



Dai Peng, dean of criminal investigation department of the Chinese People's Public Security University, said, the lack of a social security cover in many places across the country has led to rampant hiring of people with mental disabilities.

"Many local governments had no designated places to rehabilitate people with mental disabilities and didn't make use of local resources like small businesses and welfare facilities," he said.

Often family members saw mentally-challenged people as a burden, he said. "So family members often want to get rid of the 'big trouble' in their lives."

Dai also mentioned that people with mental disabilities were usually unable to report their grievances to the authorities, making the work of government watchdogs especially difficult.

Since June 2007, at least 300 people with mental disabilities were reported to have been forced to work at illegal brick kilns, coal mines and other factories across the country.

