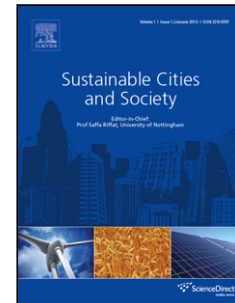


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Settlement Intention Characteristics and Determinants in Floating Populations in Chinese Border Cities

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Abstract: Floating populations are crucial for urbanization and economic development in China. Border cities are significant areas of population and economic agglomeration in border areas. The influx of floating populations into border cities has been an important impetus for urbanization of these border cities. Based on floating population dynamic monitoring data obtained from 22 border cities in 2014, we examined the characteristics of migrants and analyzed determinants of migrants' settlement intentions using chi-square tests and binary logistic regression analysis. The results revealed that human capital, economic conditions, family stability, social and living security, and social and cultural environment all influenced the settlement intentions of floating populations in border cities. Thus, local governments need to emphasize local socio-economic development and provide more social and living security to floating populations to encourage population inflow. Moreover, local governments need to promote and facilitate floating populations' integration into local communities.

Keywords: floating populations; settlement intentions; determinants of settlement; border cities; China

1. Introduction

Urbanization has profound impacts on urban development (Zhang, 2016). Compared to developed countries, less developed countries with high population growth rates and high internal migration rates face greater urbanization-related challenges (Aerni, 2016). The rapid economic development of China has caused an extensive rural-to-urban and urban-to-urban floating population due to better education, medicine, and entertainment facilities as well as higher incomes and living standards (Addanki & Venkataraman, 2017). Beijing, Tianjin, the Pearl River Delta, the Yangtze River Delta, and other provincial capitals are the main inflow areas of China's floating population (Liu, Otsubo, Wang, Ichinose, & Ishimura, 2007). There have been significant changes in China's urbanization levels, both in terms of intensified urban densities and increases in the number of cities (Jiang, 2014). For instance, in 2016, the urbanization rate was 57.35% (NBSPRC, 2017). In 2010, China's floating populations numbered 247 million representing nearly 18% of the country's total population (The 2016 report of floating population, 2016).

In 2014, the central government of China introduced a new concept called "people-centered urbanization"

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