

# **Factors Affecting Social Adaptation of Relocated Migrated Households: A Case Study of Duimenshan Resettlement Site in Dongchuan, Yunnan Province, P.R. China<sup>\*</sup>**

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## **Abstract**

Poverty alleviation relocation has greatly improved the social and economic environment of relocated migrated households. However, the relocated migrated households, especially those resettled in urban areas, also face a series of economic, social, cultural, psychological and other problems caused by the change of living environment, and their social adaptation at the resettlement site has attracted the attention of all sectors of society. This study, taking Duimenshan resettlement site, a centralized resettlement site of urbanization in Dongchuan, Yunnan Province as a case, aims to investigate the current social adaptation status of relocated migrated households, find out the factors related to their social adaptation, and formulate the appropriate strategies to improve their social adaptation in Duimenshan resettlement site. The selected sample size was 400 relocated migrated households in Duimenshan resettlement site. The structured questionnaire tested by reliability and validity is used for the data collection, and the data were analyzed by using the statistic program for social science research. All factors, including household total annual income, the work experience and physical conditions of the main labor force in human capital, the universality and the high availability of the household's social network in social capital, the psychological resilience and hope level in psychological capital, as well as the land system and social

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security system in institutional capital, have a significant impact on the social adaptation of relocated migrated households.

**The results of the research showed that:**

1. The relocated migrated households in Duimenshan resettlement site was at moderate level in economic adaptation and social participation, but high level in cultural assimilation and psychological integration, and the overall social adaptation was at moderate level.
2. Five factors were found to affect social adaptation of relocated migrated households including total annual household income, human capital, social capital, psychological capital, and institutional environment.

**Keywords:** Relocation; Social adaptation; Relocated migrated households

## 1. Introduction

China has made great achievements in the eradication of absolute poverty. Among a series of poverty reduction and support policies, relocation is the “No. 1 project” and landmark project in poverty elimination campaign, which has played a significant policy effect on the successful completion of poverty elimination campaign (Hongping, and Jingxiao, 2023, pp. 95-104). During the “13th Five-Year Plan” (2016-2020), China has built about 35,000 centralized resettlement areas, including more than 5,000 urban resettlement areas, and 9.6 million registered poverty-stricken people have moved from areas with poor living conditions, fragile ecological environment, and frequent natural disasters to areas with

better living and development conditions, of which more than 5 million people have moved to urban resettlement areas (The People's Daily, 2020). Relocation for poverty alleviation provides relocated migrant households with a social and economic environment that can enhance their living conditions. However, due to the particularity of the relocated migrated households themselves, even though the government has given them some help in registered residence, medical care, industry, education and other aspects, the relocated migrated households, especially those resettled centrally in urban areas, still face multi-dimensional social integration and adaptation problems in terms of politics, economy, society, culture and other aspects.



The social adaptation was first put forward by Herbert Spencer, who believed that social adaptation is a process in which individuals adjust their behavior habits or attitudes in order to adapt to the social living environment (Shanhua, and Lizhong, 2006). Typically, social adaptation and the social adaptation process of migrant groups are described and measured using multidimensional concepts and categories. (Bo, and Haiying, 2010, pp. 18-27). Zhang Jianguo (2011), based on Parsons' functional integration model, divided the content of social adaptation of land-lost farmers into economic adaptation, social adaptation, cultural adaptation and psychological adaptation. Xiao Feng (2018) measured the social integration of the new generation of migrant workers from the four aspects of economy, social participation, culture and psychology.

How to explore the factors related to social adaptation of migrants, the academic community has mainly formed three theoretical orientations: human capital attribution, social capital attribution and institutional attribution (Cao, 2017). Shengbao (2010, pp. 11-21) found that physical strength, education, experience, training and other factors have a positive

effect on migrant workers' career acquisition, wage treatment and promotion. Alejandro, and Sensenbrenner (1993, pp. 1320-1350) noted for the first time that social capital and social networks play a positive role in the integration of migrants. Migrants can use social networks or membership in social structures to obtain jobs, cheap labor and borrowing capital and other resources. Shuzhi (2014) believed that the social adaptation of migrants is closely related to the policies and systems of migrants' employment, social security, social assistance, housing policy, children's education, social participation and political rights in the ingoing places. And the degree and result of migrants' social adaptation is the goal and product of the migration adaptation policy in the resettled places. In recent years, the impact of psychological capital on social adaptation of migrants has also begun to receive attention. Optimism, self-confidence, hope and resilience in human capital have a significant positive impact on the economic adaptation and social integration of farmers in cities (Wentao, Wei, and Lin, 2022, pp. 820-832).

The social adaptation of relocated migrated households at the resettlement sites is not only related to the effect of the



relocation policy for poverty alleviation, but also related to the sustainable development of the relocated migrated households and even the coordinated development of regional economy and society. Therefore, this study takes Duimenshan resettlement site, a centralized resettlement site of urbanization in Yunnan Province, as a case study. Through field investigation, it examines social adaptation of relocated migrated households in Duimenshan resettlement site in terms of economic adaptation, social participation, cultural assimilation and psychological integration, analyzes the factors that affect social adaptation of relocated migrated households, and then formulate the appropriate strategies to improve their social adaptation. It is expected to promote the improvement and sustainable development of the quality of social life of relocated migrated households, and also provide useful reference for the formulation and improvement of the follow-up support policies for the poverty alleviation relocation.

## 2. Research Objectives

1. To describe the characteristics of relocated migrated households and their current social adaptation status in Duimenshan

resettlement site in Dongchuan, Yunnan, P. R. China;

2. To find out the factors related to social adaptation of relocated migrated households in Duimenshan resettlement site.

## 3. Methods

The quantitative method emphasizes objective measurements and the statistical, mathematical, or numerical analysis of data collected through questionnaires and surveys. This study applies the quantitative method to determine the social adaptation status of the relocated migrated households and the relevant factors of the social adaptation of the relocated migrated households in Duimenshan resettlement site.

### Selection of Samples

The relocated migrated households who have resettled in Duimenshan resettlement site were the study subjects. According to the 2018 statistics of Dongchuan District Immigration Management Committee, there were about 2322 households in Duimenshan resettlement site, and these households were the target population. The actual sample size of 400 Relocated migrated households was calculated by using the Taro Yamane formula with 95%



confidence level in this study (Yamane, 1967). The simple random sampling method was used to select the samples scattered in Duimenshan resettlement site.

#### Research Tools

This study employed a structured questionnaire as a research tool. The questionnaire consists of three parts. The first part was about the characteristics of relocated migrated households, including age of a household leader, educational attainment of a household leader, a household size, household dependency ratio, and total annual household income. The second part was a list of questions about social adaptation of the households, including economic adaptation, social participation, cultural assimilation and psychological integration, which are composed of 23 items. And the third part was about the influencing factors of social adaptation of the households, including human capital, social capital, psychological capital and institutional environment, and included of 25 items. The “Likert Scale” type of questionnaire was employed in Part II and Part III, including: strongly agree (5), agree (4), moderate (3), disagree (2), and strongly disagree (1).

The reliability analysis of 25 items

of independent variables and 23 items of dependent variables found that the overall Cronbach's Alpha of dependent variables and independent variables are higher than 0.80, which means that the internal consistency of items in the scale is good. The Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin values of social adaptation and influencing factors are respectively 0.841 and 0.840, both greater than 0.8, indicating that the questionnaire is suitable for factor analysis. Bartlett's test of sphericity results showed that the probability of significance corresponding to the approximate Chi-square value was 0.000 ( $P < 0.001$ ), indicating that the validity structure was good. The results of principal component analysis showed that the total variance interpretation rate of the four factors of social adaptation was 52.846%; the total variance interpretation rate of the four influencing factors is 56.324%, which is greater than 50%, indicating that the analysis result is acceptable. The data were collected by using structured questionnaires tested by reliability and validity, in-depth interviews and focus group discussion, while multiple regression analysis and SWOT Matrix was used for data analysis.



#### 4. Results

##### Characteristics of Relocated Migrated Households

The research results showed that the age range of household leader is mainly 31-50 years old, accounting for 47.5%. The education level of a household leader is mainly concentrated in the primary school and below, accounting for 68%. There are 229 households of moderate size (5-7 members), accounting for 57.25%. The proportion of households with a housing area of 80 square meters is the

highest, with 157 households, accounting for 39.25%. There are 207 households with dependency ratio of 0.1-1.0, accounting for 51.75%, indicating that there is at least one non-working members in these households, however the number of non-working members is less than or equal to the number of working members. In 2021, there are 235 Relocated migrated households with annual income of 30,001-60,000 CNY, accounting for 58.75%. Table 1 (see below) showed details of characteristics of the households.

**Table 1** Characteristics of the Relocated Migrated Households

Sample Characteristics		f	%	Sample Characteristics		f	%
Age of Household Leader	20 and below	15	3.75	Household Size	Small Size (up to 4)	157	39.25
	21-30	48	12		Moderate Size (5-7)	229	57.25
	31-40	96	24		Large Size (8 or more)	14	3.5
	41-50	94	23.5	Household Dependency Ratio	0	174	43.5
	51-60	90	22.5		0.1-1.0	207	51.75
					1.1 and above	19	4.75
	Primary School and below	272	68		30000 and below	30	7.5
	Junior Middle School	78	19.5				



Sample Characteristics		f	%	Sample Characteristics		f	%
Educational Attainment of Household Leader	High School	17	4.25	Total Annual Household Income	30001-60000	235	58.75
	Technical Secondary School	13	3.25		60001 and 9000	110	27.5
	Junior College degree or above	20	5		90001 and above	25	6.25

Current Social Adaptation Status of the Relocated Migrated Households

In this part, the current social adaptation status of relocated migrated households was measured by Likert scale of 23 items in 4 aspects: economic adaptation, social participation, cultural assimilation

and psychological integration. By comparing the average scores in each aspect, the current social adaptation status of the households could be reported. The statistical analysis results of current social adaptation status of the households in the four aspects was showed on Table 2.

**Table 2** Mean Score of Current Social Adaptation Status of the Relocated Migrated Households

Social Adaptation	Lower Range	Upper Range	Mean	S.D.	Criteria
Economic Adaptation	1.14	4.00	2.73	0.55	Moderate Level
Social Participation	1.00	4.67	2.80	0.69	Moderate Level
Cultural Assimilation	2.20	5.00	3.88	0.54	High Level
Psychological Integration	1.60	5.00	3.41	0.58	High Level
Overall Social Adaptation	1.87	4.04	3.15	0.37	Moderate Level

Note: The criteria and the mean scores are set as five levels: Level 1: very low level = score range 1.00-1.80; Level 2: low level = score range 1.81-2.60; Level 3: moderate level = score range 2.61-3.40; Level 4: high level = score range 3.41-4.20; Level 5: very high level = score range 4.21-5.00



From Table 2 the four aspects and the overall of social adaptation of the households are relatively good. However, the households have moderate level in economic adaptation and social participation, and high level in cultural assimilation and psychological integration. At the same time, the overall social adaptation of the households is at moderate level.

#### Factors Related to Social Adaptation of the Relocated Migrated Households

The Multiple Regression Analysis (MRA) using ENTER method was employed to find out the factors affecting social adaptation of the households in the Duimenshan resettlement site, and the outputs of MRA model was listed in Table 3.

The results of Table 3 showed the relationship of  $X_1$  age of household leader,  $X_2$  education attainment of household leader,  $X_3$  household size,  $X_4$  size of housing area,  $X_5$  household dependency ratio total,  $X_6$  total annual household income,  $X_7$  human capital,  $X_8$  social capital,  $X_9$  psychological capital and  $X_{10}$  institutional environment, all together explained Y with statistical significance ( $R = 0.689$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ). The relationship of variable group can explain variation of Y at 47.5 % ( $R^2 = 0.475$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ). The regression model can be written as follows:

$$Y = 23.272 - 0.015X_1 - 0.443X_2 + 0.147X_3 - 0.073X_4 + 0.285X_5 + 0.123X_6 + 0.298X_7 + 0.738X_8 + 0.518X_9 + 0.728X_{10}$$

**Table 3** Factors Related to Social Adaptation of the Relocated Migrated Households

Independent Variable	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t - value	Significant Level
	B	Std. Error	Beta		(sig) p
Constant	23.272	3.702	-	6.286	.000***
Age of Household Leader	-.015	.028	-.024	-.527	.599
Education Attainment of Household Leader	-.443	.370	-.055	-1.195	.233
Household Size	.147	.302	.023	.487	.626
Size of Housing Area	-.073	.386	-.009	-.190	.850





Independent Variable	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t – value	Significant Level
	B	Std. Error	Beta		(sig) p
Household Dependency Ratio	.285	.656	.016	.434	.665
Total Annual Household Income	.123	.044	.106	2.803	.005**
Human Capital	.298	.096	.131	3.089	.002**
Social Capital	.738	.073	.412	10.161	.000***
Psychological Capital	.518	.126	.190	4.109	.000***
Institutional Environment	.728	.121	.270	6.022	.000***
<b>R = 0.689<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>R Square = 0.475</b>		<b>F</b> <b>35.221</b>		<b>Sig</b> <b>0.000<sup>b</sup></b>

Note: \* Significant level < 0.05; \*\* Significant level < 0.01, \*\*\* Significant level < 0.001

Among the 10 variables, there were 5 variables that were significantly related to social adaptation of the households. Those were total annual household income, human capital, social capital, psychological capital, and institutional environment. It was found that social capital is the highest, whereas total annual household income is the lowest significantly related to social adaptation of the households. Discussion on the results were as follow:

Total annual household income - The income level in migrants in cities will

have a significant positive effect on urban integration (Yingying, and Dasong, 2011, pp. 74-82). Total annual household income not only reflects the overall economic status of the household, but also reflects the overall ability of the household to resist pressure and risk. The level in household income affects the consumption mode, consumption behavior, lifestyle and interpersonal communication of the whole household, and then affects their living habits, customs and values.

Human capital - Human capital is



the labor input that is paid by production activities, and can also be the income that workers obtain through their own skills and knowledge, which is an important part of the livelihood capital of the households. The higher the human capital of the main labor force in the households, the greater the possibility of obtaining job opportunities and higher wages, and the more conducive to the household's foothold in the city. At the same time, the high quality of human capital can also enable migrants to quickly and effectively approach local residents in terms of lifestyle and other aspects, learn and imitate the lifestyle of local residents (Feng, 2018).

**Social capital** - Social capital has not only the characteristics of resources and social network, but also the characteristics of production. Social individuals can obtain corresponding economic resources through their own social capital (Bourdieu, 1997). The more complete the social network and the higher the level of social capital, the time cost and transaction cost of choosing jobs in the member cities of the households will be reduced, the social radius will be expanded, and the efficiency of knowledge, technical ability and other transmission will also be improved, which will help the

households adapt to the life in the resettlement site.

**Psychological capital** - The households are faced with more complex working and living environment after entering the resettlement site, which aggravates the anxiety of the households. The households with high level of psychological capital can not only face the difficulties and setbacks encountered in the process of urban employment and life more calmly, but also show a higher acceptance of urban lifestyle and values. Luthans et al. (2007) found that individuals with high psychological capital can reasonably exert their own advantages, produce positive emotional experience, and show certain adaptability and pro-social behavior.

**Institutional environment** - The households enjoy housing security at the resettlement site, and enjoy the same treatment as local residents in terms of employment, children's education, public services, etc. Therefore, the institutional environment in this study mainly focused on land system and social security system. Although the income source of most the households has been non-agricultural employment, and the social security value of contracted land has been weakened,



they still regard the control of land contract rights as the “bottom line” of livelihood (Chen and Wang, 2019). The improved social security system not only enhances the ability of the households to prevent risks, but also enhances the social identity of the households by obtaining the same social security rights as the local residents.

## 5. Discussion

The research revealed that the households had moderate level in economic adaptation and social participation, high level in cultural assimilation and psychological integration, and moderate level in overall social adaptation in Duimenshan resettlement site. Remarkably, there were five factors that significantly affected social adaptation of the households, including total annual household income, human capital, social capital, psychological capital, and institutional environment.

Haina (2018) also found that the impact of human capital, social networks, and institutional arrangements is the most significant and globally significant in both the urbanization index and various dimensions in the process of citizenization of agricultural transfer population. And Dian, and Hongmei (2019, pp. 69-71)

believed that human capital, social capital, and psychological capital are the three latent variables that affect the willingness of migrant workers to become citizens, and the degree of influence decreases in sequence. These conclusions have been further validated in this research.

There are two resettlement methods for poverty alleviation relocation in different areas: centralized resettlement and decentralized resettlement. This research mainly discussed the social adaptation of the households in urban centralized resettlement. Thus, the conclusion of this study has not yet been verified regarding the social adaptation of the decentralized resettlement households.

## 6. Suggestions

To improve social adaptation of the households in Duimenshan resettlement site, some recommendations were made for the government, the community, and also the households as follow:

The central government and Yunnan provincial government should further improve the policy support system to create a high-quality and efficient institutional environment. Firstly, the land in the original place should be managed well to ensure



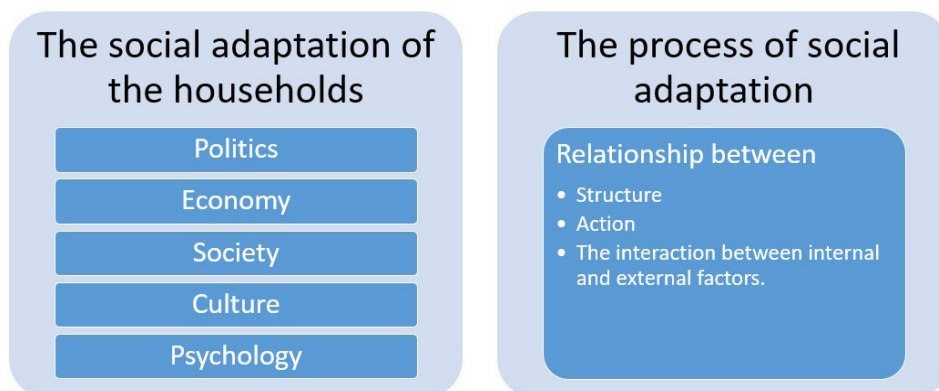
that the households have the rights to operate, use, and benefit from the original contracted land, and ensure the safety and standardization of land circulation. Secondly, according to the actual needs of the households, the social security system should be constantly adjusted and optimized, and gradually changes from survival to development. And local governments should increase investment in human capital for the households, provide them various technique and skill training, and promote employment and income growth of the labor force. In addition, the community should actively organize and carry out various activities to strengthen communication and contacts between migrants, expand the scope of social interaction among migrants, and help them establish a wide range of social support networks. Finally, the households should actively integrate into community life and take appropriate measures to

improve their social adaptability in the resettlement site.

## 7. Knowledge Assets

The social adaptation of the households is a long-term and dynamic process that involves multiple dimensions such as politics, economy, society, culture, and psychology.

The relationship between structure and action is one of the fundamental paradigms in sociological research. The social adaptation of relocated migrated households in urban resettlement sites is a joint construction of various factors at different levels. This process involves both structural constraints from the institutional-level and action constraints from the individual-level and social level. Therefore, the process of social adaptation should be examined from the relationship between structure and action, as well as the interaction between internal and external factors.



**Figure 1** Knowledge assets for the social adaptation

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