

# Mobility、 Family Values and Marital Stability in Rural China

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**September, 2013**

## Objective:

In the context of rural people floating out for jobs, one of challenges is marital stability of rural couples who live in separated cities. In general, women stay at home and their husbands go outside for work in this case. However, the society and family culture of rural China are changing. Therefore, it is necessary to analyze the moderator effects of family values in the study of the impact of mobility on marital stability.

## Framework:

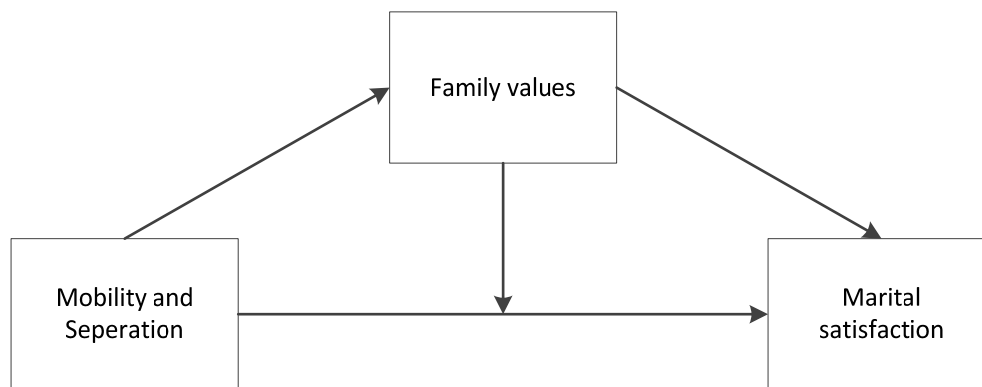


Figure 1: the analysis framework

## Data and Methods:

Data for this study derived from the survey “Population Mobility and Reproductive Health / Family planning Service”, which was carried out in 2010 by the Institute for Population Studies of Soochow University. The survey location, Juchao District of Anhui Province of central China, was chosen specifically for its agricultural economics and high levels of out-migration. A stratified multistage method was used to select potential respondents from 20 administrative villages of 4 townships. Of 690 individuals identified as eligible respondents, 680 completed the survey, a response rate of 98.55%. This paper select 678 who come of 20 to 49 years old and are married, based on the study of marriage.

Table 1: the measure of variables

variables	implication	code
<b>Dependent variable</b>		
M_satis	Marital satisfaction with spouse	1=very dissatisfied 2=dissatisfied 3=neutrality 4=satisfied 5=very satisfied
<b>Independent variable</b>		
A_live	Living arrangement	0=living together (based) 1=separation
<b>Moderator variable</b>		
F_value	Family values	8-items scale
<b>Control variable</b>		
M_quality	Marital quality	3-items scale
sex		0=male (based) 1=female
cohort	birth year	1=born in 1960s (based) 2=born in 1970s 3=born in 1980s & 1990s
edu	Education Status	1=under primary school (based) 2=junior high school 3=above high school
marry	marital status	0= first marriage (based) 1= remarriage
incom	Income level	1=less than 5000 RMB (based) 2=[5000,10000) 3=[10000,20000) 4=more than 20000
job	Employment status	1=non-farm worker (based) 2=farm worker 3=no work
Migra	Migration experience	1=never (based) 2=went out once, but not any more 3=will go out again
Migra_s	Migration experience of Spouse	1=never (based) 2=went out once, but not any more 3=will go out again 4=still stay out

## Results:

The results show that,

- 1) More than 60% of rural people have the experience of going out for jobs.  
More than 30% of rural couples live separately. One stay at home at present and his or her spouse are working in another city.
- 2) Family-dominated culture is still strong in rural China. There are no significant correlation between separation and family values, but a small significant correlation between migration experience and family values.
- 3) Mostly people are satisfied with the current spouse.
- 4) There are significant negative correlation between separation and marital satisfaction with spouse, and significant positive correlation between family values and marital satisfaction with spouse.
- 5) The negative association between separation and marital satisfaction is weakened by family values.

## Keywords:

Mobility; Separation; Family Values; Marital satisfaction; Marital Stability