

# *A Review and Prospect of Research on the Marriage Situation of the New Generation of Female Migrant Workers in China*

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**Keywords:** New Generation, Women, Migrant Workers, Marriage and Love

**Abstract:** Since the reform and opening up of China in 1978, there has been a large-scale population movement, especially the transfer of rural labor to the secondary and tertiary industries in the cities, forming the “migrant worker wave”. The new generation of migrant workers, the “post-80s” and “post-90s” born between 1980 and 1994, have become the main body of migrant workers, and there are significant differences between their concepts and behaviors and those of the older generation of migrant workers. The issue of marriage and love among the new generation of migrant workers has gradually attracted attention, especially with regard to the concepts and behaviors of female migrant workers, and these studies have revealed the importance of marriage to the fate of the individual and to the development of society. The Guiding Opinions on Further Improving Youth Marriage and Dating Work emphasizes the importance of marriage and dating work to youth development and social stability, pointing out that migrant populations have various forms of marriage and special problems. The purpose of this paper is to systematize previous research on the marital status of new-generation female migrant workers and to provide a basis and reference for research in this field.

## **1. Introduction**

In 1978, the prelude to the reform and opening up began, and a large number of migrant populations appeared in China, which are referred to by different terms, such as “floating population”, “foreign population”, “migrant workers”, etc. The term refers to “people who have left the place of permanent residence to enter the province and live in the administrative area of the province across municipalities above the prefecture level”. This part of the population has different names, such as “floating population”, “foreign population”, “migrant workers”, etc. It refers to “people who have left the place of their permanent residence to enter the province and live across municipalities above the prefecture level within the administrative area of the province”<sup>[1]</sup>. It is worth noting that the urbanization in China's reform and opening up has been accompanied by a large-scale phenomenon of population mobility - the shift of the rural labor force of the right age to the secondary and tertiary

industries in the cities for employment.<sup>[2]</sup> This has brought about the "wave of migrant workers", and a large number of studies on migrant workers have emerged. A large number of studies on migrant workers have emerged. Along with the natural generational transition of the migrant workers and the increasing scale of the migrant population, the youth group occupies the majority of this huge group, and the new generation of migrant workers began to ascend the historical stage, and a lot of research on the new generation of migrant workers has emerged. Wang Chunguang (2001) of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences' School of Social Sciences Research Institute first proposed the concept of "new generation rural migrant population"<sup>[3]</sup>, scholars believe that compared with the older generation of migrant workers, the new generation of young migrant workers born after the reform and opening up have obvious differences in their concepts, behaviors, social experience, culture, and thus proposed the concept of "new generation rural migrant workers". The concept of new generation of migrant workers<sup>[4]</sup>. The National Population and Family Planning Commission (NPFPC) defined the concept of the new generation of migrant workers in its 2011 Report on the Development of China's Migrant Population, pointing out that the "post-80s" were born between 1980 and 1994, The "Post-80s" and "Post-90s" migrant workers born between 1980 and 1994, and the "Report on the Development of China's Migrant Population" published in 2014, noted that the "Post-80s" new generation of migrant workers accounted for 60.6% of the working-age migrant population, and had become the main body of migrant workers.

On September 4, 2017, the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League and other ministries and commissions issued the Guiding Opinions on Further Improving the Work of Youth Marriage and Dating, pointing out that the work of marriage and dating has a bearing on the healthy development of young people and social harmony and stability. With the continuous development and growth of the new generation of migrant workers as a group, the issue of their love and marriage can no longer be ignored. Marriage is a product of the development of human society to a certain stage, and it establishes a special socially protected relationship between the sexes through the conclusion of a social contract between a man and a woman. At the same time, love marriage affects the family and reproduction, affects the process of population reproduction, today's child affects the economic and social development, has a very important research significance. There are many special forms of marriage in the marriage of the floating population - "mobile random marriage", "dew couple", "de facto marriage" The accompanying family structure also has many characteristics - small size, instability and looseness.<sup>[5]</sup> And such mobile random marriages bring a number of negative demographic consequences and socio-demographic problems. With the development of the times, the marriage concepts, behavior and quality of marriage of the new generation of young migrant workers have changed a lot, and there are many new problems. Many scholars believe that marriage is an important form for many women to change their destiny, and the basic principle of many women's marriage choices is to "go higher", but among "working girls" and "female migrant workers", their marriage choices exist. However, among the "working girls" and "female migrant workers", there is a diversity of marriage choices, and their concepts of marriage and love have been influenced in many ways, which is also very much related to the particularities of the times in which they live.

Migrant workers are a major demographic phenomenon that accompanies the strategy of reform and opening up. The new generation of migrant workers has become an indispensable and important force in the rapid development of cities and the prosperity of developed coastal areas in the new century, and its special characteristics and importance have attracted many scholars from related disciplines to study and analyze it. With the development of the times, the proportion of new-generation female migrant workers among the migrant workers has also gradually increased, and some scholars have also focused their attention on the marital problems of new-generation female migrant workers. However, in many studies, female migrant workers are only interpreted as a reference item for male migrant workers, and specialized analysis is missing.

Through this literature review, the author would like to make a systematic review of the previous studies on the marital status of the new generation of female migrant workers, to trace when academics began to pay attention to the marital status of the new generation of female migrant workers, to summarize the changes in the period of their studies, changes in their focus, changes in their research priorities, and their main characteristics, and to understand what are the intersections of the disciplines and what are the important academic outputs of the studies on this topic. We will also summarize and evaluate the research of the experts and scholars as appropriately as possible. In this way, we can position ourselves academically in the dialogues with our predecessors, lay the foundation for our research in the field, and at the same time provide references for other scholars.

## 2. Synthesis methodology

Through the search of CNKI and CSSCI, the author retrieved nearly 8500 articles with the themes of "migrant workers", "new generation of migrant workers", "female migrant workers" and "new laborers", "New laborers" as the search theme, a total of nearly 8,500 articles were retrieved, of which 340 studies on the marital status of the new generation of migrant workers, only 4% of the research results, and even fewer studies on the marital status of the new generation of female migrant workers. Love and marriage is one of the events that every normal social subject must go through in his or her life cycle, and Feng Xiaotian (2006) has proposed that we should pay serious attention to the marriage and love problem of young rural migrant workers,<sup>[6]</sup> which shows its importance. The new generation of rural migrant workers is now in the golden age of marriage, and it is also important to summarize the research on the marriage situation of this kind of mobile group. Throughout the literature on the marital status of new generation female migrant workers, scholars have achieved rich research results, enriching our overall understanding of the marital status of new generation female migrant workers. However, in terms of research area, there are fewer national research studies and more research studies on a specific city or town; in terms of research methodology, there are both primary data obtained through questionnaire surveys and quantitative statistical analyses of secondary data by using content analysis, and qualitative research methods for studying a certain group of new-generation female rural migrant workers by means of interviews.

## 3. Research Review

### 3.1. Overview of the new generation of female migrant workers and their group characteristics

Wang Chunguang (2001) of the Research Institute of the School of Social Sciences of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) first put forward the concept of "new-generation rural migrant population"; in 2010, the Central Government's Document No. 1, "Opinions on Increasing the Efforts to Integrate Urban and Rural Development and Further Strengthening the Foundation of Agricultural and Rural Development", formally introduced the concept of "new-generation rural migrant workers" for the first time. The National Population and Family Planning Commission (NPFPC) defined the concept of new generation of migrant workers in its Report on the Development of China's Migrant Population published in 2011 - referring to those born between 1980 and 1994 - as the "post-80s" and "post-90s". Academics generally define the new generation of rural migrant workers as a group of people born in the 1980s and later under the influence of family planning policy who grew up in the countryside and engaged in secondary and tertiary industries in the city, whose household registration is still in the countryside, but who work and do business in the city, and who do the work of a worker but have the status of a farmer. Xie Guoqiang, in his survey and analysis of the new generation of migrant workers, divides them into three generations and summarizes their basic characteristics: the

new generation of migrant workers, i.e., the third generation of migrant workers, compared with the previous two generations, have significantly improved their cultural level and have higher expectations for their work, but most of them lack the spirit of hard work and endurance that is required of them in farming and business. But most of them lack the spirit of hard work and hard work in farming. However, they do not have the same level of education as the urban people, which determines that their working condition is lower than the expectation. <sup>[7]</sup>In terms of gender structural characteristics, the gender ratio of the new generation of rural migrant workers is close to 1, indicating that women occupy half of the seats among the new generation of rural migrant workers.

### 3.2. Western Theory Review

Western research results on the marital behavior of the migrant population is richer than the domestic, with demography, sociology, social psychology and other multidisciplinary theoretical explanations, China's new generation of female migrant workers in the study of the marriage situation of which there are many references, which are representative of the:

1. Population Conclusion Theory[8] : This theory explores the impact of demographic structure on the marital behavior of migrant workers by arguing that the larger and more concentrated the population from the same place of emigration in a given area and the more balanced the sex ratio, the more frequent and more stable the marriages between them are in the same hometown.

2. Subculture Hypothesis[9] : This hypothesis suggests that the marital behavior of migrant workers is influenced by the cultural values, i.e., customs, of their original hometowns, and that their marital practices depend on the extent to which they recognize and maintain their original culture.

3. Choice theory[10] : This theory holds that the outflow population generally has a strong desire for development and a need for a better life, and will strive to integrate into modern urban life and actively change their thinking, i.e., they have a strong sense of enterprise, and will take the initiative to postpone the age of marriage or control the size of the family after flowing into the urban areas.

4. Exchange Theory[11] : This theory holds that men and women rationally exchange their respective resources in order to establish a marriage relationship, and that for the mobile population, the pressure and instability of living in a foreign land strengthens their sense of marriage exchange, contributing to many marriages in the market that are formed by exchanges of economic advantages and non-economic advantages.

5. Structural assimilation theory[12] : also known as cultural adaptation theory, the theory that the foreign population in the inflow of residents in the social, economic, concepts, habits and other aspects of the convergence will lead to the two in the marriage awareness and behavior of the differences between the gradual reduction until disappeared.

6. Easing theory: This theory is the opposite of the choice theory, which holds that women are in a tense and hard-fought process of mobility, and that they need to bear a great deal of burdens and pressures, so that they choose to marry locals quickly in order to change the nature of their hukou, so as to ease their psychological burdens and social pressures, and to improve their social status.

## 4. Domestic Research - New Marriage Situation of New Generation Female Migrant Workers

### 4.1. Influencing factors

The marital status of the new generation of female migrant workers in the post-80s and post-90s has certain problems[13], they are in the golden age of marriage, and there are many factors affecting their marital status, such as education level, hometown customs and traditions, mobility experience, housing conditions and so on.

Many researches show that the customs and concepts of hometowns have influence on the

marriage concepts and behaviors of female migrant workers, for example, the research group on family planning management of the migrant population in Ezhou City shows in its research results that the migrant population, i.e., migrant workers, who come from rural areas are more influenced by the traditional concepts and are more inclined to get married at an early age. [14]With the change of time, for the new generation of female migrant workers, it is easier for them to accept new concepts and new ideas, but in the inflow area, their circle of interaction is still limited to a certain extent to peer partners and hometowns. Zhong Lei et al. said that the marital relationship of working women is greatly influenced by their little sisters who work together, and it is difficult for them to accept the worldview of their parents, but from the perspective of politeness, they still seek their parents' advice for them, but they are more influenced by their little sisters around them. [15]Ye Wenzhen through Logistic regression estimation and analysis, the education level and age also have an impact on the concept of marriage and love of migrant women, the higher the education level of migrant women, the more they recognize that "marriage must have love" and more in pursuit of emotional satisfaction and happiness in the marriage, and the younger the migrant women of the marriage, the higher the emotional demands of marriage. The younger the migrant women, the higher the emotional requirements of marriage; the older the migrant women, the richer the life experience, the more mature the view of marriage, but age has both positive and negative effects on the concept of marriage.

In terms of female migrant workers' choice of marriage mode, Hu Ying et al. used empirical research to show that characteristics such as mobility time, education level, age at first marriage, and mother's education level are significantly related to whether they choose the new marriage mode of marrying outsiders. The results show that the higher the education level of rural outflow women, the higher the probability of choosing to marry outsiders; the older the outflow women, the lower the probability of marrying outsiders; the longer the rural migrant women have been out, the more likely they are to choose to marry outsiders during the process of mobility; and the good economic conditions of the parents can help to increase the relative competitiveness of the rural migrant women in the inflow area's marriage market. [16]Jin Xiaoyi et al. also found empirically that female migrant workers with high political capital and experience of pre-marital mobility are more likely to intermarry across household registration.[17]

In recent years, scholars have paid more attention to the marriage quality of female migrant workers and have analyzed the factors affecting the climbing divorce rate. Yang Laisheng et al. believe that culture also affects the quality of marriage, and that women with high cultural level pursue spiritual enjoyment, while women with low cultural level all have higher divorce rate due to poor material life. [18]According to Yan, factors such as career optimization and education quality improvement of migrant labor force have led to the prominent divorce phenomenon of female migrant labor force. [19]Du Fenglian said in her study that the age at first marriage also has a great influence on the divorce rate of migrant laborers. Too young an age at first marriage means that the search time in the marriage market is shorter, and thus the understanding of the other party is less, and as a result, the actual quality of the marriage deviates more from the ideal marriage, and the divorce rate is higher. [20]Shi Zhilei, on the other hand, examined the influence of inflow and outflow cultures on the marital stability of the migrant population from the perspective of state. The results show that cross-provincial migrants who have lived in areas with high divorce rates maintain a higher probability of divorce. The influence of divorce culture on individual behavior is manifested as inheritance effect and immersion effect. And in the new environment, women retained more of their original cultural characteristics.[21]

In our opinion, economic factors have a great influence on marital status, but Liang Tukun et al. analyzed the data of Nankai University's "2013 Questionnaire Survey on the Study of the Countermeasures for the Management and Service of the Floating Population" by using an unordered

multiclassified logistic regression model, and the results showed that factors representing economic status such as the type of occupation and average monthly income only have a weak influence on the marital status, but factors representing housing conditions such as housing ownership have a significant positive effect on the marital status and family members also exert pressure on the marital status. The results show that economic status factors such as occupation type and average monthly income only have a weak influence on the marital status, but housing condition factors such as housing ownership and quality of housing have a significant positive influence on the marital status, and family members may also bring pressure to the marital status.[22]

#### **4.2. The concept of marriage: a dynamic process of change from traditional to modernity**

Compared with the previous two generations of migrant workers, i.e. traditional migrant workers, the new generation of migrant workers has fresh concepts in many aspects. After stepping into the 21st century, more scholars have focused their attention on the concept of marriage of young migrant workers. It is found that the new generation of female migrant workers is fluctuating between updating and old-fashioned, with a conservative side, but at the same time there are also many updating and transformations, and there is a great deal of change in the motivation for choosing a spouse and the criteria for choosing a spouse.

Wu Junqing et al. randomly selected two townships in the near-effective urban-rural combination in Shanghai, conducted a survey of 2488 migrant women of childbearing age. Among the subjects surveyed, those who believed that marriage is a law of nature and that marriage is to find a companion to live together predominated and accounted for 85% of all the subjects of the survey, while those who believed that marriage is to have children to pass on the family name were as high as 10.6%.[23] At the beginning of the 21st century, Huang Runlong conducted a survey on Jiangsu province's migrant Working women conducted a survey and found that the way of thinking of working girls also began to gradually get rid of the conformist and conservative mode in the countryside, and there was an obvious change in the view of marriage and love. [24]Wang Yiga et al. said that the new generation of female migrant workers is influenced by the highly rationalized characteristics of modern cities, and their concept of love also tends to be rationalized. [25]Ye Wenzhen's study shows that most of the migrant women are loyal to their spouses and responsible for their marriages, recognize that love is the foundation of marriage, and advocate that income and property should be shared between husband and wife in marriage, but 10% of them adhere to the traditional concepts. [26]This shows that the new generation of female migrant workers has a dynamic process of changing from traditional to modern concepts of marriage, and there is still an old-fashioned side in the updating.

In terms of sexual concepts, influenced by a more open cultural environment, the sexual concepts of the new generation of female migrant workers are also gradually opening up. Chen Wucheng believes that the sexual concepts of the migrant population are quietly changing, and the actual existence of extramarital sexual behavior in the population mobility-related population has a high proportion. [27]Chen Tingting used the National Comprehensive Social Survey data to empirically analyze the influencing factors on the tolerance of extramarital sex among migrant men and women and their gender differences, and found that female migrant workers are more willing to hold a relatively tolerant attitude towards extramarital sex.[28] This is also consistent with the conclusion of Huang Runlong's study that "the majority of the migrant girls have a tolerant attitude towards extramarital sex". This is also consistent with the conclusion of Huang Runlong's study that "most of the working girls have a tolerant attitude towards extramarital sex.

With the continuous socialization of the new generation of female migrant workers, their motives for marriage are actually not simple and pure, and have complexity. Hu Junling et al. concluded through a questionnaire that, in terms of the motivation for choosing a spouse, migrant women are

more modern and less traditional than migrant wage earners, and also show a more obvious herd mentality and behavior; the average expected time of marriage is 25 years old, which shows a more obvious tendency to delay; in terms of the criterion for choosing a spouse, migrant women pay more attention to each other's personal qualities and social capital, and have a great degree of dilution of traditional spouse selection tendencies, such as education, political appearance and so on. In terms of spouse selection criteria, migrant women pay more attention to the personal qualities and social capital of the partner, and to a large extent, traditional spouse selection tendencies, such as educational background and political appearance, have been downplayed. [29]Chi Shujun categorizes female migrant workers into married and non-married, and finds that their attitudes towards the purpose of love have become more diversified. Most of them do not take marriage as the purpose of love, unmarried women are more inclined to the material purpose, married women are more inclined to the need for love, and women are more emotionally oriented than men, and are more likely to neglect the responsibility of love in their love affairs.[30]

Interestingly, the growing willingness not to marry among female migrant workers was also demonstrated in Hu Junling's study. This also reflects a major and important shift in the concept of marriage among the new generation of female migrant workers.

### 4.3. Marital behavior

As time advances, many scholars compare the marital status of the new generation of migrant workers with that of traditional migrant workers. In his study, Yan found that the proportion of unmarried people in the migrant population is still high, and the structure of marriage changed from unmarried dominated to spousal dominated between 2000 and 2010, and the changes in the marital status of women during the 20-year period were great, with the proportion of unmarried people declining, the proportion of spousal and divorce percentages rising, the age of marriage being delayed, and the number of early marriages changing from more females to more males. [31]From the structure of the new generation of female migrant workers, Liang Tukun (2019) found that the proportion of females among the new generation of migrant workers who are married is much higher than that of males, at 35.8%; and the proportion of their personnel with romantic partners is also higher than that of males.[32]

In the choice of marriage object, the new generation of female migrant workers tends to diversify their choices, but there is still a mismatch in concepts and behaviors. Wang Wei found that the rural migrant population has broken through the barriers of class, geography and economy in their own concepts when choosing marriage partners, but in fact, the marriage partners they choose are unlikely to break through these barriers. This shows that the migrant population has diversified their choices of marriage partners, but they have not expanded the scope of their choice of marriage partners. [33]Among the different choices of marriage partners, there is a special form of "cross-household marriage", which refers to the union of men and women from different household backgrounds, with one partner having an urban household registration and the other a rural household registration. Jin Xiaoyi et al. analyzed the "cross-household marriage" and found that the proportion of cross-household marriages among new-generation female migrant workers is much higher than that of the first-generation female migrant workers, the occupational distribution of cross-household marriages is diversified, and the proportion of cross-household marriages with pre-marital mobility is significantly higher than the proportion of cross-household marriages with intra-household marriage. [34] . Zhuping also found in her research that, with the change of time, the phenomenon of intermarriage between migrant population and local household population has been increasing in the place of migration, and women are more likely to intermarry with the local household population.[35]

The new generation of female migrant workers has been delaying their marriage. Feng Hong

found that the age of first marriage of female migrant workers is slightly earlier than that of males. [36]Liu Houlian said in her study that since the new century, the age at first marriage of the new generation of migrant workers has gradually increased, and the age at first marriage of the female new generation of migrant workers increased from 20 years old in 2000 to 24.97 years old in 2013, but the age at first marriage of the new generation of migrant workers was found to be lower than the age of the old generation of migrant workers, and the age at first marriage of females was found to be lower than the age of the old generation of migrant workers, and it was about 1.7 years lower. Gao Ying et al. conducted a study on the characteristics of Beijing's migrant population and their marriages, and also found that the age at first marriage for females was significantly delayed.[37]

The ways of marriage and love also tend to be diversified. Among traditional female migrant workers, the proportion of those who are introduced by relatives and friends, or who have arranged marriages, and who end up marrying people from the same hometown, is relatively large. With the development of the times and the change of marriage concepts, the new generation of female migrant workers tend to diversify their marriage paths. Hu Ying categorizes the marriage mode of female migrant population into three cases. The first one is to go back to their hometowns and get married with their hometown people or people from the same hometown they met in the inflow area, the second one is to get married with locals they met while working in the inflow area, and the third one is to get married with outsiders, i.e., non-locals or hometowns in the inflow area, they met in the process of mobility. [38]In his study, Yang Lai-sheng categorized the types of marriages into four types: the casual type, in which the marriage partner is usually a male migrant, mostly from the hometown, or a male resident of the inflow area, mainly a co-worker or an employer of an individual or a private enterprise; the climbing up the ladder type, in which finding a good husband and a new way of life is one of the main motives for them to go out to work; the falling into love type; and the economic development type, in which the women are usually older, some of whom have been living in their hometowns, and some of whom have been living there for years. These women migrant workers are generally older, and some are married or have boyfriends in their hometowns.[39]

The intermarriage circle of the new generation of female migrant workers is expanding. Liang Haiyan et al. define the intermarriage circle as the range that an individual may reach in choosing a spouse, including the geographical range and the ethnic group range. It can generally be examined in terms of geographic distance, geographic range and ethnic range, and indicates that female migrants have a higher likelihood of marrying in the inflow area or other outlying provinces. [40]In the subsequent study, Liang Haiyan also analyzed and studied the intermarriage circle of the mobile population by combining the discipline of geography, and showed the characteristics of the intermarriage circle of the mobile population by region. [41]In her research, Qi Jannan found that the migrant population's intermarriage circle has been expanding, and the proportion of interprovincial marriages among the migrant population has been increasing. [42]Zheng Ruizhen conducted a panoramic descriptive analysis of the current situation and future development trend of the intermarriage circle of the new generation of the floating population using the 2011 National Floating Population Dynamics Monitoring Data, and found that the main difference between the new generation of the floating population and the older generation is that they complete their marriages and births during the process of mobility, and that the likelihood that the new generation of female floating population will be married into the inflow area is higher than that of males.[43]

Most of the above studies have been conducted from a macro perspective and a micro perspective on the southeast coastal and economically developed regions of the country as case studies. In addition to these, there are a few more special studies on the marital status of female migrant workers. Zhou Quande investigated the rural migrant population in underdeveloped areas, i.e., small towns, and found that more young migrant workers in underdeveloped areas migrate because of marriage, and some of them even seek to migrate by marriage, mostly in the form of joining relatives and



friends. In contrast, the mobile marriage in the southeast coastal region is an accessory to mobility, more personalized color. He also found the "small cultural immigrants" marriage variation phenomenon, small cultural immigrants is the less developed areas within the first rise in the mobility of people with a certain economic strength and a certain degree of social and cultural influence of small intellectuals cultural immigrant groups, but in their marriages, cohabitation, remarriage and other phenomena are more. [44]At the same time, a group of scholars who set their sights on ethnic minority migrant groups also emerged. Serge found that since the 1990s, the Mongolian population in rural pastoral areas and other towns began to move in and out of Hohhot as a mobile population, and that inter-ethnic intermarriages were very common in their marital behaviors. [45]Chi Songjian found that the proportion of unmarried people among the ethnic minority mobile population increased rapidly as the distance traveled became longer.[46]

#### 4.4. Quality of marriage and love

Marriage as a special social relationship between people, its stability and harmony is part of social stability and harmony, and marriage quality is an important predictor of marriage stability and harmony, so the study of marriage quality has a positive significance in promoting marriage stability and social harmony. at the beginning of the 21st century, more and more researches in the literature on the marital status of the new generation of female migrant workers are focusing on the marital relationship and marriage quality, which reflects the scholars' humanistic concern. In the early 21st century, more and more studies on the marital status of the new generation of female migrant workers focus on their marital relationship and marital quality, which reflects the scholars' humanistic concern.

Marital satisfaction is higher among the new generation of female migrant workers. Shi Qianxi (2005) found that 72.65% of married migrant women of childbearing age were satisfied with their current marriages, and only 1.35% were dissatisfied with their current marriages. Ye Wenzhen (2008) showed that the satisfaction of migrants with their spouses is higher than the satisfaction with their married life. Among them, love has the most prominent effect on the marital satisfaction of the migrant population, and the convergence to the modern concept of marriage and family, which is individual-oriented and focuses on emotional needs, will significantly increase the marital satisfaction of the migrant population. In general, the influence of mobility experience on the marital satisfaction of the migrant population is positive. [47]Cao Rui (2010) found that the interaction between migrant women and their spouses is better than that of migrant men and rural non-migrant women; migrant women's autonomy over life and property in marriage, although higher than that of rural non-migrant women, is still much lower than that of migrant men; migrant women's sense of sexual initiative is not high, and even though they pay attention to the intimacy of pre-coital behaviors, their experience of sexual pleasure is not as good as that of migrant men; and their marital satisfaction is higher than that of rural non-migrant women; and their marital satisfaction is higher than that of rural non-migrant women. The marital satisfaction of migrant women is higher than that of rural non-migrant women, and the feeling of disappointment in marriage is lower than that of rural non-migrant women, but there is a certain gap between the two compared with that of migrant men.[48]

The relationship between husband and wife is the core of the family and plays an important role in maintaining the stability of the family. Chi Shujun found that female migrants are more positive in their judgment of husband and wife relationship, and the proportion of migrants who think that their spouses are happy and independent is significantly higher than that of male migrants. In terms of gender roles, women were slightly more adaptive to their husbands. [49]Based on the data from the 2016 Guangzhou Survey on Social Integration and Marriage and Family of Migrant Workers, Li

Weidong systematically explored the issue of marital stability of migrant workers from the perspectives of gender and generation, and found that the marital stability of new-generation migrant workers is significantly lower than that of the first-generation migrant workers, and that the marital stability of women is lower than that of men, and that the marital stability of new-generation women is lower than that of men. The study found that the marital stability of the new generation of migrant workers is significantly lower than that of the first generation of migrant workers, the marital stability of female migrant workers is lower than that of male migrant workers, and the marital stability of female migrant workers is the lowest. Individual mobility significantly reduces the marital stability of new-generation female migrant workers; from the perspective of gender socialization effect, the social norms for women are more stringent. Gender imbalance increases women's bargaining power in marriage, which is conducive to women's realization of marital independence and ending unhappy marriages, i.e., divorce.[50]

In recent years, the divorce rate has been rising, and the divorce rate among the new generation of female migrant workers has also continued to rise, Peng Dasong et al. based on the 2017 National Mobile Population Dynamic Monitoring Survey of Jiangsu Province data, using the Cox proportional risk model to analyze the intergenerational differences in the divorce risk of the mobile population and its influencing factors, and the empirical analysis shows that the divorce risk of the mobile population presents a bimodal structure, and there is a tendency of intergenerational increment in the risk of divorce. Among them, the divorce risk of the mobile population born before 1960 is relatively low, and there is no obvious "inverted U-shape" feature, and the time lag of the divorce risk of the mobile population born between 1961 and 1980 is the main reason for the double-peak feature of the divorce risk of the mobile population. The divorce pattern of the mobile population born after 1980 shows a "flash" pattern, and the divorce risk of the mobile population has a "flash" pattern. The divorce pattern of the migrant population born after 1980 shows the characteristic of "flash marriages and flash divorces".[51]

Since the 21st century decade, a number of studies have focused on domestic violence in migrant marriages, which is important for the protection of female migrant workers. Wang Wei's study indicates the existence but not prevalence of domestic violence in migrant families. [52]Zhou Miao describes the current situation of marital violence and its characteristics by analyzing the data of the third survey on the social status of Chinese women, and uses the Logistic regression model to focus on the influence of factors such as the mobility pattern of couples on marital violence in Chinese families, and finds that in the marriages of migrant populations, the phenomenon of violence has a significant gender difference, and females are the main group of victims of marital violence; the mobility pattern of couples plays a significant role in marital violence, and has a significant influence on female groups. It is found that there are significant gender differences in the phenomenon of violence in migrant marriages, with women being the main group of victims of marital violence; that the mobility pattern of couples significantly affects marital violence, and that it is stronger for women than for men; and that the occurrence of marital violence varies according to age, education, employment status, economic contribution to the family, family power relations and the nature of the household.[53]

In the process of mobility, the marriages of new-generation female migrant workers are at risk of low stability. Based on the data of Guangzhou's 2016 Survey on Social Integration and Marriage and Family of Migrant Workers, Li Weidong systematically explored the issue of marital stability of migrant workers from the perspectives of gender and generation, and found that the marital stability of new-generation migrant workers is significantly lower than that of the first-generation migrant workers, and that the marital stability of women is lower than that of men, and the marital stability of new-generation female migrant workers is the lowest. Female migrant workers have lower marital stability than male migrant workers, and female migrant workers have the lowest marital stability in

the new generation, and separate mobility significantly reduces the marital stability of female migrant workers in the new generation. The new generation of female migrant workers are prone to marital anxiety in their marriages. [54]Chen Wuqing pointed out that marriage anxiety refers to a kind of anxiety, worry, even excessive tension, uneasiness, worry, fear, due to the realization that they are in the marriage, may have to face certain negative impacts or threats. The new generation of female migrant workers is worried that the problem of where to settle down will be difficult to solve, and on the one hand, they may worry that the problem of spouses living apart will be difficult to solve, and at the same time, they may also worry that their spouses will engage in extramarital sexual behaviors.[55]

For the new generation of female migrant workers, the unfamiliar big city brings many marital risks. Zhou Bin said in his study that the marriages of rural migrant residents are facing some new problems, such as the transformation of family roles, differences in the level of urbanization of couples, and the brittleness of marital emotional maintenance. [56]Wang Yiga et al. pointed out that marital risk refers to the fact that many rural migrant workers do not enjoy the benefits of the urban system, and there is a lack of social capital; at the same time, they have the risk of marital management, for example, in terms of material conditions and marital rupture.[57]

Most of the new generation female migrant workers have lower income levels, but the cost of marriage on the city is high. The cost of falling in love is high, and it is a big expense for the new generation of female migrant workers. The cost of getting married is even higher, with dowry, garage, and wedding, an even bigger expense for the new generation of female migrant workers. The nature of the occupation also brings limitations to the marriage of the new generation of female migrant workers, with long working hours and narrow socialization. Institutional factors also limit the marriage of the new generation of female migrant workers, the dual household registration system and imperfect social security system make female migrant workers bear a lot of pressure.

## 5. Evaluation and foresight

### 5.1. Summarize

Throughout the research on the marital status of the new generation of female migrant workers in China, the following characteristics can be found:

1. Although research started late, the level and starting point of research is high. Since the 1980s, a large number of studies have emerged on the issues of the floating population and migrant workers, which have conducted more detailed research and analysis on the structural characteristics of migrant workers and the floating population, their development of the places where they move into, their own situation in various aspects and the factors that influence them, etc., which has laid a good theoretical foundation for the research on the marital problems of the new generation of female migrant workers.

2. Research on the female migrant population or migrant workers has become increasingly rich. From a disciplinary point of view, initial research was conducted in demography, sociology and other disciplines, focusing on macro-level topics, such as migrant workers' perceptions of marriage and love, and the reasons for and effects of their choices. However, in recent years, psychology, geography, economics and other disciplines have also begun to pay attention to female migrant workers, and interdisciplinary cross-research has been strengthened, with many studies drawing on some foreign theories and methods. From the point of view of the themes of concern, the

3. From the point of view of the temporal distribution of research results and literature, its absolute number is gradually increasing. It can be seen that the academic community's attention to the marital status of the new generation of female migrant workers has been increasing. For example, calculated according to each decade as a time grouping, the number of publicly published academic articles has gradually increased from 21 in 1990-1999 to 119 in 2000-2009 and 205 in 2010-2019. It can be seen

that in the future, more scholars will focus on this field and conduct research on it.

4. The research focus is constantly refined and has humanistic concern. First of all, after reading dozens of documents in chronological order, it will be found that the research theme on the marital status of the new generation of female migrant workers has undergone an obvious transformation, from the relatively macroscopic current situation of marital relationship and its influencing factors, influence and other aspects of the gradual deepening of the specific, appeared to specialize in the concept of marital relationship of the new generation of female migrant workers, the circle of intermarriage, the intergenerational changes, the quality of marriage, the divorce rate, marital violence, and so on, the more specific aspects of the research. From the process of viewing the literature, we can obviously feel the scholars' humanistic concern, and the topics studied are getting closer and closer to life, more and more realistic and operable.

5. In terms of research geography, the existing literature is mostly based on sample data acquisition by questionnaire surveys in a particular province or region, and rarely by nationwide surveys and researches. And most of the provinces and regions involved are the eastern coastal areas or the more economically developed big cities, and there are very few surveys and researches on the marital problems of the new generation of female migrant workers in small cities, and we tend to neglect the small cities, such as China's third and fourth-tier cities, but it is precisely the third and fourth-tier cities that have the largest number of migrant workers, and whose migrant worker characteristics are also very different from those of the migrant workers in the north, north, east, west, and south of the country.

6. Insufficient gender awareness. From the perspective of the main body of research, many studies on the marital problems of new-generation migrant workers do not categorize male and female youth, which is actually necessary. Female migrant workers are not in an obvious important position in the research, and appear only as a reference item in many studies. However, women are in an important position in love and marriage, and are also an important factor influencing the marital status of the whole group of migrant workers. From the perspective of gender, most of the existing studies still customarily study and analyze the marital status of female migrant workers from the traditional male gender perspective, and there are very few studies that involve gender thinking or are conducted from the perspective of "feminism".

## 5.2. Suggestion

Nowadays, research is mainly conducted through questionnaires and interviews to comment and analyze a certain phenomenon, which lacks systematic, and seldom has theoretical expansion. Multi-perspective, multi-disciplinary cross, using a variety of research means and methods and theoretical cooperation is the main research direction in the future. The following are some suggestions:

1. Implementing open and multi-angle research. It can selectively draw on the mature and relevant theoretical achievements of the West, take the initiative to integrate the marriage problem of female migrant workers into the international academic society, and apply the Western theories in the marriage research of female migrant workers in combination with China's actuality. At the same time, we should also pay attention to the expansion of theories and make innovations on the basis of previous theories. Marriage is inseparable from family and childbearing, and in the subsequent research, these three can be linked together, rather than simply exploring marriage, which will help to better analyze the situation of marriage.

2. Explore new research methods. In the subsequent research, instead of simply using quantitative or qualitative methods, different methods can be combined, combining qualitative and quantitative methods to provide both depth and scientificity. At the same time, it is also possible to go beyond

sociological or demographic research methods and utilize the intersection of different disciplines, using research methods from different disciplines, in order to obtain more comprehensive analyses and conclusions.

3. Systematic research on the marital status of new-generation female migrant workers in the new situation. The new generation of female migrant workers' concept of marriage, marriage behavior, marriage purpose, age at first marriage, form of marriage, marriage object, etc. are all important parts of their marriage situation. At present, the research content of this issue in the academic world is fragmented and one-sided, and lacks systematic research on the marital status of the new generation of female migrant workers. Subsequent studies can try to systematically analyze this issue. In addition, research on the marital status of new-generation female migrant workers also needs to take into account the new era context and make new explorations on its continuous changes.

4. Expand the research geography and focus on the comparative analysis between different research geographies. As we said above, in terms of investigation geography, most of the research on the marital status of the new generation of female migrant workers is confined to the eastern and developed regions, with fewer related studies in the central and western regions, and fewer related studies in the small cities, and the investigation of a specific region is not conducive to the understanding of the overall trend of the marital status of the new generation of female migrant workers. Therefore, future research can focus on expanding the investigation and research area, such as the marital status of new generation female migrant workers in small cities and underdeveloped areas, in addition, the socio-economic development and cultural background of different regions are different, and the subsequent research can also focus on comparing the differences between regions, not only limited to the differences in time.

5. From the perspective of humanistic care, scholars can systematically think of countermeasures to the new problems encountered by new-generation female migrant workers in marriage and love. They often encounter difficulties and discrimination in marriage and love, which is not conducive to their personal development and family relations, scholars can put forward effective and feasible countermeasures to analyze specific problems and help the new generation of female migrant workers to develop better.

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