
NEWSLETTER

The Effect of Migrant Students on Local Students' Academic Performance

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WHETHER the aggregation of migrant students in schools will affect the academic development of local students is a valuable and practical problems. Based on the survey data of grade 9 students collected by CEPS2013-2014 (China Education Panel Survey) and the balance test, this article simulated scenario of random class-division within the same school by adding the fixed effect and deleting samples of non-random class-division, estimated the effect of the proportion of migrant students on the academic performance of local students.

The results are as follows:

- In the same class, the proportion of migrant students with non-agricultural household registration does not affect the academic performance of local students.
- The proportion of migrant students with agricultural household registration statistically negatively affect the academic performance of female local students, local students with better ability, local students studying in the best local schools, and local students in municipalities or provincial capital cities. However, this influence is not universal which only statistically significant, and the practical influence is relatively small.
- This negative effect may be due to the spillover effect caused by migrant students' less participation in extra-curricular tutoring, what's worse, the increase in the proportion of migrant students will enhance the difficulty of class management and force teachers to adjust teaching methods.

Base on the empirical study researchers suggested that: the government should strive to reduce the institutional barriers that restrict migrant students to receive education in the migratory place. Also, in the process of education resource allocation, the government should incline to the schools where migrant students are more concentrated, so as to neutralize the negative impact of the reverse peer effects.

Source: Peking University Education Review, 2020; 18(4): 71-102 + 187.