TWO SIDES OF A COIN: MIGRANTS WORKS AND THEIR FAMILIES

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One of the largest populations of migrant workers all over the world are Filipinos. It is even believed that there is a Pinoy in every possible continent except Antarctica. According to a survey conducted last 2016, there are approximately 2.2 million Filipino working overseas. That number only includes the documented ones and does not take into regards those without papers also known as the TNT workers.

That large number of Filipino who chooses to leave the country and work abroad can be associated with the fact that salary and labor here in the Philippines is not comparable to that of the other countries. Although the situations and conditions on another country can be very challenging and even dangerous, many still prefer to be an OFW rather than to stay and make due of the floor salary that our country offers, not only for domestic workers but for professionals as well. In fact, there are shortages of professionals such as medical related practitioners, teachers, and engineers here in the country because of the remunerations and work conditions. Our workers are overworked but under paid. That is why it is not so surprising that our manpower opted to work elsewhere to ensure the financially stability and the future of their families hence the huge number of Filipino workers overseas. Aside from making a living for their families, those OFWs also makes a living for the country as a whole since their remittances make up about fifty percent, if not more of the Philippine economy.

But regardless of all the good things that working abroad bring to the country’s economy, there is still an undeniable consequences and effects that mostly impact the family of the OFW, most especially the children.
Being a migrant working means choosing to leave the family behind in an unforeseeable amount of time. Some parents leave their children at a very young age, some even on infancy with the thought of sacrificing the time and opportunity to be able to watch their child grow in exchange of a stable financial future for the child. A selfless act of relinquish that parents do.

In some, more fortunate cases where only one parent goes to work abroad, the void that the other parent leaves behind can easily be mended by the remaining parent. These cases are less hazardous for the kid since there will still be a sense of care and belonging left. However, in some cases, both the parents leave the country and the children were left to close relatives and next of keen. This where most of the negative application occurs. Abuse from the guardians and neglect can usually happen without the actual parents to keep an eye on the children. Also, the sense of belonging usually suffers in these cases. With neither of the two parents around, the loss is more apparent as compared to a single working parent.

Most of the time, financially stability is placed above all else, which is understandable, but emotional security is also important. For children and especially teenagers, it is important to have a parent to guide them through the changes and development the are going through. With an anchored to hold them a flout and steady, young minds can drift far from were they should. This is where those instances of rebellion and aggression happens. The children try to counterweigh the void of not having their parents by holding on to material things or their peers which can lead to a not so promising path. These kids tend to lose the true meaning of priority and importance. They have the mentality that material things are dispensable regardless of how expensive they are and that people can stay with them by using those material stuffs.

Academically, many students with migrant parents have a tendency to act entitled. Having no care regarding education because why study if they already have all that they want. They have all the distraction that they need, why learn?
But not every student act like this. There are individuals with a more mature uptake who use their family situations as inspirations towards higher attainment and achievements. They are the ones who understood the hardship that their parents are going through in a foreign land just to make sure they have the chance to make a better living for themselves in the future. These cases are usually accompanied by a trusted guardian who actually helps the child emotionally and fills the role of a parent.

Teacher can be that person to a helpless child. Although the hours spent within the school is sort., it is enough time for a lost child that needs some steering. That is how huge the educator’s part plays in the lives of their students. In reality teachers do not just teach, sometimes they are parents, sometimes psychologists, and a friend. But if that is what takes to help a child, they will do it gladly.

References:
www.PSA/statistics.org