Study of Yunnan Ethnic Groups’ Gendered Mobile Livelihood--Based the Case of a Hani Village

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Introduction of the Program

• **Topic:** Mobile Livelihoods and Gendered Citizenship of Indigenous People

• A comparative study on India, Laos and China

• **Key words:** globalization, ethnic groups, gender, mobile livelihoods

• **Sponsor:** The Research Council of Norway
Introduction of the village

**mountain area:** 1780 m as elevation; 13 km from township

**climate:** tropic subtropics; 21 °C as mean annual temperature

**cultivated land:** 333 m² dry land (per person); 600 m² paddy field;

**forest land:** 1765000 m²

**crops:** rice, corn, tobacco

**main source of income:** tobacco, migrant work

**population:** 362, 1/3 female

**ethnic group:** hani

**education:** all school age children are under nine year compulsory education; the graduation rate is comparative low
# Mobility Features

## General Situation of Mobility in the Village

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Who?</th>
<th>Do what?</th>
<th>How far?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. go to market nearby</td>
<td>wife</td>
<td>buy and sell</td>
<td>township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. local mobility</td>
<td>most husband</td>
<td>agriculture, transportation</td>
<td>township, city</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(return within one day)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. always not at home</td>
<td>young people or whole family</td>
<td>service, agriculture, factory</td>
<td>city or province or Shanghai/Guangzhou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. seasonal mobility</td>
<td>husband or Young people</td>
<td>architecture, service</td>
<td>within province or out of province</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Objective Reasons for Mobility

- national and provincial policy:
  - e.g. series policies of ‘prospering border areas’ and the other poverty elimination actions

- local policy: county level——develop the industry of flower and tropic fruit; township level——develop mountain planting industry; serious policies of labor migration (rights based)

transformation of local industrial structure: e.g. in 2005, sugarcane became the main economic crop instead of tobacco

- resource and environment of community: most lands are hilly and infertile; tillable lands are few; lots of forest lands are left unused

- the supply–demand relations of labor force: high input of labor force with low productivity and profit; limited employment opportunity and low payment due to underdeveloped secondary and tertiary industry
Decision of Mobility

- Livelihood strategy in family
- Power relation in family
- Social network
- Individual agency

- Gender difference
- Generation difference
- Class difference
- Culture difference
Living Condition of flowing people

- income
distribution and expenditure—gender difference is obvious.

- social welfare
right protection—governmental level
subjectivity—individual level

- accessibility and application of public service
e.g. children education, medical treatment and public health

- sense of belonging
e.g. interpersonal communication, social relation, self-identity
Changes Due to Mobility

- **space of community**
- **public decision**: still willing to participate to the public decision of their original village and exercise their right to vote and right to be elected
- **public affairs**: e.g. wedding and funeral ceremony

- **relationship in community**
- **public responsibility**: traditional ways of public responsibility commitment is changing; left-behind women have to undertake the whole families’ public responsibilities
- **provision for the aged**: conflict between the traditional culture and the reality — the idea is remain but the fore is changed; aged people’s anthemia; the lack governmental action
Changes Due to Mobility

- **relationship in family**
  gender and generation difference on division of labor: women’s work load becomes heavier; young generation nearly don’t undertake any agricultural labor
  gender and generation difference on family responsibility commitment: women’s contributions are always ignored; family responsibility is almost undertaken by middle-age generation and their children are only expected to self-sufficiency; young people have obscure concept of ‘family’ and gender difference (based on the traditional gender stereotypes) is reflected.

- **identity and evaluation**
  older people have stronger sense of their indigenous identity; population mobility is evaluated as a positive phenomenon which improve the harmony and unity of families and the village
Further Consideration

• When development becomes ‘pressure’

• When urbanization becomes ‘illusion’

• Blurred boundary of ethnic groups’ mobility

• Space in mobility
Thanks For Your Attention!