

Play and Work Across the World: Deaf People's "Working and Holiday"

Introduction

"Working holiday" visa is designed for youth to work and play abroad in the meantime. But many countries set up limited quota for people from China, and some restricts are according to languages. It's almost impossible for Deaf people to pass the exams and obtain the visa. Around 1970, Deaf youth in China had their own working habits across the provinces similar with the working holiday today. They sold "compassions" to earn money in suburban areas and then play together in the capital of the province.

THREE TYPES OF SELLING "COMPASSIONS"



To sell paintings with much higher than normal prices in suburban (especially from 1970s to early 1990s).

To sell some cheap handiworks and notes the goods were Deaf handmade.

Simple with one piece of paper notes that "I'm a poor Deaf, please make donations for me."

Factors

The Deaf person in charge who could get 50% income from all members, she/he acts like a boss decide where, when and how to work, and organize the entertainment after the working period. Nowadays, there are still having this kind of working but the percentage of income and the functions might different. Just like the normal(hearings') employment environment, individual could meet good boss and bad boss, let's see what factors between two types of work.

	Hearings' Employments	Deaf's Working Holidays
Incomes per month in 1970s	15-30 RMB	300RMB
Incomes per month nowadays	1500-3000RMB	10000RMB
languages	Oral and written	Sign or nothing
Role models	Hearing people	Deaf people
Qualifications	Educational backgrounds	The capacity of communications
Hierarchy of Power	Depends on clan or family background	Depends on capacity
Rights to Play	Depends on the provision made by the employer	More flexible and linking to the achievements of the work

From cross-provinces to cross-countries

The geographic isolation provide a safer spaces for deaf people to work. The local Deaf community will support the group from China, such as translate the notes to the local language and guide them to popular scenic spots, some local deaf person earn the service fee from Chinese Deaf group. If they got arrest abroad because of the illegal working, they would be sent back to China, and never be able to go to the same country again. Even have the risks, the high income, the initiative of career and without much extra effort to PLAY abroad, are all the factors attracts Deaf people to do "working holiday".

