

04.03-China's left-behind generation

China's left-behind generation

Pity the children

There are 70m reasons to **ease** China's curbs on internal migration
Oct 17th 2015

Vocab

1. **ease** [no obj.] (ease off/up) relax one's efforts; do something with more moderation 放松, 松弛, 缓和
2. **curb** v. to control or limit sth, especially sth bad 控制, 抑制, 限定, 约束 (不好的事物)
e.g. He needs to learn to curb his temper. 他得学着控制自己的脾气。

Sentence

70m reasons

有7000万的理由去缓解中国关于国内迁移的限制, 这里的7000万, 应该是指留守儿童, 每个儿童一个 reason

IMAGINE you are a young married man or woman in rural China. There are no jobs, so you find work in a big city, perhaps 1,000 miles away. But government restrictions mean that if you take your children with you they will almost certainly not be able to attend schools where you live, or visit a **state doctor**. And if your parents come to share the child care, their pension will be too small for them to live on. What do you do?

Vocab

1. **state doctor** 国家医生? 看翻译 visit a state doctor 引申为医保看病

Sentence

But government restrictions mean that if you take your children with you they will almost certainly not be able to attend schools where you live, or visit a state doctor.

主干: government restrictions mean

almost certainly not be able to attend schools 几乎完全不能去上学。almost certainly not be able to 这里描述的相当肯定的表明不能去读书

For the parents of 61m Chinese children, the answer is to leave them behind in the villages where they were born, to be looked after by grandparents (often **illiterate**) or other relatives. Another 9m are left in one city by parents working in another. The 70m total is almost the number of all the children in the United States.

Vocab

1. **illiterate** adj. not knowing how to read or write 不会读写的; 不识字的; 文盲的
e.g. A large percentage of the population is **illiterate**. 文盲人口占有相当高的比例。

Sentence

For the parents of 61m Chinese children, the answer is to leave them behind in the villages where they were born, to be looked after by grandparents (often illiterate) or other relatives.

主干: the answer is to leave them behind in the villages

where they were born 先行词 villages

, to be looked after by grandparents 不定式引导的目的状语从句

These so-called “left-behind children” are a dark **facet** of China’s shining economic development. They make up a **disproportionate** share of the population in the countryside, where children are four times as likely to be short for their age as urban ones, a measure of **malnutrition**. A survey this year for a charity called Growing Home found that left-behind children were more likely than their peers to be **depressed** or emotionally **unstable**. Researchers in Shanghai found that left-behind children **underperform** at school, and that their emotional and social development **lags** behind. Stories of abuse and suicide are **rife**; evidence suggests that left-behind children are more **at risk** of turning to crime.

Vocab

1. **facet** n. ~ (of sth) a particular part or aspect of sth (事物的) 部份, 方面

e.g. Now let's look at another facet of the problem. 现在咱们看问题的另一面。

2. **disproportionate** adj. too large or too small when compared with sth else 不成比例的; 不相称的; 太大(或太小)的

e.g. The area contains a disproportionate number of young middle-class families. 此地年轻的中产阶级家庭特别多。

3. **malnutrition** n. a poor condition of health caused by a lack of food or a lack of the right type of food 营养不良

4. **depressed** adj. very sad and without hope 抑郁的; 沮丧的; 意志消沉的

e.g. She felt very depressed about the future. 她感到前途无望。

5. **unstable** adj. likely to change suddenly 不稳定的; 易变的; 变化莫测的

e.g. The political situation remains highly unstable. 政局仍然十分动荡。

6. **underperform** v. to not be as successful as was expected 发挥不够; 表现不理想

7. **lag** v. 落后; 赶不上 If one thing or person **lags behind** another thing or person, their progress is slower than that of the other.

e.g. He now **lags** 10 points behind the champion...他现在落后冠军10分。

8. **rife** adj. =**widespread** if sth bad or unpleasant is **rife** in a place, it is very common there (坏事) 盛行, 普遍

e.g. It is a country where corruption is rife. 这是个腐败成风的国家。

9. **at risk** adj. in danger of being attacked or hurt, especially in their own home (尤指居家时) 处于危险中的, 可能遭受伤害的

e.g. Social services keep lists of **at-risk children**. 社工组织保留有在家里可能遭受伤害的孩子名单。

This is a common pattern in other countries where parents move away from their families for work. Studies from the Philippines show that children of mothers working abroad struggle at school. In Sri Lanka left-behind children are almost twice as likely to be **underweight** as the average. But China’s problem is both much larger—it has more left-behind children than the rest of the world put together—and largely **self-inflicted**, the result of restrictions on migration within the country.

Vocab

1. **underweight** adj. weighing less than the normal or expected weight 体重不足的; 未达到正常体重的

e.g. She is a few pounds underweight for (= in relation to) her height.就其身高而言，她的体重还差几磅。

2. **self-inflicted** adj. (伤痛)故意加于自身的,有意自伤的 A **self-inflicted** wound or injury is one that you do to yourself deliberately.

e.g. He is being treated for a **self-inflicted** gunshot wound.他因开枪自残受伤正在接受治疗。

Sentence

But China's problem is both much larger—it has more left-behind children than the rest of the world put together—and largely self-inflicted, the result of restrictions on migration within the country.

熟悉的破折号，主干：China's problem is **both** much larger 这里 both 表明这个 problem 有两个 —it has more left-behind children than the rest of the world put together 第一个留守儿童比其他国家的儿童加起来还多

—and largely self-inflicted 自己搞自己...

the result of restrictions on migration within the country. 对 self-inflicted 的解释...的后果导致的

China could transform the prospects of its left-behind children by abolishing hukou —a kind of internal passport that gives people and their children subsidised schooling and health care, but only in the place where they are registered. There has been a modest easing of restrictions, allowing skilled workers to change hukou and unskilled ones to move to smaller cities. But far more **radical** reforms are needed so that migrant **labourers** in the big cities benefit, too. China's government should also give those living in the countryside the same property rights as urban residents. This would allow them to sell their homes, and thus help more of them to move to cities with enough cash to settle with their families.

Vocab

1. **radical** adj. =**far-reaching** concerning the most basic and important parts of sth; thorough and complete 根本的；彻底的；完全的

e.g. the need for **radical changes** in education 对教育进行彻底变革的需要

2. **labourer** n. a person whose job involves hard physical work that is not skilled, especially work that is done outdoors (尤指户外的) 体力劳动者，劳工，工人

e.g. Her husband had been a farm **labourer**.她丈夫以前是个农场雇工。

Sentence

1. the prospects of its left-behind children 留守儿童的未来，这里 **its** 是主语的指代，即中国的留守儿童

2. a modest easing of restrictions 限制政策的适度放宽

3. China's government should also give those living in the countryside the same property rights as urban residents.

主干：government should also give...

the same as 与...同样的，所以，意思就是说，与城市居民相同的的财产权益

Stop the self-harm

More could also be done to help the most vulnerable children. Numerous recent cases have come to light of sexual abuse of left-behind children in rural schools, suggesting that teachers are failing them, or worse. In a country with almost no child-welfare system, the government is training “barefoot social workers” to find children who have been not so much left behind as abandoned. But this programme is to reach only 250,000 children, which hardly **scratches the surface**.

Vocab

1. **scratch the 'surface (of sth)** to deal with, understand, or find out about only a small part of a subject or problem 作肤浅的探讨；浅尝辄止；隔靴搔痒

2. **vulnerable** adj. weak and easily hurt physically or emotionally (身体上或感情上) 脆弱的, 易受...伤害的

e.g. The sudden resignation of the financial director put the company in a very **vulnerable position**.

Sentence

In a country with almost no child-welfare system, the government is training “barefoot social workers” to find children who have been not so much left behind as abandoned.

主干: the government is training

who have been not so much left behind as abandoned 这里的定语从句先行词是 children, 这里的 as 意思是: **used to describe the fact that sb/ sth has a particular job or function** 作为; 当作

e.g. The news came as a shock. 消息传来, 令人震惊。

Companies that employ migrant workers could also contribute by, for example, making it easier for parents to phone their children during working hours or even **setting up** schools on site. At a time when many factories **struggle** to find workers, helping their families makes business sense, too.

Vocab

1. **set up** 短语动词 创建;建立;安排;组建 If you **set** something **up**, you create or arrange it.

e.g. The two sides agreed to **set up** a commission to investigate claims...双方同意组建一个委员会来调查那些索赔要求。

2. **at a time** 一次; 每次; 在某时

3. **struggle** v. 奋力;努力;尽力 If you **struggle to** do something, you try hard to do it, even though other people or things may be making it difficult for you to succeed.

e.g. They had to **struggle** against all kinds of adversity...他们不得不同一切困境做斗争。

Sentence

At a time when many factories struggle to find workers, helping their families makes business sense, too.

这里 struggle to 相当形象, 比起 hard to 更有一层挣扎的味道

helping their families... 现在分词引导的状语从句

As China becomes richer it is producing a **disturbed**, and perhaps **disturbing**, generation. Some social **dislocation** may be the cost of wild growth and mass movement from farms to factories. But China should at least stop the **self-harm**.

Vocab

1. **disturbed** adj. unhappy and full of bad or shocking experiences 不幸的; 多灾多难的; 坎坷的

e.g. The killer had a disturbed family background. 杀人凶手出身于一个坎坷不幸的家庭。

2. **disturbing** adj. 引起烦恼的;令人不安的;引起恐慌的 Something that is **disturbing** makes you feel worried or upset.

e.g. a disturbing piece of news 一则令人不安的消息

3. **dislocation** n. (制度、进程、生活方式等的)混乱, 紊乱 **Dislocation** is a situation in which

something such as a system, process, or way of life is greatly disturbed or prevented from continuing as normal.

4. self-harm n. (尤指作为心理疾患或精神病症状的) 自残行为, 自伤 deliberate injury to oneself, typically as a manifestation of a psychological or psychiatric disorder

Sentence

As China becomes richer it is producing a disturbed, and perhaps disturbing, generation.

主干 it is producing a ... generation.

用的妙的在于 disturbed, disturbing 都是 disturb 的变形, 一个表示不幸的, 一个表示令人不安的, 妙

This article appeared in the Leaders section of the print edition

China's left-behind generation

Pity the children

中国留守一代: 同情孩子们

There are 70m reasons to ease China's curbs on internal migration.

7000万留守儿童渴求中国放宽对国内人口流动的限制。

IMAGINE you are a young married man or woman in rural China. There are no jobs, so you find work in a big city, perhaps 1,000 miles away. But government restrictions mean that if you take your children with you they will almost certainly not be able to attend schools where you live, or visit a state doctor. And if your parents come to share the child care, their pension will be too small for them to live on. What do you do?

假设你是一个生活在中国农村的年轻已婚男士或女士。在农村没有工作, 所以你或许来到了一千英里之外的大城市, 找到了工作。然而政府政策的限制意味着, 如果你想把孩子也带上, 那你的孩子就不能在你的工作地上学, 也不能用医保看病。若是你父母想跟着来帮你带孩子, 他们的养老金根本不够生活起居。你该怎么办?

For the parents of 61m Chinese children, the answer is to leave them behind in the villages where they were born, to be looked after by grandparents (often illiterate) or other relatives. Another 9m are left in one city by parents working in another. The 70m total is almost the number of all the children in the United States.

对于中国6100万儿童的父母来说, 答案便是将孩子留在他们出生的农村, 交由爷爷奶奶或是其他亲戚照看, 而老一辈多半没有接受过教育。另有900万儿童虽然没有留在农村, 却与父母分居两个城市。中国目前有7000万留守儿童, 相当于全美国的儿童总数。

These so-called “left-behind children” are a dark facet of China's shining economic development. They make up a disproportionate share of the population in the countryside, where children are four times as likely to be short for their age as urban ones, a measure of malnutrition. A survey this year for a charity called Growing Home found that left-behind children were more likely than their peers to be depressed or emotionally unstable. Researchers in Shanghai found that left-behind children underperform at school, and that their emotional and social development lags behind. Stories of abuse and suicide are rife; evidence suggests that left-behind children are more at risk of turning to crime.

这些所谓的“留守儿童”反映了中国辉煌经济发展历程的阴暗面。农村人口中, 留守儿童占比

太高。农村儿童个头偏矮的可能性是城市儿童的四倍，个头是反映营养状况的指标之一。今年慈善团体成长之家的一项调查发现，相较他们的同龄人，留守儿童更易于愁闷沮丧或情绪不稳定。同样地，上海的调查人员发现，相较于非留守儿童，他们在校表现不佳，同时留守儿童的情感成长与社交能力亦相对落后。欺凌虐待与自杀自毁的故事俯拾皆是；此外，有证据表明留守儿童更加易于误入犯罪的歧途。

This is a common pattern in other countries where parents move away from their families for work. Studies from the Philippines show that children of mothers working abroad struggle at school. In Sri Lanka left-behind children are almost twice as likely to be underweight as the average. But China's problem is both much larger—it has more left-behind children than the rest of the world put together—and largely self-inflicted, the result of restrictions on migration within the country.

在其他国家，父母远离故乡外出工作也是普遍现象。菲律宾的研究表明，母亲外出工作的儿童学习成绩不佳；在斯里兰卡，留守儿童体重过轻的几率是普通儿童的两倍。但中国的留守儿童问题，一方面更为严峻——其留守儿童的数量比世界上其他国家的总和还多；另一方面则是自作自受，这是人口流动管理政策造成的后果。

China could transform the prospects of its left-behind children by abolishing hukou—a kind of internal passport that gives people and their children subsidised schooling and health care, but only in the place where they are registered. There has been a modest easing of restrictions, allowing skilled workers to change hukou and unskilled ones to move to smaller cities. But far more radical reforms are needed so that migrant labourers in the big cities benefit, too. China's government should also give those living in the countryside the same property rights as urban residents. This would allow them to sell their homes, and thus help more of them to move to cities with enough cash to settle with their families.

中国可通过废除户口制度改变留守儿童的未来。户口类似于“国内护照”，拥有户口的居民和他们的孩子可以享受教育和医疗补贴，但这种福利仅限于户口登记所在地。在中国国内已经有了适度放宽的户口限制政策——允许技术人才更换户口，准许普通工人落户小城市。然而，社会亟待更为彻底的改革方案出台，以便大都市内的外来务工人员同样受益。中国政府应给予农村人口与城市居民同样的房产权益：允许农村居民自由销售房屋，从而增加可用现金，与家人定居团聚于城市。

More could also be done to help the most vulnerable children. Numerous recent cases have come to light of sexual abuse of left-behind children in rural schools, suggesting that teachers are failing them, or worse. In a country with almost no child-welfare system, the government is training “barefoot social workers” to find children who have been not so much left behind as abandoned. But this programme is to reach only 250,000 children, which hardly scratches the surface.

社会各界还能够做更多的事情，从而帮助这些最易受伤害的儿童。近期，数不清的事例得到曝光——农村地区学校中，留守儿童惨遭性侵；这表明教师的失职辜负众望或是更糟的问题。在一个几乎没有儿童福利制度的国家，政府正培训“赤脚社会工作者”来找出一些并未被抛弃、并非那么“留守”的儿童。但该项目只触及25万名儿童，仅仅涉足于表面而浅尝即止。

Companies that employ migrant workers could also contribute by, for example, making it easier for parents to phone their children during working hours or even setting up schools

on site. At a time when many factories struggle to find workers, helping their families makes business sense, too.

雇佣外来务工人员的公司同样能够做出贡献，例如，在工作时段为员工和孩子通一通电话而创造条件，甚至是就地建一所学校。如今，许多工厂努力寻找工人；在这样的情况下对工人家庭施以援手同样具有商业意义。

As China becomes richer it is producing a disturbed, and perhaps disturbing, generation. Some social dislocation may be the cost of wild growth and mass movement from farms to factories. But China should at least stop the self-harm.

随着中国变得更加富有，其亦造就了受扰的、也许是令人不安的一代。社会秩序紊乱也许正是中国粗放的经济增长、从农场到工厂的大规模“城市化运动”的代价。但中国至少应当停止这一“自我伤害”的举措。