

## Protection of Housing Rights and Interests of Migrant Workers in Permanent Cities

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**Abstract:** The predicament of housing and rights protection for migrant workers in China has induced many social contradictions and conflicts, which seriously hindered the healthy development of the city's economic and social environment and became a hot spot of social concern. The paper adopts literature analysis method and comprehensive induction method. Firstly, it explains the connotation and essentials of urban inclusive development and the protection of migrant workers' housing rights and interests, and explains that the protection of migrant workers' housing rights is the proper meaning of urban inclusive development. On the basis of the status quo of industrial housing, this paper analyzes the reasons why the protection of migrant workers' housing rights is in trouble: the poor conditions of migrant workers themselves and the exclusionary effects of social systems. Finally, from the institutional level, effective policies and measures to effectively protect the housing rights of migrant workers are put forward. Conclusions and suggestions are to improve and protect the housing rights of migrant workers, we must abandon the exclusionary development thinking, change the existing "dualistic" social system of urban housing security, employment income and household registration, and establish an equal citizenship empowerment mechanism and general urban housing security. Mechanisms, such as public service input mechanisms for migrant workers, have contributed to the formation of urban inclusive development models, thereby could eliminate the institutional roots that exclude the protection of migrant workers' housing rights.

### 1. Introduction

With the advancement of urbanization, China's urbanization rate increased from 17.19% in 1978 to 59.58% in 2019 [1]. During this period, a large number of migrant workers flocked to cities, and they were employed in low-skilled and labor-intensive industries, and their incomes were generally low. Due to lower incomes, it is difficult for migrant workers to pay for fast-rising housing prices (rental rents), resulting in migrant workers mostly living in suburban villages, sheds and unfriendly basements where infrastructure is seriously inadequate, and the migrant workers are far away. The mainstream society of the city has formed a serious social division, which has induced many social contradictions and conflicts. Therefore, in recent years, the issue of housing and rights protection for migrant workers has become a hot topic in academic circles. Scholars believe that urban housing supply capacity directly affects the quantity and cost of labor supply, and the housing market will counteract the urban economic system through cost effects(Lv ping, Zhou tao,2008;Fu et al,2010).[2][3];Urban residential division hinders the integration of vulnerable groups into mainstream society, which is not conducive to social integration(Huamin peng, Huihui tang,2012).[4] Urban residential division has a significant negative effect on the moral level, labor output, public goods consumption and welfare level of vulnerable groups. (Kain, 1968)[5]The housing situation of migrant workers has a significant positive effect on their willingness to settle in the city. (Chun chen, Changchun feng, 2011)[6]Improve the housing situation of migrant workers, and promote urban economic growth by strengthening the accumulation of human resources in cities (Siqi zheng, 2010) [7] Among the existing research results, there are few institutional roots for the protection of migrant workers' housing rights from the perspective of urban inclusive

development. To this end, in the context of the acceleration of China's urbanization process, this paper discusses the protection of migrant workers' housing rights from the perspective of urban society and economic system, in order to provide an effective theoretical reference for improving the housing situation of migrant workers and protecting the housing rights of migrant workers.

## **2. Guarantee of Migrant Workers' Housing Rights and Urban Inclusive Development**

Since 1984, the phenomenon of migrant workers in China has been nearly 30 years old. Migrant workers are an inevitable phenomenon of urbanization and a special group in the process of urbanization in China. Although they are mainly engaged in non-agricultural production in the city and have made great contributions to the economic and social development of the city, they are unable to enjoy the social security of housing, education, medical care, and old-age care, especially for migrant workers. Get protected. This has seriously affected the survival and development of migrant workers and affected the healthy development of urban economy and society. This is because: for migrant workers, housing is not only a place to shelter from the wind, but a material basis for safeguarding the basic human rights such as the right to life and development. It is the acquisition of various urban resources and integration into urban society. Therefore, the protection of migrant workers' housing rights is a basic right for migrant workers to obtain adequate housing in the cities where they work. It is a basic responsibility and obligation of the city government. Its connotation includes the following basic principles: First, farmers as natural persons Workers have the freedom to obtain basic living needs; second, the government has the responsibility to ensure the basic residency of migrant workers; third, while meeting the basic housing needs of migrant workers, the government has the responsibility to control the inefficient allocation of scarce housing social resources.

“Living” is one of the basic needs of human survival and development. It is a natural right of mankind. Its most primitive use is to satisfy the basic consumption data of people's living needs. It is the key to people's livelihood and social stability. However, most city governments believe that they have neither the obligation nor the ability to provide housing security for migrant workers, so that China's urban housing security policy always regards household registration as a necessary threshold, and rejects the settlement of migrant workers' housing problems, even if In recent years, the central government has introduced some measures to alleviate the housing problems of migrant workers, and has not fundamentally solved the housing problems of migrant workers. However, reality has shown that peasant work is an indispensable new type of labor force in the process of industrialization in China. Whether they can settle in cities and towns in a long-term order is related to the overall development of China's social and economic development and the overall construction of a well-off society. Therefore, the realization of the housing rights of migrant workers needs to be solved from an inclusive perspective.

Of course, urban inclusive development is mainly a new development model created to solve the unfair and injustice caused by the exclusive development of urban society, with the implication of “social tolerance” or “social integration”. It is committed to the homogeneity of the development rights of different subjects in the city, re-describes the inherent inclusiveness of interdependence and benign interaction between fairness and efficiency, and regards fairness and fairness as key indicators of the success of urban operations, and advocates building a high level. And equal urban social service system. The result of urbanization. Specific to the housing problem of migrant workers, urban inclusive development means that while the city government uses social resources, it should aim at improving the public welfare and assume the responsibility and obligation to protect the housing rights of migrant workers, especially The housing resource allocation and housing system are formulated to be fair, and take active measures to achieve the basic housing rights of migrant workers fairly and effectively, so that migrant workers can better integrate into the city and promote the coordinated development of the city's economic and social environment. Therefore, the protection of migrant workers' housing rights is the proper meaning of urban inclusive development.

### **3. Analysis on the Problems and Causes of Migrant Workers' Urban Housing**

#### **3.1 Current Status of Urban Housing for Migrant Workers**

With the acceleration of China's urbanization process, a large number of migrant workers have entered the urban employment. However, due to the fact that the migrant workers' own income and the housing resources demanded by migrant workers are in short supply, the housing conditions of migrant workers are generally overcrowded and facilities. The situation of poor housing, poor sanitation, public security, and fewer public service facilities has made the housing problem of migrant workers quite difficult. The specific performance is as follows:

Judging from the source of housing, migrant workers are mostly based on simple housing provided by employers, as well as housings with poor conditions such as self-rented housing villages and old urban areas. According to the National Survey Report on Migrant Workers in 2015-2018, migrant workers accounted for 12.9% of the units, job sites and production and operation sites provided by the employment units, and rented the villages and old towns themselves. The proportion of housing is about 61%, and the number of shared housing is less than 1%. In recent years, the proportion of shared housing and the proportion of home-based living abroad has risen, and the proportion of independent rental housing and the proportion of self-purchasing in the construction site is decreasing.

From the perspective of housing area, the peasant workers have a very low living area. In 2018, the per capita living area is 20.2 m<sup>2</sup>, and the peasant households with a per capita living area of 5 square meters or less account for 4.4%. In the cities with more than 5 million people, the per capita living area Only 15.9 square meters, less than 500,000 people, the per capita living area is 23.7 square meters. Less than 30% of the per capita area of urban residents.

From the perspective of the housing environment, the housing facilities of migrant workers' housing are inadequate, education, medical care, and leisure facilities are inadequate. It is a crime against illegal construction, many dangerous houses, complicated personnel background, poor management, and endangering personal safety and property safety. The rate is high, the site is noisy and the pollution is serious.

#### **3.2 Analysis of the Causes of the Dilemma of Migrant Workers' Urban Housing**

The causes of the housing bail-out of migrant workers in the city have their own reasons, but also the exclusionary effects of social systems.

##### **3.2.1 Migrant Workers Are in Poor Condition**

According to the national survey of migrant workers from 2015 to 2018, the conditions of migrant workers themselves have been poor. First of all, the education level of migrant workers is generally low. Among them, illiteracy accounted for 1.2%, primary school education accounted for 15.5%, junior high school education accounted for 55.8%, senior high school education accounted for 16.6%, college education and above accounted for 10.9% (Table 1). Among the migrant workers, 13.8% had college education or above, and 8.1% had college education or above among the local migrant workers. Secondly, the employment occupational level of migrant workers is low. Among them, 27.9% were manufacturing, 18.6% were construction, 12.2% were service, 12.1% were wholesale and retail, 6.6% were transportation, storage and postal, and 6.7% were accommodation and catering (Table 2). Thirdly, the income of migrant workers is low. From 2015 to the end of 2018, the per capita monthly income of migrant workers increased from 3072 yuan to 3721 yuan, up 649 yuan, up 21%, but the income of migrant workers is still very low. However, the regional differences in the average income of migrant workers are not significant (Table 2). It is also because of the low educational level that the peasant workers are mostly employed in low-skilled labor-intensive jobs, resulting in their low incomes and difficulties in bearing the excessive high housing prices which are rising rapidly in the city. Eventually, a large number of peasant workers can only choose to live together in the simple living facilities provided by the employment units, or rent low-cost housing such as urban villages, old urban areas and suburbs. Between 2017 and 2018 alone, there was an increase of 10.89 million people, an increase of 0.6% (Table 2). Such a rapid

increase in the number of migrant workers has aggravated the pattern of urban housing supply and demand, and stimulated the rapid rise of urban housing prices, thus making the protection of migrant workers' housing rights and interests worse.

Table 1 the Composition of Migrant Workers' Education in 2017-2018

Classification of the educational level of migrant workers	Total number of migrant workers		Migrant workers who go to work in other places		Local migrant workers	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
Never attended school	1.0	1.2	0.7	0.7	1.3	1.3
Primary school education	13.0	15.5	9.7	10.0	16.0	15.9
Junior school education	58.6	55.8	58.8	56.8	58.5	58.4
high school	17.1	16.6	17.3	17.4	16.8	16.8
College degree or above	10.3	10.9	13.5	13.8	7.4	8.1

Source: National Bureau of Statistics, 2017, 2018 National Survey of Migrant Workers

Table 2 the Number Of Migrant Workers and Employment Income in China in 2015-2018

classification		2015	2016	2017	2018
Employment status	manufacturing(%)	31.1	30.5	29.9	27.9
	Construction industry(%)	21.1	19.7	18.9	18.6
	Transportation, warehousing and postal services(%)	6.4	6.4	6.6	6.6
	Wholesale and retail trade	11.9	12.3	12.3	12.1
	Accommodation and catering industry(%)	5.8	5.9	6.2	6.7
	Resident services and other services(%)	10.6	11.1	11.3	12.2
Income status	entire country	3072	3275	3485	3721
	East area)	3216	3454	3677	3955
	Central Region	2898	3132	3331	3568
	Western Region	2964	3117	3350	3522
Quantity	Total migrant workers	27747	28171	28652	28836
	1.Migrant workers	16884	16924	17185	17266
	2.Local migrant workers	10863	11237	11467	11570

Source: National Bureau of Statistics, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 National Survey of Migrant Workers

### 3.3 The Exclusion Effect of Urban Social System

(1)Judging from the employment income system, first, high-income technology-intensive industries have higher requirements for cultural level and labor skills, and most of them do not provide free housing. This has actually formed a huge exclusionary thrust for migrant workers; it is a low-income labor-intensive industry that has low requirements for cultural level and labor skills, and most of them can provide simple living facilities. This is a migrant worker who only works for the city to earn money and does not have a high demand for quality of life. The huge attraction has been formed. Third, in most state-owned units, the wages and welfare insurance of migrant workers are still more or less different from those of formal workers. This also creates a rejection thrust for migrant workers. In addition, the low professional prestige, employment location, and employment nature of migrant workers limit their choice of housing and even the exclusion of the psychological or behavioral behavior of the tenants.

(2)For the household registration management system, China's current household registration system is still a “dualistic” structure of urban and rural areas. Under this household registration management system, migrant workers have always been regarded as “foreign population” and “temporary resident population”, and are basically not included in the urban housing system. First of all, in the urban housing supply system, urban housing and its land use plan for urban housing supply system does not consider the housing of migrant workers and their land use planning. Secondly, in the urban housing security system, localities have been established. Housing security systems for low-income residents, affordable housing, dual-limit commercial housing, public rental housing, etc., to protect the housing rights of low-income and below-occupied residents, but this system does not include migrant workers (especially the housing security problem of low-income migrant workers also explicitly refuses the entry of migrant workers. It can be seen that the housing

system under the “dualistic” social structure of the city, as well as the employment income system, the household registration system and many other social systems, have a social exclusion phenomenon for the protection of migrant workers’ housing rights, which has led to the current state of migrant workers’ living conditions.

#### **4. The Path Choice of Housing Rights and Interests of Migrant Workers**

##### **4.1 Establishment of Equal Citizenship Endowment Mechanism**

According to Robert Adams, empowerment is a conscious approach to empowerment that empowers individuals, groups, and even entire communities to control their environment and achieve their goals in order to enhance their quality of life. In order to make the migrant workers group look at themselves more actively, the government must regard them as equal citizens with civil rights as people with considerable advantages and abilities, and promote the personal abilities, family development, and community of migrant workers. A sense of belonging, participation in policy, etc. Therefore, in theory, giving citizens equal citizenship is not only the basic right of every citizen, but also the basic responsibility and obligation of the government. However, in reality, due to the exclusion of the housing system, the employment income system, and the household registration system, migrant workers are seriously lacking the same citizenship in urban housing, and cannot obtain the same housing rights as urbanized residents, resulting in migrant workers’ cities. The deteriorating housing situation has also caused the housing problem of migrant workers to fall into an intractable predicament, thus inducing many economic and social problems. The same citizenship empowers the mechanism to improve the housing capacity of migrant workers in the city, thereby protecting the housing rights of migrant workers.

##### **4.2 Establish a General Urban Housing Security Mechanism**

In reality, a large number of migrant workers have become an important part of industrial workers, and are the main force to promote industrialization and urbanization. However, due to the current housing security, household registration, employment income and other systems in the city, there is a huge social exclusion for migrant workers, resulting in poor employment environment, low pay, less welfare, poor living conditions, etc., resulting in agriculture. It is difficult for migrant workers to fully integrate into the urban mainstream society and effectively enjoy urban basic public services, which is not conducive to the survival and development of migrant workers themselves, but also seriously affects the willingness of migrant workers to stay in the city, thus endangering the healthy development of the urban economic and social environment. Therefore, the urban government should abandon the exclusive development thinking, coordinate the urban and rural housing security system from the perspective of inclusive development, establish a broad urban housing security system, and eliminate the specific institutional obstacles to the protection of the housing rights and interests of migrant workers. The so-called broad-sense urban housing security mechanism mainly refers to its security object with broad significance, that is, its security object includes all citizens living and working in the city, that is to say, non-urban residents such as migrant workers and Non-peasant household population excluded by the narrow-sense housing security system should be included in the scope of its security object. This broad sense of urban housing security system is conducive to improving the housing capacity of migrant workers and non household registration residents, so as to improve the integration of migrant workers and non household registration residents into the urban mainstream social environment, and enable them to effectively enjoy the basic urban public services, thus promoting the healthy development of urban economic and social environment.

#### **5. Conclusion**

To improve and protect the housing rights of migrant workers, we must abandon the exclusionary development thinking, change the existing “dual” social system of urban housing security, employment income and household registration, establish an equal civil rights

empowerment mechanism, a general urban housing security mechanism, and migrant workers. Public service investment mechanism, etc., promote the formation of urban inclusive development model, thus eliminating the institutional roots that exclude the protection of migrant workers' housing rights.

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