

## **Transformation of Employment Structure in a Less-developed Region of Eastern Coastal China**

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This paper aims to clarify the transformation of employment structure in less-developed rural areas in the context of rapid economic development in China. I selected one of the less-developed regions located in the north-western part of the Fujian Province, which is experiencing significant economic development. The rapid development has triggered considerable changes in rural areas, driven by urbanisation and industrialisation. The less-developed rural areas in the Fujian Province are mainly dominated by the farming industry, and are facing surplus labour in agriculture given its land constraints. Therefore, investigating how the economic development affects the changes in employment structures is a major issue to consider in the transformation of inland rural areas in eastern coastal China.

The less-developed rural area is playing a vital role in supplying labour, considering the economic gap between urban areas. It contributed to a sharp increase in migrant workers, and brought a spatial division of working places between the young and elderly generations. On the other hand, the less-developed rural area also achieved a development in commercial farming and rural enterprises through the economic integration of urban areas. Rural enterprises provided new off-farm job opportunities for villagers and contributed to the differentiation of agricultural production activities among rural households.