

## **Research on the Path of the Political Participation of Migrant Workers**

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**Abstract:** Political participation is an important means for citizens to express political will and realize their political rights. It is an important component of modern political system. The consciousness of political participation of migrant workers is increasing and political participation is improving. However, due to the lack of pathways and lack of institutional constraints, the political participation of the group is in trouble. We need promote the construction of socialist democratic politics and the construction of a socialist harmonious society, to help migrant workers out of the political difficulties and promote the political participation of migrant workers Institutionalized and orderly.

**Keywords:** migrant workers; political participation; government.

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Political participation is an important force to promote the political development of a country, and it is an important driving force for the process of political civilization. With the social-economic changes, the number of Chinese citizens that participating in political is increasing. The groups and forms are more and more. In the interest realization mechanism of market logic decision-making, economic competition and political competition make the groups with relatively different interests, such as migrant workers, have lower political participation than other groups.

China has more than 200 million migrant workers. Migrant workers as a new class of China is a force that can not be ignored to promote China's urban and rural economic prosperity, but their economic influence and political influence is not proportional. Migrant workers have relatively urgent economic demands to improve their own situation and safeguard their own interests. They can integrate into public life through orderly political participation, express and demonstrate their political preferences, and thus affect the government's policy formulation to a certain extent, So that the reduction of government activities on the "public" deviation, all this reflects the role of migrant workers in political life have begun to take shape.

However, due to the lack of political channels and other factors, part of the migrant workers are outside the political life. They could only be forced to accept political arrangements. They become political life "outsider", and "outsider" suffered "indifference" may be hidden on the social security of the invisible crisis.

### **Definition of political participation**

Political participation is associated with several other common concepts, such as political engagement, political action, or political behavior. The significant difference between political participation and the previous concepts is that political participation emphasizes its spontaneity. Contemporary Western political science argues that any political action that is intended to influence public affairs or decision-making can be seen as political participation. Therefore, under the current comparative political science research, political participation includes not only institutionalized political participation such as voting, participation in elections, but also non-institutionalized political participation, such as public expression of views to the media, complaints to government officials or parliamentarians Petition, parade, or other types of political behavior. The former is often lack of initiative, participation in a narrow, low degree, the latter has a certain degree of group and confrontation[1]. Although the political participation of Chinese citizens is different from the political participation in the West, the ordinary people still have the opportunity and the way to influence the decision of the grassroots government, maintain their own interests and rights, and express their opinions and attitudes.

### **Definition of migrant workers**

Migrant workers generally refers to the labor force that possess the rural household registration, but mainly engaged in non-agricultural work of urban. They are generally low-tech, manual labor-based practitioners, such as the construction industry, handling industry and so on. Migrant workers have

broad and narrow sense: broadly migrant workers, including two parts, part of the local migrant workers, That is, the local township enterprises employment from the rural labor force, part of the migrant workers, that is, go out into the town to engage in two or three industries from the soil and rural labor force; narrow sense of migrant workers mainly refers to the latter part of the people. According to the 2016 National Peasant Workers' Surveillance Survey released by the Bureau of Statistics, the total number of migrant workers in China in 2016 was 273.95 million, an increase of 1.9 million from the previous year. Among them, migrant workers were 168.21 million An increase of 2.1 million people, an increase of 1.3% [2].

### **Political participation of migrant workers**

The political participation of migrant workers refers to the political behavior of peasant workers who have attained 18 years of age in order to achieve and safeguard their own interests, through various means to understand, participate in the political life of the country and influence or attempt to influence the policy process. It includes both institutionalized political participation and non-institutionalized political participation.

### **The Ways and Characteristics of Political Participation of Migrant Workers**

The way in which citizens achieve political participation mainly includes institutionalized political participation and non-institutionalized political participation.

#### **Institutionalized political participation**

Institutionalized political participation of migrant workers refers to the political behavior of migrant workers in the country's existing laws and regulations, systems and policies to influence government decision-making. Institutionalized political participation is an important indicator of political democratization and political development. The state should take measures to actively guide, support and encourage the institutionalized political participation of migrant workers.

##### **(1) Political vote**

Political voting is a form of political behavior which a citizen individual expresses his political preferences or political attitudes in front of a competitive policy, or between public candidates, or other controversial political issues. Among all migrant workers, the youth's political vote is significantly higher than the older generation of migrant workers. However, according to the previous scholars of the research group survey, migrant workers actually rarely participate in political voting elections. The political vote not only includes the political community voting, but also includes local politics voting at their hometown. The migrant workers participate in the local political vote at their hometown is relatively higher than the urban

community political vote. This may be due to restrictions on household registration system.

##### **(2) Political elections**

Political elections are political processes in which a state or other political organization choose a leader by all or part of the members to act as a minority in accordance with certain procedures and rules. The important position of migrant workers in the mode of political participation is mainly reflected in the three-year election of the village committee and the election of the county and township people's deputies. However, the number of political elections in the place of residence is very rare.

##### **(3) Political association**

Political association refers that the people who have common interests form a lasting group organization of political behavior for the common political purposes. This organization is directed at special interests, but its basic objective is to influence government decision-making. Political associations include organizing or participating in party activities and participating in community activities. At present, due to various conditions, the number of migrant workers that participate in political parties, trade unions, the Communist Youth League, Women's Federation and other organizations is still very small, and most of the new generation of Workers that "in the maintenance of labor rights" does not play a role " or really play a very little role in this way.

##### **(4) Political expression**

Political expression refers that the citizens express their political views and political attitude through the legal channels and influence the political behavior of government policies, including political rallies, political petitions, political speech and so on. In China, the mass media is an important political expression channel for citizens. But in the real political life, the vast majority of migrant workers could not use the power of the mass media to express their political ideas and political views.

#### **Non - institutionalized political participation**

Non-institutionalized political participation is the main way for migrant workers to express their opinions. It does not conform to national laws and regulations. It is the main way for migrant workers to protect their rights. It mainly includes leapfrog petition, violent resistance, joining illegal organizations, collective strikes, suicide threats and so on. However, this way is abnormal , resulting in society instability.

#### **Characteristics of political participation**

##### **(1) Increasing awareness and level of political participation, diverse ways for them to participate in**

According to the survey data of domestic scholars in recent years, we can see that the awareness

of political participation of migrant workers in China is increasing, and the way of participation is not limited to the way of voting or election. On the other hand, the rights of migrant workers are not only on the demands of the economy, but also on the demands of political rights. This reflects the increasing level of political participation in the group. The reasons for the emergence of this feature are inseparable from the development of China's market economy. The accelerated pace of construction has also led to the increasing awareness of the democratic consciousness of migrant workers, thus enhancing the form and level of political participation.

**(2)The narrow nature of political participation, the disorder, the inefficiency, and the singularity of actual participation exist.**

First of all, even if the level of political participation of migrant workers has increased, but this kind of political participation is not mostly for the purpose of maintaining the public interest, but often driven by the interests or in their own interests after the damage Participation, their interests are usually individuals, so their participation is narrower. Secondly, due to the political participation ways of migrant workers are mostly non-institutionalized, their participation is not through the normal participation mechanism[3]. It shows a disorder and non-organizational characteristics because of the lack of organizational and institutional norms. Finally, because of various restrictions, the actual form of their participation is often concentrated in the non-institutionalized ways.

**Factors that hinder the political participation of migrant workers**

**(1) economic factors**

Economic basis determines the superstructure. In general, economic development and political participation is a positive proportion of the relationship. It affects the level of political participation. The higher level of economic development, the greater the possibility of citizen political participation. First, good economic conditions for citizens to provide the material basis for political participation. Second, economic development has increased leisure time for citizens. Third, economic development has improved people's education level, thereby enhancing the political awareness of citizens[4]. Migrant workers generally have lower economic incomes, and political participation requires extra money, for example, when attending elections and voting, migrant workers generally believe that the political participation can not directly benefit from the return, but still need transportation costs, So their enthusiasm is not high.

**(2) political factors**

Due to the dominance of democratic politics under the control of the current household registration system, the current system is only the organization of the management of migrant workers and does not guarantee their political rights. Because of various real factors, they become "participants", their rights and interests are often only "be achieved." At the same time, because of the household registration, they also have no power and opportunity to express their political and demands. It can be said that for the vast majority of the floating population, their political rights are in a vacuum state.

**(3) Legal factors**

The relevant laws of the current legal system on the political participation of migrant workers are basically in the state of imperfectness and absence. So it restricts their political participation to a certain extent. For migrant workers, their identity is very special. They are farmers but not engaged in agricultural production activities. In view of the special status of migrant workers, how to exercise their own political participation rights, there is no clear stipulation in country's law.

**(4) Individual factors**

The factors that restrict the political participation of citizens are a multi-faceted complex. In addition to being influenced and constrained by objective conditions such as economy, politics and law, they will also be subject to the professional quality of citizens' educational level, cultural quality and political status. In general, the higher educational level, the level of political participation and quality is also higher. Most of the migrant workers have received nine years of compulsory education. They have a certain level of knowledge, but comparing with urban residents , their political participation requirements are also at a relatively lower level. They are lack of modern political knowledge, understanding of political skills and norms, and relevant legal knowledge, resulting in inadequate political participation.

**The path for political participation of migrant workers**

**(1)improve the social integration system for migrant workers**

The key issue of the political participation of migrant workers in their working cities is the problem about social integration of the group. The government should continue to promote the reform of the household registration system and create a harmonious and tolerant culture to migrant workers. At last, The society should provide a more complete government public services for them[5] .

Secondly, the government and the public should accept the group of migrant workers in an equal mind and create a culture of equality, harmony. It should give them equal political rights and opportunities to participate in politics and participate in urban life.

Finally, the government should improve the social security and public service system of migrant workers and provide employment opportunities, basic protection for their work and life in the city.

### **(2)Build a perfect information disclosure system**

Information disclosure is significant for the process of promoting political participation. The efficient and orderly institutionalized political participation of migrant workers is inseparable from the equal and transparent public space provided by the government[6]. Government-related political participation information should be highly transparent. The acquisition of information is the prerequisite for the political participation of migrant workers, and the opening and transparent degree of government information is also an important indicator of the construction of democratic governance. The Government can only make timely and timely disclosure of relevant decision-making information and provide sufficient access to know the information for migrant workers in order to enable the group to make the right judgments, which will help them to participate in various public decision-making and other public affairs.

### **(3)Improve the overall quality of migrant workers, enhance the ability of political participation**

First, we must vigorously develop and strengthen rural education, especially in rural compulsory education and vocational and technical education. The government should speed up the construction of basic education facilities in rural areas and increase investment in educational funds, expand educational resources so that they can get the same educational opportunities and enjoy educational fairness. At the same time, we should attach importance to the development of vocational and technical education. Finally, we should attach importance to the development of continuing education. Through continuing education, migrant workers can not only improve their academic level, more importantly, they can learn knowledge, enhance skills and improve the constitutional consciousness and the rule of law.

### **(4)Establish and improve the relevant laws and regulations**

Establishing and perfecting relevant laws and regulations is the legal guarantee for expanding the orderly political participation of the new generation of migrant workers. In order to realize the orderly political participation of the new generation of migrant workers,

it is necessary to perfect the relevant laws such as the existing Constitution and the Electoral Law, and formulate laws and regulations that are closely related to the interests of migrant workers.

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