

Challenges of a Migrant Worker

Has your family ever worked on the farm or migrated? If you haven't, you're extremely lucky because things are difficult for those who do. I'm going to share how migrating changes your life, also how the jobs aren't safe. Another thing you will see is that there needs to be changes, and you will see the difficulties farm workers and their family face every day.

Migrating changes your life. You have to move and leave all of your friends behind. Not just once though, you move at least twice a year. In the winter, you head south so it isn't too cold, but in the summer, you head north so you don't overheat. For example, my family goes to Florida in the winter and they (my parents) pick citrus there. In the summer, however, they go to Michigan to pick apples. That means my brother and I switch schools twice a year. It makes learning difficult. For example, in Michigan we would start learning a lesson, and before I could even ask about it, we had to move to Florida. Sometimes when we would start a lesson, we would move, then in Florida, they had already taught that lesson.

Not only does it change your education by switching schools, it also isn't safe. My mom has had that experience, both in Michigan and in Florida. In Florida she was picking citrus and her ladder fell! It was the same in Michigan; the only difference was she was picking apples. In both places she had severe injuries. She almost broke her arm! Those types of things happen often. There are other dangers that happen as well, such as snake bites, sunlight damage, and poisonous plants, etc. Not only do farm workers get paid at minimum wage, they are also at very high risk of getting hurt. Now tell me, do you want to be around hazards that can cause damage to you and get paid around seven dollars an hour?

There are a lot of changes that need to be made! For starters, the workers need more breaks than just the short 30 minute lunch break they get. Other things include, a raise in the worker's salary. They get paid minimum wage, and they work really hard. They need water supply because they might dehydrate! Paid vacations also need to be included because they never get a vacation. If they get sick, they just don't get paid that day! More work needs to be done to help the migrant workers, they do a lot of worker, just a little more money or water or anything would really help them out.

All the difficulties the farm workers face just so there can be food on their table and a roof over their head, yet they get little or no respect from everybody else. When you think of it, without farm workers, you wouldn't have the fruit that lies on your table or the vegetables on your stove. Just a little more respect for them. A lot of migrants were born elsewhere and can't get a better job. Some migrant kids in your class can be the brightest kids in the school, but if they weren't born here, they might end up farm working as well! I have actually worked on the farm, and trust me, it is worse than sitting in an air conditioned class room. You have to be out all day, not sitting at a desk, they also get no breaks, nor are they at recess playing. Don't think farm working is easy, getting a good education is priceless. I'm pretty sure you have never been through the pain farm workers face every day!

In conclusion, farm working isn't the best job. It's difficult, farm workers get looked as useless people, and they get paid at minimum wage. So unless you want to end up waking up around 5 or 6a.m, burning in the hot sun, getting wet by the dew on the trees, coming back around 5p.m, and doing it all over again for the rest of your life, I would suggest a good getting education!