

"996.ICU "

"996.ICU" refers to a phrase that has gained prominence in the labour practices of certain technology companies, mainly in China. "996" stands for working from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., six days a week, for a total of 72 hours a week. the "ICU" partly represents the potential health problems and negative consequences associated with such demanding work schedules.

For advocates, perhaps this work pattern enhances corporate earnings and employee productivity and drives economic growth, while on the other hand it deprives the whole of social balance and is representative of inequality. Labour laws and regulations vary from country to country, and in some regions this is not considered illegal, but even if in some regions it is, many companies selectively ignore it due to economic efficiency, as in China, where the Constitution, the Labour Law and the Labour Contract Law all clearly state that workers have the right to leave, and that there are restrictions on the number of working hours. In some companies, however, this system of work has become a part of the workers' daily routine. The implementation of this system does not seem to be compulsory, but this soft and pervasive pressure leads workers to do so, and many companies disguise this by providing transport reimbursement and meals to keep employees in the company for extra work. Many companies disguise this by offering transport reimbursements, meals, etc. In such a high-intensity working pattern, there are few cases of physical strain due to long hours and even sudden death due to overexertion.

I am grateful to the students for sharing their analysis of this phenomenon, which is to some extent related to the social environment in China, not only in companies, but also in the student population, where the only thing that seems to happen in the students' environment is studying, except for meals, lunch breaks and washing up. This pathological planning seems to be a kind of unformed rule and law, a private soft rule that exists in a social environment that cannot be broken and controls everything, making everyone seem to be a walking corpse. The pressure of imbalance has created the wearing down of personal pursuits and the loss of family, life and happiness.

It is because of the negative environment created by this phenomenon that the "996.ICU" movement emerged as a wake up call to the negative consequences and effects of proposing the 996 workday, to give people a wake-up call in the form of an online revolution, to challenge the normalisation of long working hours by using platforms such as GitHub repositories and social media, to critically review the rules of the system, to establish social balance and constructing an open dialogue while highlighting the importance of upholding workers' rights and ensuring fair working conditions, avoiding the exploitation of employees, promoting informed discussion and mobilising support for change.

Feedback from group work:

In our research, we found that the topic of homelessness is largely lacking in the protection of and respect for the human rights of marginalised groups, so we went deeper into the project. It was important to work efficiently as we did not often see each other during the group work due to our different professions. In terms of the preliminary group presentation and data collection and analysis:

Zhiying Hong was responsible for collecting artworks and presentations about the homeless in the opening section, telling the story of the homeless and related content in that way, and this was also the direction in which our group set our direction and partly expanded our analysis.

Qiheng Tang was responsible for analysing the components of homelessness, its causes and data, particularly in relation to women and marginalised groups such as LGBT+, to help further develop our topic.

Jiayue He was responsible for analysing stereotypes and discrimination against homeless people in society at large, and documenting what restrictions there are on homelessness in different regions.

I was tasked with finding out what organisations are currently providing support and assistance to the homeless in the UK and in different regions, and to find out what organisations are campaigning for the homeless, based on which I identified and analysed NCH's activities.

Xintian Yin was responsible for summarising and visualising some of the data from the homeless analysis.

During the group presentation, each person also explained and documented their part of the project, while the question and answer session, which was supposed to be Xintian Yin's responsibility, was not, so the other four did it separately. Admittedly, there was some debate between us, as there was some discussion in the opening section over the matching of the case content, but it was eventually settled. For the final part of the zine, the division of labour was roughly based on the logic of our research and the layout of our data collection.