Chinese Internal Migration

**Video Unit – Year 8**

***Learning Intention:*** *I can analyse and discuss how internal migration within China affects life in the villages and life in the city.*

**For decades, China has experienced a mass migration of people from rural to urban areas. This large-scale movement of people is putting pressure on the resources and facilities of cities such as Shanghai.**

**Using headphones, watch the clips listed (on haiku) and answer the following questions.**

**“Introduction to China in 10 Minutes”**

1. Write down 3 facts and 3 opinions from this video.
2. What are two things about living in China that make it very different to living in Australia?

**“The Largest Migration in History”**

1. What was the main motivation for people to move from the country to the city in 1978?
2. How much money per day did poor farmers from Anhui, Sichuan and Guizhou live on in 1980?
3. How many workers migrated out of their home province:
   1. Between 1990-1995
   2. Between 1995-2000
   3. Between 2000-2005
4. List two positive outcomes and two negative outcomes of China’s internal migration. You may wish to draw up a table with two columns.

**“In China, a Staggering Migration”**

1. What have critics of this plan called it?
2. If the Chinese government reaches its goal, what percentage of the population will live in cities?
3. The government is hoping the farmers will become ‘urban consumers’. What does this mean?
4. Do you think forced migration is a good long-term strategy to help the Chinese economy? Why or why not?

**“Leaving the Land: Urban, but Left Behind”**

1. One result of the shift in population is the creation of ‘consumer culture’. What is another result?
2. How many people are in Yang Jingxin’s family? Who provides the income?
3. What incentive does the government provide for those who are willing to relocate from the country to the city?
4. While many people who used to live in the country could live off the land, what happens to them once they reach the city?
5. What happens when they try and hire a lawyer to defend them against the government?
6. Make a prediction: if there is a growing number of former famers who cannot make an adequate income in the cities, what may happen in China?

**“Urban Migration in China: Infographic”**

1. Choose 3 facts or statistics from this video and draw them as infographics (a picture that helps represent data in an easy-to-understand way).

**“Living in the Shadows: China’s Internal Migrants”**

1. Choose one of the 3 people featured in this film:
   * Mr Song
   * Mrs Zhang
   * Mrs Yu

Write a letter to this person. Tell them what you find the most amazing about their life and what you would find the hardest about living the way they do. Explain why you think they are in this situation and what could be done to help them.

**“Urban Migration for Young Chinese on the Rise”**

1. Research China’s ‘hukou’ system.
   1. Why was it originally established?
   2. How did it change in the 1980s?
   3. What is it like now?
2. Do you think people who move from the country to the city are better or worse off? Why?
3. Do you think the children of migrants from the 80s live a better life in the city than they would have if their parents had stayed in the country?
4. What do you think the Chinese government needs to do about internal migration?

**“China’s Empty Cities”**

1. Make a prediction: what will happen to the empty cities? Do you think people will move in?
2. Chinese authorities say these cities are not abandoned but still under construction and will fill up eventually. Do you agree, or do you think they are trying to ‘save face’?
3. Research the places mentioned in the video (listed below). Compare their status and population from 2013 to 2021. Are they still mostly unoccupied?
   1. Tianducheng:
   2. South China Mall:
   3. Kangbashi:
4. Based on what you found out in question 3, has your answer to question 2 changed?
5. Mayor Xu Kuangdi of Pudong compared building a city before it’s populated to “buying a suit a few sizes too big for a growing boy”. Do you think it makes more sense to build the entire city in advance, or to gradually add to the infrastructure as more people move in? Why?