



Migrants in China

Who are 'migrants'?

Rural people who move to the city to look for better opportunities

They work as factory workers, restaurant staff, cleaners or domestic employees

Sometimes they bring their children with them to the cities

What is the 'Hukou' system?

China's household registration system is hereditary and records people as living where their families are originally from.

Migrants cannot access the same welfare services (housing, education, healthcare) as the local population

‘Left-behind’ children

Children of migrants left in the countryside while their parents move to urban areas for work

Taken care of by grandparents, other family members or by their school



Attend local rural schools or are sent to rural boarding schools

Children & Migration

Misplaced

Left-behind children, as % of total rural children, 2010

0-19.9 20.0-29.9 30.0-39.9 40.0-49.9 50.0+



Migrant children, as % of total urban children, 2010

0-19.9 20.0-29.9 30.0-39.9 40.0-49.9



Source: School of Sociology and Population Studies, Renmin University of China

Economist.com

Left-behind Children:

- 61 million children
- 10 million children (both parents)
 - 33 million children in rural boarding schools (private or public schools)

鋪路石
Stepping Stones

Migrant Children:

- 30 million migrant children in China's cities (number increasing every year)
- 500,000 migrant children in Shanghai
- Limited access to education (*Hukou* system)

Major Issues for Chinese migrants



- Family separation
- Lack of stability
- Work conditions
- Youth unemployment
- Social exclusion
- Lower access to social welfare benefits
 - Cost of healthcare
 - Access to education

Education for migrant children in Shanghai

Prior to 2008	Around 400,000 migrant children 250 illegal grassroots migrant schools
Since 2010	9 years free basic education (in theory) guaranteed by the Chinese government for all children (high school not included)
2012 Numbers	Primary School Around 390,000 students 69% of migrant children in public schools <ul style="list-style-type: none">· <i>In around 20 public schools for migrants)</i>· <i>Beijing & Shenzhen only 30%</i> 31% in 145 registered migrant schools <ul style="list-style-type: none">· <i>Receive less funding than public schools</i>· <i>School facilities greatly improved</i>· <i>Classes are often overcrowded</i> Middle School Around 140,000 students 100% public schools

Public Schools vs Migrant Schools

Children's Test Scores

	Local Children in Public Schools	Migrant Children in Public Schools	Migrant Children in Migrant Schools
Chinese (Grade 4)	69.1%	66.4%	55.8%
Mathematics (Grade 4)	65.3%	62.3%	46.3%

Chen Y. & Feng S. (2012) *Access to Public Schools and the Education of Migrant Children in China*, IZA DP No. 6853, 32 p.