The Literary Image in Writings and Practical Well - Being in Reality: The Psychological Exploration of Female Migrant Workers in China

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Abstract: *Background: the core of literary works is to reveal the epitomizing image in society so as to provoke the bottom of people's heart. The image of female migrant workers is always touching the nerve of public since this vulnerable group keeps suffering from class, gender and so on. In 2022, the number of rural migrant workers in China had surged to 295.62 million, 36.6 percent were female which rose by 0.7% from the previous year. The psychological health of this huge group still lagged behind though the living condition and other welfare are improve compared with that in the past. The solution remain unanswered and the landscape of their psychological health needs further delve into. Method: the study explores the psychological dynamics from three different angles such as mental emancipation, consumer behavior and "technology transformation" enlightened by epitomizing image of female migrant workers in literary writings. There are 1574 female migrant workers, who have been divided in three groups depends on their age (660 - group 1; 584 - group 2; 330 - group 3), have participated in the questionnaire and the data has been analyzed by SPSS so as to further study the connotation and enlighten us to figure out strategies to better help their psychological health with different age groups. Results and Conclusion: The findings highlighted the different psychological problems and features in different age groups, the younger generation (< 30) is living more freely and does not take "traditional burden" as the imperatives; however, they still find themselves stuck in class transition. To middle age group (30-45) and senior age group (> 45), data indicates their heavy burden and suffer from the technology advancement etc. Unlike male migrant workers, the female group is more vulnerable due to several unique factors such as low social status which renders us to find better solution to help via the clear unique features as the study unearthed.*

Keywords: Literary image; Practical Well-being; Psychological Exploration; Female Migrant Workers.

1. INTRODUCTION

Rapid development in China since 1978 renders a huge amount of opportunities for female migrant workers to shake off poverty and seek for socio-economic independence. However, things do not go their way due to household registration system (Hukou system), imbalance in education, social status etc. (Chan, 2009; Chen et al., 2015; Chu et al., 2015). As subalterns, Spivak portrayed, are not supposed to have an outlet to "speak out" or have their voice heard (Spivak, 1999). Hence, all they have to do is to "find" the voice through certain agents (such as novel writers etc.).
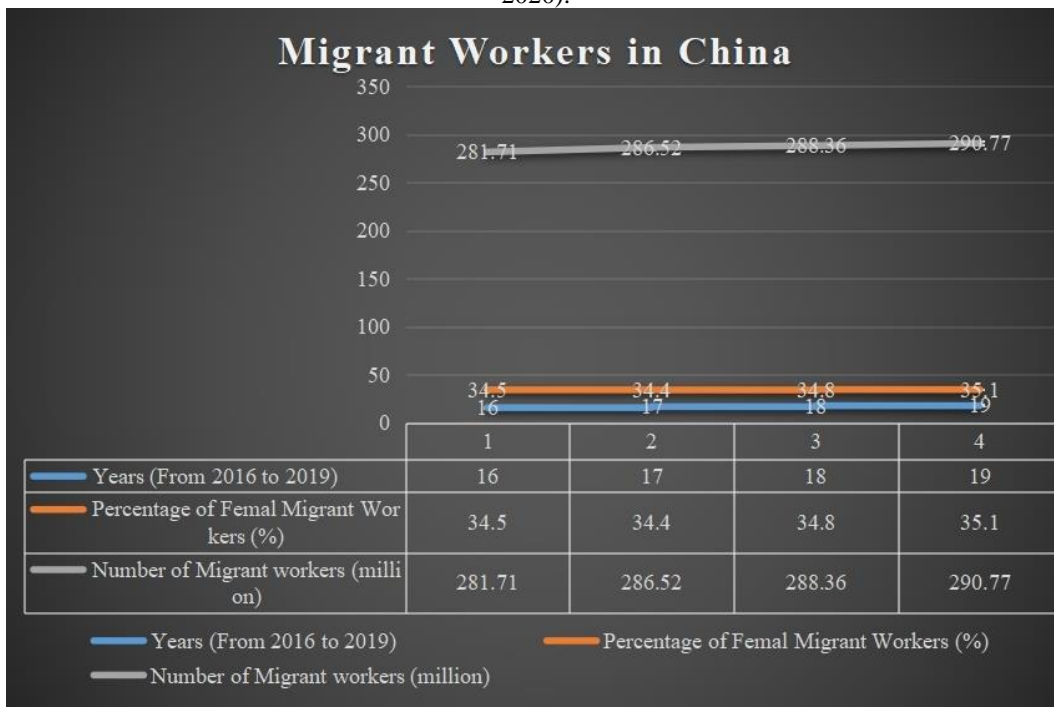
From 1978 to the contemporary era, the literary image of female migrant workers kept voicing what they wished to "say". In the early stage, female migrant workers experienced the brand new life in urban era (Su et al., 2013) which brought about new thought (Porru and Arici, 2010) and they build the image as females with emancipated mindset (Lin, 2015); in the second stage, they looked for changes in social status by resembling the consuming manners of urban citizen since they regard "consumption as an approach for social class transition" (Gourinchas and Parker, 2002; Jackson, 1999; Nelson and Consoli, 2010) since literary works keep "shaping" their image as "the women of new era"; in the third stage, female migrant workers in new generation, unlike the previous one, were "infatuated" by technology and not resisted "the technology transformation" (such as cosmetic surgery, threat of new technology in workposts etc.) which helped to bridge the inferiority of female migrant workers with all women in literary world being "transformed" by technology. Enlightened by the literary works, this study aims to reveal the psychological dynamics from this three perspectives in order to better understand this vulnerable group

and figure out certain approaches to help them as well as consolidate the study of this migrant occupation in contemporary China.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

One of the serving force is the migrant workers who step out of their village and swarm into urban area to make their part of contribution for the rapid economic growth in China. However, migrant workers, particularly female migrant workers since born, have never benefited their fair part in this process or even suffered from the oppression in the urban area where they are contributing. According to Wang & Tang's research regarding the quantitative evolution of female migrant workers. As shown in table 1:

Table 1: Number and Gender Distribution of Migrant Workers in China from 2016 to 2019 (Wang and Tang, 2020).

	1	2	3	4
Years (From 2016 to 2019)	16	17	18	19
Percentage of Femal Migrant Workers (%)	34.5	34.4	34.8	35.1
Number of Migrant workers (million)	281.71	286.52	288.36	290.77

Even due to the 3 years of Covid-19 pandemic (from 2020-2022), the increment of migrant workers in China did not fade away. In 2022, according to the data from National Bureau of Statistics released on May 5, 2023, the number of rural migrant workers in China had surged to 295.62 million, marking an increase of 3.11 million or 1.1 percent from that of the previous year. The proportion of female migrant workers had increased. Among all migrant workers, 63.4 percent were male and 36.6 percent were female. The percentage of women had risen by 0.7% from the previous year, with women accounting for 31.1 percent of migrant workers and 41.7 percent of local migrant workers, upped by 0.9 and 0.7 points respectively. A vast number of migrant workers epitomize the pressing need for greater attention to be paid to their well-being, particularly with regard to their psychological welfare which constitutes a significant component thereof (Jin and Shi, 2016). Migrant workers are thrown into the "nomadic existence" without "identification" who linger on the verge between urban area and the suburb area as ghost-like in-betweens (Sun and Liu, 2015). Specifically, the in-betweens are nothing but a diaspora figure with regard to the body and the spirit. To make matters worse, female migrant workers are abound to be the cannon-folder for family's pursuit of wealth (Chan, 2009; Chu et al., 2015).

2.1 The Product of the Age - Female Migrant Workers

The terms of "male migrant workers" (dagongzai)and "female migrant workers" (dagongmei) resonate with the approaches in which people from Canton address youngsters: male is zai & female is mei (Wang and Yang, 2019). Canton, in particular Shenzhen and Guangzhou, is the frontier of the Opening up & Reform in 1978, hence it serves as the top pioneer destination for migrant workers and the combined phrase for females who come to the urban area for work from different places turns into female migrant workers (dagongmei).

Typically, migrant workers are labeled with "3D" property (Wang and Tang, 2020) which are "dirty, dangerous and demeaning". Compared to their male counterparts, female migrant workers are more prone to experiencing marginalization in urban life (Qiu, 2018). According to the TV series Flowers: A Record of Female Migrant Workers in China, female migrant workers are preferable than female migrant workers by factories due to the fact that females are more detailed and cautious than males. The ultimate goal of female migrant workers is to grab money and help her and her family to lift out of poverty or even endeavor for a better-off life condition since China suffered from a long period of famine in the past. Since female migrant workers could not make their voice heard by doing their work, the literary works, which is widely quintessence of social revelation, epitomized plenty of female migrant image so as to reveal the profound concerns upon the key aspects of this vulnerable group.

2.2 The Mental Emancipation Revealed By Literary Works

The image of female migrant workers from 1980s in China presented the initial stage of them in literary works. This is the time when literary works in China started their steps toward the social oppression upon female migrant workers (Qiu, 2018). Those female migrant workers sought for wealth to provide better food on the table or better living conditions for family members during that period of time while the consciousness of female migrant workers was stirred after working in the urban area: why should I shoulder all this responsibility while being oppressed by upper class, male and capitalists?

The image of female migrant workers started surfacing its head and demonstrating the indomitable mind toward social oppression. Such as FuPing unveils the steel-like will of Fuping who came across the multiple oppression at home and in Shanghai where she works in 20th century. The novel Fuping portrays the historical background of vast flow of migrant workers to urban zones from 1950s to 1960s. The novels in 20th century constructed the will-independent image of female migrant workers whose working experience let their mind turn solid and started thinking about themselves in a non-traditional, brand new ones, such as Jia Pingao's Xiao Yue in Xiao Yue Qian Ben . This period made the initial stage for female migrant workers to shred their traditionally oppressed role in Chinese literary works.

Artistic works might enjoy a gap with reality but sublimated the reality to live up to the wishes of people. The younger generation of female migrant workers differed far from their predecessors and manifested transformed value towards the outside word. The literary image of female migrant workers demonstrated the independence, perseverance and kindness as the striking features. As their mind had been emancipated and will had been consolidated, the literary image portrayed the ideals of female migrant workers who wanted to manifest their independence and wishes to move from lower strata to upper class (Qiu, 2018). However, reality was still harsh and dooming (Cai, 2011; Chu et al., 2015), the oppression would never alter solely because female migrant workers' mindset had been somewhat improved. The image of female migrant protagonists were always positive, independent and warm-hearted which was "everything but" the old traditional stereotype of female migrant workers (Chu et al., 2015) who were uncivilized, uncouth, countrified or sometimes mean, sheer frugal and dependent.

2.3 The Consuming Behavior Portrayed By Literary Works

For individuals who are living in a modern society, consumption serves as an instrument to define themselves and present their social status (Ger, 1998; Tse et al., 1989) in that consumption capability takes a certain amount of social & economic capital (Baumeister et al., 2008; Solomon, 2014). Various consumer behaviors connote the disparity of different groups of people in the wide-ranged community regarding gender, social status, identity, race or class (Tang and Hao, 2019) as well as set up the self-identification (Aggarwal, 2004). Self-identification is an approach of knowing oneself who is an interdependent psychological entity (self-conscious identity) for everyone to live with in the context of reciprocal interaction between every social participants (Danzer et al., 2014; Davis, 2005; De Brauw and Rozelle, 2008; De Mooij and Hofstede, 2011; Dong and Tian, 2009). With the economic capital they accumulated in urban city, they are much more prone to spend the money at hand than their male counterparts to form certain "identity" as they wish (Pun, 2003) since male migrant workers are more "obligated" to save money for buying a house or a car for family need and living experience in the urban area enables people to develop insatiable desire and "expectations in consumption" to prove their "social status and identity" (Yue et al., 2013; Zhang and Wang, 2010).

When it comes to the 21st century, in particular, the "class transformation" in China turn into the spotlight. Shaoli's Minghui's Christmas established an image of a female migrant worker who was willing to make money by "selling

her body" in a Spa center. She believed she would grasp the urban identity as long as she get rich. In Fu Ping, the female migrant worker Fu Ping escaped from Huanghai Road Shanghai, quit the serving job and canceled the arranged marriage in her hometown. Eventually she found herself a home and married with a disable man from an impoverished family. The metropolis Shanghai did not bring her wealth and prosperity as well as degeneration or depravity, but made her realized her strong will and independence.

Countryside in China is a dystopia of "acquaintance society" which "suffocates" all female migrant workers. Living in the countryside, rumors fly among those acquaintances in an efficient manner which brings about social dilemma towards them as "moral public opinion pressure" (Cai, 2011; Chu et al., 2015). However, working in urban area, the life enjoy four striking features: heterogeneity, anonymity, openness and nobility. Those works may not all endorse the urban civilization, but somehow unveils the overwhelming impact of cities to modify the mind of female migrant workers and transform, overthrow or replace the civilization of Chinese countryside by its subjectivity. Consumer behavior is the manifestation of consumption culture which is deeply rooted by urban traits, in the meanwhile, media, market and transnational consumer culture all play a role to affect the acculturation process as well as self-identity (Hao and Tang, 2018; Zhao and Belk, 2008; Zukin and Maguire, 2004). To avert female migrant workers being discriminated and "transform the social class", they have to abandon their own consumer culture and adapt to the dominant local one (Wang and Yan, 2011). Hence, the subjectivity of female migrant workers is capable of being realized via consumer behavior at least they think so portrayed by the image of literary works.

2.4 The "Technology Transformation" Implied By Literary Works

The large extent growth of economy in China in the past 40 years seemed not to "touch" female migrant workers much (Brown et al., 2011; Elliott and Meng, 2011). The oppression upon them still hold their positions and the image of female migrant workers in literary works shifts from mind improvement to body modification since they are disappointed by the endless discrimination, exclusivism and inferiority.

Hence, this group seeks for the technology to alter their body in order to fit in or even revolt against the upper class. This has been unveiled by several modern works like Liu Wenjing in My Beautiful friend, Ren Xiai in Primary Marriage and so on. All those images of female migrant workers present impressive body figure, good-looking face or tech-enhanced physic corporeality due to the technology advancement in modernization. The protagonist of My Beautiful friend, a female migrant worker, presents her profound charm and charisma whenever she dresses her up in "rural garments" or " urban attires". It turns out that good-looking appearance serves as "hard currency" for female migrant workers to shift from lower strata to upper class and helps build up its wished identity (Brown et al., 2011; Elliott and Meng, 2011). Therefore, the expenditure upon adorning themselves is skyrocketing in 21st century such as cosmetic surgery or micro plastic surgery since the technology makes it possible. According to the previous study (Yan and Xu, 2019b): Thanks to advancement in technology, body modification has become an easy access. Reshaping the body figure and face offers a huge amount of favorables (Eisend and Moller, 2007; Fan, 2002; Krcmar et al., 2008; Sohn, 2009) towards female migrant workers. Contrasting to metal emancipation and consumer behavior, the tech-improvement of appearance (the body) manifests the focus of the literary image construction of female migrant workers shifts from the internal world to the external world. During this period, the works keep portraying the protagonists (female migrant workers) with elegant body figure and charismatic face. Those charming images incurs high rate of cosmetic surgery among female migrant workers since females' good-looking appearance is regarded by themselves as the key factor of being recognized by the society (Hao, 2012). Moving to upper-class is never easy while altering the body figure (appearance) is rather easier which is capable of helping move to upper-class (Fardouly et al., 2017; Nabi, 2009).

3. RESEARCH METHODS AND DATA SOURCES

In order to launch an empirical study for exploring the psychological status of such an amount of workforce in urban area as well as the homogeneity and heterogeneity between the literary image (Lin, 2015) and the genuine one. A questionnaire, modified from questionnaires of others scholars as mentioned above, from these three aspects (Mental Emancipation, Consumer Behavior And "Technology Transformation") will be issued to further delve into the psychological details among female migrant workers in contemporary era which serves as the research model. As portrayed in Figure 1.
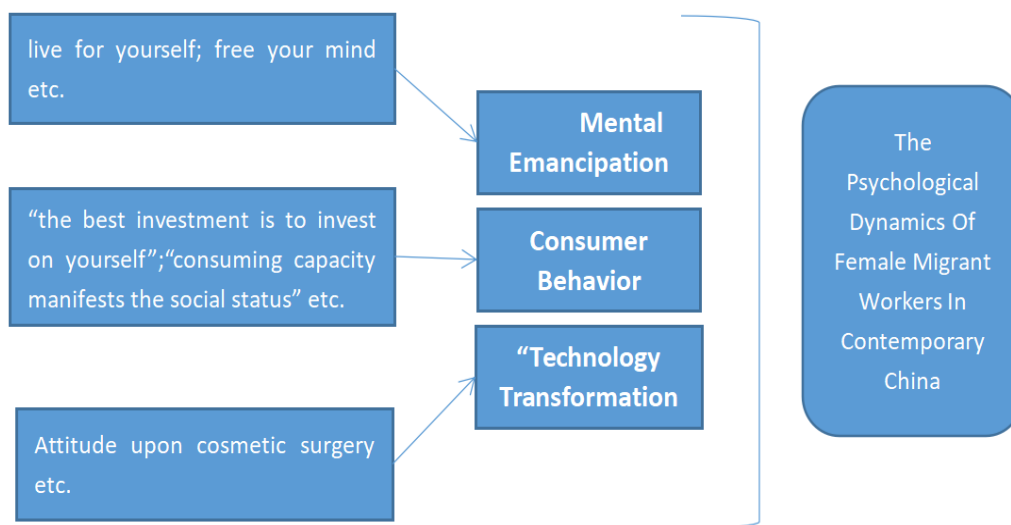
Figure 1: Three Dimensions for Exploring the Psychological Dynamics

Therefore, 9 cities (Beijing; Shanghai; Guangzhou; Shenzhen; Hangzhou; Tianjin ; Suzhou ; Nanjing ; Dongguan) of China are selected to issue questionnaire because those cities enjoy highest GDP and huge amount of female migrant workers. More than 1900 sets of data have been retrieved during the 12 months (October 2022 - October 2023) of collecting data via questionnaire and there are 1574 sets of data are valid after sorting out.

As the theoretical framework discussed above, the questionnaire intends to explore 3 dimensions as well as key questions about the psychological psychological wealth of female migrant workers:

Q 1: As the image constructed by literary works, the mind of female migrant workers has been emancipated, how do their mental features vary with regarding to different age and exert influence on their psychological wealth?

Q 2: As the image portrayed by literary works, the way female migrant workers consume constitutes their own identity, how does the consumer behavior impacts their psychological wealth with age varies?

Q 3: As the image displayed by literary works, the "technology transformation" plays a role in enhancing the favors of female migrant workers in competitive world, how does it affect their psychological wealth in terms of different age groups?

3.1 Demographics of Female Migrant Workers in the Test

The psychological status of different age group unveils various psychological tendency, hence the psychological health and the development of the particular group can be better understood because different age groups suffer from different extent of depression caused by their impaired psychological health (Li et al., 2009).

Usually in china, people are divided into 3 main age groups (Lin, 2015) to better figure out the features of different ages (youth; middle age; senior). In this empirical study, the demographics of the subjects has sorted out in detail in order to better understand them as shown in table 2:

Table 2: The Demographics Of The Subjects

Age	Number	Proportion Of Highest Diploma			
< 30	660	71 College Degree / Junior College	311 High School / Technical Secondary College	278 Middle School	0 Less Than Middle School
30-45	584	17 College Degree / Junior College	175 High School / Technical Secondary College	380 Middle School	12 Less Than Middle School
> 45	330	0 College Degree / Junior College	159 High School / Technical Secondary College	121 Middle School	50 Less Than Middle School

3.2 The Analysis And Discussion

The questionnaire in this study was from former questionnaires in the previous studies which explored the mental status, consuming identity and the attitude towards the challenge of technology (Yan Yan et al., 2019; Chen et al., 2015; Su et al., 2013;Fardouly et al., 2017) with small revision. And it was firstly analyzed by reliability test and the cronbach = .901 which demonstrated a high level of reliability. Subsequently, all the items of the questionnaire are launched with One-Way ANOVA test and all the results are listed as follows:

3.2.1 Mental Emancipation

In this part ,the paper intended to explore the mental pressure of female migrant workers and find out how much they emancipated. To the item 1.1: "How much do you think you can live for yourself without worrying about any other factors in family, hometown, workplace etc. (such as your family members....)", the Homogeneity of Variances of all items in this part was more than .05 which proved the feasibility for further exploration. As shown in the table 3:

Table 3: The Data Result of Part I

	N	Mean	The Item 1.1 Test of Homogeneity of Variances
1	660	3.49	
2	584	2.83	.381
3	330	2.89	
Total	1574	3.12	
(I) GROUPS	(J) GROUPS		Sig.
1	2		.000
	3		.000
2	1		.000
	3		.437
3	1		.000
	2		.437
	N	Mean	The Item 1.2 Test of Homogeneity of Variances
1	660	3.59	
2	584	3.67	.523
3	330	2.93	
Total	1574	3.48	
(I) GROUPS	(J) GROUPS		Sig.
1	2		.197
	3		.000
2	1		.197
	3		.000
3	1		.000
	2		.000
	N	Mean	The Item 1.3 Test of Homogeneity of Variances
1	660	1.76	
2	584	1.60	.443
3	330	1.50	
Total	1574	1.65	
(I) GROUPS	(J) GROUPS		Sig.
1	2		.000
	3		.000
2	1		.000

		3	.003
3		1	.000
		2	.003

	N	Mean	The Item 1.4 Test of Homogeneity of Variances
1	660	1.69	
2	584	1.64	.461
3	330	1.62	
Total	1574	1.66	

(I) GROUPS		(J) GROUPS	Sig.
1		2	.030
		3	.018
2		1	.030
		3	.601
3		1	.018
		2	.601

	N	Mean	The Item 1.5 Test of Homogeneity of Variances
1	660	1.22	
2	584	1.24	.415
3	330	1.68	
Total	1574	1.33	

(I) GROUPS		(J) GROUPS	Sig.
1		2	.409
		3	.000
2		1	.409
		3	.000
3		1	.000
		2	.000

	N	Mean	The Item 1.6 Test of Homogeneity of Variances
1	660	1.39	
2	584	1.53	0.252
3	330	1.63	
Total	1574	1.49	

(I) GROUPS		(J) GROUPS	Sig.
1		2	.000
		3	.000
2		1	.000
		3	.003
3		1	.000
		2	.003

	N	Mean	The Item 1.7 Test of Homogeneity of Variances
1	660	4.20	
2	584	3.98	.129
3	330	4.04	
Total	1574	4.09	

(I) GROUPS		(J) GROUPS	Sig.

1	2	.000
	3	.008
2	1	.000
	3	.344
3	1	.008
	2	.344

The value of group 1 enjoyed significant difference (Sig. = .000 < .05) with group 2 & 3 and the value of group 2 and group 3 did not demonstrate the significant difference (Sig. = .437 > .05). Therefore, we could clearly deduce that the female migrant workers (aged less than 30) were more carefree than their counterparts (aged from 30 and above) because it denoted that the younger generation who were inclined to live for themselves rather than others who were being "grounded" by external elements (Mean = 3.49 > 3). The choice of group 2 and 3 showed that female migrant workers, who were above 30, were more vulnerable in bearing the heavy burden in life(Mean = 2.83, 2.89 < 3). Too much burden of caring for others in reality causes psychological problems (Li et al., 2009) which is pretty common to them since they are from a huge family usually.

As a matter of fact, the literary image kept reminding us that the thought or mindset of female migrant workers were converted into a positive direction: not only lifted themselves up but helped their families or fellows from the same village to get rid of poverty and become better off (Lin, 2015). Conspicuously, the living experience in urban area rendered the opportunities for them to be "transformed" mentally. In order to explore it in details, item 2 kicked in. As it indicated, the group 3 (Mean= 2.93) enjoyed significant difference with group 1 (Mean=3.59) & group 2 (Mean= 3.67) and there was no significant difference between group 1 and group 2 (sig. = .191 > .05). To our surprise, the eldest group did not demonstrate much mindset/thought change in working in urban area, but the relatively younger groups showed huge change in their mindset/thought while working in cities. That might be tremendous transformation of living approaches in contemporary China with the wide employment of new tech products (Yan and Xu, 2019a), such as using QR codes for placing orders; no cash society etc. This is probably easy for younger female migrant workers to interact with while the eldest group just focused on making money rather than enjoying the life in urban area. However, as the Mean of all members of participants indicated, their mindset/thought shown positivity in its change after working in urban area(3.48 > 3).

In order to delve deeper in "positivity" in the change of mindset/thought, the item 1.3 tried to figure out whether working in the urban would be more beneficial to girls or not. As conspicuously shown above, the all 3 groups were favorable to "Hunting for work in urban area" because all the Mean of 3 groups are above 1.5. What intrigued us was that all 3 groups enjoyed significant difference to each other and the youngest generation topped them all. To the young generation, urban area is their "destination" and their village is no longer the place where benefits them as much as the cities do.

The competition in urban area is unparalleled to that of rural area (Zhang and Wang, 2010), therefore their psychological resilience will either be destroyed or enhanced. Exploring their psychological resilience help us to better understand the mental health of this group of occupation since the literary image of female migrant workers are always perseverant, unswerving and persistent. All the subjects in 3 groups tended to be much stronger mentally or psychologically resilient after working in urban area (the Mean of 3 groups were higher than 1.5) as demonstrated in item 1.4. Among those 3 groups of female migrant workers, group 1 had significant difference with group 2(sig. = .03 < .05) & group 3 (sig. = .018 < .05) which indicated that the youngest generation of female migrant workers showed the highest improvement in psychological resilience which fitted the fact of the ever-increasing competition faced by youngest generation. The group 2 and group 3 were not in significant difference (sig. = .601 > .05) which referred to fact that younger generation would benefit more in building up the strong will and the benefit went down as age grew.

According to Chinese tradition, elder sisters should help their younger brothers to buy a house for their marriage due to the fact that owning a house is the primary step for getting married. However, the type of "help" was enormously spurned by people in contemporary China since it grew myriad burden over their elder sisters and sometimes even "decimated" their elder sisters' own marriage. As expected, group 3 had significant difference with other 2 groups (sig. = .000<.05) after tested by item 1.5, but group 1 and group 2 enjoyed a very close Mean(1.22 and 1.24) without significant difference (sig. = .409 > .05). The younger generation was inclined to get rid of the "unfriendly burden" because their own life mattered as well. However, to female migrant workers in

group 3, they still suffered from the traditional burden (Mean=1.68 > 1.50) which "grew their psychological pressure" (Meng, 2004).

Marriage for females in China serves as an social property for fending off social discrimination since not getting married is always being treated as certain "flaws of their life". However, the older the female migrant workers became, the more psychological "restriction" they owned (Mean= 1.39, 1.53, 1.63) and they all have significant difference (sig. < .05) as denoted in item 1.6. The elderly generation were still trapped in the psychological pressure because they held the fact that getting married is still indispensable for women now (Mean = 1.53, 1.63 > 1.50).

The image in literary works kept suffering from unfair treatment from workplace (Lin, 2015), family and so on with regard to marriage, job promotion, social respect etc. as mentioned above. To the item 1.7 of "how much do you think that the world treat women with unfairness", all tested subjects were unanimously prone to hold that the world treated them unfairly due to the fact that the Mean of 3 groups were 4.20, 3.98 and 4.04 (> 3). Specifically, group 2 and group 3 had no significant difference (sig. = .344 > .05) and group 1 enjoyed significant difference with other 2 groups (sig. = .00, .008 < .05) which indicated that the younger generation of female migrant workers thought they had bumped into severer "unfairness" than the counterparts .

3.2.2 The Consumer Behavior

As discussed above, the consumer behavior manifested a person's social status, interpersonal respect etc. in contemporary world. You could find those wealthy people in literary works who enjoyed the high status (Lin, 2015) and respect by doing high end of consumer behavior (Baumeister et al., 2008). This prompted some female migrant workers to emulate in order to live like a citizen with the identity of this "consumer behavior", the Homogeneity of Variances of all items in this part was more than .05 which proved the feasibility for further exploration. As shown in table 4:

Table 4: The Data Result of Part II

	N	Mean	The Item 2.1 Test of Homogeneity of Variances
1	660	3.66	0.190
2	584	2.99	
3	330	2.44	
Total	1574	3.16	
(I) GROUPS	(J) GROUPS		Sig.
1	2		.000
1	3		.000
2	1		.000
2	3		.000
3	1		.000
3	2		.000
	N	Mean	The Item 2.2 Test of Homogeneity of Variances
1	660	3.33	0.172
2	584	2.65	
3	330	2.17	
Total	1574	2.84	
(I) GROUPS	(J) GROUPS		Sig.
1	2		.000
1	3		.000
2	1		.000
2	3		.000
3	1		.000
3	1		.000

	N	Mean	The Item 2.3 Test of Homogeneity of Variances
1	660	3.57	
2	584	3.88	0.421
3	330	3.14	
Total	1574	3.59	
(I) GROUPS	(J) GROUPS		Sig.
1	2		.000
	3		.000
2	1		.000
	3		.000
3	1		.000
	2		.000

	N	Mean	The Item 2.4 Test of Homogeneity of Variances
1	660	3.64	
2	584	3.04	0.130
3	330	2.24	
Total	1574	3.13	
(I) GROUPS	(J) GROUPS		Sig.
1	2		.000
	3		.000
2	1		.000
	3		.000
3	1		.000
	2		.000

	N	Mean	The Item 2.5 Test of Homogeneity of Variances
1	660	3.43	
2	584	3.44	0.188
3	330	1.84	
Total	1574	3.10	
(I) GROUPS	(J) GROUPS		Sig.
1	2		.848
	3		.000
2	1		.848
	3		.000
3	1		.000
	2		.000

	N	Mean	The Item 2.6 Test of Homogeneity of Variances
1	660	4.10	
2	584	3.60	0.311
3	330	2.08	
Total	1574	3.49	
(I) GROUPS	(J) GROUPS		Sig.
1	2		.000
	3		.000
2	1		.000

	3	.000
3	1	.000
	2	.000

Females are prone to spend for their appearance which is the nature of this group of population (üstüner and Holt, 2007). The item 2.1 explored 3 groups' consumer behavior regarding the percentage of appearance expenditure. Each groups had significant difference with each other (sig.= .000 < .05) which indicated the younger generation (Mean= 3.66) enjoyed "less economic burden" (Meng, 2004) and were more willing to spend for making them happy since being good-looking pleased everyone as long as you engaged in social life (Yan and Xu, 2019a). However, it was so conspicuous that group 3 (above 45) had had to endure the severe psychological pressure for economic issue rather than taking more money on themselves (Mean= 2.44).

In order to deal with the challenge in contemporary world, the cost for training to improve their skills is indispensable. However, as the vulnerable group in urban area, lacking of skills or fund for acquiring skills will worsen their plight. Similar to item 2.1, the item 2.2 in the questionnaire found that each groups had significant difference with each other (sig.= .000 < .05) which indicated the younger generation (Mean= 3.33) enjoyed less economic burden and were more willing to spend for making them competitive (Luan et al., 2012) since it, to a large extent, determined your career quality as long as you engaged in social life. However, it was so conspicuous that group 3 (above 45) had had to endure the severe psychological pressure for economic issue rather than taking more money on training, education, books, workshop etc (Mean= 2.17). However, there is something we should not ignore, female migrant workers are more willingly to spend for good -looking appearance (Yan and Xu, 2019a) than training course and this helps us better comprehend their psychological need in reality.

What's more, they all believed in the idea "the best investment is to invest on yourself"(Mean = 3.57, 3.88, 3.14 > 3) which revealed their thought of pursuing better themselves. To our surprise, 3 groups enjoyed the significant difference and group 2 topped them all as to item 2.3. But to item 2.4, group 3 didn't agree upon (Mean= 2.24 < 3) the idea that "consuming capacity manifests the social status" but other 2 groups tended to endorse (Mean = 3.64, 3.04 > 3) which indicated that the senior generation of female migrant workers were more inclined not to take "consumer behavior" as a mean to manifest their social status (üstüner and Holt, 2007). However, the younger generation of female migrant workers was easily like to regard "consumer behavior" as an approach to "prove" their social status (Hao and Tang, 2018).

As mentioned above, female migrant workers are nothing but "in-betweens" in urban area, therefore their economic status is not as good as urban locals at average (üstüner and Holt, 2007). The item 2.5 and item 2.6 explored their consumer behavior in personal preference to meet their psychological need as well as their psychological burden with respect to saving and expenditure ratio. Clearly, the group 1 and group 2 were both unveiling their own strong desire to buy what they liked no matter how much it cost (Mean= 3.43; 3.44 > 3) and there was no significant difference (sig. = .848 > .05). However, the group 3 not only showed significant difference with other 2 groups (sig. = .000 < .05) but ranked extremely low (Mean = 1.88 < 3) which indicated that those groups of female migrant workers held back to a large extent when the goods they liked were expensive (Hao and Tang, 2018). They were under "tremendous psychological burden" (Yan and Xu, 2019a) in terms of financial landscape.

What's more, the group 3 ranked the top in savings (Mean = 2.08 < 3.60 < 4.10) in a year and all 3 groups had significant difference (sig. = .000 < .05). To be honest, as we could clearly see, the elder generation were more likely to suffer from mental pressure at financial aspect than younger counterparts and the ratio was so overwhelming(they ranked at "saving > 60%;spending <40%" which was way close to "saving > 80%;spending <20%"). However, the youngest generation suffered from way less financial stress since they ranked at "saving < 40%;spending > 60%".

3.2.3 "Technology Transformation"

Technology plays an increasing role in contemporary era as well as helps a person obtain a decent work post to a large extent. However, to most of the female migrant workers, the inferior status of learning new technology to enhance their competitiveness due to the lack of education background, economic basis, supportive atmosphere. The literary workers kept building up an image of female migrant workers who never backed down in learning new technology (Lin, 2015), the Homogeneity of Variances of all items in this part was more than .05 which proved the feasibility for further exploration. As shown in table 5:

Table 5: The Data Result of Part III

	N	Mean	The Item 3.1 Test of Homogeneity of Variances
1	660	2.27	
2	584	2.54	0.121
3	330	3.19	
Total	1574	2.56	
(I) GROUPS	(J) GROUPS		Sig.
1	2		.000
	3		.000
2	1		.000
	3		.000
3	1		.000
	2		.000
	N	Mean	The Item 3.2 Test of Homogeneity of Variances
1	660	3.26	
2	584	3.33	.261
3	330	3.40	
Total	1574	3.32	
(I) GROUPS	(J) GROUPS		Sig.
1	2		.363
	3		.108
2	1		.363
	3		.411
3	1		.108
	2		.411
	N	Mean	The Item 3.3 Test of Homogeneity of Variances
1	660	3.11	
2	584	2.66	0.190
3	330	2.22	
Total	1574	2.76	
(I) GROUPS	(J) GROUPS		Sig.
1	2		.000
	3		.000
2	1		.000
	3		.000
3	1		.000
	2		.000
	N	Mean	The Item 3.4 Test of Homogeneity of Variances
1	660	3.39	
2	584	3.28	0.218
3	330	3.20	
Total	1574	3.31	
(I) GROUPS	(J) GROUPS		Sig.
1	2		.099

		3	.016
2		1	.099
		3	.313
3		1	.016
		2	.313
	N	Mean	The Item 3.5 Test of Homogeneity of Variances
1	660	3.60	
2	584	3.49	0.177
3	330	3.18	
Total	1574	3.47	
(I) GROUPS	(J) GROUPS		Sig.
1	2		.127
	3		.000
2	1		.127
	3		.000
3	1		.000
	2		.000

As item 3.1 indicated that group 1 and group 2 were pretty confident in not being substituted by technology now (Mean = 2.27; 2.54 < 3) even they were significantly different with each other (sig. = .000 < .05). It meant that the youngest generation of female migrant workers enjoyed higher skills, vitality and vigor to fend off the threat from technology than their counterparts (group 3) who were seniors. To group 3, who did not only manifest the fear of losing their place to technology (Mean = 3.19 > 3) now, but they also placed much more concerns about the job in the future. All 3 groups (Mean = 3.26, 3.33, 3.40 > 3) conspicuously expressed their concerns and there were no significant difference between them (sig. = .363, .108, .411 > .05) as indicated in item 3.2.

Learning certain skills are never too late to embark on because the modern society incurs the fact that people have to spare time to learn while working (Zhang and Wang, 2010). However, as a special group, female migrant workers are "not in the favorable position in learning" (Meng, 2004) new technology which is indispensable to them if they want to improve their competitiveness. All 3 groups had significant difference (sig. = .000 < .05) and group 1 was the only group showed confidence over item 3.3: "mastering the know-how of using certain tech to reinforce your competitiveness" (Mean= 3.11 > 3). On the other hand, other 2 groups manifested their inconfidence (Mean= 2.66, 2.22 < 3), furthermore, the group 3 who enjoyed the significant difference with other groups and suffered from the biggest psychological pressure in learning the new technology.

With the advancement of technology, the cosmetic surgery turned out to be much safer then that before. Female migrant workers know exactly well that good-looking appearance with "certain aid of technology" (which is another type of "technology transformation") is not that shameful as they thought years ago. To our surprise, all groups supported "cosmetic surgery among females" (Mean = 3.39, 3.28, 3.20 > 3)as item 3.4 indicated, including group 3 who were thought to be not so "open" as younger generation was. To explore the extent of agreement towards cosmetic surgery, group 1 and group 2 did not enjoy the significant difference (sig. = .099 > .05) as well as group 2 and group 3 (sig. = .313 > .05); however, group 1 and group 3 had significant difference (sig. = .016 < .05) which indicated that the youngest subjects in the test were way inclined to agree upon rather than the oldest subjects.

All 3 groups believed that "females can benefit after they get their appearance improved" (Mean= 3.60, 3.49, 3.18 > 3) as item 3.5 rendered, to be specific, the oldest generation (group 3) had significant difference with other 2 groups (sig. = .000 < .05) which rendered the fact that senior groups still enjoyed a psychological gap with younger generation in the recognition of benefits upon good-looking appearance even though they supported the idea.

4. MAJOR FINDINGS AND RESEARCH PROSPECT

As discussed above, the mind of all groups of female migrant workers is no longer reserved, traditional or inhibited as that before working in urban area since the working experience renders to emancipate their mind (Chen, 2005).

The female migrant workers ,in particular those who are less than 30, are more prone to live for yourself without worrying about any other factors in family, hometown, workplace etc. But other 2 groups are still concerned with external factor in family, hometown, workplace etc. mainly because they are bound to shoulder the responsibility of taking care of the family. The society should pay more attention to the healthcare of the female migrant workers who are more than 30 since they under huge pressure of family as well as social oppression. As we detect from the questionnaire, all female migrant workers support females to work in the urban area even it poses much oppression and pressure physically and mentally. This will help to alleviate their psychological stress if this Chinese tradition no longer substantially imposes on them. What more relieving is that younger generation of female migrant workers no longer "think getting married is still indispensable for women now"which help them to get rid off the social oppression and benefit their psychological health. In the end of the first part (mental emancipation) of the questionnaire, all 3 groups are surely expressing their voice that the society does not treat females in a fair way. To be more specific, the youngest generation of female migrant workers express the biggest dissatisfaction about the social unfairness to females.

The second part (consumer behavior) of the questionnaire finds out the current psychological landscape of female migrant workers with respect to consumer behavior which is closely related to ones' social status, life quality etc. in contemporary world. To members of group 1, who do not shoulder much economic burden, ranked the top in both expenditure upon appearance and skill-training which indicates their stronger psychological wish and favorable financial situation to become a more competitive person in society than other 2 groups of counterparts. Furthermore,all groups of female migrant workers know exactly "the best investment is to invest on yourself". However, we should note that the word "investment" is an economic term which is intimately related to individual's financial picture. Hence, limited economic status of female migrant workers turn into an important shackle for them to improve themselves which in return imposes psychological dissatisfaction in their mind (Yan and Xu, 2019a). What interests us is that they clearly realize they should "invest themselves" but, only group 1 shows the positivity which indicates that younger generation place great importance on consumer behavior which is the so vital to "their social status" (Chen, 2005) in this capitalized world. Honestly, this desire of taking advantage of consumer behavior to prove social status is prevailing now and it is nothing but unfriendly to such economically vulnerable occupation which will surely cause tremendous psychological pressure. Since consumer behavior is no longer an economic conduct but a social representation of their status, the young generation of female migrant workers are more vulnerable to be impacted psychologically (Meng, 2004). Saving much is an vital indicator for psychological pressure in that the money saved is for future expenditure rather than purchasing something to meet current private need (Tang et al., 2020), to be specific, the more money you save, the heavier responsibility you need or you think you need to shoulder in the future and this pressure is so overwhelming to female migrant workers due to their inferior income. Living in such unbalanced demographics in urban area, the psychological health of female migrant workers are hard not to be "jeopardized", let alone other 2 groups .

The third part ("technology transformation") embraces the 3 dimensions: tech-aided skills, tech-facilitated cosmetic surgery and the awareness of technology. The image of female migrant workers in literary works keeps portraying protagonists as positive characters who are pretty (Lin, 2015), keep learning new technology and stay awing with respect to technology. They are fully aware of the significance of technology in their competitiveness in urban area in terms of skills and appearance. To their psychological concerns over the technology replacement, the group 3 worries the most since majority of them are too old for job market as well as under educated so they fear technology most. Age makes people susceptible to be replaced by technology which renders enormous thump to their psychological health since this group of female migrant workers are anything but having the capability to fight for better life like younger counterparts under social oppression (Chen, 2005). Improving appearance including face, body shape and so on is surely vital for females as a social being, what's more, to female migrant workers, becoming good-looking turns out to be a "shortcut" (Meng, 2004) not only gaining confidence but more favorables in job market and evade social oppression (Chen, 2005). And the youngest generation suffer the most in appearance anxiety so as to "psychologically embrace" cosmetic surgery. Furthermore, all of them are supportive to the mindset: "females can benefit after they get their appearance improved", but this is not a good omen because this mindset associates good-looking appearance with social favorables. Therefore, there will be much more pressure on the mind of female migrant workers since the majority of them is unable to be as pretty as the image of literary works even with the aid of technology.

In the end, we can see how much they suffer psychologically since the image of female migrant workers in literary works is something out of their reach and they are "sure to be disillusioned" (Chen, 2005) no matter how harsh they pursue. Therefore, the image of literary works is nothing but their deep-rooted psychological "cry" for "self-construct". Female migrant workers in China are tormented by innate inferiority so as to be unfavorable with

capital branded by people from upper class and sexuality (Yan and Xu, 2019a). Therefore, their psychological health is of paramount importance not only for this "vulnerable group but the sustainable development of the society" (Chen, 2005). To sum up, the psychological health of this occupation needs further studies and we are hoping this study may shed some light forward. Hoping the study will shed some lights to arouse the social attention to the female migrant workers in reality from the enlightenment of literary image of them.

COMPETING INTERESTS

The author declares no competing interests.

ETHICAL APPROVAL

The study was approved by beijing humanities and social sciences academic ethics committee & social psychology academic investigation and ethics committee (beujing). All procedures of the study involving human participants followed the ethical standards of these two institutional committees in beijing china.

All participants were first informed of the research purpose of the study and the ways the data would be used. The principal investigator also assured them that their personal information would not be revealed. All participants then gave their informed written consent for inclusion before they participated in this research (2022/9/24 - 2024/1/24).

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