The phenomenon on “Sanhe Dashen” in Shenzhen with SDG8

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Introduction

Initially, there are a group of people called ‘Sanhe Dashen’ surviving in a corner of rapidly developing Shenzhen who lay on the daily earning system to maintain their ‘work a day, play 3 days’ life. Nowadays, it usually describes the new generation workers who have less ability on work pressure tolerance, lack of self-positive stimulation, more unstable and maintains the life with unprotected daily earning, usually 100 to 200 a day. This phenomenon was inevitably original from the self-growth and the social experience, which reflect a series of social problems. This article is from the perspective of humanistic care, based on the reasons for the existence of ‘Sanhe Dashen ’and SDG 8 to search for some solutions that would be divided into two aspects: education and society to help them get out of this odd circle. Through tackling SDG8 with the study of the situation of ‘Sanhe Dashen’ in the Sanhe Talent Market, it hit me that there still be a long run in making all the people a decent work. This study gave me a strong sense of view: The forced rectification of the market is to solve the surface, what can cope with the root one is to effectively improve the gap between urban and rural areas, and humanistic care is the core of our motivation.

Background

-Character reduction

Through this part, I tend to present the character in three dimensions by telling a story to represent the difficulties that most “Sanhe Dashen” trapped.

-Zheng: my ID card values ¥60

“Damn! Palsy in the net bar for a couple of days, Please! Begging for a job!” Zheng updates his post on Longhua chat. He’s been out of work for days, he can’t afford a ¥15’s bunk, only to through the night in net bar for ¥5.

Zheng has been San he for 6 years, a typical ‘Sanhe Dashen’. In July 2016, for impecunious, he thought his ID card is about to expire, which may help him get some changes. Therefore, He made a deal with a “black agent” on chat, then
earned ¥60.
At 6 a.m. he steps out of the net bar with a drowsy look, across the narrow lane and an iron gate is Sanhe Talent Market. The moon is still hanging on the sky, hundreds of ‘Sanhe Dashen’ have already stood thereby, wandered thereby, with unkempt and white-faced appearance, looked the recruiting board lying on the intermediary’s hand. They mostly just came out from the net bar, fought all night in the game I guess.
“Daily settlement! Shangri-La Hotel set out at seven o’clock! seven o’clock!” Qiang, the intermediary, shouted to the big typhoon, surrounded by dozens of people.
Zheng squeezed out of the crowd without giving other eyes, “I have been done that, is pretty hard. The last time I went to a wedding, the salver was extremely heavy, and I had to do that till midnight. There was no bus back to San he, so I fed the mosquito all eve in the park. I swore I no longer work there, forever.”

In Sanhe, such gray industries like to get a card reader, apply for a bank card and make an installment credit are more popular among “Sanhe Dashen”. Easy to do, easy money, even if they have been caught, they can make a reason to get out. For Zheng, doing some gray pay by the day is just like transfusion to a dying person in-game. He would definitely through the risks out of his brain when there has not a bowl of single rice to eat.
“ I got money, let’s go, have ‘Guabi’ noodles.” Zheng was alive again. He bought red “double happiness” classic smoke, a couple of days didn’t enjoy, he let out a long puff.
“Guabi” noodle stem from “Shuang Feng” noodles restaurant, for ages, the price hasn’t risen a coin to make migrant workers’ like “Sanhe Dashen” stomachs satisfied as they have chance to eat. There is a saying circulating in the Sanhe chats: you didn’t come to Sanhe if you don’t taste “Guabi” noodles. A huge red board hanging on the wall pressed “noodles with shredded meat 4 yuan”. There are only a few pieces of lettuces, a bundle of noodles, and a big bowl of light soup.
Zheng used to work for a toys factory in Dongguang, Guangdong. He met a girl on pipeline then full in love. “I had gone to her home, is better than me, she seemed well-fixed.” Soon after, the engagement was opposed by the girl’s mother, the girl went back to Guizhou, which was never give him a chance to
meet. Still later, by accident, the word “Sanhe Dashen” stirred Zheng’s interests. He wanted to have a try, against all his expectations, he stayed there for over 6 years.

“I thought about leaving, Sanhe is a magic place, I hate it, but still can’t without it.”

One night in a cold winter last year, Zheng fell asleep early in the net bar, he dreamed of his passed father. His father kept asking him where he is, but he can’t answer. When he was awake, his face has already covered with tears. In the noisy net bar, again and again, use his yellow-tinged cuff wiped tears.

(Source: zhuanlan.zhihu.com)

-Brief introduction

-The unique of Shenzhen

As is known to all, Shenzhen, only spent over 30 years, from a tiny fishing village at the border area to an international metropolis. During this time, the early development mainly relies on foreign processing labor-intensive enterprises which led to industrialization that can completely embody the character of the advantage of human capital on the development of industrialized society since China’s reform and opening up. From this, multiple employment posts were provided, which had a massive demand on industrial workers that attracted peasant-worker assembling from different regions. Shenzhen has a huge difference compared to other mega-cities by the large-scaled migration movement. The ratio of the structure of the population nearly reached 2 to 8 in some years, that is to say, among 10 people, 8 of them are migrant population, and the remaining 2 are even not native-born. (source:
Shenzhen has almost no native cultures, so the phenomenon of anti-foreign like Beijing, Shanghai, or Guangzhou is nearly not be seen. This feature determined it has enough space to make progress on its management mode. Till today, although Shenzhen has already put forward the way of industrial upgrade and vacating cage to change bird on development for an ages, still, the large number of migrant workers remain in Shenzhen.

The demographic structure in Shenzhen

(source: Shenzhen statistical yearbook, 2021)

**The transformation on china’s traditional industries**

In The fifth Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee, the obvious improvement of the advanced level of the industrial bases was be as one of the main goals and tasks of the economic social development in the 14th five-year Period (m.news.cn, 20201205).

**The professionalization of migrant workers**

Migrant workers is a variation group of people that mostly are young adults. As the time by, new generation Z has gradually became the main body of the migrant workers. But there are a series of problem that this young people may faced. According to a research by population and health research center, they found that to the young migrant workers, the situation of no matter on obtain employment or the quality of the work are in a tough position:
(blue: the first generation of migrant workers; red: the new generation of migrant workers; X: workdays per week; Y: percentages)

(blue: the first generation of migrant workers; red: the new generation of migrant workers; X: the level of living, from left to right: poverty, barely enough to eat and drink, A well-off, rich, very rich, have no data; Y: percentages)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>代际</th>
<th>参保类型</th>
<th>城镇养老保险</th>
<th>城镇职工医疗</th>
<th>工伤保险</th>
<th>失业保险</th>
<th>生育保险</th>
<th>住房公积金</th>
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<td>25</td>
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<td>16.9</td>
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<td>9.5</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>4.2</td>
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</tbody>
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(the percentages in the labour and social security engagement of different generations of migrant workers, from left to right: Urban endowment insurance; Medical insurance for urban workers; Industrial injury insurance; Unemployment insurance; Birth insurance; Housing accumulating fund)

(sources: Long yao, Analysis of employment status and existing problems of the new generation of migrant workers, 20210531).
Sanhe Talent Market, is a large recruitment market in Longhua District, Shenzhen. It is usually mentioned with Haixinxin Talent Market, both of them are located on Longhua Street, also called JingHuan Market. Sanhe Talent Market has a long history, people know more about it than JingHuan Market so this official name was little known. Except for such old brand companies like Sanhe Human Resources Group, there are at least 10 companies together that constitute the main business activities in JingHuan Market: recruit the labor force.

-Sanhe Dashen-

Left: many of them who haven’t earned enough money to afford a bunk chose to sleep here. Right: the place they usually make a day dream on gamble. source:xinhua.com

New generations of migrant workers are wandering in Sanhe. They came to Shenzhen with a dream of being rich, which was ruthless smashed by reality. They made hardworkingly, but can only just float about the edge of the city. After suffering from illegal intermediary agents and factories, they were plunged into an impecunious situation. Gradually, those groups consisted of a unique attitude to the state of life: they boycott the assembly line work, find pleasure in getting daily pay and spend it all on internet cafes and wait to die, after hopeless.
(their set menu is a symbol of the identity: 'Qinglan' water for 1 yuan, 'Guabi' noodles for 4 yuan)
(picture source: zhihu.com)

-Analysis

-The problems of reflection behind “Sanhe Dashen”

Through this problem, I try to see the essence through the phenomena, and I found there may exist interesting positive feedback between the hysteresis of the professionalization of the new generations of the migrant workers and the unbalance of the economic growth.

The core of population mobility is the yearning for a wonderful life, and what is the dominating element to make it happen is the income gap in different regions.

In developed Shenzhen, the government used tends to give more funds to invest in the secondary and the third industry, which had produced plenty of low-tech jobs, compared to being a farmer, it seemed that there has more profit on going to those big cities. The big cities like Shenzhen are dream places to achieve people’s expectations of living a better life. Spontaneously, the movement of the population is increasingly growing, and the tendency on the
professionalization of the migrant workers has primary appearing. The population gap between different regions began to expand, which led to the lack of the labor force on infrastructure construction.

With the advent of the information revolution, there has been a downward trend in the needs of those simple labor forces, and be replaced by specific high-tech needs. But unfortunately, the new generation of migrant workers was out of development. The needs had changed, the expectations of life and the development of the first-tier cities ever-growing, which made the cities had become more attractive. Looking back to those new migrant workers, the abilities and skills they have remained in the past 10 years. They still chose to the big cities to find more opportunities with their outdated simple labor force, because their hometown was almost empty, there even have no such place to let them use their abilities.

-Reason for the existence of “Sanhe Dashe”

environmental conditions:

Primary, the region is consisted of multiple talent market, there are thousands of employees come looking for a job every day. So, it shouldered the duties of the low-grade labor force recruitment in Longhua even the whole city of Shenzhen, which became the head choice of the migrant workers.

Meanwhile, the buildings in this region are quite a in
disrepair (mostly are the urban villages), which made a low-average rent. There also have a lot of internet bars, checkrooms and renting houses. Although it has a tiny space, fully equipped. Completed facilities and the low surviving costs led to the aggregation of the low-income workers who can gain a sense of identity there.

**Social and self conditions:**

In Sanhe, the illegal intermediary agencies are once prosperous, the turmoil phenomena like ID card transactions and personal information transactions appeared frequently. This resulted in many statements for having no ID card or being heavily in debt.

The professionalization of the peasant workers is hardly fulfilled and keeps up with the rapid developmental economic growth in first-tier cities. The increasing gap between the urban and rural area

Social conditions are inevitably have a great influence on self conditions. Here are 3 pieces of points I would like to share.
First of all, because of the social conditions, they found it is hard to achieve their goals and dreams no matter how much effort they made. The poor education background limited the horizon and the choice of living value.

In addition, for the geographical conditions, those youth realized that they are not alone, thousands of their mates who have similar conditions lived here. A new way of enjoying life appeared. This corner in the city, a “comfortable environment”, gave them a tenable explain to maintain their lives.

Last but not least, generation Z is living in a completely different era compared to their elder one. The internet has greatly liberated humanity that made them frailer and more impatient, or in other words, they intense to do themselves. They don’t need to shoulder more duty to feed a whole family.
-previous solutions

In the past few years, the local government had made efforts to deal with the series of problems on “Sanhe Dashen”. mainly focused on those three conditions.

standard management:

-environmental renovation

The government tend not only use economic leverage to decrease the migrant workers, but also cracked down on illegal and criminal activities. According to the plan, over 1800 will be invested to give a whole improvement on basic facilities at Jingle new town (one of the urban village). For example, 580 thousand for afforest, 2280 thousand for tunnel restored, 2150 thousand to letting all the pipeline underground. The most iconic one is the changes of the Jingle new town.

(source: anjuke.com)

The disorder on house renting in the village had already gone. The board that hangs on every house reminds the renters of the security level which is divided into 3 colors. Besides, many of them were installed an entrance guard and monitoring system. All the rent houses are packaged to a famous property company renovating to a long-term rental apartment.

To exchange the former impression of Sanhe, a culture of struggle is in bringing up, which is trying to remove “Sanhe Dashen” thoroughly. We could see a slogan like “struggle so young and beautiful” in every corner if we go there now.
- Market norm

The gray industrial chains are stubborn, so the renovation work is tied to focus on Talent Market, temporary cloakrooms, internet rent-room, short-term renting, renting rooms, information collections, illegal intermediaries, ID card, online cheating, robbery, drugs cracking down above 16 concepts to destroy in pertinence.

- charity aid station

2020, under the influences of COVID-19, the government set up charity aid stations to help those street-sleepers who no longer afford to live in Jingle new town. In the station, they can get foods and arrangements for free, also, the opportunity of work was provided by the street office. Stations had adopted thousands in peak time.

(source: www.thepaper.cn)

- After the Management

To “Sanhe Dashen”, Sanhe is no longer the place where can accept the people like them. The living costs were rising, many of the deals could never be made. “The station is so boring, only a TV but no more any entertainments...every day, except eating is sleeping, and the only choice for food is instant noodles, which make me almost vomit.” said by one of the “Sanhe Dashen”. This place makes any pose, to refuse the statement of “Sanhe Dashen”. They are developing new bases, Kunshan Chinese Garden, Jiangsu.
Chedun, Shanghai. All of them are the target. The people who went to the new bases are divided into types, a part of them began to find the new opportunities for the increasingly rigorous management. The other still choose to maintain the identity of “Sanhe Dashen”.

Proposal

Construction of rural characteristic tourism project to create jobs.

Why are this many rural areas youth came to the first-tier cities even if those cities have already overpopulation? Because there have more opportunities on changing their destiny. What if their hometown could be the same fortune to them? They approximately would like to stay. The way may to achieve this is to develop the economic level of this rural area.

To be an example, if we know a village used to experience the war and there is a martyr’s cemetery at the foot of the mountain. How do we use this information to create a unique tourism project?

First of all, for the propaganda, considering the limitation the location, social media is the best choice for spreading. We can make a connection to the government and popular bloggers have deep cooperation, combine with the building of the official ID that the cost and time in former arising would decrease through their influence on social media.

In addition, for the village, it was surrounded by forests which is no better than managing a mountain cross country project. To make a unique, the theme could be related to the war of resistance called “immersive experience on the road of resistance”. the route would pass through the historical sites. The related videos and voices could be arranged on the way of the route to construct real historical circumstances. The project could end up in the martyr’s cemetery,
which could definitely add to the deep feeling of the history.

Last but not least, through the contribution, more decent works are spontaneously be provided, and the migrant population (low-effective and low-income ) may have a downward trend. Physically, those youth can have an apparent changes in fortune.

- Reeducation

“Sanhe Dashen” who initially have a thought of living in fulfilled and satisfaction. Reeducation could make it possible, the aim is to help them find their target of life, which could maximize the useful social labour force at the same time.

There is an idea that I can provide,hope it may helpful. To make a change of management system basic on the former charity aid station. In the station, migrant people need to have an unified psycho-educational curriculum, in the class, teachers will guide them to find themselves, make them realized that they have not only the responsibility on their life, but also on social duty. Besides, they also need to have the lesson on specific high-tech course just like a major in the university, but what different is those courses have a low-require on basic course like mathematics for example Python. Their confidence and self-esteem would be established according to the conversations in the class.

After the guidance and the tech learning, students have a choice between to different ways: go back to their hometown and make a contribution on the GDP growth(build their own characteristic tourism) or stay in the first-tier city to find an opportunity. As the choosing, they would think the former is better. In order to stimulate and attract the young migrant workers, they would get bonus that over surpass their primary pay for the day.the level of the income is based on their grades and participation. Psychological, they are fulfilled and satisfied on what they are living now, they could see the hope again.
If we want to make those proposal to become a reality, not only we need government, but also the action of the third party organizations and the public.

For the government, it is better that to enhance the policy on migrant worker’ security system and give more capital invests on the contribution to the rural area.

For the third part organization like the charity agency, it is better that to give more mental care to those young people, and recruit teachers prepare for the reeducation schools in a high salary which is arise from the public, private enterprises, State-owned enterprises, and the government.

For the public, it is better that to give more respect to those migrant workers, keep in mind that there have the same right that migrant workers should have, they are not slavers. Eliminate the class prejudice as possible.
Pros and cons

Everything have double sides, the same as the proposal I gave, in order to make it be more efficiency and certainty, focuses on the cons are the space on improvement.

- It is a long run on achieving the goals
- A large amount of capital is needed at the early stage

We can see that in the proposal, there are plenty of things that need time, the construction of the road of the activity, the fame that be well known to the society, the upgrade of the education system on migrant worker’s transformation. All of them need the altogether effort of the government, the third party organizations and the crowds.

It is inadvisable that gave an ignorance on those, which are the foundation of the effective actions.
If we could have a well prepared on those cons, The pros that the solution could gave are no doubted brought in both visible and potential ways. Besides of the decent work and economic growth, the benefits include but not limited:

- Relief the symptom of the aging population in some ways
- People who live in the village would be more fulfilled.

The pros on this page I gave is just a tip of a iceberg, those two which I think could best prove the close relationship between SDGs.

For the first one, because of the graduation of “Charity school”, the new generation of migrant workers like “Sanhe Dashen” already have a sort of high-tech ability like python or others, then back to their hometown engage in the contributions. Those young labours would be stimulated their efforts, compared to the front productivity, which no doubt that would be improved. Then it will Relief the symptom of aging population in some ways.

For the second one, people who live in the village would be more fulfilled. If the sustainable rural characteristic tourism could be well constructed, then the obvious change we could see is the
environment, every corner will be in full used. The virescence, the architecture, the economics structures, the specific local cultures. All of them are benefits from the constructions. Apparently, the fame of the village would be upraised, then more passengers from different regions would come to have an enjoyment in those wonderful place, the horizon will gradually be broaden to villagers. In addition, the youth who came back not only play a role of a worker but also play as a role in family member. All the villagers will have more confidence and be more fulfilled on both physical and psychological.

Due to the needs of the exploitation of the scenic spots in villages, there must in demand on Talents and labour force in a positive trend. Except for the government, the taste that profit it may brings would be smelled by the Market, spontaneously the invests would come in a constant floating trend. The youth who have already graduated from the “charity university” have chance back to their hometown and engaged in contribution. So that a series of problems are solved.

**Truly Record**

*Here I provide a documentary of “Sanhe Dashen”, which is recorded by NHK, Japan in 2018*

https://ciligod.com/play/1046831.html
Conclusion

“Sanhe Dashen” is a production of the developing society. Looking back to the history, the unification of Qin dynasty, the birth of the Roman Empire, the enclosure movement, the industrial revolutions, the triangular trade, the First and Second Opium War, the second World War, whether any of the countries and nations, there are always have the man who can’t follow well were cast aside by the era. What we try to do now is to try our best to catch those people.

All in all, although the phenomenon of “Sanhe Dashen” is derived from Shenzhen, it could be found in any region. We should know that this is a “grey rhino” crisis. On the other, we are lucky enough that it isn’t an unforeseeable “black swan”, the dangerous consequence could be absolutely avoided if we make a comprehensive preparation before it comes.

When we see the “Sanhe Dashen”, whether there is a shadow that we have in some ways? Everyone has a “Sanhe Dashen” in heart, but what is different from the real one is we are fortunate that we were born in a wonderful family, we have a wonderful education, we have a clear target, and a sense of social identity.

Through researched the phenomenon of the reflection behind the problem of “Sanhe Dashen” in Sanhe, Shenzhen and SDG8, I realized that this phenomenon is temporary but inevitable. Still, we can see the previous efforts of the local government, so I have a full confidence for a wonderful future.
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