CHILDREN’S DEVIANT BEHAVIOR WHEN PARENTS MIGRATED

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According to “Migration and Filipino Children Left Behind: A Literature Review," a working paper sponsored by United Nations Children’s Fund (Unicef), the Philippines is the major supplier of labor migrants in Asia to over 100 countries.

Foreign employers believed that Filipino workers are very competitive, highly skilled and have a very low demand in terms of labor cost that is why Filipino migrants and workers are continuously increasing because of this very high employment demand worldwide.

Separation Anxiety & the impact on children
- The children whose parents are both working abroad or have migrated tend to be aloof, feeling restless and depressed.
- Majority of them conclude that no one loves them so they become antisocial, feeling alone and full of anxiety. Migrated parents who wanted to return home usually found their children having committed suicide but this might be on extreme cases.
- Children who lacks of parent’s care or full attention have a tendency to become depressed, lonely and helpless and lack of passion.
- Children’s health might be at risk so they become careless on their physical and social well being because no one is guiding them.
- Child’s eating habits have been affected like loosing appetite and sometimes they are suffering from Cibiphobia or Fear of Food, Anorexia Nervosa or Fear of Weight Gain which leads them to become sickly and suffering them from different diseases and sometimes leads them to death. They do consult a physician when an emergency arises.

Social Aspects Level
- The effect of parent’s migration or those who work abroad are highly risky on children’s psychological growth, children might be abused emotionally, physically and sexually and sometimes they tend to be exploited by work.
- Children tend to become assertive in all their actions, verbal or non-verbal, sometimes they become violent, juvenile delinquent and a problem to our society. Children who experienced separation anxiety, their social relationships becomes highly unstable.
- Children whose parents are working abroad, have a deviant behavior, usually they draw attention from other person who are under influence of drugs, liquor and majority of them become a change smokers.
- Some of them involved in stealing, dropping out from school just to get the attention of their parents and bring them home.
- They do not value what the school have given them, the sacrifices of thier parents, the importance of having a college degree and eventually get a good job or have high earnings for living.
- The increasing of migrants or parents working abroad, attending to children’s need become a burden on our teachers especially if this concerns family matter.
- Children who experienced exhaustion by having a very high responsibilities like taking care of their younger siblings or grandparents usually they suffer from physical and mental stress.

**Solutions**

Parents often used the word “Financial Burden, Poverty and Greener Pasture” to tell their children why do they need to leave and migrate to other country for work. Always remember that the most affected here is our own children because they are not only longing for decent life but most importantly they are longing for a complete family where they can confide easily, parents could attend to their school activities, and support them on their individuality such as personal, spiritual, emotional, mental and social growth.

Working abroad and migration are now continuously growing because of high employment demand and competitive salary being offered, as such, this could not be avoided nor controlled. Some of the negative behavior manifested to these children is having a low self esteem, guilt, abandonment, anxiety, underestimation.

**To lessen and to avoid children’s negative behavior:**
- Parents shall maintain a constant communication with their children, let them feel they are your priorities, they are important more than anything else and they are being loved.
- With the help of the advance technology and with the use of different social media, it will brings family close together.
- Parents always have this attitude that their presence are most valuable to them and always assured your children that you will return home as often as possible. Assured your children also that your family will always be together no matter what situation you are into, everything is just a temporary and your family are still intact.
- Parents shall maintain a good and harmonious relationships with all the members of the family by giving them a quality time especially when you are at home or on vacation. There is a saying that “The Love of a Family is Life’s Greatest Blessings”.

References: [https://www.unicef.org/philippines/Synthesis_StudyJuly12008.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/philippines/Synthesis_StudyJuly12008.pdf)