



Basement—The Housing Facility Characteristic For Migrants In Shanghai

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ABSTRACT

With the fast urbanization and economic improvement, millions of migrants flow to the big cities. Shanghai, as the economic center in China, also it is the biggest city in this country. Millions of migrants were attracted to Shanghai to pursue their dream. Therefore, the housing shortage problem emerges. By the way, majority of the migrants' economic basis is poor. So, many migrants choose the "basement" as their temporary home in the Shanghai. The basement usually located in the neighborhood community and underground. The original basement design is used for as the storage. However, many migrants cannot afford the apartment in the neighborhood community and rent the basement from the local residents with low rental. In this research, 400 samples will carry out in eighteen districts of Shanghai. The research objective of this paper is to investigate the situation of housing facility characteristic for migrants in Shanghai. As the finding represents that the facility of the basement is a failure with a lot of problem. Most of the time, it cannot meet the basic human needs. From this research, it is hoped that Shanghai government could know the real situation of the migrants' living problem.

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INTRODUCTION

With the economic increase in the past few decades in China, the population movement is quite active. Migrants, as a special group people, prefer to migrate in China especially the big cities. The United Nations has announced that in the next decade, 80% of the population growth will be in the urban areas of the developing nations [1]. In China, according to the 2000 population census, the total migrant population is 1,320,170,000, while the migrants in China have escalated to 397,000,000 [2]. Shanghai, as the economic center of China, attract millions of migrants migrate to this city to pursue their dream. At the same time, Shanghai is the number one big city in China. Therefore, until 2013, the migrants in Shanghai reach to 9.6 million and still increase with fast rate [3]. So many migrants migrate to Shanghai and spread among the total eighteen districts, it definitely create heavy pressure for the housing issues in Shanghai. Housing shortage, overcrowding and facility problems become the critical issues in the contemporary period. Due to the housing shortage together with the poor economic basis, many migrants choose to rent the basement as their temporary home in Shanghai. The basement is the underground storage which located in the neighborhood community, it is very humidity and without sunshine. Also, the housing facility in basement is super poor. Without kitchen or toilet is very common. Based on [4], until 2012, around 15.0% ~ 20.0% of the migrants live in the basement in Shanghai. Therefore, so many migrants live in the basement without proper facility, their life definitely be seriously affected. The basement located in the underground level, and as storage in the neighborhood community. Due to without sunshine, it is not suitable for human to live. Majority of the basements without kitchen, or even without bathroom (Fig. 1). Until 2012, around 1.6 million migrants live in the basement which spread among the eighteen districts of Shanghai. This research will investigate the real situation of the basement facility among migrants in Shanghai, also the effects to the migrants' life.

Methodology:

In this research, the primary data was collected from migrants from eighteen districts of Shanghai that live inside the basement. Due to the average number of migrants who live inside the basement almost same among the eighteen districts of Shanghai, so the total respondents are 400 based on the previous researcher and each district

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choose 22 respondents. The researcher will go to their basements and gave the questionnaire to them, and persuade the migrants to complete the questionnaire in front of the researcher. A total of 400 questionnaires were used and there was 100% feedback.



Fig. 1: The basement facility in Shanghai.

Since most of the surveys were completed in the basement which located in the neighborhood community, it took 3 months to cover all selected locations. However, because of migrants' low education and non-cooperation attitude, the latter of which needed some grace periods, the survey had to take longer. According to the previous researchers [5], 400 research samples were chosen. Financial and time costs were major constraints in deciding the sample size, bearing in mind the cost of traveling from one neighborhood community to another.

The secondary data could identify the migrants and the type of housing facility problem in which they live, also how the housing facility problem to affect their life. Then, the researcher will understand the overall situation of the housing facility for migrants all over the world, especially in China. Then, based on the secondary data, the researcher will use the questionnaire to determine the real situation of migrants' basement housing facility in Shanghai and the effects on their life. The collection of secondary data was collected from published articles, journals, reports, books and magazine. Also, some information or data can be obtained from the Internet.

In this research, the descriptive and explanatory will be used. In describing the basement facility and the effects on their life, descriptive statistical techniques, such as means, chi-square test and correlations were used. Also, inferential statistics like the comparison of means, bivariate analysis were used in the data analysis as well.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Shanghai is the biggest city of China, with the basic housing facility provided like pipe gas (98.5%), running water (96.25%) and electricity ((95.0%) to cater for the needs of the migrants. In the winter, Shanghai is very cold and the temperature is minus zero. The basement housing heater covers 82.5% of migrants' houses, so in the winter, the majority of migrants could stay in their warm basement. However, only 66.25% of migrants' basements provide hot running water. Therefore, these people could still take bath in their houses in winter. However, 33.75% of migrants need to go to the public bath house around their houses in winter. Therefore, the hot running water supply should be improved in Shanghai. Only 58.0% of migrants' basements have the empty place, so the remaining 42.0% of migrants need to find an appropriate place to dry clothes inside or outside their basements. For the private kitchen, the majority of migrants need to share the kitchen with other people. However, they only need a place to cook, so they do not care if the kitchen is private or not. The majority of the migrants plan to go back to their hometown, therefore, the living requirements for the temporary place in which they stay in Shanghai are reduced or downgraded. Very few (32.5%) migrants' basements have an entertainment place. This result automatically confirms the migrants' low living requirements in Shanghai (Table 1).

Table 1: Migrants' Home Appliances Owning Rate in Shanghai.

Ranking	Item	Frequency	Owning Rate
1	Refrigerator	372	93.0
2	Washing Machine	367	91.75
3	Television	285	71.25
4	PC/Laptop	220	55.0
5	Air-Conditioner	216	54.0
6	Others (e.g. microwave)	167	41.75

96.25% of the migrants in Shanghai chose their basements to be near the supermarket following this result. As the migrants mentioned, they needed to purchase fruits and vegetables everyday in the supermarket. Thus, they preferred to choose basements near a supermarket in Shanghai. For the garden and resting place, 72.5% and

71.25% of the migrants said it is better to have them. For some high cost entertainment venues like the cinema, hotel, KTV etc, more than half of the migrants did not care much about their existence in the areas (Table 2).

Table 2: Migrants' Social facility Owning Rate Around Their Houses in Shanghai.

Ranking	Item	Frequency	Percentage
1	Supermarket	385	96.25
2	Garden	290	72.5
3	Rest Place	285	71.25
4	Restaurant	239	59.75
5	Cinema	233	58.25
6	Hotel	225	56.25
7	Others (e.g. KTV)	173	43.25

Note: 2 kilometers around their basements.

Failure of basement facility to migrants' life:

The result represents that migrants pay more attention to their kitchen facility, bathroom facility and home appliances. As they mentioned, their lives cannot be devoid of these housing facilities. The kitchen facility is ranked number one, where more than half of the migrants said they need the kitchen where they cook every day. Also, the bathroom facility is the second most important housing facility as it is also a basic necessity. Meanwhile, not many migrants mind if their neighborhood community have empty place or not as it is not very important to their lives. As some migrants had stated, they could dry their clothes inside their basements. This result follows the previous researcher whereby migrants only emphasizes the basic housing facility to improve their life.

However, this research in Shanghai came out a little different in the sense that poor recreational facilities near their basements and not having entertainment place inside their basements all cannot affect their life. During the survey, more than 70.0% of the migrants' said they did not need the recreation facility near their basements. This result conflicts with the majority of the previous researchers stating that entertainment facilities still affect migrants' life in urban cities and represent the fact that the migrants' life requirement in Shanghai is still very low (Table 3).

Table 3: Ranking of Migrants' Basement Housing Facility to Affect Life (Life and Work).

	Ranking	Item	Mean
Positive	1	Kitchen Facility	3.75
	2	Bathroom facility	3.60
	3	Home Appliances	3.53
	4	Empty Place To Dry Clothes	3.10
Negative	1	Recreation Facility near Houses	2.63
	2	Entertainment Place inside Houses	2.80

(Likert Scale, "Mean" more than 3 is positive)

Although the majority of migrants have adopted a negative attitude on the impact of the entertainment facility on their life, the overall result is still positive. 33.75% and 30.25% of the migrants had ticked "Strongly Agree" and "Agree" on the fact that their life was affected by their housing facility. This result strongly confirms that to have good life, housing facilities must be improved for migrants.

Summary:

Based on this research, it represented that the basement facility is not satisfied and the migrants only pay attention to their basic living facility. Due to the migrants choose Shanghai as their temporary living place and not willing to invest more money to improve the basement facility. Therefore, the government should strive to improve the basement facility for this group people. To give more economic benefits is the number one for the migrants. The Shanghai government should do some financial investment to improve their basement facility like to add the public kitchen, proper bathroom, hot running water and with good electricity etc. While, for the housing policy, the local government should treat the migrants fair and allow them to enjoy the public low-rent housing same like local residents. Finally, some suggestions to the Shanghai government that they should make more efforts on this group and some corrective measures should be undertaken to provide more assistance like local ID, housing, occupation, education, social welfare etc. Also, it is hoped that more care should be given to the migrants in urban area especially pay attention on their housing development.

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