The Employment Trend of Rural Floating Population and the Choice of Public Policy

Jing ZHANG
Tianjin University of Finance and Economics, Tianjin, China
zhangjingtt@126.com

Keywords: Rural Floating Population, Employment, Public Policy.

Abstract. With the development of economy and the need of national construction, a large number of farmers have lost their land, and under the influence of various factors, the floating population has entered the city and began to seek a new way of life. It is more and more difficult to realize the reasonable distribution of the employment of the rural floating population, relying solely on the market regulation. Therefore, the government’s intervention and the choice of public policy are particularly important. Based on the premise of the market allocation of resources to play, through the analysis of the employment situation of rural migrants, combined with existing problems, this paper explain the trends of floating population employment and puts forward suggestions for public policy choices of rural migrants employment.

1. Putting Forward the Questions

Floating population is a concept under the conditions of China’s household registration system, which means the adult who leaves the domicile of the county, city or city area, to work and make a living in different places. At present, there is no clear, accurate and uniform definition of the recurrent population. Internationally, it is generally means population movements, which are referred to as “internal migration”.

The related system of floating population is lack and the policy is not sound in our country. The main reason is unfit of management system, financing difficulties and ideological understanding problems. Both insufficient rural employment and the urban labor remuneration are the suction and thrust forces, which are the reasons why the rural population flows. From the macro analysis, the flow of the rural population is the signal of the flow of human resources and the reorganization of the factors under the conditions of market economy. The existence of price scissors accelerates the flow of population. At the same time, the following social problems can’t be ignored, which will affect the development of harmonious politics and economy if be handled improperly. This requires the government to introduce relevant policies and regulations, in order to solve a series of problems caused by a large number of rural floating populations seeking employment outside their hometown.

Floating population should be brought into the urban social security coverage. The choice of public policy should focus on how to improve the living conditions of the rural floating population, how to increase education opportunities and improve the ability of employment and career development. The government should give full play to the effectiveness of public policy, realize the adjustment of the social security function and promote all the people enjoy the achievement of reform and development.

2. Employment Status of Rural Floating Population in China

2.1 Data sources

In April 29, 2015, the National Bureau of Statistics released the 2014 National Migrant Workers Monitoring Survey Report. Through this report, we can grasp the basic data of the employment of rural migrant population in China and understand the current situation of the employment of rural migrant population.
2.2 The overall scale of rural floating population

According to the National Bureau of Statistics survey results, in 2014 the country’s total rural floating population reached 273 million 950 thousand, an increase of 5 million 10 thousand people over the previous year, an increase of 1.9%. Among them, 168 million 210 thousand people are rural migrant population, which has an increase of 2 million 110 thousand and 1.3% in growth rate. 132 million 430 thousand people are rural migrant in households, which has an increase of 1 million 580 thousand over the previous year and 1.2% in growth rate. 35 million 780 thousand people are family going out in rural areas, an increase of 530 thousand and 1.5% in growth rate. Local rural floating population is 105 million 740 thousand, 2 million 900 thousand people increase and a growth of 2.8%.

2.3 Regional employment distribution of rural migrant population

According to the results of a sample survey, the eastern region has 106 million 640 thousand rural floating population, an increase of 2 million 100 thousand people over the previous year and an increase of 2%. The rural floating population in the eastern region accounted for a total of 38.9% rural migrant population. The central region has 94 million 460 thousand rural floating population, an increase of 1 million 110 thousand people over the previous year and an increase of 1.2%. The rural floating population in central region accounted for a total of 34.5% rural migrant population. Western region has 72 million 850 thousand rural migrant population, an increase of 1 million 800 thousand people over the previous year and an increase of 2.5%. The western region of rural floating population accounted for 26.6% of the rural floating population.

2.4 Employment industry distribution of rural migrant population

In the rural floating population, engaged in manufacturing industry accounted for the largest proportion, accounted for 31.3%, followed by construction industry accounted for 22.3%, residents service, repair and other services (10.2%), wholesale and retail trade accounted for 11.4%, transport, storage and postal industry accounted for 6.5%, accommodation and catering to 6.0%. From the survey data in recent years, the change is more obvious in the construction industry, the proportion of rural migrant population in the construction industry is increasing year by year, from 13.8% in 2008 to 17.7% and the proportion of manufacturing industry tends to decline.


3.1 Incomplete social security system

3.1.1 The scope of participation of the rural floating population in the scope of social insurance should be further expanded

The ratio of employers pay industrial injury insurance, medical insurance, endowment insurance, unemployment insurance, maternity insurance and housing provident fund for rural migrant population were 26.2%, 17.6%, 16.7% and 10.5%, 7.8% and 5.5%, increased 1.2 and 0.5, 0.5, 0.7, 0.6 and 0.5 percent respectively over the previous year [1]. The difference of social security of rural floating population in different regions is still relatively large. The ratio of rural floating population in the central and western regions is relatively close, which lags behind in the eastern part of the country.

The above data shows that at present our country’s social insurance coverage has been gradually expanded, but the coverage is still far from enough. In addition, how to narrow the regional gap and ensure the balanced development of regional social security is also the problem that our government should further solve.

3.1.2 Most rural migrant employers or units do not provide accommodation and housing subsidies

From the living conditions, living in the unit dormitory accounted for 28.3%, down 0.3 percentage points over the previous year. Living in the camp site and production sites accounted for
17.2%, down 0.5 percentage points over the previous year. Rental housing accounted for 36.9%, 0.2 percentage points higher than the previous year. The proportion of migrant workers who get free accommodation from employers or units was 46.8%, down 0.1 percentage points over the previous year. Migrant workers get housing subsidies from the employer or unit accounted for 8.6%, 0.4 percentage points higher than the previous year. Do not provide accommodation and no housing subsidies proportion was 44.6%, down 0.3 percentage points over the previous year [2].

The above data shows that the housing problem of rural floating population in our country needs to be solved urgently. Besides the employer or the unit does not provide accommodation, the state restriction order also has a great impact on the housing pressure of the rural floating population. Much rural floating population, who doesn’t have urban registered permanent residence, can’t buy any houses. This problem makes the rural floating population can’t rule out worries and it’s hard to put yourself into work. Therefore, the government should give full attention to this issue.

3.1.3 The limit of the household registration system to the rural floating population

The conflict between the traditional household registration system and the economic development makes the floating population in a very disadvantaged position. On the one hand, the traditional household registration system still divides the Chinese into two groups of urban people and rural people. The household register identity is still determined the basic rights and interests of each individual, such as economic rights, social rights and political rights. On the other hand, the market economy also requires a unified urban and rural labor market, in order to achieve the optimal allocation of labor resources. The conflict between the rigid constraints of the traditional system and the demands of economic and social development has resulted in the conflicts of interests and conflicts of interests between the rural floating population and the local fixed population, which forces the rural floating population in a very disadvantageous position.

3.1.4 The rural floating population faces greater pressure of unemployment, and the service of reemployment is not perfect

The unemployment rate of rural floating population is very high. With the increasing pressure of urban employment in recent years, local residents have begun to join the ranks of the competition, thereby increasing the difficulty of the employment of the floating population. Moreover, due to the floating population of unemployment is not included in the “urban registered unemployed people”, it is difficult to obtain the local government’s unemployment benefits and reemployment training guidance. Therefore, the problem of reemployment of the rural floating population should be paid more attention.

3.2 The cause of lack of reliance in the legal system

3.2.1 Some laws and regulations need to be updated

The majority of laws and regulations on the management of floating population were formulated in the early and middle period of 90’s last century. At that time, the floating population, social pressure and social crimes ratio is rising sharply. As a result, the content of laws is dominated by restrictions. The main purpose of the law is to limit the rational flow of the population and to establish the rights and obligations of the floating population. Regulations to protect the rights and interests of floating population are very few and the rule of law is not suited to the requirements of the construction. As a result, few people use legal weapons to safeguard their legitimate rights and interests. Therefore, the legitimate rights and interests of the rural floating population have not been well protected. From the beginning of 2003, the country made great adjustment to the related policy of floating population management. State has canceled the registration of rental housing and floating population public security management fees and rental housing audit, abolished the system of detention and repatriation. However, to the present, the corresponding laws and regulations have failed to develop in a timely manner.

3.2.2 Lack of national uniform laws and regulations

In the management law of floating population, local laws and regulations, local government regulations are in the majority, the lack of unified management standards. In addition to the
“people’s Republic of China resident identity card law”, which clearly defined the floating population must carry identity cards or other valid documents to prove their identity, local laws and regulations, local government regulations are in the majority of the current laws and regulations relating to the management of floating population. Household registration management, housing rental, labor management, family planning management and other aspects of the floating population, some of which are issued by the public security, labor and family planning and other departments in the form of departmental rules. Some are issued by provincial and municipal local people’s Congress and its Standing Committee and local people’s Government in the form of local regulations and local government regulations. The above reasons directly lead to the existence of local differences in the management of the floating population, so that the difficulties in the management of the rural floating population have increased. Therefore, it is urgent to establish a unified national laws and regulations.

3.2.3 A serious lack of laws and regulations for the rural floating population

China is lack of legal provisions on the management of floating population. The formulation of laws and regulations in most provinces in China only aims to the influx of foreign local population management and not to formulate relevant laws and regulations of the management of the local population outflow to other places to live and work. In addition, there are many problems in the existing legal documents for the management of floating population. In the traditional system, the legal status of the floating population and the resident population is quite different [3]. Only seize the opportunity to re construct the relevant legal system can we truly manage by law and fundamentally solve the problem of floating population management.

4. The Choice and Improvement of the Public Policy for the Employment of the Rural Floating Population in China

4.1 Further improve the social security system to protect the legitimate rights and interests of rural floating population

4.1.1 Perfecting the social security system of floating population medical insurance, unemployment insurance, endowment insurance etc.

The government must carry out a wide range of reform of the social security system, eliminate the identity discrimination, eliminate the employment impact of the urban and rural population mobility and expand the coverage rate of unemployment and medical insurance. In addition, we should not only improve the social security system from the perspective of floating population, but also strengthen the supervision and management of employment and payment of social insurance premiums for enterprises and institutions. Of particular note is that the groups of low level of education in the near future facing pension problems. Strengthening the construction of the old age security system is imminent. Moreover, social insurance should gradually eliminate the differences in the provinces and cities and the implementation of unified management can give rural floating population the legal rights to enjoy the benefits of social security no matter where they are. Only a sound social security system can make the rural floating population not worry about employment.

4.1.2 Efforts to solve the housing problem of rural floating population

In the face of the problem of rural floating population and housing, the government should take measures, such as approval of the rural floating population to apply for low-cost housing, affordable housing and low interest loans. To solve the housing problem of rural migrants can make better employment ratio, eliminate the menace from the rear and provide good protection for rural migrant employment.

4.2 Further improve the laws and regulations on rural floating population

Strengthen the rule of law and the functions of government services. Eliminate the phenomenon of “where has the policy, where has the strategy”. We should attach great importance to the protection of the rights and interests of the floating population, and incorporate it into the work of
building a harmonious society. The legislature shall, in accordance with the new situation and new problems emerging in the management of floating population, draw lessons from the experience of the management of floating population in foreign countries, and formulate a unified national laws and regulations on the management of the floating population. Government departments have to effectively enhance the management services and guidance functions. At the same time, to play the supervision role of news media and ensure the legitimate rights and interests of the floating population, promoting harmony and stability of the whole society.

4.3 Further focus on social issues

4.3.1 Improve labor productivity and solve the problem of working overtime

To gradually improve the industrialization of agriculture, improve labor productivity, in order to prevent and remedy the problems caused by the aging of rural areas. In addition, improving labor productivity can shorten the working time and solve the problem that the working time of the rural migrant population is far beyond the prescribed time limit, so that the health of the human body can be guaranteed.

4.3.2 Continue to take measures to solve the problem of wage arrears of rural floating population

At present, the country pays more attention to the problem of wage arrears of rural floating population, and has taken effective measures for several years. However, local areas still appear malicious arrears of wages. Countries need to further introduce more stringent laws and regulations to crack down on this harsh phenomenon. In addition, the rural floating population itself should also strengthen the self protection. Media should timely exposure illegal phenomenon to the public and try to eliminate the problem of wage arrears, so that they can actively carry out the work.

References

