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Humanities

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### The Education of Migrant Children in China (SDG 4)

“A child without education is like a bird without wings (Tibetan Proverb).” However, in one of the biggest countries, China, 40 percent of children do not get proper education: 130 million people. These children are migrant children, they don’t have permanent residence, so they cannot get proper education. In order to help these children to get proper education, people need to get more information about the obstacles, how it impacts these children, and how to solve the education problems of migrant children, to better understand how they are living nowadays and to better help them get proper education.

The migrant children in China have been facing multiple obstacles that limits them from education, which are the hukou system, discrimination, and Language barriers. Firstly, about the hukou system, “hukou is the registration of an individual in the system, and it officially identifies a person as a permanent resident of an area and includes identifying information such as name, parents, spouse, and date of birth (Wikipedia). However, a migrant children doesn’t get a hukou, because his/her parents have migrated from rural places to a city to search work, but they often don’t have a hukou to where they live, so their children also don’t have a hukou. Not having a hukou has a lot of limitations, like not being able to go to school, which is what the migrant children

are facing. Secondly, migrant children in school might face discrimination. According to CEIC data, the average monthly income of a migrant family is about 4500 RMB. Children nowadays have a very competitive mind, they like to compare most things, like what they wear, and what bags they are using. The income of a migrant family is usually fairly low, the family cannot provide their kid with such good clothing, so their kid is likely going to get discriminated in school, which is going to affect the learning of that kid. Lastly language barriers, according to China Labor Bulletin, migrant families usually come from places further afield. (Migrant workers and their children). Rural areas in China usually have a special dialect, like the dialect from Sichuan. For example, if a child from Guangzhou went to Beijing, that child is going to have some problems because most of his/her classmates does not know how to speak Cantonese, so they will be having some communication problems, which will slow down their learning during group work.

Limitations to Chinese migrant children stated in the above paragraph also result some impacts to them, which are limited job opportunities, the conditions of a migrant family, and a cycle of poverty. Firstly, about limited job opportunities, as mentioned in the above paragraph, migrant children cannot get proper education, so they also cannot find a decent job for it. As stated in Chinese labor bulletin, “only 24.4 percent of migrant children get to have proper work” (Migrant workers and their children). So migrant children growing up and getting proper work is a problem. Also, migrant children are getting impacted his/her family conditions. As mentioned in the last paragraph, the monthly income for a migrant family is around 4500, or even less, this amount of money is even hard to keep a family fed, people need to pay their house rental fees, basic necessities, food, and their kid’s school fees etc. Migrant families can’t even ensure that the items mentioned above can be provided. As for their children, their parents can not provide learning necessities, like stationaries, book fees, and even meals for their child at school, so it is going to

greatly impact his/her school life. Lastly, about a cycle of poverty. As mentioned above, migrant families are very poor, sometimes they cannot even be sure that the basic necessities of a family can be provided. So their children cannot have basic education, without education, people cannot get jobs and their family will still be poor, and this will be a vicious cycle of poverty.

Lastly, there has been some actions done to improve the educations of migrant children, for example, migrant schools, and integrations into public school. Firstly, about migrant schools, according to Wikipedia, there are nine million migrant workers in Shanghai, and all of their kids go to migrant schools. “These schools were founded by migrants themselves. Then they were gradually taken over by the local education authority. Initially, these schools were illegally housed in substandard, overcrowded buildings with poor facilities and were often relocated or closed. The situation in Shanghai has improved” (Wikipedia). These migrant schools allow children that don’t have a hukou to have education, but the education style and teachers in these schools lack quality and is far worse than public schools in that area. Secondly, public school nowadays allow children without hukou to apply for that school. According to online news magazine, “93.2% of migrant children are joining to public schools (Migrant children’s schooling in urban China). these public schools have high quality education, and it has quality teaching.

In order to help these children to get proper education, people need to get more information about the obstacles, how it impacts these children, and how to solve the education problems of migrant children, to better understand how they are living nowadays and to better help them get proper education. As said in the introduction, “A child without education is like a bird without wings (Tibetan Proverb).” If the problems of these migrant children got solved, they will get better education, and people will help these children be a bird that has wings.



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