



ARTICLE

The Study and Investigation for the Ideals of New Generation Migrant Workers

Xiaowen Li* Liyi Jia

Anhui Normal University, Wuhu, Anhui, 241000, China

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received: 25 July 2018

Revised: 15 September 2018

Accepted: 8 October 2018

Published Online: 16 October 2018

Keywords:

New generation migrant workers

Ideals

Investigation

ABSTRACT

(1) Objective: The study is to understand the overall situation of the ideas of new generation migrant workers and its influencing factors, so as to provide basis for the formulation of relevant countermeasures. (2) Methods: The article uses a self-made questionnaire for 613 new generation migrant workers to conduct a questionnaire investigation and statistical analysis of the results. (3) Results: The scores of the new generation migrant workers' ideals from the highest to the lowest are life ideal, occupation ideal, physical ideal, development ideal and material ideal and the ideals have differences in gender, age, marital status and family residence. (4) Conclusion: The ideal levels are different and basically in the upper middle level.

1. Introduction

People always live in reality. However, the human real world is constructed by their own purposeful practical activities, embodying human needs and will. The real world is reflected in people's consciousness, that's to say, conception can be found in people's consciousness. Before the current real life is not yet created by their practice for themselves, people have been consciously building and designing it.^[1] This kind of imagination to build a design in human consciousness is called

ideal. Obviously, ideal is an imagination and the goal human strive for, embodying the needs of human beings and the desire and pursuit of a good state in the future.^[2] As a microcosm of the transformation and transformation in Chinese society, migrant workers have made tremendous contributions to the process of Chinese modernization, whose hard work drives the development and changes of cities. As time goes by, there have been changes in the diversity and individuation of the migrant workers' camps.^[3,4] They are no longer homogenous groups. As a result of differen-

**Corresponding Author:*

Xiaowen Li

Anhui Normal University,

No.1 Beijing East Road, Wuhu, Anhui, 241000, China.

E-mail: 921324214@qq.com.

tiation, the new generation migrant workers have quietly debuted, who were born after the 1980s.^[5] Compared with the previous generation of migrant workers, they all have obvious differences in their choices of values and behavioral norms.^[6]

2. Research Methods

2.1 Research Object

This study investigated new generation migrant workers working in Anhui, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, and Shanghai. A total of 700 questionnaires were distributed and 613 valid questionnaires were retrieved.

2.2 Research Materials

The self-contained ideal questionnaire for the new generation of migrant workers, including 19 questions, consists of five factors, namely life ideal, material ideal, physical ideal, development ideal and occupation ideal. The questionnaire has a good reliability and validity: the overall internal consistency coefficient of the questionnaire for the new generation of migrant workers is 0.905, and each internal consistency coefficient of the remaining factors is between 0.704 and 0.899; on the structure validity, the correlation among the factors of the formal questionnaire is between 0.24-0.51, and the correlation between each factor and the total score is between 0.41 and 0.79.

2.3 Research Procedures

As the main test, new generations of familiar migrant workers or factory leaders in the selected cities are be found, guided and then asked to issue questionnaires. After collected, the questionnaires are sent back by post and the data is finally analyzed and processed.

3. Results

3.1 The Overall Situation of the Ideals of New Generation Migrant Workers

On the whole, the overall ideal score of the new generation migrant workers (84.18 ± 9.17), and the average value of a single item (3.69) are both higher than the median value of a single project (3.00); the ideal and its score in each dimension are as following: life ideal (9.56 ± 3.09), material ideal (14.94 ± 3.86), physical ideal (11.54 ± 3.39), development ideals (7.20 ± 2.68), occupation ideal (5.06 ± 2.25), and according to the average sores in a single project, the ideal comparison in five tested dimensions is: life ideals > occupation ideals > physical ideals > development ideals > material ideals, in which only the average value of material ideal is 2.85, less than 3, while the average values of other dimensions are all more than 3. Therefore, it can be seen that the ideal levels of the new generation migrant workers are different and basically in the middle level (see Table 1).

Table 1. Descriptive Statistics of the Scores of the Ideals of New Generation Migrant Workers

Ideal	Score range	M	SD	The average score of an ideal	The theoretical median score of an ideal
Overall ideal	19 ~ 95	84.18	9.17	3.69	3
Life ideal	5 ~ 25	9.56	3.09	4.47	3
Material ideal	4 ~ 20	14.94	3.86	2.85	3
Physical ideal	4 ~ 20	11.54	3.39	3.44	3
Development ideal	3 ~ 15	7.20	2.68	3.44	3
Occupation ideal	3 ~ 15	5.06	2.25	4.15	3

3.2 The Differences in the Ideals of New Generation Migrant Workers

3.2.1 The Gender Difference in the Ideals of New Generation Migrant Workers

The t-test is applied to the gender differences, as shown in Table 2. In terms of the overall ideals, there is a significant gender difference in the total score: the score of male migrant workers is higher than that of female migrant workers ($p < 0.01$); among the dimensions of the ideals, there are an extremely significant gender difference in the material ideal: the score of male migrant workers is remarkably higher than that of female migrant workers ($p < 0.01$). Such a significant difference is also reflected in the development ideal and occupation ideal ($p < 0.001$).

Table 2. T-test of the Gender Differences in the Ideals of New Generation Migrant Workers

	Male		Female		t
	M	SD	M	SD	
Overall ideal	71.44	9.54	68.83	8.58	4.15****
Life ideal	22.50	3.14	22.25	3.03	1.12
Material ideal	11.80	3.80	11.00	3.89	2.98**
Physical ideal	13.94	3.57	13.57	3.19	1.56
Development ideal	10.68	2.61	9.98	2.70	3.78****
Occupational ideal	12.50	2.18	12.00	2.28	3.25****

Notes: * indicates $P < 0.05$, ** indicates $P < 0.01$, *** indicates $P < 0.001$.

3.2.2 The Age Difference in the Ideals of New Generation Migrant Workers

An analysis of the variance of the age difference of the ideals of new generation migrant workers is shown in Table 3. The results show that the scores differ in the four dimensions of life ideal, material ideal, development ide-

Table 3. Analysis of Variance of Age Difference of the Ideals of New Generation Migrant Workers

	Under the age of 18		Between the age of 19 and 25		Above the age of 26		F
	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD	
Overall ideal	68.67	8.05	72.17	11.0	70.02	8.99	2.25
Life ideal	20.96	3.11	21.94	3.70	22.48	3.01	4.42*
Material ideal	11.64	3.92	12.58	4.21	11.28	3.81	3.87*
Physical ideal	13.48	2.73	13.60	3.70	13.79	3.39	0.21
Development ideal	10.83	2.58	11.04	2.40	10.25	2.70	3.44*
Occupation ideal	7.77	1.69	8.37	1.71	8.37	1.63	5.00**

Table 4. Multiple Comparisons in Age of the Ideals of New Generation Migrant Workers

Age(I)	Age(J)	I-J					
		Overall ideal	Life ideal	Material ideal	Physical ideal	Development ideal	Occupation ideal
Under the age of 18	Between the age of 19 and 25	Life ideal	-.977	-0.94	-0.11	-0.20	-1.25*
	Above the age of 26	Material ideal	-1.519*	0.36	-0.31	0.58	-0.46
Between the age of 19 and 25	Above the age of 26	Physical ideal	-0.54	1.30*	-0.19	0.79*	0.79*

Notes: * indicates P<0.05, ** indicates P<0.01, *** indicates P<0.001.

al, and occupation ideal (p<0.01 or p<0.05). In order to further understand the differences between the different age groups of new generation migrant workers, multiple comparisons are made on the total ideals and scores for migrant workers in different ages. From the results shown in Table 4, it can be seen that the score of the younger group is lower than that of the older group as a whole. In the dimension of life ideal, the score of the group under the age of 18 is significantly lower than that of the group over the age of 25; in the dimension of material ideal, the score of the group between the age of 19 and 25 is significantly higher than that of the group over the age of 25; in the dimension of development ideal, the score of the group between the age of 19 and 25 is also significantly higher than that of the group over the age of 25; in the dimension of occupation ideal, the score of the group under the age of 18 is significantly lower than the group between the age of 19 and 25 while the score of the 19-year-old group is significantly higher than that of the group over the age of 25.

3.2.3 Difference in Ideal Marital Status of New Generation Migrant Workers

The t-test is used to determine the ideal marital status of the new generation migrant workers as shown in Table 5. Although there is no difference in general, there are significant differences in the ideal marital status in all dimen-

sions. In the dimension of development ideal, the score of married migrant workers is higher than that of unmarried migrant workers (p<0.05); in the dimension of occupation ideal, the score of married migrant workers is higher than that of unmarried migrant workers (P<0.01).

Table 5. T-test of Difference in the Ideal Marital Status of New Generation Migrant Workers

	Married		Unmarried		t
	M	SD	M	SD	
Overall ideal	70.04	8.87	70.91	10.91	-0.80
Life ideal	22.46	2.95	21.84	3.829	1.67
Material ideal	11.32	3.781	11.97	4.336	-1.51
Physical ideal	13.77	3.40	13.71	3.333	0.18
Development ideal	10.95	3.19	10.27	2.67	0.71*
Occupation ideal	12.20	2.206	12.63	2.486	5.14**

Notes: * indicates P<0.05, ** indicates P<0.01, *** indicates P<0.001.

3.2.4 Difference in Ideal Residence of New Generation Migrant Workers

The t-test is used to determine the ideal residence of the new generation migrant workers, as shown in Table 6. In terms of overall ideal, there is no significant difference between urban and non-urban areas. From the perspective of all dimensions, there is a significant difference between life ideal and development ideal (P<0.05). The ideal score

of migrant workers with urban registered residence is higher than that of non-citizens.

Table 6. T-test of the Difference in Ideal Residence of New Generation Migrant Workers

	Urban		Non-urban		t
	M	SD	M	SD	
Overall ideal	70.16	9.07	70.15	9.34	0.01
Life ideal	22.56	3.05	22.10	3.13	2.11*
Material ideal	11.26	3.79	11.63	3.97	-1.34
Physical ideal	13.82	3.27	13.66	3.58	0.66
Development ideal	10.17	2.65	10.59	2.70	0.66*
Occupation ideal	12.32	2.18	12.15	2.34	1.02

Notes: * indicates $P < 0.05$, ** indicates $P < 0.01$, *** indicates $P < 0.001$.

4. Discussion and Analysis

4.1 The Overall Analysis of the Ideals of the New Generation Migrant Workers

In general, there are differences in different levels of the ideals of new generation migrant workers, which are basically in the upper middle level. A higher level can be achieved in both occupation ideal and development ideal as the occupational treatment and working environment have been continuously improved. With the increase of income, the new generation migrant workers have begun to pay more and more attention to spiritual things, such as pursuing fashionable dress, going to the gym to exercise, and shaping their bodies, which reflects that they are increasingly pursuing spiritual wealth. At the same time, it also proposes a new topic for the society. That is how to satisfy the growing spiritual pursuit on the basis of guaranteeing the basic survival needs of them and how to give more new citizen rights so that they can integrate into the city more quickly and better and are not the marginal person who working hard for the city.^[7]

4.2 Analysis of Differences of the Ideals of New Generation Migrant Workers

4.2.1 Analysis of Gender Differences

In terms of the overall ideal, there is a significant gender difference in the total score: the ideal total score of male migrant workers is higher than that of female migrant workers ($p < 0.01$); There are significant differences in all dimensions: the ideal score of male is higher than that of female in material ideals ($p < 0.05$); has extremely significant gender differences. The ideal score of male is significantly higher than that of female in development ideal ($p < 0.001$); the ideal score of male is also significantly higher than female in occupation ideal ($p < 0.001$). At pres-

ent, although many women have gone out of their homes to participate in social work, they are still the main bearers of the responsibility for homework and family care, which produce the double burden of domestic work and social labor, making the cultural life of female migrant workers poor even missing.^[8]

4.2.2 Analysis of Ideal Age Differences

There exist differences in life ideal, material ideal, development ideal, and occupation ideal ($p < 0.01$ or $p < 0.05$). In order to further understand the differences in different age groups, multiple comparisons of scores on the overall ideal and other four dimensions of the new generation migrant workers in different ages are carried out. Through comprehensive analysis, the ideal score of the group between the age of 19 to 25 is the highest, who has basically established a family and a stable living environment with increased experience and skill after several years' migrant work, some of whom may have embarked on leadership positions, while the group under the age of 18 scores the lowest, who has relatively small pressure and social responsibilities as teenagers.^[9]

4.2.3 Analysis of the Differences in Ideal Marital Status

Although there is no difference in the overall ideal, there are significant differences in all dimensions: the ideal score of married migrant workers is higher than that of unmarried workers in development ideal ($p < 0.05$); the ideal score of married workers is higher than that of unmarried workers in occupation ideal ($P < 0.01$), for the characteristics of the times come from life and also from life. In this era of unprecedented material enrichment, everything has changed quietly in food, clothing, shelter, and transportation.^[10]

4.2.4 Analysis of the Differences in Ideal Residence

In terms of the overall ideal, there is no significant difference between urban and non-urban areas, but there is a significant difference in life ideal and development ideal ($P < 0.05$). The ideal score of migrant workers with urban registered residence is higher than that of non-citizens. In China, due to the constraints of the household registration system and the urban-rural duality structure, there are huge differences in people's thinking between cities and non-towns. According to Hartung's theory, as the family economy of workers with urban registered residence is slightly better than that of non-citizen migrant workers, urban migrant workers with higher family and school education are also better than non-urban workers.

5. Conclusion

The ideals of the new generation migrant workers are at a medium level, whose cores in all dimensions are, from high to low, life ideal, occupation ideal, physical ideal, de-

velopment ideal and material ideal. The ideals have differences in gender, age, marital status, and family residence. The levels of the ideals of new generation migrant workers are different in all aspects, and the ideal level is basically in the upper middle level. This is because it is inseparable from our party and the government's high priority on ideal education^[11]. It also proposes a new topic for the society. That is how to satisfy the growing spiritual pursuit on the basis of guaranteeing the basic survival needs of them and how to give more new citizen rights so that they can integrate into the city more quickly and better and are not the marginal person who working hard for the city.^[12]

References

- [1] Hong Chen, Xiting Huang. Research on the Physical Developmental Characteristics and Gender Differences of Adolescent Students[J]. Journal of Psychology, 2012,28:432-435. (in Chinese)
- [2] Dan Fan. An Empirical Study on the Dimensions of the Psychological Contract Structure of the New Generation Migrant Workers[J]. Soft Science, 2011, 11: 120-123. (in Chinese)
- [3] Xuesong Han. The Psychological Dilemma and Solution Strategy of the New Generation of Migrant Workers[J]. Xi'an Social Sciences, 2009, 09:121-123. (in Chinese)
- [4] Jiatian You. "Chinese Dream" to create a New Realm of Social Civilization[J]. Chinese Cadres Tribune, 2013.13: 39-41. (in Chinese)
- [5] Annelies, E. M., & Vianen, V. Managerial self-efficacy, outcome expectancies, and work-role salience as determinants of ambition for a managerial position[J]. Journal of Applied Social Psychology, 2010,29:639-665.
- [6] Cantor, N. From thought to behavior: "Having" and "doing" in the study of personality and cognition[J]. American Psychologist, 2010,45:735-750.
- [7] Downey, D. B. Number of siblings and intellectual development[J]. American Psychologist, 2009, 56:497-504.
- [8] Hartung, P. J., Porfeli, E. J., & Vondracek, F. W. Child vocational development: A review and reconsideration[J]. Journal of Vocational Behavior, 2012,66:385-419.
- [9] Kimberly, A. S., Howard, A. H., & Katz, A. D. et al. Career aspirations of youth: Untangling race/ethnicity, SES, and gender[J]. Journal of Vocational Behavior, 2014,79:98-109.
- [10] Morris-Reich, A. Race, ideas, and ideals: A comparison of Franz Boas and Hans F. K. Günther[J]. History of European Ideas, 2008,2:313-332.
- [11] Thompson, J. K., & Stice, E. Thin-ideal internalization: Mounting evidence for a new risk factor for body-image disturbance and eating pathology[J]. Current Directions in Psychological Science, 2009,10:181-183.
- [12] Verkasalo, M., & Lindeman, M. Personal Ideal and Socially Desirable Responding[J]. European Journal of Personality, 2012,8:18-24.