



Core units: Key understandings – Years 7–8

Illustration 1: Internal migration in China

Pu Jun the technician's story

Pu Jun has not seen his four-year-old child since she was only a few months old. Recently he was sending home \$150 a year to his village in eastern Sichuan Province, 300 kilometres away from where he works in Chongqing, described as the fastest growing urban centre in the world. When the money was good he sent home enough money to rebuild his wattle-and-daub shack with a new concrete block-built home. The children can speak to Jun through the mobile phone that he had bought for them. The children's grandparents received all of Jun's life savings in 2005 to invest in a mandarin grove but the trees were wiped out in a savage drought. They now get by through growing oil seeds, rice and grain and selling one of the family pigs every year.

Thirty-two-year-old Jun was educated in the trade school near his village and works in an enormous factory complex that reconditions enormous high-voltage transformers as big as a motor vehicle. He had planned to bring his children to the city but his sixty-one year old father recently became sick and requires constant medication. The anti-seizure pills cost a third of Jun's income but he still hopes that in three years time he will bring his six year old son and four year old daughter to live with him in the city, thus ending the family's peasant history forever.

Source: Adapted from Sanders, D. (2010). *Arrival City: The arrival migration and our next world city*. Sydney: Allen & Unwin.