

Study on Children's Education Problem of the Urban Floating People

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Abstract: With the rapid development of China's social economy, the urbanization process has achieved distinctive increment since the reform and opening up. A large number of urban floating people emerge in the society. The education problem of their children, which will not only concern the research of educational equality in our country, but also have a far-reaching impact on constructing a harmonious society, is paid great attention by the government. Thus solving the education problem of the urban floating people has no time to delay. Based on the children's education status of urban floating people and the survey data, this paper raises some sophisticated and feasible strategies.

Keywords: urban floating population; children of urban floating people; education

1. Scoping of urban floating population

The scoping of urban floating population is in favor of the deep research towards the children's education problem. All circles scholars put forward different expression form towards the definition of urban floating population. Wang Bingrui mentions in his *On the Impact Factors of Educational Aid towards the Children of urban floating people* that "urban floating population, mainly indicates the people who temporarily live in the urban administrative jurisdiction area without census register of this area and gain source of incomes in various ways, is the product of China's household registration system". [1] In addition, Zhuang Furong defines floating population as that "floating population means the people who are engaged in various activities after leaving the registered permanent residence or the people living in inflow place has no local household register". [2] Mr. Wei Jinsheng makes a penetrating analysis on defining the concept and scope of China's urban floating population. He points out that mobility status should and must be researched after specifying according to a certain geographic coverage and time range as needed instead of being integrally and generally researched. Based on this, the concept of China's urban floating population is explicitly defined as that China's urban floating population refers to those people who leave the village, town and street where the permanent residence is located to the current residence without change their permanent residences in household registrations, and the temporary urban resident population who are from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan and abroad. The problems coupled with the urban floating population must be various problems of migrant children, such as the life, health and education. The migrant children raised in this paper refer to those school-age children coming to inflow place when they are 6 to 14 years old (or 7 to 15 years old) and at the stage of compulsory

education.

2. The current situation of migrant children

2.1. The quantity and scope of migrant children

Children of urban floating people, a vulnerable group emerged due to the rapid increment of urban floating population, is the main part of migrant children. The parents work in the cities while the children have nobody to take care of. So the parents have to bring their children to the cities where they are working. At present, the quantity of migrant children can be only generally reckoned for there is still no accurate measurement standard for the data about the quantity and scope of migrant children in cities. Based on the record of 5th national population census, it can be reckoned that China's total floating population includes about 102297890 people, among which the migrant children under 14 years old are about 14096842, accounting for 13.78% of the total floating population. Wei Jianguo, general secretary of CCIEE (China International Centre for Economic and Technical Exchanges), once said, "it is indicated in the related research report that there would be more than 0.24 billion floating people among the newly increased 0.35 billion city population till 2025". It is conceivable that this would be a zillion, coupled with substantial increment of the migrant children. Therefore, the attention towards the children of urban floating population will be raised to a new stage.

2.2. Current education of migrant children

The children of urban floating people (also named migrant children) researched in this paper means those children who are at the stage of compulsory education. They are the flowers of our motherland, the future of our

motherland. They are also the framers and successors of our nation. The education level of migrant children is directly related to the overall quantity of our whole nation and the construction of harmonious socialist society. Although migrant children are in a special condition, which has a certain discrepancy with the living environment, learning conditions, and family atmosphere and economic conditions where the non-migrant children possess, the education of migrant children is still a problem which can not be ignored by all sectors of the community.

2.2.1 The enrollment methods of the children of urban floating people

- Study at urban council schools on a temporary basis. It is stipulated in The Compulsory-education Implementing Detailed Rules of PRC that “the school-age children and teenagers who accept compulsory education in non-registered permanent residence can apply for studying at the local schools on a temporary basis according to the relevant regulations of local government after approved by the county-level education department and village-level people’s government in the registered permanent residence. The schools in residence place collecting a certain amount of temporary schooling fee from the transient student gives the poor floating family a cold shoulder. After the adjustment of national education policy, all the schools across the country cannot collect temporary schooling fee, book fee and miscellaneous fee at the latest day of January 1st, 2009. For a certain extent, the adjustment of policy remits the financial burden of children’s education afforded by the floating families. But there are still some recessive drawbacks, for example, the floating children’s embarrassment identity of transient student, the prejudice of teachers and the difficulties of integrating into the class.
- Only a very few children study in the private schools. Private schools provide a convenient way of education for the migrant children. For the floating families with high income, private schools effectively solve the children’s education problem; while for the floating incomes with low income, the high fees shut the door upon the face of a large proportion of migrant children. The phenomenon that migrant children study in private school mainly appears in the more developed cities because the floating families there own a certain economic strength.
- A part of children study in schools for migrant children. Owing to the cheap schooling fee of schools for migrant children, a part of floating

families send their children there. In spite that the migrant children are guaranteed to go to school, the education qualities need to be discussed in-depth. The majority of the schools for migrant children are lack of necessary teaching facilities. The irregular teaching, non-standard teachers and backward upgrading of teaching material and the discrepancy with national school-running requirements will definitely hold up the future development of migrant children.

2.2.2 The children of urban floating people going to school are overage.

As shown in the survey result of children’s enrollment of China’s urban floating people, “the children’s dropout rate, which has arrived 9.3%, of urban floating people is relative higher. There are about 46.9% of the 6 years old children cannot timely go to school. The situation that overage children go to school is quite serious. Almost 20% children of 9 years old are still in Grade 1 and 2. The children who are still studying in primary schools with the age of 13 and 14 are accounting for 31% and 10% of the migrant children with corresponding age. Among the children of urban floating people who are deprived of education with the age between 12 and 14, there are 60% of them have started to work without getting nine-year compulsory education.” [3]

3. The prominent problems and reasons in the children’s education of urban floating people

3.1 Serious out-of-school situations caused by barrier of census register

China’s modern household registration system is the legal system that the country can pursuant to the law to collect, confirm and register the citizen’s birth, death and kinship and legal address and other essential information. Also, it is a population management pattern setting individual person as the basic unit in order to protect the rights of citizens in the aspects of employment, education and social welfare. Household registration system, which is not only bad for the urbanism of agricultural population but also expresses extreme inequality in the children’s education in the market economy orientation, is the product of planed economy. The majority of the children of urban floating people are defined as rural residence when they are born. No matter they live and study in any urban places with their parents, they are treated as peasants. This leads to the predicament of entering school of migrant children in their living place. Due to the non-local registered permanent residence, the local schools may collect some temporary schooling fee and other fees to a certain extent, making the poor float-

ing families harder to afford. Moreover, the education level of urban floating parents is relative lower. They pay a few attentions to entering school, thinking that it is unnecessary for the children to go to school. The idea of the useless of study still lies in the dominant position. Therefore, the number of children who can not go to school is still far from being satisfactory. And the children of urban floating people who haven't finished nine-year compulsory education and have dropped out from school.

3.2 The psychological problems of migrant children are making something prominent.

The children's world should be innocent and pure. They should live a carefree type of life without a single worry. The experience in childhood, which is the basis of formation of values and outlook on life, influences greatly to their whole life. However, the migrant children are often looked upon by other students during the school period. Because of the different living habits and weak learning basis, and speaking with a strong accent, their young hearts are seriously wounded. The open-minded children may correctly treat the problems though communicating with the classmates for a long period time and integrating the new environment while the introverted children choose to escape and keep silent. As time passes, the repressed emotion with no place to vent leads to mental illness. As shown in the questionnaires of teachers, the majority of teachers think that the psychological diathesis of children of urban floating people is relative low. They are more reserved and careful (28.77%), more sensitive (28.77%), and more dejected (21.23%) while the open-minded and enthusiasm children only accounts for 11.23%. [4]

3.3 Underachieved studying

The migrant children usually appear strenuous in studying for the differences of each school in education and teaching resources and teaching methods. Unsteady living places and unacquainted studying environment make the migrant children become disinterested in learning. Day after day they become hard to concentrate on studying. According to the data, migrant children (57.55%) are more difficult in studying compared with the non-migrant children. They hold the non-serious and attitude (31.13%) and use the incorrect learning methods (24.06%) while undertake heavier learning pressure (6.60%). [5]

4. The countermeasure of solving the children's education problem of the urban floating people

The author thinks that solving the children's education

problem of the urban floating people can not only rely on the one-sided strength. The strength of the country, the school and the parents should be tightly united to makes the optimum effect to solve the children's education problem of the urban floating people.

4.1 National Policy

The government's intensifying the efforts in implementing and carrying out nine-year compulsory education is the basic safeguard of solving the children's education problem of the urban floating people. Compulsory education, also named national education, is "called free education". The government has the responsibilities to provide various conditions and opportunities for the children's entrance to school and make the national children enjoy the equal education rights. Aiming at migrant children, the government should not only focus on the settings of policy but also consider about the financial problem of floating families. In the year of 2008, China issues the policy to the children's education problem of urban floating people, indicating that "appropriate full public funds to the public schools which accept the children of migrant workers and also, arrange a special fund to reward those provinces which better solve the compulsory education problem of migrant children". [6] The government must enhance the propagandizing of compulsory education to promote the implementing of national laws and regulations.

4.2 Teachers

The schools must undertake the responsibilities of compulsory education. The words of deeds of teachers directly influence the children's opinion towards the ways of dealing with people and the problems. The teachers should pay more attention to the studying, lives and psychological status of migrant children and get in touch with their parents as soon as possible in case that the migrant children have psychological problems due to solitude. The classes should hold various interacting activities to make the local children know more about migrant children and let the migrant children integrating into the new classes better by bridging the gap. All these can make them completely devoted into the studying.

4.3 Transform the education idea of the parents

The parents are the legal guardians of underage children. The parents' idea directly influences the future and development orientation of the children. Nowadays, the market economy is developing highly and money-oriented concept dominants the parents' pursuit towards money. What's more, influenced by some negative news, some parents firmly believe that going to school is useless. The schools should hold education fair at regular

intervals, letting the parents learn to education the children with correct methods and let the parent realize that the knowledge can change the fate.

Conclusion: The children's education problem of urban floating people is quite urgent. When urban floating population is contributing to national economy, the education and life problems of their children should be attached great importance to. Let's unite the power of all sectors of the community and let the urban migrant children enjoy happy life and education and have a great future.

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