

Abstract submitted to 2014 AsRES conference, Gold Coast, Australia

Commuting Distance of Female in China Skill and Household Responsibility

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Key words: Commuting Time; Female; Household Responsibility; Education; Family Life Cycle

Abstract:

While it is widely accepted in western countries that women have shorter commuting distance compared to men, as they have to burden more responsibility in taking care of the family (as “household responsibility hypothesis” states). There are some differences in Chinese women’s commuting pattern. Firstly, labor force participation rate of Chinese women is higher than that in western countries, which means searching for a better job is more important for Chinese women. Thus the difference in commuting between different genders is reduced. Secondly, within the group of female, differences in education, income, age and some other characteristics will result in different residential choice and commuting distance. Those with better education and burden comparatively more responsibility in making money will care more about their job searching and matching, thus will have longer commuting distance, and the difference from male’s commuting distance will be shorten. Besides, women’s responsibility is changing along with the family life cycle, thus their commuting pattern is also affected by their age and the period of time their families are.