

Analysis of education status and countermeasures of left-behind children in rural areas

—Based on the perspective of fair education

Yanling Yang

Educational Psychology, Miami University, USA

Keywords: Rural left-behind children, Education equity, Countermeasures

Abstract: Since the 1980s, along with the acceleration of China's urbanization process, a large number of rural surplus labor began to shift to cities and towns. Due to the lag of China's urban-rural economic system and its related social system, more and more rural children are separated from their parents in this process, resulting in various problems of left-behind children in rural areas, as well as education problems. As one or both parents of left-behind children enter the city, a large number of rural left-behind children lack parental care, complete family education and supervision, making these children a vulnerable group that cannot be ignored in the society. This paper analyzes the education status of left-behind children in rural areas and proposes recommended measures.

1. Historical background

Since the implementation of the reform and opening up policy in China in 1978, the social and economic development has accelerated, the scale of the city has expanded, the number of rural labor exports has increased, and the children of migrant workers cannot follow their parents' lives. This special social group is the so-called rural left-behind children. In recent years, the state has put forward the idea of adhering to the people-centered development and ensuring the educational rights of left-behind children in rural areas. The education of left-behind children is accompanied by industrialization and urbanization. It is a companion to the problem of migrant workers in China and is no longer a new topic. It is rooted in the rural society of the countryside, and it is a kind of pain in the process of social transformation in China during the process of social transformation after the reform and opening up.

Left-behind children originally mainly refer to children and adolescents who are left behind by their parents or other relatives and friends in China because they are studying abroad. Left-behind children are not a unified group, but a group with a high degree of internal heterogeneity. In various studies, the education problems of left-behind children in rural areas are particularly prominent. Due to the limitations of economic conditions, the lack of parental supervision, and the inadequacy of state policies, left-behind children face many difficulties in education, and the elimination of the educational difficulties of left-behind children is the top priority of current education work.

2. Status quo of left-behind children education

2.1 The overall situation of left-behind children in rural areas of China

According to China's sixth census data, from the age distribution of left-behind children in rural areas, the number of left-behind children in rural areas (0-5 years old), primary school age (6-11 years old), junior high school stage (12-14 years old), The proportion of all rural left-behind children in the four age groups (15-17 years old) was: 39%, 32%, 16%, 13%.

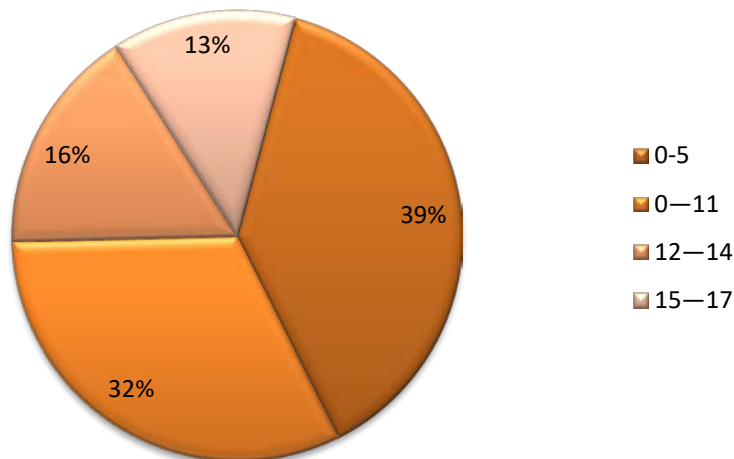


Fig.1 Schematic diagram of the age ratio of left-behind children in the country

2.2 Status of investigation of left-behind children in X town

2.2.1 Geographical distribution of left-behind children

There are 7 villages in the town, named A-G in the text. Through investigation, it is found that there is such a characteristic. First, the more remote the village, the more the number of left-behind children, the higher the probability that both parents will go out to work together. Second, the parents who go out to work are mostly young people with certain cultural knowledge. Of course, the parents of left-behind children over 40 years old are also sporadically present. Third, the more inaccessible places, the smaller the opportunities for left-behind children to be educated, and the lack of educational resources in these villages.

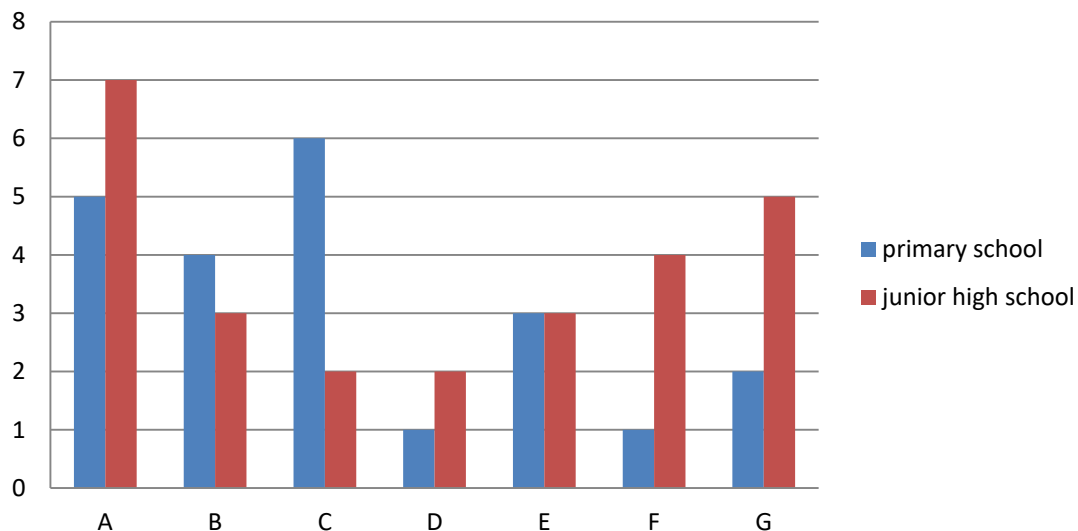


Fig.2 X town left-behind children different villages distribution map

2.2.2 Ways of communication between left-behind children and parents

The questionnaire designed the contact information of left-behind children and working parents, including meeting, telephone, network, letters, etc., and found that there are fewer ways to meet, and it is more fixed. In short, this method is difficult. The most frequent of these is the telephone. As mobile phones become more and more popular, this type of contact is more and more convenient, and the communication validity is relatively high. There are also more and more popular networks, especially the use of new media such as WeChat and QQ for communication, and the way of video communication is more intuitive and effective.

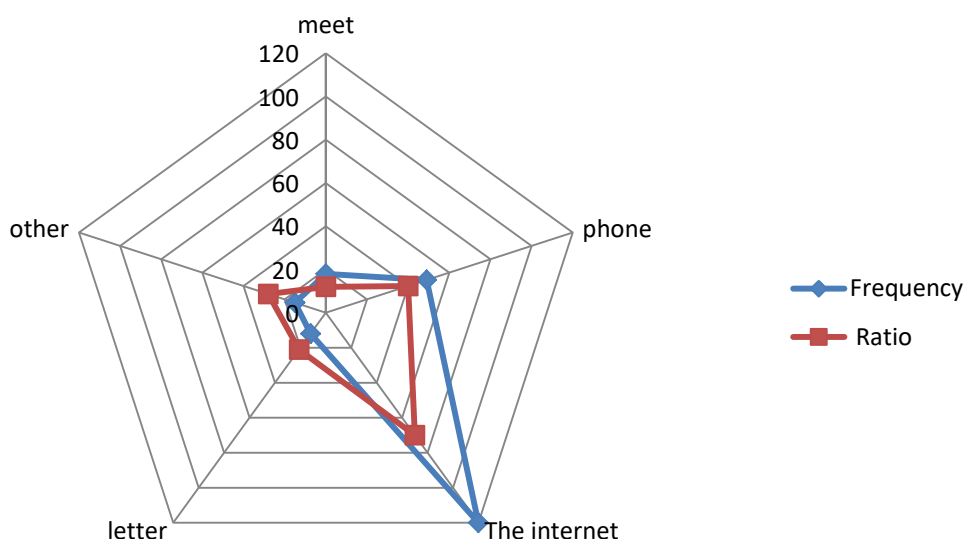


Fig.3 Statistical diagram of communication between left-behind children and parents

2.2.3 Age proportion and distribution of left-behind children

The gender ratio of rural left-behind children, rural non-left-behind children and rural children was analyzed. It was found that the three lines had a relatively consistent effect, that is, with the increase of age, the degree of education of boys was high, and many girls would lose the opportunity to educate, go home to do housework or go out to work, creating a vicious circle.

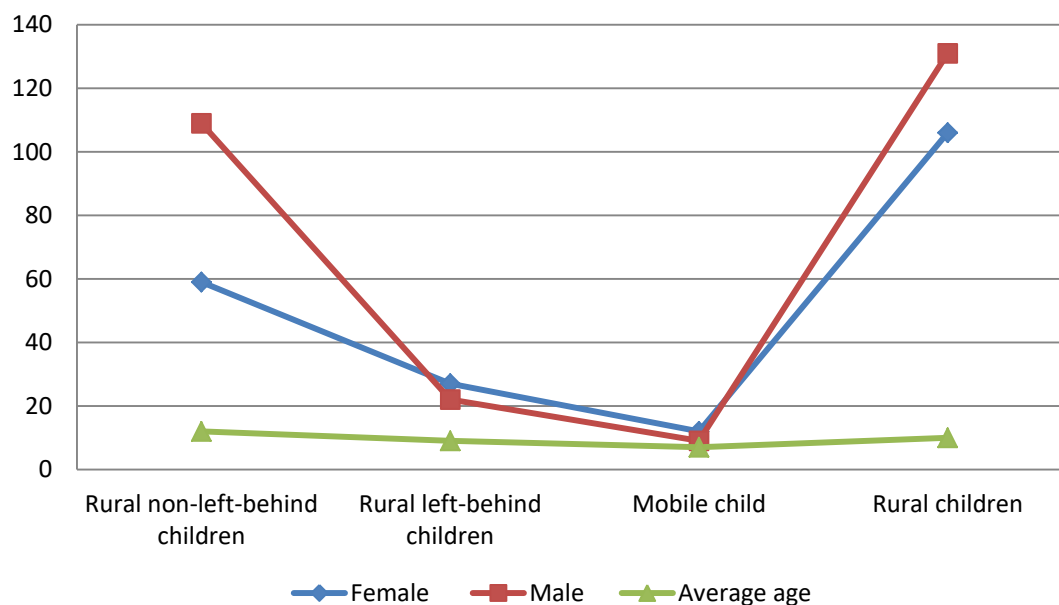


Fig.4 Age and gender statistics for left-behind and non-left-behind children in X Town

2.2.4 Living conditions of left-behind children

The living conditions of this article are classified according to the basic living standards. After investigation, it was found that in the five categories of living with parents, living with parents (others), fostering relatives, school boarding, and independent living, the proportion of grandparents was the largest, close to 50%, followed by parental care, relatives boarding, school boarding, and independent living is 0. It can be seen that the situation in which both parents go out to work is still relatively common in the town, and the education of children is also more prominent.

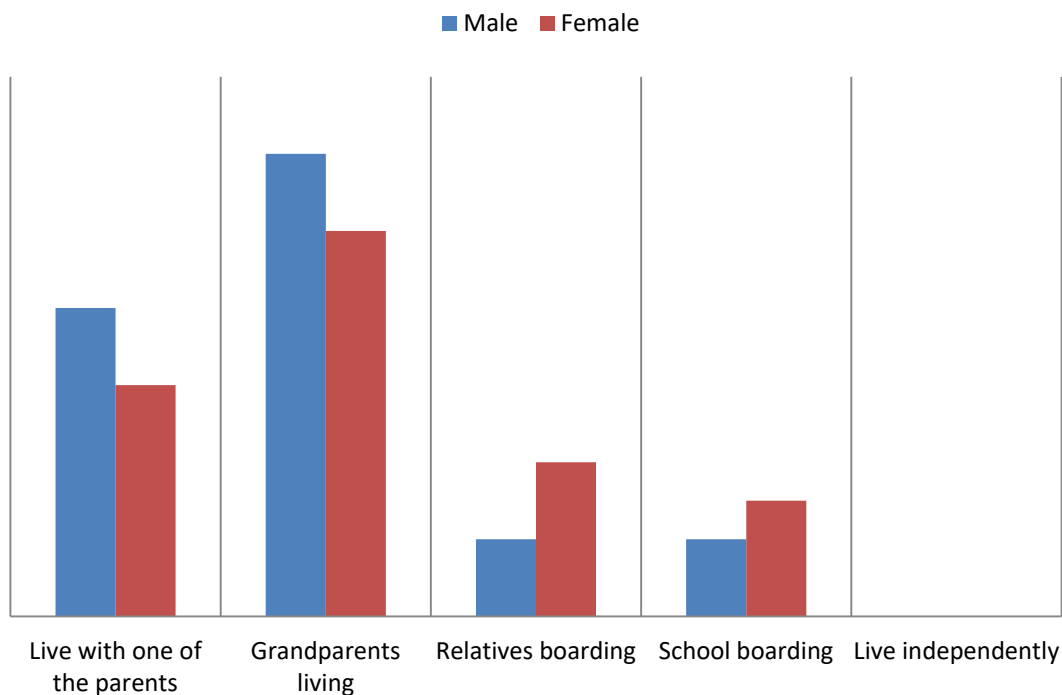


Fig.5 Children's living situation statistics in X town

2.2.5 Family's interest in left-behind children

The survey found that when asked about the left-behind children's family's greatest concern for children, the attention to academic performance was the highest, indicating that the town's emphasis on education is still relatively high. Physical health, personal safety, moral civilization, etc. are ranked behind, which shows that the relationship between children in the family is not enough, and it does not help the improvement of children's comprehensive quality.

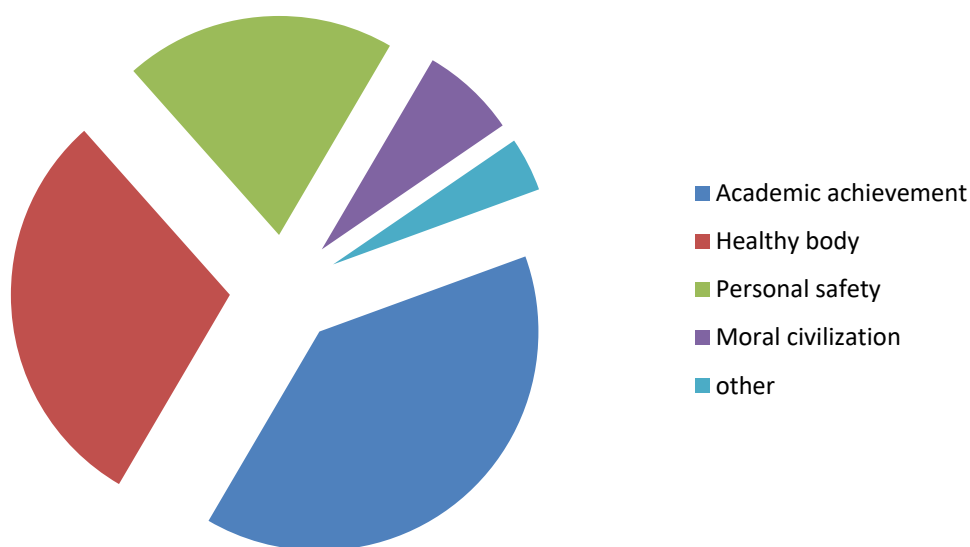


Fig.6 Family vs. Children's Statistics

2.2.6 Attitudes towards learning

The survey found that the interest and willingness of left-behind children in the town is relatively strong. The proportion of students who like to study and like to learn is about 90%, which is basically the same as that of non-left-behind children. It can be seen that although the parents of left-behind children have an influence on their children's learning, the impact on their children's

learning attitude is not direct.

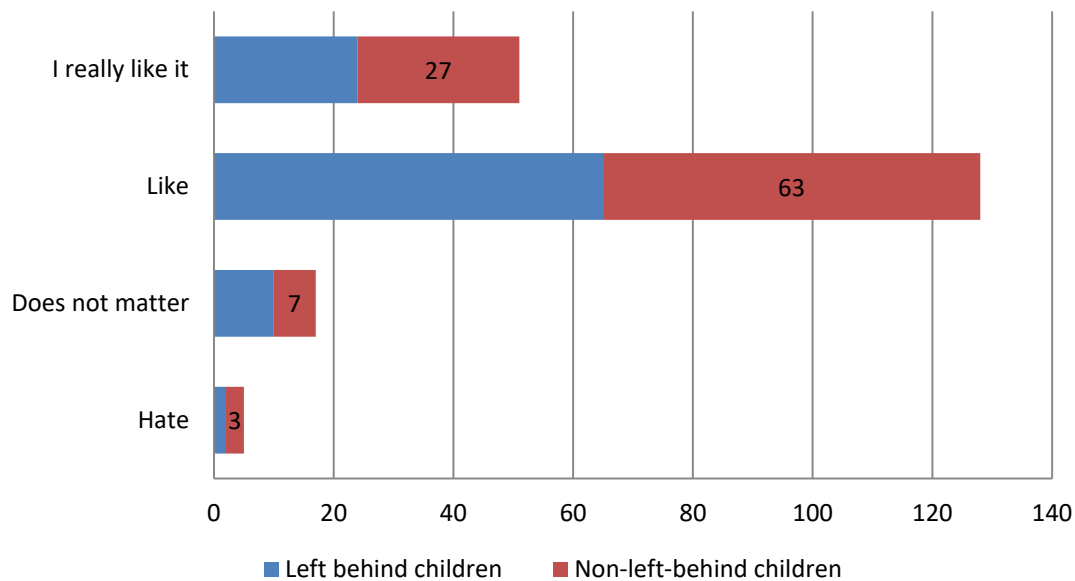


Fig.7 Comparison of learning attitudes between left-behind children and non-left-behind children

3. Recommended measures

In view of the above situation and existing problems, it is recommended to take measures from the government, society, families, schools and other aspects to increase the protection of the rights and interests of left-behind children.

The first is to promote coordinated education among the government, families, schools, and society. Further improve the education funding system, and incorporate the education funds for left-behind children into the local government education funding system.

Second, relying on social institutions to popularize tutoring knowledge. Establish home education service institutions for left-behind children and parent schools, rely on left-behind mobile children's parents' schools, conduct home education knowledge training for left-behind children's parents, especially guardians of left-behind children, strengthen the awareness of parents' first responsible persons, and guide the parents and guardians of left-behind children to pay attention to children's education.

The third is to implement the boarding system for left-behind children. According to their actual conditions, the establishment of school left-behind children boarding, or the government, social groups to fund the establishment of a regional boarding center, and the local education administrative agency responsible for management, comprehensive responsibility for the care of left-behind children.

The fourth is to encourage and promote the return of migrant workers to start their own businesses. Local governments should develop modern agriculture and actively attract investment according to local actual conditions and the willingness of workers to work, reduce the export of labor services across geographical distances, promote the return of migrant workers to start their own businesses, and drive back the resources of capital, technology, information and talents.

References

- [1] Hui Y I, Economics S O, University Y. Research on the Current Situation and Countermeasures of Educational Equity in Rural Areas in the New Era[J]. Times Agricultural Machinery, 2017.
- [2] Gao J. Social status and Countermeasures of Educational Equity[J]. Public Administration & Law, 2007.

- [3] Song Y. The Current Situation, Problems and Countermeasures of Accountability System for the Balanced Development of Compulsory Education[J]. Journal of Shanxi Normal University, 2018.
- [4] WANG Shiming, LI Caiyun, JIA Kaiwei. Study on the current situation and countermeasures of MOOC education in local universities [J]. Journal of Liaoning Technical University (Social Science Edition), 2018.
- [5] Ma M. Research on the Current Situation and Countermeasures of Education of International Students in Jiangxi Province: Based on 2010-2015 Data Analysis[J]. Science Education Article Collects, 2018.