


Labor Migration and Inter-regional
Economic Disparities in China

劳动力流动与 中国地区经济差距

敖荣军 著

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ABSTRACT

The impacts of inter-provincial labor migration on regional disparities of Chinese economic growth under the condition of globalization are analyzed in this dissertation. In framework of the increasing returns and imperfect competition, having changes of regional labor market demand and its impacts on the gross size and skill composition of inter-provincial labor migration in mind, the dynamic mechanisms of inter-provincial labor migration and the effects of migration on inter-provincial disparities of economic growth since 1990s are analyzed empirically. Firstly, utilizing data from 1990 to 2004 on the level of province, the impact of inter-provincial labor migration on the convergence of regional growth is analyzed. Secondly, adapting some statistical methods and econometric models, regional disparities and its dynamic changes of Chinese economic growth are analyzed empirically. As a result, the positive effects of factor concentrations on the rise of regional disparities are confirmed. Lastly, the relationship between inter-provincial migration and concentrations of factors such as human capital and foreign direct investment is demonstrated. So, as the main purpose of this dissertation, the

endogenous relationship between interregional migration and regional disparities of Chinese economic growth is uncovered profoundly.

Chapter 1 shows the necessity and significance of the research, reviews the relative literatures, points out some problematic issues in the existing literature, introduces the basic methodology and main ideas of this dissertation. Most of existing literatures base on the framework of neoclassical paradigm, which takes diminishing marginal returns as the assumption, and believe that the negative direction between labor migration and capital mobile must result in a fall of regional disparities of economic growth. By and large, these literatures consider labor migration as it stands, in which the effects of the interactions between heterogeneous labors and the interactions between labor and other produce factors on labor migration are neglected. Although most of existing literatures take globalization as a background, the impact of globalization on the structure of labor demand and its regional difference are neglected. In order to uncover impacts of migration on the regional disparities, this dissertation puts the research into the framework of increasing returns and incomplete competition. As a result, this dissertation focuses much more on the complementary relationships between heterogeneous labors to analyze inherent mechanism that interregional migration of skilled labors intensifies concentrations of human capital into the eastern China; focuses much more on impact of foreign direct investment and its regional difference on regional labor demand structure to uncover inherent mechanism that in-

terregional migration of skilled labors strengthens concentrations of FDI into the eastern China. On all accounts, on the assumption that interregional migration intensifies concentrations of produce factors, this dissertation would uncover endogenous changes of regional disparities of Chinese economic growth through confirming positive interactions between produce factors.

Chapter 2 puts forward theoretical bases of researches on interregional labor migration and regional disparities of economic growth; clarifies theoretical framework of the research from basic premise and theoretical hypothesis; defines main terms technically; introduces methodological models, samples and data. It is the migration theory, neoclassical growth theory, new growth theory and new economic geography that compose fundamental theoretical bases of researches on interregional labor migration and regional disparities of economic growth. The research takes the heterogeneity of labors as premise, on the assumption of complementarities and cumulative circular, utilizing statistical and econometrical techniques, to anatomize empirically interregional labor migration and its impacts on the regional disparities of economic growth of China since 1990s.

Chapter 3 utilizes econometrical technique based on the growth regression, in the framework of neoclassical growth, to analyze the impacts of interregional labor migration on regional growth convergence of China. Firstly, data from 1995 1% census and 2000 national census are utilized to analyze the quantity of inter-provincial labor migration of China since 1990s, thereby

the spatial pattern of migration that characterized by the eastern China as net immigration region and the central and western China as net emigration region is revealed. Secondly, migration is modeled to analyze decisive influences of regional income capita, employment opportunity, amenities and industrial structure on Chinese inter-provincial labor migration empirically. Thirdly, econometrical technique based growth regression is utilized to analyze the convergence of Chinese regional economic growth empirically; consequently the conclusion that Chinese regional economic growth has dispersed by 2.29% per year since 1990 is drawn. Lastly, average annual in-migration rate is put in the regression to analyze the impacts of migration on regional convergence. The convergence coefficient does not diminish, which implies that inter-provincial migration did not prompt convergence. The result shows that inter-provincial migration has raised the speed of growth dispersion between provinces by 0.12% per year.

Chapter 4 analyzes factors empirically that cause continual rise of regional disparities of Chinese economic growth since 1990 based on the assumption of increasing returns and imperfect competition. Firstly, the evolution of regional disparities of Chinese economic growth is analyzed quantificationally; the impact of industrial concentrations on regional disparities is revealed. Whereafter, the hypothesis that factor concentrations accelerate the rapid of rise of regional disparities of Chinese economic growth is proposed. In order to test this hypothesis, a multiple regression analysis is utilized. The empirical test confirms the

hypothesis, which shows that if the stock of human capital increase by 1%, regional GDP capita will grow by 3.956%; if the inflow of FDI increase by 1%, regional GDP capita will grow by 0.06265%.

Chapter 5 analyzes the cumulative relationship between skill labor migration and human capital concentrations theoretically and empirically based on the assumption of selectivity of migration and skill complementarities. Firstly, 2000 national census data is utilized to analyze the selectivity of inter-provincial labor migration, which result shows that the inter-provincial migration characterized by employment-oriented is age selective and skill selective. Secondly, the assumption of skill-complementarities is tested. Owing to skill-complementarities, a bilateral causality between skill labor migration and human capital concentration is established. As a result, the more stock of human capital a region have, the more labor will immigrate, which raise human capital stock of this region; on the other hand, owing to skill complementarities, the more stock of human capital a region have, the higher demand for skill labors will this region have, which strengthens pull on immigratory labor of the region.

Chapter 6 analyzes the cumulative relationship between skill labor migration and FDI concentration theoretically and empirically based on the assumption of skill-biased technical change (SBTC) and capital-skill complementarities. The empirical analysis of relationship between Chinese labor quality and regional distribution of foreign direct investment reveals a positive correlation between labor quality and regional FDI inflows since

1990s, which implies that FDI have more demands for skill labors. The Heckscher-Ohlin theory cannot explain this phenomenon. Only could the assumption of SBTC explain this phenomenon. Since mid-1990s, source area, input branch of FDI into China and wage structure of FDI industry in China have changed remarkably. These changes are in accord with effects of SBTC. So this dissertation induces that following FDI the SBTC has transferred into China. Consequently FDI into China have raised demands for labor's quality, which results in the positive correlation between regional labor quality and FDI inflows. Since FDI highly concentrated in the eastern China, the SBTC has mainly occurred in this area. Therefore, relative to that of the central and western China, demands of the eastern China for skill labors rise, and that relative wage of skill labor in the eastern areas rise. Thereby, the volumes of skill labor migration from the central and western China to the eastern China expand. Meanwhile, the SBTC also implies that a complementary relationship between capital and skill establishes. In order to improve productivity, FDI would flow into regions where skill labors concentrate. And then rise the demands for skill labors. Consequently, a cumulative causality between skill labors immigration and FDI inflows establishes. An empirical analysis is conducted to confirm above deduction.

Chapter 7 discusses policy implications and further topics to study. This dissertation ascribes the reason why inter-provincial migration temporarily accelerates rising of regional disparities of Chinese economic growth to some complex reasons, not merely

to exogenous institutions. Taking a long view of the matter, the law that labor migration redounds to falling of regional disparities is indeed applicable to Chinese economy. However, we would temporarily experience a transition stage that labor migration speeds up the rising of regional disparities. To shorten this stage, we should promote the establishing of open and utilized labor market, accelerate production transferring from the eastern area to peripheric area, and then advance the transferring of production factors to the central and western China. Meanwhile, the peripheric area should improve capability of independent innovation; so realize striding "rise" under the background of globalization, marketization and informationization.

Keywords: Labor Migration; Regional Disparities; Economic Growth; Human Capital; Foreign Direct Investment; Cumulative Circulation

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第一章

导 论

第一节 研究背景与意义

一 研究背景

劳动力从欠发达（劳动力生产率较低、收入较低）地区或部门向发达（劳动力生产率较高、收入较高）地区或部门流动，是一种不以人的意志为转移的客观社会经济现象，因为追求更美好的生活是每个理性个体的基本需求；并且这种流动也是社会经济发展所必需的，因为迁移不仅是经济增长的结果，而且是经济增长不可缺少的原因（Greenwood, 1975），人口由自然增长率相对高的区域迁往经济扩张相对快的区域，可以实现对资源更有效的配置（Okun *et al.*, 1961），国家的整体福利水平也得以提高（Morrison, 1993）。

计划经济时期，中国人口的自由流动是被严格控制的。为了满足重工业优先发展战略的需要，为了控制劳动力从农村流出，降低发展重工业的社会代价，保障城市居民充分就业及福利，户籍制度应运而生。1958年我国颁布了《中华人民共和国户口登记条例》，它确立了以常住人口为主，严格控制人口流动的基本准则，公民除就业、升学、工作调动等可以迁徙外，一般没有选择居住地的权利。户籍制度以及随后形成的一