

Labour interaction and mobility between GBA and HK Macau

Labour mobility

Hong Kong towards China

While CN migrant in HK has been widely discussed, there are extremely limited discussion about the HK migrant in CN. The only available literatures that give a glance at this matter are Census and Statistics Department (2011a) and Census and Statistics Department (2015). While they are dated references, both have shown that HK labour has limited intention to work in CN in general.

Census and Statistics Department (2011a) discuss the HK labour demographic that used to work in China. It accounted for 5% of the total number of HK labour force, which has declined from its 2004 peak (7.6%) and had had also no significant growth from 1990 to 2010 on average. Nearly 90% of the work/job take place in Guangdong Province.

Amid this particular labour force, over 70% are over 30 years old, more than 2/3 did not received tertiary education; less than 20% are employer, most of them are employee of management level or professionals in manufacturing and trade industry. More than half of the wage level are over HKD 20,000. In contrast, to the same period of HK labour forces, this particular group's median of wage is almost a double of the equivalent in the Hong Kong local labour market (HKD 10,100).

However, their working period in China is ephemeral but frequent. On average, their stay period in China is less than 5 days but they are required to go to China to work at least once a week. It is understandable, since over 90% of them are employed by a HK company and their most frequent reason of working in China are job obligation and career prospect (about 90% and 20% respectively). Limited agreement is found in China employment offers higher wage or lower living cost (both less than 2%).

However, Census and Statistics Department (2015) confirmed that the interaction has been more vivid recently. Investigated 10,100 HK household for the features of HK residents who stayed in China, after 5 years, using working as a reason to travel CN has increased. Moreover, they found HK labour has a longer stay period in CN. In their study, they found that the over a quarter (69,200 observation) of the sample that worked and stayed in CN for at least a month. However, education is still nearly none (0.1%) and leisure or visiting family/relatives still is dominating.

It reflects that the HK labour recently has more participation in the CN labour market, however, this improvement is still negligible in term of the total hong kong labour force proportion. However, CN education is still not appreciated by HK. It is notable that this interaction are mainly contributed by the middle

aged and elder, the youth participation were still relatively less.

Census and Statistics Department (2011b) studied the HK students studying outside HK. They found that the most common location of study abroad after 5 years was the typical western countries, for example, UK, US, AU, CA. CN, however, was ranked to the least intended place of study. Moreover, the main purpose of study aligns with the location decision. over 40% of the reason for studying outside HK was to improve English proficiency, in contrast with around 7% was to improve Putonghua proficiency. It implies that the purpose of study abroad is mainly for the international environment experience. Although this report are before the Greater Bay Area Policy initiation, it reflects that HK households have not considered CN as a place for further education traditionally (胡少偉, 2015). Having said that, interestingly, the household's median income that could afford study abroad is HKD 35,000 which is more than a double than the overall equivalent. Amid these affluent household, there are about 10% sent their children to CN for education. Despite the number is considerable less than the over population, It implied the CN prospect was appreciated by this middle class parents.

CN towards to HK

Migrant

At the contrary of the inactiveness of HK labour towards CN, there has been an increasing trend of interaction from CN towards HK after 1997. Since there has been a large number of migrant from China, the influx of CN labours, and students have become prevalent. According to Press release of HKSAR Government (2017) there is allegedly over 1.5 million Chinese have come to settle in HK. Their settlement has various sources, most commonly they come through the following scheme/arrangement:

1. One Way Permits(OWP)
2. Quality Migrant Admission Scheme
3. Capital Investment Entrant Scheme
4. Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals
5. Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates

Although there has been a slight decrease (2%) in 2016, the number of people entering Hong Kong on OWP has been steadily increasing to its daily maximum (150 people/day) from 1997. Until 2018, the accumulated OWP number has been around 1 million, which accounts for over 13% of the total HK population (Home Affair Department, 2019; Census and Statistics Department 2019).

Moreover, at the end of 2019, 134,291 mainland talent and professionals were admitted under the scheme. Over 90% the approved applications imported workers under the Supplementary Labour Scheme are CN applicant, until 2016 this number has been over 3000, which is 4.4 times of 2002.

Furthermore, CN student has been the dominating the non-local student group in different education sector/institution. In particular, in HK high education, CN student's proportion in total non-local enrollment has been rarely seen lower than 70% over HK universities, this finding is agreed by Li and Bray (2007b).

Return of education

Li and Bray (2007b) suggest that HK qualification has been consider as a ladder of upward mobility by CN students, pull factors such as academic and professional growth, economic benefit, individual internationalization, and enhanced social status are taken into account for the CN student to student in HK or Macaus. Surprisingly, they found that CN students studying in HK value the academic achievement over the economic factors such as economic return of their qualification and the competitive ability in the employment market which are CN students studying in Macau mostly concern.

Well being

Mental

For some students in this study, 15% (14), there was the added stress that the future security of their families hinged on their achieving certain specific outcomes and that the cost of funding their cross-border study was an ongoing issue for the family. The pressure to succeed in the shortest amount of time possible was a major concern for this group. This stress led to frequent bouts of sickness and depression — Peter Bodycott, Ada Lai (2012)

Reference

1. Census and Statistics Department (2011a) Social data Collected via the General Household Survey : Special Topics Report - Report No.57 - Hong Kong residents working in the mainland of China access at <https://www.statistics.gov.hk/pub/B11301572011XXXXB0100.pdf> on 25 June 2020
2. Census and Statistics Department (2011b) Thematic Household Survey Report No. 46 access at <https://www.statistics.gov.hk/pub/B11302462011XXXXB0100.pdf> on 25 June 2020
3. Census and Statistics Department (2015) Thematic Household Survey Report - Report No. 55 - Characteristics of Hong Kong residents having short stay in the mainland of China
4. HKSAR Gov Press Releases (2017) access at <https://www.info.gov.hk/gi/general/201707/12/P2017071200689.htm?fontSize=1> on 25 June 2020
5. Home Affairs Department, HKGov (2019) Support service for new arrivals from the mainland and ethnic minorities access at https://www.had.gov.hk/en/public_services/services_for_new_arrivals_from_the_mainland/surveys.htm on 25 June 2020

6. Census and Statistics Department, HK Gov (2019) Hong Kong Annual Digest of Statistics, p.13, access at <https://www.statistics.gov.hk/pub/B10100032019AN19B0100.pdf> on 25 June 2020
7. HKSAR Government (2017) Policies and statistics of Mainland residents coming to study, work and settle in Hong Kong access at <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201707/12/P2017071200689.htm?fontSize=1> on 25 June 2020
8. 胡少偉 (2015) 香港的跨境教育與學生流動 access at <https://www.edb.org.hk/HKTC/download/journal/j14/B02.pdf> on 25 June 2020
9. Li Mei, Mark Bray (2007a) Social Class and Cross-Border Higher Education: Mainland Chinese Students in Hong Kong and Macau access at [<https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/BF02934902.pdf>] on 25 June 2020
10. Li Mei, Mark Bray (2007b) Cross-border flows of students for higher education: Push-pull factors and motivations of mainland Chinese students in Hong Kong and Macau access at <https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/s10734-005-5423-3.pdf> on 25 June 2020
11. Peter Bodycott, Ada Lai (2012) The Influence and Implications of Chinese Culture in the Decision to Undertake CrossBorder Higher Education, access at https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/1028315311418517?casa_token=Mz2Rve3_BoQAAAAA%3A57j1WyqnVSNcXT_4L4cx51NFMi0v-_Gcl3abDCgu_iJET-O_V6yXvw3NwxoUIBVFzwOphzAa6e2WnvU& on 25 June 2020