Textual Analysis

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Title: Why cities in China should open their gates to Children of Migrants

Nowadays, the problem of education of the migrant children is a serious issue and is lack of attention. Many migrant workers work in the cities, while many of their kids cannot get a chance to study in the cities due to different kinds of restrictions. Therefore, these kids are separated from their parents and are kept in the villages. In the commentary “Why Cities in China should Open Their Gates to Children Migrants”, the author Nie Riming tries to persuade the government and the school that migrant children should get more help and supply to make sure that they can study in the cities and receive quality education. By using different facts, data, stylistic devices and rhetorical devices, Nie Riming potently addresses that the issue of offering the migrant kids a place to study in the cities is serious, important and urgent.

First of all, as other commentaries, the author shows his credibility and persuasiveness by listing different data and facts. When he addresses the seriousness of this issue, he states that “In 2014, of the 168 million rural laborers who flooded the cities in search of work, only 20 percent were able to bring their families.” (Nie Riming Six Tone) The data establishes logos and makes it convincing by using straightforward numbers to address the truth. What’s more, he also lists out several authoritative organizations to establish ethos to enhance the credibility. The author himself is a researcher at Shanghai Institute of Finance and Law, which shows that he knows a lot about the policies and facts. These information all boost the persuasiveness of the article.

The commentator addresses this problem as a serious one. After the situation became a bit better in Shanghai and Beijing, the number of elementary school enrollees dropped significantly in 2015. In paragraph six, the author notes down the specific number of migrant kid enrollment to establish logos. By stating the data, the author better illustrates the status quo and warns the authorities that if they don’t do anything to it, the situation will become worse. What’s more, the author judiciously employs stylistic devices such as personification in the passage to portray the image of this serious issue. In paragraph six, when addressing the twist in current situation, the author writes “Trends in elementary school admissions reveal how cities have taken steps to push migrant children away” (Nie Riming Six Tone) Here the author uses this device to personify the action of elementary school admissions. They are pushing the migrant kids away. By employing personification, the author potently pointed out that the ideology and the action of the authorities towards this serious issue go astray. It successfully expresses his point and urges the authorities to reflect upon themselves.

Not only is this issue serious, it is also highly important. Migrant populations have made an incalculable contribution to the cities they work at. In paragraph eleven, the author lists out specifically what they bring to the urban society. And the following paragraph, the author holds contrast between what they contribute and what they get as migrant families. “According to statistics from Shanghai University professor Liu Yuzhao, in 2015, Shanghai spent less than 8.87 billion yuan on compulsory education for migrant workers.” (Nie Riming Six Tone) These numbers shock us by illustrating how little the government did for the migrant children. Migrant families are not getting what they deserve since the parents already devote everything to this city and make huge contribution to it. This is a huge bias against the migrant families. The spending on public services for them is “dwarfed” by their contributions to the city. Also, this establishes pathos