

《“光棍村”的单身汉》

导读:在中国，男大当婚女大当嫁。可是由于种种原因，单身汉却不少见，甚至在有些地方出现了“光棍村”。一起来了解下！



Xiong Jigen blames the road.

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"It's isolated and the transportation is very difficult," he says.

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At 43, Mr Xiong is what is called a "bare branch" in China - single, unmarried.

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This is the label given to men like him who have not found a wife, in a country where a man in his twenties is still expected to marry, provide a home and carry on his family line.

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He lives in Laoya village in a very rural part of Anhui province of eastern China.

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The immediate approach to the village is an hour-long slow drive up a dirt road.

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The bachelor village

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But Laoya is known locally as the "bachelor village".

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In a survey in 2014 it had 112 men between 30 and 55 registered as single out of a population of 1,600. That is unusually high.

?2014????????1600????30?50????112????

Mr Xiong said he knew of more than 100 local men who were still unmarried: "I cannot find a wife, they migrate to somewhere else to work, then how can I find someone to marry?"

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Then he mentioned the road again.

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"Transportation is so difficult here, we cannot go across the river when it rains. Women don't want to settle down."

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China has far more men than women.

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In a culture that historically favours boys over girls the Communist Party government's One Child policy led to forced abortions and a glut of newborn boys from the 1980s onwards.

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The result is a 21st Century male marriage squeeze.

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'Nor too fat, nor too slim'

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Parents can still play a significant role in trying to fix up their children. Matchmakers are common in the villages.

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Mr Xiong said: "Some women visited here through matchmakers then left, because they had a terrible impression of the transportation."

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As we stood in the doorway of his sparsely decorated bedroom, I asked if he had ever been in love.

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"I was in a relationship before," he said, "but it didn't work out. She complained that my village was not good for her, especially the roads."

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They'd met through a matchmaker. He went on to describe her: "She was almost as tall as me, not too fat nor too slim. She was quite extrovert."

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Women leave the village, as they do in other villages all over China, to head to the city for work.

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This is not the only bachelor village. It presents the dilemmas of life in rural China: the relentless escape from poverty and being bound to the land, the gender imbalance, the duty to aging relatives.

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