




A Study on Domestic Services Industry in Shanghai

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- Background
 - The domestic service industry is an industry with a long history. Its existence in China can be traced before 1949. However, the whole industry almost disappeared during the culture revolution, which was, after 1949.
 - However, with establishment of the market oriented economy, the increased demand in domestic services in urban China



Research Methodology

The 650 sample is collected on the base of community in 30 residential neighborhoods in Shanghai.

31 cases was interviewed further to understand their basic living status, their social connection and challenges and difficulties in their jobs.



Main findings (1):

1. Sexual Harassment

about 1.2 percentage domestic workers had experienced sexual harassment.

2. Low Pay

The recommended minimum wage is 6 Yuan per hour (by the Bureau of Labor and Social Security in Shanghai) However, 24% of the sample households pay only 4-5 Yuan an hour. For those who are not Shanghai hukou holders, their pay is even lower. Thus, the average monthly income is 824 Yuan for Shanghai Hukou holders and only 626 Yuan for non-Hukou holders. The monthly differences in wages is more than 200 Yuan.



Main finding (2)

3. No guaranteed days off

During the month prior to our research, 53% of domestic workers did not have a day off. And 79% have more than one job.

4. Unprotected rights

Once disputes occur, it is hard to adjudicate. The domestic workers are not covered by Chinese labor law and labor arbitration is not regulated to carry out in those cases.

5. Lack of proper training.

Proper training is not offered to those domestic services who do not have a Shanghai Hukou.