

## **Study on methods to solve population loss in rural areas of China - From the perspective of urban and rural development**

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Until the end of 2014, the rate of urbanization in China has exceeded to 54.77%, which means more than half of China's population has come into the city. The following urban problems are serious, since most of the cities are overloaded. Particularly in metropolis and megacities, environment and resources are under great pressure. Meanwhile, the population density of rural areas is decreasing to a extremely low level. The gap of development level between rural area and the city has already been great. A lack of developing motivation, lagging in agricultural science and technology, makes it difficult for rural areas to face the serious problems. Furthermore, losing population causes things to turn even worse. Therefore, in order to ensure the harmonious development of both urban and rural areas, promoting rural development has become the core issue of urban and rural development research. However, the key point of the promotion is how to guide squires or Innovators back to their hometown and train more capable people.

Firstly , this paper illustrates the current situation of population loss in China's rural areas. Through the analysis of the data we obtained conclusions which are:

1. young people are the main body of the population who move out from the rural areas.
2. Most of these young adults favor to go to the southeast coastal cities or developed cities like Shanghai, Guangzhou, Beijing. In addition, the left-behind people in rural areas are mostly vulnerable groups, including the elderly and children.

Secondly, this paper attempts to use the theory of Lewis turning point and Kuznets curve to explain the above phenomenon. Through literature reviews, investigations and

interviews , the main reasons of young labor flow to megacities has been found out, which includes two points:

1. The expectation of income growth in rural household drives them to the city to pursue higher income level and to obtain more surplus funds.
2. Due to the limit of knowledge, rural labor force is mainly engaged in physical labor in large cities. Young adults have more physical advantages than the elderly and children. If the elderly and children migrant together with young adults to the city, they will not only earn less income but also increase living costs. Therefore, the comparative advantage of young adults becomes the main reason for them to be the main body of migrant workers in big cities.

Finally, on how to guide Innovators back to their hometown and promote rural development, this paper gives two suggestions, which are:

1. The rural labor force should be guided to urbanize in situ. The measures include raising the urbanization costs in megacities and reducing the urbanization cost in small and medium-sized cities. Through this way, they could get more money in the local area. This paper also described the cost of urbanization in China and the way of reducing the cost. This suggestion could provide opportunities for migrants to live in towns and solve part of the migration problem, at the same time, there is still a choice of large cities to the rural population, since the lack of consideration of rural development. Influenced by the bonus of agricultural registered permanent residence policy, more rural population is unwilling to give up agricultural registered permanent residence and their farm to live in cities. Therefore, the fundamental of rural development is promoting the development of rural industry.
2. Energetically develop rural industry in the light of local conditions. An example of a Chinese village whose name is Linjiang has been used to show that realizing the farmers' employment and increasing local income are the fundamental and most efficient ways to solve current migration problem. Villages in China have big differences in nature resource and environment, so some villages are suitable for the agriculture development and some suitable for the industry development or tourism development. Linjiang village is a common village in Guizhou province of China, local residents' income was not high, the proportion of migrant workers reached 60% of the



whole village population. Since 2012, the proportion of migrant workers has reduced by more than 30%, through the construction of large agricultural sightseeing tourism projects by local farmers like Jiulong agricultural industrial park.