Accepted Manuscript

Growth Led by Human Capital in Big Cities: Exploring Complementarities and Spatial Agglomeration of the Workforce with Various Skills

Wenquan Liang, Ming Lu

PII: S1043-951X(17)30146-3
Reference: CHIECO 1113

To appear in: China Economic Review


This is a PDF file of an unedited manuscript that has been accepted for publication. As a service to our customers we are providing this early version of the manuscript. The manuscript will undergo copyediting, typesetting, and review of the resulting proof before it is published in its final form. Please note that during the production process errors may be discovered which could affect the content, and all legal disclaimers that apply to the journal pertain.
Growth Led by Human Capital in Big Cities:
Exploring Complementarities and Spatial Agglomeration of the Workforce
with Various Skills

Wenquan Liang and Ming Lu*

Abstract: In cities, complementarity between a low-skilled and a high-skilled workforce can promote each other to improve labor productivity. In this study, we used earlier census data and 1% population survey data to examine the distribution of the skilled workforce in cities in the People’s Republic of China (PRC) along with its changes, and drew the following three conclusions. First, a highly skilled workforce is the engine of urban development, increasing urban wages and population. Second, big cities can promote complementarity between skill sets so that there are greater numbers of high-skilled and low-skilled workers in those cities. This explains why both low-skilled and high-skilled workforces agglomerate in big cities. Last, complementarity between the low-skilled and high-skilled workforce is inhibited in the PRC’s cities because of the biased household registration system (HRS) toward the high-skilled workforce, resulting in limited supply of low-skilled labor. This policy is not conducive to enhance labor productivity in big cities and to carry out its leading role of economic growth.

Keywords: Human capital externality, skill complementarity, household registration system

JEL Classification: J24; J61; R12.

*Wenquan Liang is a postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Economics, Antai College of Economics and Management, Shanghai Jiao Tong University. Ming Lu (correspondence author) is a professor at the Department of Economics, Antai College of Economics and Management, Shanghai Jiao Tong University. The authors thank the participants of the Asian Development Bank Institute/Natural Science Foundation of China conference on “Escaping the Middle Income Trap: Urbanization, Structural Change and Sustainable Development in Asia” for their comments. The financial support of the National Science Funds (71273055, 71133004), the National Social Science Funds (13&ZD015, 12AZD045), and the Fudan Lab for China Development Studies is greatly acknowledged. An earlier version of this paper has been published as an ADBI working paper.
دریافت فوری
متن کامل مقاله

امکان دانلود نسخه تمام متن مقالات انگلیسی
امکان دانلود نسخه ترجمه شده مقالات
پذیرش سفارش ترجمه تخصصی
امکان جستجو در آرشیو جامعی از صدها موضوع و هزاران مقاله
امکان دانلود رایگان ۲ صفحه اول هر مقاله
امکان پرداخت اینترنتی با کلیه کارت های عضو شتاب
دانلود فوری مقاله پس از پرداخت آنلاین
پشتیبانی کامل خرید با بهره مندی از سیستم هوشمند رهگیری سفارشات