

Research on the Internet Use to Alleviate Work Poverty of Migrant Workers: An Empirical Study Based on CGSS2021 Data

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Abstract: With the development of the digital economy, a new situation has been provided for the work of migrant workers, but the income gap between urban and rural areas is large and the situation of working but not getting rich still exists. Based on the data of the China Comprehensive Social Survey (CGSS) in 2021, this study explores the effect of Internet use on alleviating the work poverty of migrant workers in the new economic era. The study found that compared with migrant workers with average health status, the higher the frequency of Internet use of migrant workers, the less likely they are to fall into work poverty, and compared with the migrant workers with junior high school education, the higher the frequency of Internet use, which has a certain effect on alleviating work poverty.

1. Formulation of the problem

The report of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China clearly stated that "Chinese-style modernization is the modernization of common prosperity for all people". Due to the restrictions of household registration barriers, local employment policies, work skills and experience, and human capital, the quality of employment of migrant workers is not high, it is difficult to obtain safe and stable employment opportunities, and it is difficult to receive the same public services as the urban population, so the quality of employment cannot be effectively improved, and there is a great risk of unemployment and poverty. In recent years, the trend of expanding the number of Internet users is still rising, which may have a positive impact on the working poverty of migrant workers. This study will explore the impact of Internet use on alleviating the work poverty of migrant workers. Through an in-depth analysis of this topic, we hope to provide policymakers and stakeholders with useful information on how to make better use of the Internet to improve the quality of employment for migrant workers and improve the working poverty of migrant workers.

2. Literature review and theoretical basis

2.1. Work poverty and its causes

There is no universal definition and measurement of working poverty, and the key factor is work and poverty, i.e. the "working poor". There are many reasons that lead to poverty at work, such as inadequate social security, low wages, and other factors. There are three main types of influencing factors. One is personal factors, including human resources characteristics and occupational characteristics, that is, personal gender, age, education level, health status, occupation type, type of work unit, etc.; the other is family factors, including family structure, family members' labor participation, family members' health status and other factors, such as low education level, children's school burden, labor shortage, lack of employment opportunities, low salary level, job instability, etc.; and the other is social factors, labor market and national macro system welfare model.

2.2. The relationship between the Internet and work poverty

For example, workers with high education level have a low risk of falling into work poverty, and those with good health status have a low risk of falling into work poverty. The existing research

provides a very good research basis for my research, but there are still shortcomings, and the existing research lacks heterogeneity and empirical analysis of different regions, urban and rural areas. In view of this, this study chose to use the data of the 2021 China Comprehensive Social Survey (CGSS) to empirically study the impact of Internet use on work poverty, systematically analyze the mechanism of Internet use on work poverty, and deeply explore the group differences of Internet use on work poverty. On this basis, the important role of Internet use in the governance of working poverty is further examined.

2.3. Theoretical basis

Becker's human capital theory argues that human capital is formed by investments in education, training, health care, and labor migration^[1]. By continuously learning and accumulating Xi experience, individuals can better seize opportunities and gain access to more resources, enhancing their employability and competitiveness^[2].

3. Research design

3.1. Data sources

CGSS is a comprehensive social survey conducted by the Department of Sociology of Chinese University of China, which covers social, economic, political, cultural and other aspects. Taking into account factors such as migrant workers' household registration in rural areas, as well as their independent decision-making ability and labor participation, this study selected respondents aged between 18 and 65 who are engaged in non-agricultural industries. After processing the data, 1491 samples were selected as the data source for the study, after excluding some invalid samples.

3.2. Variable selection

3.2.1. Explanatory variables

In table 1&2, the explanatory variable in this study is working poverty, and it mainly refers to working poverty at the individual level. The research mainly comes from the two dimensions of work and poverty, and the definition of work poverty. In terms of work, it draws on the definition of working poverty from the International Labour Organization, combined with the data used, to "Did you work for more than one hour in the last week (including joining the military) to get an income?" Set to identify variables. This approach minimizes the need to miss out on labor. In addition, the general practice is to use 50% of the median 2020 gross income of all individuals in the CGSS2021 as the relative poverty line. An individual is considered to be poor when his or her gross annual income is below this poverty line. When an individual satisfies both "work" and "poverty" states, it is considered to be work poverty and is assigned a value of 1 and vice versa.

3.2.2. Explanatory variables

The explanatory variable in this study was internet use. In order to cope with the diversity of the use of the Internet, many scholars have summarized it into two dimensions: information acquisition and social communication. In CGSS2021, the use of the Internet includes various forms such as computer access and mobile phone Internet access. Therefore, in Table 1, the setting of explanatory variables mainly refers to the research ideas of Chen Liang et al^[3], and the answers are divided into "never", "rarely", "sometimes used", "often" and "very frequently", and the values are assigned as 1-5.

3.2.3. Control variables

Table 1: Variable settings.

Explanatory variables	Poverty at work	1 = in working poverty, 0 = not in working poverty
Core explanatory variables	Internet Usage	1=Never, 2=Rarely, 3=Sometimes used, 4=Often, 5=Very frequently used
Control variables	age	Continuous variables
	gender	1=Female;0=Male
	marital status	1=married;0=not married
	Health status	1=Fair, 2=Very unhealthy, 3=Very healthy, 4=Relatively unhealthy, 5=Relatively healthy
	Educational attainment	1=junior high school;2=junior college/undergraduate;3=elementary school and below;

4. The results of the analysis

4.1. Basic information

Table 2: Variable Description Statistics.

Variable	Number of samples	mean	standard deviation	minimum	maximum
age	1491	41.35	11.17	18	65
gender	1491	0.47	0.50	0	1
Marital status	1491	0.79	0.41	0	1
Health status	1491	3.42	1.62	1	5
Educational attainment	1491	2.28	1.20	1	5
Frequency of Internet use	1491	4.18	1.16	0	1
State of working poverty	1491	0.07	0.25	0	1

4.2. Logistic regression analysis

Since the explanatory variable work poverty is treated as a dichotomous variable, the binary logistic regression model is used in this study, and the results show that the frequency of Internet use has a negative correlation with work poverty. According to the results of regression analysis, model 1 is the regression result without adding control variables, and model 2 is the result after gradually adding control variables, and the PR2 value gradually increases with the increase of variables, and the goodness of fit of the model gradually improves.

The negative correlation of the results suggests that the use of the Internet alleviates the work poverty of migrant workers to a certain extent. In terms of gender shown in table 2, the high frequency of Internet use has led to an increase in the number of people available to businesses, which can lead to a decrease in competitiveness and an increased risk of losing jobs for male migrant workers. In contrast, female migrant workers may be less affected due to lower population ratios and competitive pressures. In terms of health status, migrant workers in poor health may face higher medical expenses and the struggle to make ends meet. As the severity of occupational diseases at work increases, so does the amount of money they invest. In terms of educational attainment, compared with migrant workers at the junior high school level, migrant workers with primary school education or below may lack the necessary skills and knowledge to use the Internet due to their lower educational qualifications, resulting in fewer opportunities for them to find jobs or vocational training on the Internet. Therefore, we need to pay attention to the training and education of migrant workers with primary school education and below, and guide them to make better use of the Internet. In summary, improving physical health and education is essential to reduce working poverty, which is consistent with human capital theory and similar to the research of Kou Jing et al^{[4][5]}.

5. Conclusions and discussions

5.1. Main conclusions

This study is based on a dataset released in 2021 by the China Comprehensive Social Survey (CGSS) project, which explores the positive effects of the use of the Internet in alleviating poverty among migrant workers. The results of the basic situation analysis show that about 6.98% of the migrant workers who have the ability to work are in a state of work poverty. Using binary logistic regression to explore the alleviating effect of Internet use on migrant workers' work poverty, the results show that in terms of health status, the higher the health level of migrant workers, the lower the probability of falling into work poverty, and the higher the education level compared with the migrant workers with junior high school education, the more obvious the effect of using the Internet to alleviate work poverty. All in all, migrant workers with high Internet use are not prone to falling into working poverty.

5.2. Conclusion

This study empirically studies the effect of Internet use on alleviating the work poverty of migrant workers, which has certain research significance and value. However, there are two shortcomings. On the one hand, Internet use is only used as a variable for research, which lacks multi-dimensional variable description and intermediary variable support. Therefore, this variable is then used to describe the Internet by dimension. On the other hand, the fact that only the positive effects of Internet use on alleviating working poverty are not fully examined without a more comprehensive examination of the possible negative effects of Internet use, which will be an issue that deserves further in-depth study in the future.

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