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Study on Urban Social Spatial Differentiation Based on Population Mobility

-- A Case Study of Shanghai

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Abstract: Since China's reform and opening up, population mobility has shown new characteristics and trends, and has had a significant impact on social spatial differentiation. Taking Shanghai as an example, this paper systematically analyzes the relationship between population mobility and urban social spatial differentiation, and holds that population mobility has a significant impact on urban social spatial differentiation, and different types of population mobility have different effects on urban social spatial differentiation. On this basis, this paper puts forward some policy suggestions to improve and guide the urban social spatial differentiation from the aspects of public service facilities construction, industrial layout, residential environment optimization, urban planning and management.

Keywords: Population mobility; urban social space; social space differentiation.

1. Introduction

Since the reform and opening up, with the rapid development of economy and the acceleration of urbanization, the social spatial structure of China has undergone profound changes, and the phenomenon of urban social spatial differentiation has become increasingly prominent, which has become the key issue of social spatial research in China. Under this background, population mobility, as an important motivation of urban social spatial differentiation, has been paid more and more attention by academic circles. The existing research mostly starts with the impact of population mobility on urban housing, employment, education and public services, and discusses the mechanism and mode of action of population mobility on urban social spatial differentiation. However, there is still a lack of in-depth and systematic research on the degree and mechanism of the impact of population mobility on urban social spatial differentiation. Therefore, taking Shanghai as an example, this paper analyzes the size of Shanghai's permanent population and the inflow and outflow of population to explore the relationship and mechanism between Shanghai's population mobility and urban social spatial differentiation. On this basis, some suggestions are put forward to improve and guide the urban social spatial differentiation from the aspects of planning, management and policy.

Social spatial differentiation reflects the phenomenon of unbalanced distribution of urban social elements in space, which is a classic research topic in urban sociology and urban geography [1-2]. For a long time, rich theoretical and empirical research has been accumulated in the concern about race, poverty and immigration, and a classic research paradigm focusing on residential space has been formed. Under the background of China's unique household registration system, the phenomenon of social spatial differentiation of different household registration groups has become increasingly prominent, which has become an important practical problem facing China society at present, challenging the refined management of "people-oriented" urban society and the improvement of the quality of life of all residents. Especially in the trend of increasing mobility of urban residents and diversification of daily life style, the social space of residents is more complicated than before. How to analyze the characteristics and mechanism of urban social space differentiation from a more dynamic perspective and reveal the problems faced by the social space integration of floating population is an important proposition related to urban space development and social equity.

2. New Features and Trends of Population Mobility

Since the reform and opening up, China's population movement has shown some new characteristics and trends, mainly as follows: first, the main body of population movement has shifted from rural areas to cities, and the main composition of urban population has changed from farmers to migrant workers; Second, the population flow has changed from family to individual; Third, the scale of population movement has changed from small to large; Fourth, the speed of population movement has changed from slow to fast; Fifth, the way of population flow has changed from unidirectional to bidirectional. Generally speaking, since the reform and opening up, there have been some new features and trends in China's population movement, which generally presents a one-way flow feature of "inflow-outflow", but there are also some cities with large-scale population outflow. In addition, some cities still have the characteristics of "two-way flow". The following will take Shanghai as an example to analyze the population flow since China's reform and opening up.

According to the data of the seventh census, in 2020, the proportion of urban resident population in China was 63.89%, up by 14.21% compared with 2010. The floating population is 376 million, an increase of 69.73% compared with 2010; Among them, the floating population flowing to cities and towns reached 331 million [3]. Although the urbanization rate of permanent residents has increased rapidly, the urbanization rate of registered population is still relatively backward, reaching only 45.4%[3]. This means that there are still a considerable number of non-local floating population in the

urban population of China, and most of them are agricultural floating population [4].

First of all, the floating population faces a discriminatory housing supply system. They are often excluded from affordable housing [5], and the purchase of commercial housing needs to meet the access requirements such as paying social security [6], which leads to the floating population often living in urban villages or urban peripheral areas, forming urban residential space differentiation [7]. Floating population is often engaged in low-skilled, low-paid labor-intensive jobs, and the working place is often in the suburbs of cities, and the working space is isolated to a certain extent [8]. In addition, due to the differences between floating population and local residents in social and economic status and access to public services, they may also have differences in the use of urban space in their children's activities such as schooling, medical treatment, leisure and shopping [9], which in turn leads to spatial differences in daily activities. In terms of social communication, due to the differences in social and economic status, lifestyle, culture and accent, the floating population, especially those with agricultural household registration, may experience "stigma" in their daily communication space, further aggravating the isolation between local household registration residents and floating population. The phenomenon of urban social spatial differentiation under the household registration system is increasingly prominent, which deeply affects the urban life and personal well-being of floating population and leads to serious social potential contradictions, which is a realistic problem to be solved urgently.

3. Data Sources and Research Methods.

The basic data of this study comes from the survey of daily activities and trips of suburban residents in Shanghai in 2017. survey

Eight administrative districts in the suburbs of Shanghai (except Chongming) are selected as the main research areas, including Minhang District, Baoshan District, Jiading District, Pudong New Area and Songjiang District, Jinshan District, Qingpu District and Fengxian District in the outer suburbs. Combined with the characteristics of spatial location, regional development and diversity of community types, 10 towns in 8 administrative regions were selected, and different types of communities were selected in each town, including commercial housing communities, demolition and resettlement housing communities, after-sale public housing communities, self-built housing communities and mixed communities. A total of 58 communities were selected as the basic units of the survey. Taking Shanghai as an example, based on the statistics of Shanghai's permanent population, the floating population is counted, and the social spatial differentiation of Shanghai is systematically analyzed by using the data of the sixth population census and combining with different types of population mobility. Specifically, in terms of data sources, this paper takes the permanent population of Shanghai as the research object and refers to the relevant data in the Statistical Yearbook of China published by the National Bureau of Statistics. In terms of research methods, this paper divides the population flow into three types: floating population, foreign population and local residents. In terms of spatial analysis, the floating population is divided into two categories: floating population and non-floating population according to its origin and residence. From the research perspective, the social spatial differentiation of Shanghai is divided into public service facilities, industrial layout, living environment, urban planning and management and other dimensions.

4. The Basic Situation of Population Mobility and Urban Social Spatial Differentiation.

Since the reform and opening up in China, the process of urbanization has been accelerating and the scale of population mobility has been expanding. Take Shanghai as an example. At present, the resident population is about 20 million, of which the registered population is about 12 million. From the perspective of population mobility, the registered population is the main body of population mobility in Shanghai at present, and its mobility scale is about 1.5 million people every year. From the transformation process of registered population to non-registered population, in 2008, 1.95 million registered population belonged to non-registered population, among which 1.44 million belonged to foreign permanent population and 1.12 million were new Shanghainese). These floating population mainly come from the Yangtze River Delta region, the Pearl River Delta region and Beijing-Tianjin region. Therefore, the study of urban social spatial differentiation in this paper will be based on the social spatial differentiation of the above four regions, and at the same time consider the influence of other related factors on these four regions.

The relationship between population mobility and urban social spatial differentiation is very complicated, which can be divided into labor mobility and non-labor mobility according to the spatial mode of population mobility. Labor mobility refers to the process that the population of a certain age keeps moving closer to the city center geographically, while non-labor mobility refers to the population of a certain age leaving the city where they work to seek employment opportunities in other areas. At present, Shanghai has formed the characteristics of large, medium and small cities, urban-rural dual structure coexisting, urban-rural differences still exist, and the scale of farmers' migration to cities is expanding.

In these two different types of population mobility, labor mobility is the most important type of population mobility in China. According to the Statistical Yearbook of China published by the National Bureau of Statistics, among the working-age population aged 15-64 in Shanghai in 2016, the number of people with junior high school education or above reached 2,439,800, accounting for 61.2% of the total labor force; There are 1,063,400 people with high school education or above, accounting for 16.3% of the total labor force [10].

Spatial differentiation of population mobility in Shanghai is a complex social phenomenon, which involves many factors, including household registration system, economic development level, housing policy, employment opportunities, educational resources and so on. The household registration system plays an important role in the management of urban population in China. There are differences between registered population and non-registered population in Shanghai in obtaining social resources and enjoying public services. The registered population usually enjoys more social welfare and security, while the non-registered population faces more uncertainties and challenges. This difference leads to the uneven distribution of population in urban space. The registered population is often concentrated in urban centers

and mature communities, while the non-registered population may be more distributed in urban fringe or emerging areas [11-13]. As an economically developed area, Shanghai has attracted a large number of migrants to work. The flow of these migrants is often closely related to the level of economic development and employment opportunities. Economically developed areas, such as Pudong New Area and Xuhui District, attract a large number of highly skilled and high-income migrants, while some traditional industrial areas may face the problem of population loss. Housing is an important factor affecting population mobility. The housing price and rent in Shanghai are relatively high, which makes housing cost a key factor affecting population mobility and residence choice. Government housing policies, such as affordable housing construction and talent introduction policies, will also affect the spatial distribution of the population. For example, talent apartments provided by the government may attract high-skilled talents to live in a specific area [14]. The distribution of educational resources will also affect population mobility. High-quality educational resources are often concentrated in urban centers and certain specific areas, which will attract families with children to migrate to these areas. At the same time, the unbalanced distribution of educational resources may also lead to the spatial differentiation of population. The perfection of urban infrastructure and the coverage of public services are also important factors affecting population mobility. Areas with convenient transportation, rich medical resources and perfect cultural and entertainment facilities are more likely to attract people to gather. With the aging of Shanghai's population, the housing demand and mobility pattern of the elderly population are also changing. This may lead to the redistribution of population in urban space. For example, some elderly people may choose to move to suburbs or pension communities. The government's urban planning and policy orientation have a direct impact on the spatial differentiation of population mobility. For example, the construction of "five centers" in Shanghai (international economic, financial, trade, shipping and scientific and technological innovation centers) and the establishment of free trade zones will attract the gathering of specific industries and talents.

5. Conclusion and Policy Suggestions

Population mobility has a significant impact on urban social spatial differentiation, and there are differences in the characteristics of social spatial differentiation between population inflow and outflow cities. Based on the spatial distribution characteristics of floating population, it is divided into four types, namely, cross-city mobility with family as the unit, cross-regional mobility with employment as the purpose, and individual mobility. On this basis, the influence of the four types of population mobility on social spatial differentiation is analyzed. The results show that population inflow has a significant impact on urban social spatial differentiation, especially the cross-regional mobility of families and individuals, and its impact is more significant; However, the impact of population outflow on urban social spatial differentiation is relatively small. At present, China's urban social space differentiation is still in the stage of rapid expansion, and the problems and contradictions of urban social space differentiation are very prominent. Comprehensive measures should be taken to effectively alleviate and improve urban social space differentiation from the aspects of public service facilities construction, industrial layout, residential environment optimization, urban planning and management.

First of all, we should further improve the labor market, improve the employment conditions of the floating population, and ensure that the floating population enjoys fair development opportunities. At present, the urban labor market is not perfect, and the floating population, especially the floating population with rural household registration, has a high proportion of informal employment. Informal employment locks some floating population in the simple labor force and does not give them other rights and opportunities for development, which weakens the development ability of floating population. Therefore, it is imperative to improve the employment conditions and protect the employment rights and interests of the floating population. On the one hand, improve the working hours system and guarantee the floating population's right to rest; On the other hand, establish and improve the long-term mechanism of employment training for floating population, and improve the citizenization ability of floating population by strengthening employment training. Because of the externality of employment training and the limited effect of market promotion, it is necessary to give play to the leading role of the government in employment training of floating population; At the same time, employment training should be targeted from the needs of floating population, and fundamentally improve their citizenization ability. Second, further strengthen the reform of the household registration system to provide institutional guarantee for the improvement of the citizenization ability of the floating population. At present, the reform of household registration system in big cities has made some progress, and the gradual and gradient reform of household registration system has provided a solid institutional guarantee for orderly promoting the process of citizenization of floating population. At the same time, however, the existing household registration system still has some drawbacks, such as too high a threshold and too many conditions, which makes the floating population unable to enjoy the basic public services of the city fairly, which greatly limits the accumulation of the floating population's citizenization ability, so it needs to be further improved. Taking Shanghai as an example, the current points settlement system favors young, highly educated and highly skilled laborers, and the residence permit system naturally excludes some special groups, which intensifies the polarization of the floating population in the ability to become citizens. It is suggested to further streamline the points settlement, increase the proportion of social security payment years and residence years in the points, and explore differentiated and precise settlement policies; In the residence permit system, we should formulate more precise policies for some special groups, such as the floating population whose housing attributes do not meet the requirements, improve the coverage rate of residence permits, appropriately extend the renewal period of residence permits, and expand the public services and conveniences attached to residence permits.

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