

Impact of Population Migration on the Sustainable Development of Joseonjok People in China

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Abstract: The Joseonjok (Koreans in China or Chaoxianzu, the same below) people are one of the more populous minority groups in China, with a large proportion of their migrant population. Population migration can improve the economic situation of individuals and families, but it can also have a negative impact on the sustainable development of the Joseonjok people. This paper uses the population mobility survey data of Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture in Jilin Province to analyze the characteristics of its non-migrant, internal migrant and cross-border migrant populations. The results show that gender, age, marriage and work are the main factors influencing the mobility of the Joseonjok population. The government should make more reasonable ethnic policies according to the needs of the Joseonjok people in accordance with local conditions, promote the economic development of Joseonjok settlements, and maintain social stability in border areas.

Keywords: Joseonjok, Population Migration, Sustainable Development

1. Introduction

According to China Statistical Yearbook 2021 [1], The Joseonjok population in China is one of the largest ethnic minorities in China, with a population of about 1.83 million in 2010, decreasing to about 1.7 million by 2021. Due to the feature of internationalism of the Joseonjok people and the specialty of their geographical location, their population migration has some unique characteristics that other ethnic minorities do not have.

The migrant population of Joseonjok accounts for a very high proportion of the total population, and the phenomenon of cross-border mobility is very common. According to the 6th national population census, 440,700 Joseonjok people have separated from their families and 317,800 people have left the country, accounting for 24.07% and 17.36% of the total respectively.

The income earned by Joseonjok people working abroad has provided strong support for the economic development of the Joseonjok settlements in China, but at the same time, it has created many problems. The negative growth of the Joseonjok population in China has worsened year by year due to the massive population outflow, and people in the minority areas of Northeast China are facing an unprecedented aging population crisis. In addition, problems such as empty-nesters, left-behind children and backward social governance mechanisms are also becoming more and more serious. All these problems have affected the sustainable development of the Joseonjok population as well as the social stability and national security of the Northeast border region.

In this paper, we will study the current dilemmas and challenges facing the Joseonjok population in China from the current situation of Joseonjok population migrations, and expect to find a breakthrough to solve the problems and ensure the sustainable development of Joseonjok people and the stability of social order in the border area in future policies. This paper will focus on the case of Yanbian Joseonjok Autonomous Prefecture and analyze the two aspects of occupational structure and reproductive behavior in a comprehensive manner, and provide reasonable suggestions for improving the current situation of Joseonjok people's lives through surveys.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Theory of Population Migration

Population migration is generally defined internationally as a change in the spatial location of a population. According to Duan [2], the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) defines population migration in a more representative way as the geographic or spatial migration of population between two regions, which usually involves a change of permanent residence from the place of departure to the place of entry. In China, population migration is inseparable from China's household registration system, making it a unique case in the international context. Chinese scholars often distinguish between the regional or spatial migration of people as population migration and population mobility. Population migration refers to the migration of people with their household registration, while population mobility is the separation of people and households. The direction of population migration includes both the migration of people from China to other countries and the migration of people from other countries to China's territory. Population migration is divided into five major types of migration: trade, tourism, labor, visiting friends and relatives, and transnational marriage.

2.2. Current Situation of the Joseonjok Population Migration

Due to the special foreign policy of the DPRK (the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the same below), the Joseonjok people in the northeast region are not able to communicate with the DPRK, but are increasingly interacting with the South Korea across the border. Driven by the reform and opening up, the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and South Korea, the economic development of South Korea and the demand for labor, the Joseonjok people in the northeastern region of China have formed a trend to work in South Korea, especially in Yanbian Joseonjok Autonomous Prefecture, where the Joseonjok people are most concentrated [3]. As a result of this migration, the number of people in traditional Joseonjok settlements has been decreasing, and the low fertility rate of Joseonjok women has led to negative population growth for many years, and the proportion of Joseonjok in the total population has been decreasing year by year [4].

For example, the population of Yanbian has been growing negatively for more than 20 years, and both the registered population and the actual resident population are decreasing [5]. The household population has been declining in general, and the proportion of the Joseonjok population has been decreasing due to the fact that most Joseonjok go to South Korea to work, decreasing by nearly 7 percentage points in 16 years. The resident population is much smaller than the registered population, and the registered population of a township in T city is about 12,000, but the actual resident population is less than 4,000, losing two-thirds of the population. In the whole area, the registered population was 120,000 in 2015, and the actual urban population plus the rural population in the township was only about 30,000. In addition to the simple exodus, the lack of marriageable men and women of marriageable age has also reduced the fertility rate of the Korean people year by year, further limiting the development of the Joseonjok people.

In addition to the decrease in population, there is also an imbalance in the age structure of the population and a serious aging problem [6]. According to the local police office, the working-age population in Yanbian decreased by 2.5% in 2014 compared to 2013. At the same time, the proportion of the elderly population has increased. 21.7% of the total population in 2015, well over 10%. The elderly population is reluctant to leave the Korean settlements because of their limited financial resources and because they are deeply influenced by traditional beliefs. Moreover, the Joseonjok migrant population is mostly of working age and mainly engaged in the low-level industry, which local Koreans are reluctant to engage in, with low technology and high labor intensity. The level of education required for these jobs is not high, and the average economic level of the Joseonjok people is low, thus resulting in the majority of the Joseonjok population having to go out to work to subsidize their families before they can receive higher education. In a questionnaire survey of 1,000 Joseonjok workers in South Korea conducted by Korean scholar Lee Hye Pin in 2008, 42.7% of them had junior high school education or below, 47.8% had high school education, and only 9.5% had high-level education. Even if these workers are eventually able to return home, they are unable to transform traditional local attitudes. The low level of education in turn retards the development of the Joseonjok people, creating a vicious cycle.

2.3. Specific Studies

There are several scholarly studies that support the claim that population migration has a negative impact on Joseonjok fertility, with Zhang's article [7] being the most representative. His research is based on the above detailed exploration of the impact of Joseonjok migration on fertility behavior. Because of the rapid development of China's economy, more and more Joseonjok people choose to develop in areas with better economic conditions. Especially after the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and South Korea, many Joseonjok people have migrated to South Korea to work and do business with a language and cultural background similar to that of South Korea. Coupled with the low fertility rate of the Joseonjok nationality, this has led to a sharp decline in the number of its ethnic population. The research methods used in this paper mainly include literature research, field research, logistic binary and multiple classification regression, event history analysis and other methods. Through the analysis of the influencing factors of Joseonjok population migration, grasp the gender ratio, age distribution and main migration destinations of the population migration population, so as to judge whether there are people who can affect reproductive behavior among the main migration population of Joseonjok nationality. Second, By analyzing the impact of Joseonjok population migration on the behavior of first birth and second child birth, we can grasp the impact of population migration on the fertility behavior of Joseonjok population; Third, from the perspective of the trinity of history, society and individuals, this paper analyzes the impact of migration behavior on individual life course, especially on reproductive behavior. The author also points out that the rapid change of the fertility behavior of the Joseonjok population and the continuous decline of the fertility level have also had a great impact on the Joseonjok society. In the process of the change of Joseonjok society, how to face and solve the various effects brought by the migration of Joseonjok population and the transformation of reproductive behavior, and promote the harmonious and stable development of Joseonjok society, is an important problem that Joseonjok society needs to face together at present.

There are also some scholars who have raised opposing views. Li [8] believes that Joseonjok have a significantly higher level of education than other ethnic groups and an excellent occupational structure that allows them to develop better economically than other ethnic groups. She attributes these advantages to the facilitation of population migration. The population migration in Yanbian Prefecture is mainly analyzed from the data of the main years after the reform and opening up. Its population migration mainly shows the characteristics of urban-rural migration, intercity migration

and international migration. Among them, the intercity migration mainly migrants to Qingdao, Yantai, Shanghai, Beijing and Tianjin, where Joseonjok funded enterprises are concentrated, and the international migration mainly migrants to South Korea. Then, through the relevant data of the fifth and sixth censuses, this paper analyzes the proportion of the Joseonjok nationality in Yanbian in different industries, as well as the age structure and quality level of the employed population, and compares it with the proportion of other ethnic minorities in Yanbian Prefecture engaged in different industries. The analysis shows that the Joseonjok nationality population in Yanbian is engaged in the primary industry, and the current development is mainly engaged in the tertiary industry, while participating in management. The population of Joseonjok nationality in scientific research and education is significantly higher than that of other ethnic minorities, and its vocational structure is significantly superior to that of other ethnic minorities. The article concludes that the more frequent and in-depth population mobility is, the more helpful it is to reconstruct the career framework. The successful economic development of the Joseonjok nationality is also worthy of learning and reference from other ethnic minorities.

3. Method

The data used in this paper come from the survey of "Monitoring the Migrant Population and its Influencing Factors in Three Types of Areas" conducted by the former National Population and Family Planning Commission in 2011 in some provinces and regions [9]. The survey adopted a stratified sampling method, in which the surveyed counties were first identified, then townships were selected within the counties, and villages were selected within the townships. The data in this paper is based on 3094 households with 9720 people from 12 villages in 3 counties of Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture, Jilin Province. After screening as well as eliminating invalid data, the final analysis sample of this paper consisted of 5319 people, which were divided into three categories according to non-migrant population (3522 people), internal migrant population (572 people) and cross-border migrant population (1225 people), accounting for 66.22%, 10.75% and 23.03% of the total sample respectively. This result is largely consistent with the results of the literature review that the majority of the Joseonjok population migrants outside the country. Overall, the Joseonjok population migration in Yanbian region has the following characteristics.

4. Results

Table 1: Characteristics of the Joseonjok population survey sample (%).

Subject	Cateatory	Non-miarant	Internal miarant	Cross-border micjrant
Gender	Male	51.65	53.50	52.65
	Female	48.35	46.50	47.35
	Ratio	106.83	115.05	111.19
A m	0-14	9.06	6.64	6.84
	15-40	20.22	77.62	31.49
	41-64	46.14	14.34	45.31
	65+	24.19	1.40	16.36
	None	6.90	4.55	5.34
	Primary school	20.16	5.42	14.66

Table 1: (continued).

Educational level	Junior high school	57.21	50.70	59.60
	Senior high school	14.28	26.05	17.37
	Undergraduate	1.41	13.11	2.97
	Graduate	0.03	0.17	0.06
	Married	58.94	30.07	56.65
	First marriage	54.91	28.50	53.21
	Remarried	4.03	1.57	3.44
Marriage	No spouse	41.05	69.13	43.35
	Unmarried	24.33	66.08	29.57
	Divorced	4.03	2.97	4.72
	Widowed	12.69	0.08	9.06

Table 2: Characteristics of the Joseonjok migrant population survey sample (%).

Subject	Category	Internal migrant	Cross-border migrant
	Studying	11.19	0.65
Current Situation	Employed	80.42	98.53
	Unemployed	0.87	0.16
	Other	7.52	0.66
Frequency	Twice a year	26.05	6.12
	Once a year	30.42	16.00
of coming home	Once every 2 years	10.66	19.10
	Once More than 2 years	32.87	58.76

4.1. Gender Differences

The results show that there is very little difference between the male and female ratios of the non-migrant population, while the internal migrant population and cross-border migrant population do not have huge gaps in terms of numbers, despite the more pronounced phenomenon of more men and fewer women. With the steady progress of urbanization and the rapid development of the service industry, the demand for female workers is on the rise in both domestic and foreign markets. With the development of the times, the old family division of labor pattern of "men work to earn money and women stay home to bring up the children" has become obsolete, and the willingness of female population to go out to work has been increasing.

4.2. Age Differences

Among the surveyed Joseonjok population, the median age of the non-migrant population is 54 years old. The median age of the internally migrant population is only 27 years old, the smallest of the three

categories, while the median age of the cross-border migrant population is 41 years old, with very similar shares of the young labor force (15-40 years old) and the middle-aged labor force (41-64 years old). The age structure of the migrant population reflects the problem of the occupational structure of the Joseonjok population in Yanbian.

For the non-migrant population, the main duties are child rearing, agricultural production, etc. With the promotion of highly mechanized agricultural production apparatus and large-scale farming, the labor requirements in these relatively backward rural areas are no longer demanding, so most middle-aged and elderly people can also perform basic plant care tasks, which results in the older age of the non-migrant population.

For the internal migrant population, they are mainly engaged in secondary and tertiary sector jobs, such as companies or factories with Korean investment background in large and small cities in the territory, like restaurants with Korean characteristics, etc. These jobs are relatively demanding in terms of physical strength, education level and cultural literacy, and young people with good knowledge training are more suitable for these jobs.

For the cross-border migrant population, mainly engaged in commerce and other industries, they have a higher need for communication with the Korean side, and the size of their companies is larger than the average individual or self-employed business, so middle-aged laborers with more experience are the main component of this category.

4.3. Education Level Differences

In this survey, the number of internal migrant population with high school education or above accounts for about 40%, which is higher than the other two categories. This is related to the occupational structure and age structure, with the new generation of young people having far greater access to higher education than the middle-aged and elderly, and the existing jobs requiring a much higher level of education than before. Although the cross-border migrant population is engaged in industries with relatively high capital requirements, most of them are in the age range of 40-60 years old, and going to school to receive higher education when they were young was not the mainstream of society at that time, so their education level is not as high as that of the internal migrant population, while the older people over 60 years old, i.e. most of the constituents of the non-migrant population, are more inclined to mastering technology or accumulating work experience when they were young, and have a low level of education.

4.4. Purpose Differences

In terms of the migrant population, the main reason for the vast majority of Joseonjok people to leave their hometown is work, and the proportion of work reasons for the cross-border mobile population is even 98.53%. Combined with the age structure of the mobile population, it can be concluded that most Joseonjok families choose to go out to work in order to earn a living, rather than staying in their hometown to work. This indicates that most Joseonjok people believe that the local economic development potential is not high and that local job opportunities and salaries do not meet the needs.

4.5. Go-home Frequency Differences

In terms of the frequency of returning home, nearly half of the internal migrant population is able to secure time to visit family at least once a year, while only 22% of the cross-border migrant population is able to do so. Comparatively, those who take at least two years or more to return home once account for 32.87% of the internal mobile population, a figure that soars to 58.76% among the cross-border migrant population. According to previous analyses on gender and age structure, the outflow

population is highly overlapping with the marriageable and fertile population. Such a low frequency of meeting may lead to problems such as relationship discord, which in turn affects fertility rates.

5. Discussion & Cconclusions

Based on the results and analysis of the post-survey data, the following social issues are of particular concern in the process of securing the sustainable development of the Joseonjok population.

5.1. Aging Population

With a large number of young and middle-aged laborers going out to work, the number of elderly people left behind has increased dramatically, and the basic daily life care and medical protection cannot keep up with the needs. Moreover, the foundation of social provide for the aged in China is very weak, and Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture has the double disadvantage of being a border and ethnic area, and the social provide system for the aged is almost non-existent. The huge gap between the rapidly rising demand for provision and the fragile and meager social supply has created a serious social conflict. In addition, this contradiction is further exacerbated by the fact that most families remain in rural areas as the level of urbanization in Yanbian is not outstanding compared to other cities.

5.2. Gender Imbalance

According to the data of Jilin province in the fourth, fifth and sixth census, the Joseonjok population in Jilin province grew negatively by 141,800 people from 1990 to 2010, a decline of 12%. Migrant population is the main reason for the negative growth of the Joseonjok population, and it is further worsened by the gender imbalance. Whether it is the direct loss of female population or the continued low fertility rate due to male migration for work, the difficulty in raising the number of newborns is the biggest challenge to the sustainable development of the Joseonjok people.

5.3. Social Stability Problem

The high proportion of the migrant population to the total population means that the phenomenon of staying behind also occurs more frequently. Whether it is the elderly, the spouse or the children left behind, they are one of the most vulnerable groups in society and need a high level of social security to prevent this phenomenon from continuing to deteriorate, otherwise it may cause more serious social problems and jeopardize the stability of the Joseonjok settlements and even the border areas of China.

5.4. Education Level

Existing studies say different things about the educational level of the Joseonjok migrant population. According to the data in this survey, the situation is even worse than what some scholars have assumed. Less than 40% of the internal migrant population has a high school education or higher, and only about 20% of the cross-border migrant population, with the majority of Joseonjok people (including the non-migrant population) having a junior high school education level, which is clearly not enough to change the current unpromising development status of the Joseonjok people.

6. Conclusion

6.1. Limitations

The analysis of the survey results also revealed many shortcomings of the study. The first is that the data is not very current. The studies that could be found basically used data from 2010-2015, and the

population mobility has changed tremendously in today's time, so the reference value of this data for the Joseonjok population mobility today is yet to be verified. Secondly, there is a lack of in-depth research. Most of the studies focus on the characteristics of migrant population based on census data, but there is a lack of systematic research on the deeper causes of population migration and the social impacts on the incoming and outgoing areas. In addition, the openness and sharing of information is also one of the major constraints to population mobility research. Taking this study as an example, although there is a survey of the former National Population and Family Planning Commission in 2011 as the data base, its data completeness and various analysis reports are still relatively lacking and far from adequate for researchers.

6.2. Future Policy Recommendations

We can see from the references that we have consulted that a large proportion of the Joseonjok people who have emigrated hope to go to South Korea for development by virtue of their language advantages, or to go to big cities with more job opportunities and possibilities. This may cause the loss of talents and shake the social structure of the settlement. Therefore, based on the national policy of promoting the common development and prosperity of all ethnic groups, the local government can strengthen the incentive mechanism to slow down the brain drain problem, and also attract more talents to invest and build local culture through more generous welfare policies to stimulate economic development.

In addition, the migration of the Joseonjok population has also caused some problems in life. For example, due to the loss of population, the fertility rate of the Joseonjok population has gradually decreased, and the proportion of left behind children has increased. For these problems, the government should make targeted policies from the perspective of humanistic care. For example, we organized cadres to visit the families of left behind children, encouraged social caring people to help these children, and provided student funds and free education. Or, for the people with registered residence of ethnic minorities, they may be given monthly subsidies to improve their lives, and the minimum bank reserve ratio of the target population may be appropriately reduced, so that they can have more deposits to deal with when encountering emergencies.

At the same time, promoting the integration of the state and national identity is also a very important theme. The local government can try to combine local industries to make products with Joseonjok characteristics, and promote its unique culture to the national and even international platforms. While showing or giving stronger brand power, it also enhances national pride. This measure can not only help the local economy to develop and point out the focus in the future, but also strengthen the national strength to a certain extent.

We predict that the government of the Joseonjok inhabited areas will pay more attention to the negative impact of their migration on society in the future, and make corresponding policy responses and improve this circulation. With the continuous efforts and policies of all parties, the socialist ethnic relations of equality, unity and mutual assistance among all ethnic groups in China will be further consolidated and developed.

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