

MKT3601-SD3
Film/book Reflection Assignment



Book: "Factory Girls: From Village to City in a Changing China"
by Leslie T. Chang

Issue: What are the positive impacts of rural-to-urban migration?

First, rural-to-urban migration unlocks young women with job opportunities that improve their family's living standards. Historically, citizens in interior areas typically had simple lives with poor salaries and restricted opportunities for upward social mobility due to the Hukou System. After the economic reform and opening up, foreign companies hired China's labor to cut costs. Young laborers like Wu Chunming and Lu Qingmin, who had limited education and were born to poor agricultural families, could migrate to urban areas and search for higher-paying factory jobs. The world's largest migration is the outcome of this. China has made efforts to implement policies to provide certain benefits, such as setting up schools for children of migrant workers' families. In Wu Chunming's example, she could support her siblings' education more easily. This allows the family to have better investments in housing, education, and even healthcare. The living standard for the family is raised by this.

Secondly, rural-to-urban migration can boost China's economy. Living alone, the rural households could use the remittances from migrants for better investment increasing rural consumption, the migrant workers support the new growth of urban business. In the past, people in rural areas mostly focused on satisfying needs and product effectiveness. However, according to the book, Wu Chunming and Lu Qingmin frequently visit shopping malls and markets for relaxation and leisure.

This shows that they were affected by urban lifestyles, increasing their desires for fashion and electronics (a symbol of status). This change in consumption patterns can drive the growth of various industries, such as the retail sector. Thus, the demand for housing and infrastructure, such as roads and transportation, increases. Therefore, migrant workers like Wu Chunming and Lu Qingmin are contributing to economic development.

In conclusion, rural-to-urban migration improves rural citizen's living standards and driving economic growth in China.

299 words