From the Factory with Love: A Study on Migrant Parent Workers in China

The Decision

66% OF FACTORIES HAVE OBSERVED AN INCREASE IN WORKERS MIGRATING WITH THEIR CHILDREN

CHILREN WHO MIGRATED WITH THEIR PARENTS SPENT MORE TIME UNATTENDED THAN OTHER CHILDREN OF FACTORY WORKERS

$\$ THE SALARY LEVEL CORRELATES SIGNIFICANTLY WITH WORKERS’ DECISION TO MIGRATE WITH OR WITHOUT THEIR CHILDREN

The Support

PARENTS WHOSE CHILDREN ARE VISITING FROM THEIR HOMETOWNS, ARE MORE LIKELY TO BRING THEM TO THE FACTORY

How often does your child/children come to the factory while you are at work?

MORE THAN 50% OF BRANDS/BUYERS SAY THEY DON’T UNDERSTAND MIGRANT PARENTS WELL ENOUGH

FACTORIES CAN GENERATE STRONGER SATISFACTION AND RETENTION THROUGH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR MIGRANT PARENTS

The Challenge

46% OF THE PARENTS WHO MIGRATED WITHOUT THEIR CHILDREN SAY THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND THEIR CHILDREN WELL

MIGRANT PARENTS WHO ARE NOT LIVING WITH THEIR CHILDREN TEND TO THINK THEIR JOB HAS A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THEIR CHILDREN

47.8% of parents only talk to their children once a week or less

Our relationship has definitely been affected because of communication. The child has become more distant,” a worker with two children aged 12 & 15.

29% OF FACTORIES COLLECT DATA ON WHETHER OR NOT THEIR WORKERS LIVE WITH THEIR CHILDREN

We’re allowed to apply for Saturdays off to take care of our children. But that means no income on Saturdays,” a worker with one child aged 5.

More than one third of parents only talk to their children once a week or less

20% of workers migrate with their children

Local parents

Workers who migrated with their children

Workers who migrated without their children

Did you migrate with your children?

No

Yes

More than 74% didn’t migrate with their children

More than 6% did

Average income of workers

3380 RMB

Workers who migrated without their children

3220 RMB

Workers who migrated with their children

MIGRANT PARENTS WITH ONE CHILD AGED 12 & 15.

Workers who migrated with two children aged 12 & 15.

“ We’ve never thought about bringing our kids over because we wouldn’t be able to afford the children’s living costs,” a worker with two sons aged 8 & 13.

How long are you planning to stay in this factory?

About 2 years or more

About 2 years

About 1 year

About half a year

About 6 months

About 2 months

Without daycare

Workers who migrated without their children

Workers who migrated with their children

Local parents

With daycare

We're not living with our children. We've never thought about bringing our kids over because we wouldn’t be able to afford the children’s living costs,” a worker with two sons aged 8 & 13.

How often do you talk to your children on the phone or online?

ONCE A WEEK OR LESS

MORE THAN ONE THIRD

Chart 15 (1). About how many hours a week is your child/your children

OF PARENTS

TIME UNATTENDED

THEIR PARENTS SPENT

CHILDREN WHO MIGRATED WITH

FACTORY WORKERS

The children of factory workers have become more distant,” a worker

Results of communication. The child has been affected because of

workers

workers who migrated with their children

workers who migrated without their children

Local parents

Chart 19. On average how often do you talk to your children on the phone or online?

About whether or not their children

ONCE A WEEK OR LESS

MORE THAN ONE THIRD

been left without the care of an adult?

workers

workers who migrated with their children

workers who migrated without their children

Local parents

Chart 21. Do you think your work has an impact on your relationship

WITH YOUR CHILDREN?

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