industrial structure in rural areas, and guide the rural areas to move closer to modernization, thereby improving the overall level of urban development.

In the context of the two-way development of the dual policy of urbanization and rural revitalization, how to reduce the loss of rural population and guide the return of population has become a hot issue of concern to all sectors of society. Pei Yanping (2014) took Shaanxi Province as an example, and based on the analysis of labor flow trends, she proposed that rural labor flows have negative impacts on the diffusion of new technologies in outflow areas, lack of

family education for left-behind children, and aging of rural cadres [1]; Li Yang (2015) proposed to use knowledge and technology to drive the economic development of the new countryside, so as to achieve the most ideal industrial development [2]; Ren Liyao (2018) analyzed the causes of rural brain drain from the perspective of Maslow's hierarchy of needs, mainly due to insufficient supply of survival needs, safety needs, social needs, and respect for needs [3]; In the context of Supply-side Structural Reform, Geng Jijing (2019) proposed that the implementation of the strategy of strengthening agriculture with talents is not only an important support for agricultural modernization, but also an important guarantee for agricultural scientific and technological innovation [4]; Zhuo You and Huang Xiaowen (2020) pointed out that the problem of rural human resources development limits the development of rural industrialization and modernization, and suggested that rural human resources should be innovated by increasing investment in rural human resources development, improving education and training models, and optimizing rural development environment Development path [5].

The rural revitalization strategy puts forward a new opportunity for rural development, and solving the problem of rural population loss and promoting the return of rural population has become the primary task of rural development. The large population loss is difficult to meet the development of rural economy, it brings huge hidden dangers to rural modernization construction and sustainable development of agriculture, and hinders the development of rural revitalization strategies. Therefore, the author starts from the population flow, explores the specific situation and development trend of rural population loss and return, and makes suggestions for rural population flow.

2. Analysis of Rural Population Migration

2.1. Basic Situation of Rural Population Loss

At the current stage of urbanization, the gathering of rural talents into cities is still the trend of social development today. Relevant data from the China Bureau of Statistics shows that from 2010 to 2018, the number of rural populations in China has declined year by year, from 67.13 million in 2010 to 56.401 million in 2018, a decrease of about 16%. The proportion of the rural population in the country's total population has also shown a declining trend, which has dropped from 50.05% in 2010 to 40.42% in 2018. From this we can see that China has always had a relatively serious rural population loss.

The loss of rural population has also taken away a large amount of labor, and labor is also converging from rural to urban areas. According to the data, from 2010 to 2018, the number of rural employees decreased year by year, and the proportion of rural employment in the total number of employees also showed a downward trend. In 2010, the number of rural employees was 41,418. By 2018, the number of rural employees had decreased to 34.167 million, accounting for 44.04% of the total number of employees, a decrease of 10.38% compared to 2011.

In recent years, the loss of rural population and labor in China is shown in Figure 1.

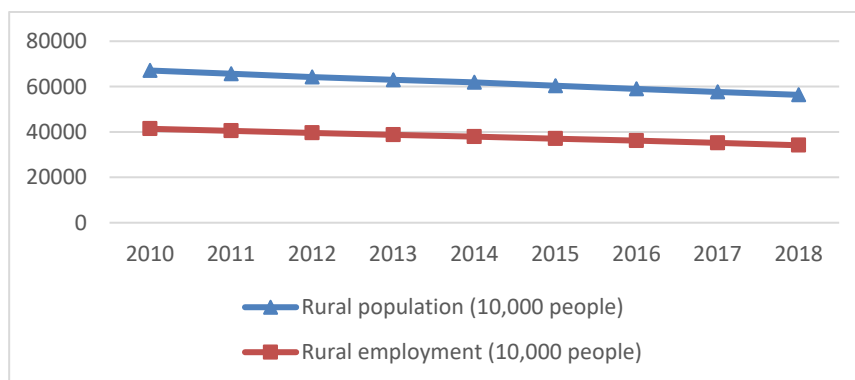


Fig. 1 China's rural population and labor loss in 2010-2018

2.2. Reasons for Rural Population Loss

(1) Social concepts are deeply ingrained. The drain of rural talents has an important impact on their ideology. The idea that the city is better than the countryside has become a generally accepted concept. The traditional concept believes that the city symbolizes a higher status, and living and working in the city is something worth showing off. The city can not only provide it with better development opportunities. At the same time, and it can create more economic benefits for it, the purpose of going out to study is to escape from poor rural areas and enjoy rich cities, and returning to rural areas is regarded as a manifestation of incompetence. Driven by herd mentality and ideas, more and more people choose to leave the countryside and go to the city. Moreover, in today's society, it is generally believed that farmers are at the bottom of society, that rural life is difficult to satisfy people's longing for an ideal life, and that rural jobs and working environments are not attractive to talents. The development of urbanization has brought greater benefits to cities. People are more inclined to work and live in cities. Farmers, returning home to start businesses, and going to the countryside are difficult to get the favor of high-quality talents.

(2) There is a large gap between urban and rural infrastructure. At present, China has formed a situation of "crowded cities and weak rural areas". The main reason for this situation is that the development of the rural economy is singular and backward compared with the cities. Rural public utilities and public living service facilities have a large gap compared with cities. Poor environment and limited development space force more and more talents to choose to move to cities. Compared with rural areas, cities can indeed provide a satisfactory development environment for people in terms of infrastructure construction. Cities are places where industries gather, and the transformation and upgrading of cities cannot be separated from the promotion of industries, and the rapid development of industries cannot be separated from the improvement of urban transportation systems. The agglomerated industry is precisely the main reason for the flow of talents. Its demand for science and technology and innovation has a large number of highly educated and high-quality talents moving to cities, providing them with more employment opportunities, and thus guaranteeing urban residents' living income. In addition, the population's choice to move to the city is also due to the city's better cultural atmosphere and green environment, and its social welfare level can also meet the needs of people's daily life and development.

(3) Intensity of policy support. The city's infrastructure construction provides basic guarantees for urban influx. The "National New Urbanization Plan (2014-2020)" states that it is necessary to promote the citizenization of agricultural transfer population in an orderly manner and improve the development mechanism of urbanization. In order to improve their competitiveness, cities have implemented the "settlement war" to compete for talent. In 2019, under the guidance of the central government's accelerated backwardness policy, major cities will relax the backward talents policy and grant corresponding subsidies for house purchases,

which will accelerate the speed of rural population migration to the city. In terms of rural development, there are relatively few policies to support the development of the rural population, and they have been introduced relatively late. The rural area has not given enough publicity to people's return to their hometowns. There are many people who do not know enough about the return policies of the local rural population, and have always maintained a wait-and-see attitude. In addition, rural areas do not have enough support for returning to their hometowns, and their attraction to people is not enough. Compared with the level of welfare and support in cities, talents are more willing to choose urban employment and life.

(4) Insufficient development of rural industries. Most of the rural industries are mainly concentrated in the primary and secondary industries, and they all use agriculture as the core industry. The industrial proportion is unequal and the structure is irrational. Its overall development is lagging behind, and it is difficult to generate huge economic benefits to promote the development of the rural economy. At the same time, rural agriculture is mostly an initial agriculture that does not require technical content. The added value of agricultural products is low, and a more systematic production, packaging, and supply chain of agricultural products has not yet been formed. It cannot provide suitable positions and development opportunities for high-quality and knowledgeable talents. The lack of attractiveness of talent makes it difficult for people to realize their own value in the countryside.

2.3. Impact of Rural Population Loss

(1) Age structure disorder. The majority of the rural population is young and middle-aged, which leads to the imbalance of the age structure in rural areas. Rural development gradually shows the characteristics of aging women and children, which in turn leads to barren farmland and a decline in food production that supports residents' daily lives. The rural areas, mainly the elderly, women and children, are unable to maintain their own development in terms of production or innovation. In the long run, this will continue to widen the gap between urban and rural areas, resulting in an uncoordinated economic development in the region. Not only is it difficult to rejuvenate the region, but its urbanization will also be affected.

(2) Limit the development of rural agricultural modernization. In addition, among the population lost in rural areas, knowledge-based talents with a medium to high education level account for a large proportion. The loss of rural knowledge-based talents has played a certain role in hindering the development of rural agricultural modernization. The lack of specialized knowledge and talents in rural areas limits the introduction and dissemination of production skills and professional technologies. The current level of education in the rural population is low, it is difficult to quickly learn and master new technologies, and it is difficult to spread production skills and professional technologies in rural areas. The development of rural agriculture and related industries is slow. Lack of science and technology and innovation in rural areas will limit the development of modern agricultural development in rural areas.

3. Analysis of Rural Population Backflow

3.1. Basic Situation of Rural Population Return

In recent years, the proposal of the rural revitalization strategy and the integrated development of urban and rural areas have made the rural population and the number of employees have been declining, but the situation of the return of talents has been improved. Form of employment. From 2010 to 2018, affected by the population loss, the year-on-year growth rate of the rural population was negative. However, during this period, it fluctuated. In addition to the obvious downward trend in 2014, it has increased in various degrees every year. The year-on-year growth rate of the rural population increased from -2.65% in 2010 to -2.19%. An increase of about 0.46%. This shows that although there is a loss of rural population, the

returning population is also increasing year by year, which can effectively alleviate this situation. Specifically shown in Figure 2.

The enthusiasm for returning to and starting a business in the countryside, while driving back the rural population, has also introduced new human resources to the countryside. According to data, in 2018, 7.8 million people returned to rural areas for entrepreneurship and innovation, including 5.4 million migrant workers and 2.4 million others. In terms of age and education, the people going to and from the countryside are mainly knowledgeable and skilled young and middle-aged people. Their average age is 45 years old, and 40% of them have a high school or college education. The overall return of rural population has shown a good trend.

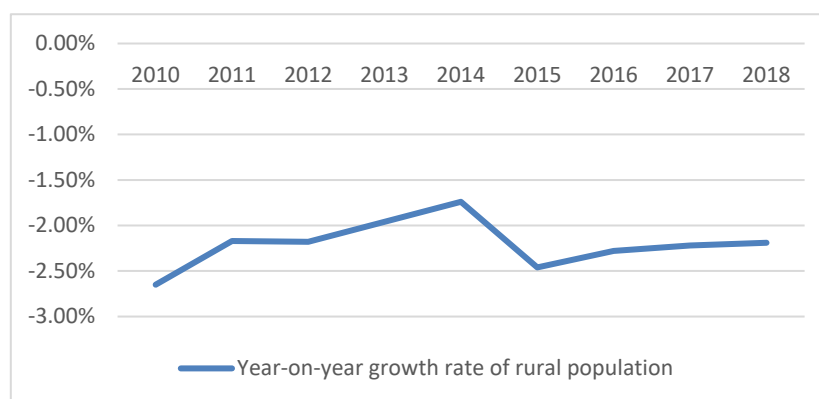


Fig. 2 Year-on-year growth rate of China's rural population in 2010-2018

3.2. Reasons for the Return of Rural Population

(1) Support of related policies. The rural revitalization strategy proposed in 2017 illustrates the importance of the issues of agriculture, rural areas, and farmers in the development of the national economy. Solving their problems is the top priority of the party's work. To revitalize the countryside, we must first revitalize talent. In order to retain talents and attract talents, the state and local government departments have successively introduced a number of measures and policies to strengthen the farmers, benefit farmers, and grow rich farmers, to optimize the rural environment, improve welfare levels, and reduce the conditions for applying for loans to small, medium and micro enterprises, to provide living security and welfare subsidies to returning talents, and help those who return to the countryside to solve their living and financial difficulties. With the support of the rural revitalization strategy, with the guidance and guidance of financial funds, talents from all walks of life have gradually begun to join the ranks of entrepreneurship in the countryside and returning home, setting off a new round of entrepreneurship boom.

(2) The development trend of urban-rural integration. With the establishment and improvement of the urban-rural integration development mechanism, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of people going to and from the countryside for employment. Among the returning rural population, most are skilled, experienced and knowledge-based populations. They can integrate the "local" and "enter the city" methods under the trend of urban and rural integration and use new entrepreneurial methods drive urban and rural development. The urban-rural integration development mechanism has activated the vitality of rural development, and its basic public services have also made positive progress in terms of institutions to meet residents' requirements for the living environment. In addition, cities drive rural development, which not only improves transportation and road problems between the city and the countryside, and can satisfy people's freedom of movement between the city and the countryside; but also the development model and development concept of the countryside

continue to move closer to the city. Political functions and economic, ecological, social, and cultural values are increasingly apparent.

(3) There is little pressure on rural competition. The higher the degree of development of a city, the faster its pace of life. At the current stage of the continuous development of urbanization and modernization, each city has entered a period of accelerated development. Fast pace and high consumption have become the main tone of urban life, but it has not brought high income to workers of all levels. As far as the current working class is concerned, it is difficult to buy their own houses in cities based on their own wages, and the cost of education and medical care in the city is too high, and the city has a difficult situation of employment, schooling and medical treatment. Compared with the survival problems of cities, rural areas can better alleviate the living pressure of residents and provide them with living security. The living environment in rural areas is constantly improving, and the problem of road hardening has been effectively solved to meet the requirements of rural residents for living environment. Moreover, the price of housing in rural areas is low and the available space is large. Entrepreneurs and employees can make full use of this advantage to set up businesses and obtain new livelihood opportunities, which not only avoids the living competition pressure in urban life, but also drives rural industries Rapid development and increase the level of rural economic development.

3.3. Impact of Rural Population Backflow

(1) Introducing new technologies from cities. The returning rural population includes professional, knowledge, and technical talents who will return to the countryside to bring new and advanced urban knowledge to the countryside and provide knowledge and technical support for the development of rural industries. The countryside can take this opportunity to increase the investment and development of the tertiary industry while developing the primary and secondary industries, and establish and improve a more systematic rural industrial system as soon as possible. Based on the use of its own resources, knowledge and skills to promote the development of rural agriculture in the direction of modernization and digitalization, while promoting industrial development, stimulate new vitality in rural areas.

(2) Provide more jobs. The tide of entrepreneurship going to the countryside and returning to the countryside has attracted many talents to return to the countryside, use existing resources and advantages in the countryside to start businesses, and promote the integration and development of the three major rural industries. There is a mutually reinforcing relationship between labor resources and rural industries. The rise of small and medium-sized enterprises and the development of industries require the support of a large number of labor resources. It can not only attract more rural people to return to the countryside, and participate in the boom of rural entrepreneurship. In addition, it also provides new job opportunities and jobs to the residents and poor people who have the ability to work in the rural areas, so as to increase the income level of rural residents and improve poverty in rural areas.

4. Countermeasures to Promote Reasonable Flow of Rural Population

4.1. Government Department Financial Support

Government departments should play a leading and promoting role in the process of rural revitalization. With the implementation of the strategy of rural revitalization as the main line, they must do their best to ensure financial services and improve the status of agriculture and rural areas in fiscal expenditure. It is necessary to establish and improve a stable financial investment mechanism, increase financial support for agriculture and rural areas, and promote the continuous tilt of fiscal funds in the area of rural revitalization. At the same time, a demonstration area for rural revitalization was established to stimulate the vitality of rural

development, and a support policy to encourage talents to go to the countryside was introduced to attract more talents to return while alleviating the loss of rural population.

4.2. Improving the Living Standards of Rural Residents

The level of rural residents' living standards is one of the key issues that affects whether the residents live in the area for a long time to survive and live. By providing rural residents with housing security, preferential treatment for medical treatment, medical treatment, and endowment insurance, the residents' welfare level is improved to achieve the equivalent quality of life for urban and rural residents, ensuring that they can enjoy the same level of welfare in the rural areas as in the cities; It is necessary to speed up the improvement of rural infrastructure construction, improve rural wastewater utilization, reduce rural biogas emissions, and provide residents with a good living and living environment to retain the population and reduce rural population loss.

4.3. Optimize Talent Introduction Methods

We must continue to improve agricultural and rural talent support policies, increase encouragement and support for talents returning to the countryside, and provide support for returning talents in terms of funds, infrastructure, and daily life to ensure that rural and returning talents can obtain and The equal benefits and treatment of urban talents. In addition, the rural areas should strengthen cooperation with universities, establish a dynamic information management system for talents, and provide more practical places for college talents to attract more talents to work in rural revitalization, so that they can use professional knowledge to provide targeted technology to rural areas. And knowledge support, and play a role in retaining talent.

4.4. Building a Modern Agricultural Industry System

Rural areas use existing conditions to accelerate the construction of a modern agricultural industrial system [7]. The rural areas exert their own industrial advantages and use the advantageous industries to win more development opportunities for the rural areas, so as to increase the publicity of the rural population return policy, and provide new employment opportunities for the permanent residents in the rural areas to avoid their flow to the cities. It is also necessary to continuously optimize the rural industrial structure, accelerate the formation of a more systematic agricultural production, manufacturing, and supply chain, and use agriculture to promote the development of other related industries. While exerting the value of agricultural products and improving agricultural performance, provide more professional counterparts for talents employment position. At the same time, we must also focus on optimizing the agricultural production environment, forming an industrial service organization to provide services to rural talents, and to meet the needs of rural talents as much as possible.

5. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the causes and current situation of rural population migration, it can be seen that under the background of the dual development of urbanization and rural revitalization policies, there is still a significant population loss in rural China. The number of rural population and its proportion are positive. It shows a decreasing trend year by year. However, the rural revitalization policy has provided new development opportunities and jobs for the rural population, the situation of the return of the population has improved, and the number of talents involved in returning to the countryside for entrepreneurship is also increasing. To accelerate the return of rural population, reduce the loss of rural population, and improve rural competitiveness, the government must continue to strengthen support for the

return of population. The rural area must also proceed from its own advantages, while avoiding the loss of population, attract and drive more return of population. China's population return is developing into a new type of employment trend.

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