Globalization’s Effect On Chinese Air

“Air pollution is killing 1 million people and costing Chinese economy 267 billion yuan a year,” (Kao, p.1). It is clear that pollution is an issue that needs to be resolved, especially in large cities like Shanghai. As described by the CUHK, it is in fact costing them more money to clear the smog and assist those hurt by air pollution. Their involvement in the global economy is extensive, as shown in multiple statistics, however, this is at the expense of their people’s health. As a result of the burst of globalization that China has been exposed to, it has nose-dived into the industry and technology fields without regulations put in place first, which can be seen in the flood of unsafe jobs, overpopulation, thus leading to pollution.

Through globalization, many citizens have been pulled into the industry in unsafe jobs in order to make such a large economy function. However, with such a rapid inclusion to the global market, the job market goes unchecked. Business owners, factory owners, and medical practices are often corrupt or do not give workers’ compensation to their injured workers. Those who work in factory jobs experience dangerous levels of pollution, many left with respiratory problems after extended periods of time. As mentioned before, the “[i]ndustry was the biggest contributor to both types of pollution […] the second-largest source was […] due to the amount of dirty coal still being burned for heating,” (Kao, p.14). The lack of regulation in this aspect has created an entirely too laissez-faire approach and makes pollution almost unavoidable. Through the economy’s excessive freedom, the sudden amount of possibilities because of globalization also created an issue: overpopulation. Because of their transitioning economy, China experienced an influx of births compared to deaths. Consequently, the overpopulation has created too many jobs, further perpetuating the issue discussed above; there is too much demand for products for other countries, so the overpopulation is given a use in the labor market.

To discuss the more natural aspect, more people result in more waste, resulting in more pollution. Waste is also unregulated, as people can freely throw their trash away without consequence. China does not have a way of stopping the excess of citizens and the excess of waste. To make matters worse, China is business oriented as “illustrated by the value of “people-oriented” methods, some may argue that business is detaching itself from people,” (Lu, p.9). In other countries, rules have been put into place, but because of China’s newly globalized economy, only recently has a limit on population been established to reduce waste and pollution.

Pollution has become dangerous in China, killing more and more people each year. Although globalization has had an overall positive effect on the nations of the world, it has affected China malignantly. It has helped the rest of the world through its booming exportation, making it a world power in the process. As a transitioning economy experiencing a rather sudden boom, it does not have the knowledge and experience of what regulations to be put in place in order to ensure citizen safety and ideal, economic conditions. Such a jump into the global economy has not only hurt its economy more, but also created overpopulation, demand for unsafe jobs and resulted in an irreparable consequence: pollution.

Works Cited

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