

The Research of Interaction Behavior of Landless Peasants during the Social Adaptation

-Taking Harbin Songbei Town as an Example

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Abstract: With the accelerated urbanization process, there are more and more landless peasants who are made a requisition of land partly or wholly. They face not only the problem of economic adaptation, but also the problem of social adaptation. Especially the problem of social adaptation is reflected in the process of nature generation and adaptation of social interaction prominently. It will contribute to improve the economic social adaptability and quality of communication life of landless peasants generally so as to make them change to the “modern individual” as soon as possible to make a discuss on the economic sociology of their interaction behavior.

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1. INTRODUCTION

As everyone knows, with the acceleration of economic development, urbanization and modernization since 1990s, there are more and more landless peasants in the China's rural areas, especially in the suburban towns and villages and the economic and social issues arising from them are more and more complex, even there are certain factors that endanger social harmony run. Therefore, it has become an urgent problem to solve the social contradictions or conflicts of landless peasants from the perspective of rural sociology. This paper will focus on discussing the problem of social adaptation of landless peasants on the base of the theory of interaction behavior and combining the interviews and investigations information of landless peasants of the Songbei town Harbin.

2. THE INTERACTION ADAPTATION NATURE OF LANDLESS PEASANTS

2.1 The homogeneity of social interaction of landless peasants

Although the land of landless peasants has been levied, their habits of social interaction don't change fundamentally and they contact according to their original norms and customary practice in the subconscious. Because the change of land property right can only lead t “rural differentiation” at best in the history of the Chinese economy, but it can not change their life habits in the same agricultural society. In the survey, landless peasants engaged in steel plant business and they had no time to contact with the outside world except for the business activities or purchasing the consumer goods. And the peasants who were not busy working didn't have the desire of

communicating with urban people. Most peasants thought they had not common language with the urban people and the urban people might look down on them. They could chat and help each other in their villages, especially the elder peasants, they were more interested in the things of their neighborhood. Therefore, they were the main group who opposed the relocation.

Clearly, the social adaptation of one group comes from the ability of social environment adaptation and resources acquisition from the social environment. The peasants can depend on their basic means of production and live in their own life circles so they have their own rules of resources acquisition before making a requisition of land. For example, the farmer can borrow the hay which has been tied up by others to feed his cows and the others can also borrow his tools. It is the only way for obtaining the social resources to communicate with the outside groups in the market economy. Therefore, it is difficult for the landless peasants to obtain the survival and development resources because of their plight of social interaction. American sociologist Portes thinks that the social capital is the ability of deploying resources each other in the individual network or larger social structure, the ability does not depend on the individual, but rather depends on the relationship between the individual and others. Weber thinks the high and low degree of life way represents the inferiority or superiority of social status and the scope of social status is marked by the circle of particular way. So we can see the social capital of landless peasants of Xiaokang community Songbei town was scarce, they lived in a closed little circle with high homogeneity, their social status was low and they lacked of the network support of inergrating into the

urban social life which included social interaction and its object.

2.2 The dual nature of social interaction of landless peasants

There is no doubt that the social interaction scope of landless peasants of Songbei town is small and the life is isolated relatively and the scale of social interaction is far smaller than that of urban residents. Facts show that the social interaction of landless peasants retains not only some of the characteristics of rural areas, but also some of the city's style and it has both traditional and modern society's double features. Or we can say the life of landless peasants is transmitting from the traditional nature to modern nature. As the concept of urban-rural integration zone which was proposed by the American anthropologist Girtim from the investigation research of China's rural urbanization said: the residential areas of landless peasants was neither the village nor the city, they had both characteristics. The duality was reflected in more than 10 families of Songbei town. But because Songbei town had the rural communities which had higher modernization degree, the municipal government of Harbin decided to take Songbei town into Harbin city. This also testifies the urban communities development theory that the urban development depends on the rural areas.

3. THE FORMATION REASON ANALYSIS OF INTERACTION ADAPTATION OF LANDLESS PEASANTS

3.1 The formation reason analysis of the interaction homogeneity

First of all, as the landless peasants of the whole China, the social interaction of landless peasants of Songbei town has a very high homogeneity which is closely related to their way of life and the cultural character of the marginal man from the social point of view. As we know, the ultimate social adaptation of landless peasants is the process of changing into the urban people successfully, that is, the way of life changes from the rural way of life into the urban lifestyle. However, they can't realize the status change quickly and change into a real resident of the city, they may suffer some rejections and become the transition community which is marginalized in the residents of the city after they lost their lands. Under such a complex social field, the existing social memory is strengthened and they are left in the old life scene, it will impede their urbanization process. But this situation may change gradually in view of the existence of correlation between the revitalization of northeast old industrial base and solving the three rural issue.

Second, the interaction way of peasants is limited and the interaction level is low from the perspective of

interaction patterns. So their interaction has the strong traditional nature to a large extent and it also ties the initiative of peasants to expand the social network. In general, the social interaction of peasants can be divided into economic, political and daily interaction. The interaction has two main characteristics: a narrow range of interaction and an inner tendency of interaction point. The features lead to the economic activities of peasants are only in the local village, for example, they resort to the strong relationship of relatives and friends in the employment, this interaction has inner nature.

Third, the low marketization degree and weak market awareness of landless peasants are not conducive to the improvement in their level of social interaction. American economic historian Skinner believes that the link degree and way among the Chinese villages, the city and the market are the decisive factors of village characteristics. In other words, the city has a higher link with the market, while the village has a lower link with the market. For the landless peasants who have been the peasants for several years, their roots are still in the rural areas and they maintain their relationships by blood and kinship. So they are not used to using economic means to enhance their human capital, and thus opening up their own communication circles and activities range. They rely on their relationship network of acquaintance to seek social support. This situation must be changed as soon as possible.

3.2 The formation reason analysis of interaction duality

The urbanization completely changes the original production way of peasants and the relationship between peasants and the land so that the peasants are separated from the land and the old life way changes. As a result, it faces the new life pattern challenges of modern urban life. Furthermore, urbanization has changed the status position of peasants. The status change from the peasant to resident will inevitably bring about the changes in the rights and obligations, the peasants have to face the role change. Thus we can see that the proper meaning of urbanization is to let peasants have the urban characteristics, that is, let the interaction way of landless peasants has the urban modern characteristics. Driven by urbanization, a new village community, urban village community emerges. The urban village community is a new social space of peasants urbanization and it is the social field in which the little tradition of weak non-rural group gets support and action logic gets reflection and it is a type of village community of walking towards the end. This is the result of the progress of urbanization. There are many steel plants and many industrial areas which are under construction in the village community of Songbei town. Therefore, it is both the industrial community and

community organization which retains the order and principle of local social life to some extent. This type of village community can be said to be a kind of urban village community. As the early non-agricultural areas, it has focused on many compensation funds or related resources of land transfer and non-agricultural conversion and promotes the formation and transfer to the city of rural general elite stratum to develop a strong community economy. Although the non-agriculture changes the original community tradition and structure, there are many integrated relationships between the traditional and modern factors in the process of urbanization. Therefore, the interaction characteristics of landless peasants have been roaming the tradition and modernity.

4. THE WAY TO EXPAND THE SOCIAL INTERACTION OF LANDLESS PEASANTS

4.1 Improving the social interaction capacity of landless peasants

The interaction capacity refers to the interaction subject obtains the various power factor capacity which is needed to develop himself from the outside world through the interaction activities. If the interaction capacity is small, it means the development opportunities which are obtained in the interaction are small. It is consistent with the point that the resources available of homogeneous group are very small. The basic elements which determine the interaction capacity are the quantity and essence of interaction. The interaction quantity refers to the range, speed and frequency of interaction activities. The height and low of the range, speed and frequency determine the size of interaction quantity and various resources which the interaction subject obtains from the outside world. To improve the interaction capacity, on the one hand, the cultural structure of interaction subject should be optimized, the quality of landless peasants should be improved through learning and training ways and means to enhance the interest, knowledge and capacity of carrying out efficient economic interaction with the various objects from the outside world, on the other hand, the object structure should be optimized, the limitations of geologization and relativization of traditional interaction object should be broken completely and the interaction object should be expanded and enriched to make an efficient interaction in an open society.

4.2 Providing more interaction opportunities for landless peasants

The government has the responsibility to enrich the content of external interaction of landless peasants and provide social opportunities as much as possible, especially to increase their interaction and employment opportunities. As the American scholar Turner in the

“social macro-kinetics” said: the embedded fortune should be grasped in the individual interaction to optimize the macro-or meso-social structure. In addition, the government should perform a social function of intermediary organizations for the unemployed peasants to provide valuable intermediary services. However, the government only plays a limited and essential role in the agricultural and rural life. The reason that the social interaction of landless peasants of Songbei town has the strong homogeneity is that their lives lack the intermediary organizations of outside expansion. Only through the effective intermediary organizations, the landless peasants can get rich life and social resources. The intermediary organizations need contacting and finding little by little, but it will become the social capital and life resources of landless peasants through the accumulation.

4.3 Establishing the self-organization system of landless peasants

Because the new communities of unemployment peasants are established for a short time and the communities, culture and influence also need enhancing, the residential social interaction of communities also appears “breaking” and the sense of ownership is not very strong. The social interaction object is the circle which is accumulated for decades and there is no obvious change. But the peasants lose their lands and they are not called the peasants, furthermore, with the tendency of urbanization, the peasants have to be urbanized. Inkeles points out that the contact experience between the peasants and the city may become the school to promote their modernization. For example, the unemployed peasants of Xiaokang community Songbei town can get a certain resources by doing some temporary jobs, but sometimes their individual roles appear very small in the highly competitive market, so it must rely on organization. Because the landless peasants have the strong homogeneity, the consistent interests orientation and the common life background, the reconstruction work of social capital system of landless peasants should be done well by the community. The best way is to build the highly integrated and linked self-organization system of landless peasants from the community point of view. The self-organization refers to the community members are integrated spontaneously according to their own characteristics and advantages on the premise of an impartial social policy and it should take full use of each person’s social relations. American sociologist Granovetter divides the relationships of people into the strong relationship and weak relationship. This classification is based on the frequency of interaction, emotional intensity, intimacy and mutual exchange between people. He believes that a friend is a strong relationship and the general acquaintance is a weak

relationship. Strong relationship exists within this group, but weak relationship exists between the different groups. The strong relationship of landless peasants is in the inner group and they have weak relationship with the urban people from their interaction and psychological identification case. The strong relationship performs larger function than the weak relationship in the life in China. Therefore, this strong relationship should be taken full advantage of in the life and its social function should be performed. It is also important to solve the social adaptation of landless peasants to promote the socialization and urbanization of landless peasants through the establishment of self-organization system.

5. CONCLUSION

In summary, we discussed the problem of social adaptation of landless peasants from the perspective of social interaction. The interaction action of landless peasants belongs to compliance action to a large extent. It is not benefit to the improvement of interaction quality of landless peasants and the access of social resources. Therefore, we may change their interaction status through enhancing their capacity of self-organization. It is foreseeable that the new socialist countryside construction or rural urbanization process will make more progress with the replacement of modern nature after the traditional nature of the interaction action of landless peasants in the near future.

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