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# RISE OF GIANT BABIES

How China's Young Adults are Refusing to Grow Up

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Sitting in the middle of a messy room, Mr. Zhang, a grownup who is now thirty five years old and has a daughter, accepts our interview. Mr. Zhang still lives with his parents and depends on those elders for things like daily chore or babysitting.

In his opinion, young people are supposed to take responsibility for their family. They should live independently, and try to alleviate the burden on family. As he said, “they need to get in touch with the society really early to understand the way how it operates. Then, they will understand the difficulty of their parents and keep themselves from being a burden.” When asked whether he has achieved such an independence, he forced a smile.

“I haven’t,” he said.

This contradiction of words and behavior and the inability to self-reliance, however, reflect a common social phenomenon.

As we can see from the news, similar events are not minority. Instead, it has already been there for considerably long time. 10 years earlier, a 25 years old adult from Fujian threatened his father for money with his life while standing on roof. 10 years later, a healthy 23 years old young man, starved himself to death just because of his inability to self-care. While countless cases can be taken into consideration, obviously, Zhang is not the only one. In fact, a growing number of Chinese teenagers and adults are overly relying on their families, and many of them have never achieved a mature mentality that is expected to be seen at their ages. It’s easy to spot such a group in everyday life: adults living off their parents, bachelors who constantly seek prospective mates, and spoiled, self-centered adolescents.

Giant baby, a term usually used to describe the group of people whose living skills and and mental age mismatch social expectation, has become a appropriate label for defining a tremendous amount of population in China.

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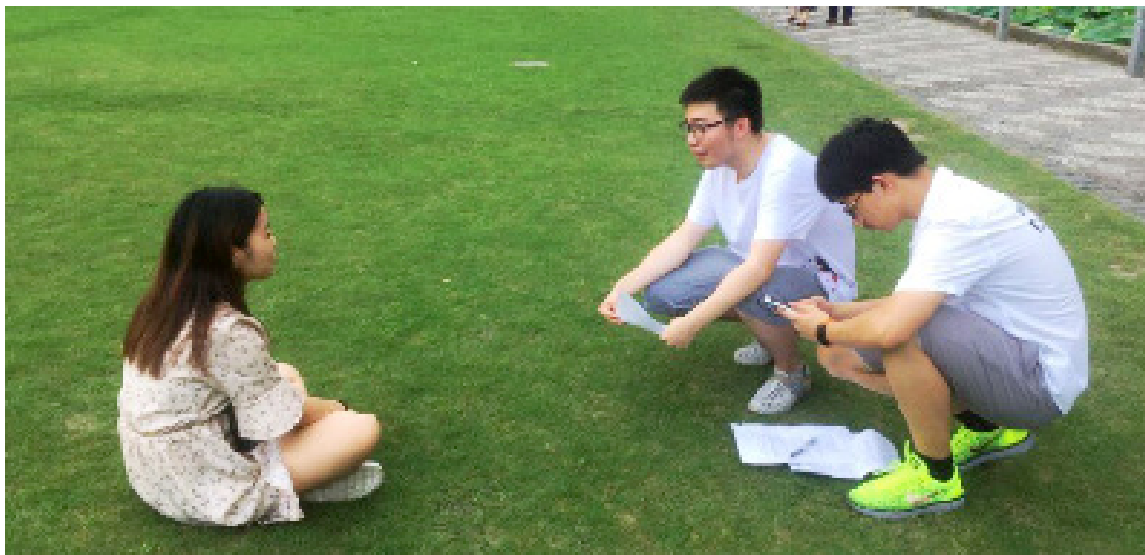
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### ***The Prevalence of Giant Babies***

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We design a questionnaire and start off a random-sample survey on internet, collecting data from different provinces in China. Fortunately, we get 392 survey results, a sufficient number that is reliable for establishing a conclusion. This survey aims at discovering how prevalent giant baby phenomenon is in China’s society and how is public 's opinion toward this specific group. The questionnaire sets up a criterion for survey takers to exmaine the self-care ability and maturity of both themselves and people around them. The results support the severity and prevalence of the problem: over 70 percent of responders reported that they personally know some people who completely lack the ability to self-care and organize their life.



Interviewee (left) claimed that giant baby phenomenon is a natural pattern that cannot be avoided. It is not a problem exclusive to China, but an inevitable result in every society.

To get more detailed comprehension of the issue, we arranged several interviews in reality. Picking random passersby around Zhongshan Park, Shanghai, we questioned them about their experiences related to this topic. All of the pedestrians (7 out of 7) were affirmative about the presence of people without basic self reliance ability in their life. After asking them to provide further information about those 'giant babies', we found that there are actually considerable differences among the social roles they were playing. Their status of life varies: married or unmarried, employed or unemployed; their age ranges from 18 to middle age; their education level differs as well. Yet, their lack of ability didn't bother their essential social intercourse with regular members of society. Despite their similarity of incapability to self-reliance, they show a variety that very close to everyone else in the society.

In the end, both survey and interview show that gaint babies are actually blend into the society in a quite extensive way.

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### ***Who is to Blame?***

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In the latter half of interviews with passersby, interviewees talked about their understanding about the causes of 'giant baby' phenomenon. Nearly all of them mentioned the parental influence upon giant babies, in different degrees however. Some of interviewees believed 'giant babies' themselves have to take considerably responsibility to this dim situation, others strongly believes that parents play an essential role in the formation of 'giant baby'.

After that, we ask interviewees about their own experience as a kid. We ask questions like "Have you been limited by the protection from your parents?", "Have you wished to reduce this kind of limitation?", hoping to get a closer relationship between over parents' overprotection and giant baby phenomenon.

Based on the information provided by interviewees, we found parents' intervene were seen in cases of most interviewees. There were instances they felt "limited" under their guardians; Nevertheless, a considerable number of subjects also credited how open-minded their parents were in general.

One of the interviewee, a 47-year-old gentleman, pointed out that, "there must be a direct connection lay between kids' inability and parent overprotection."

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### ***What Do Giant Babies Bring to Our Society***

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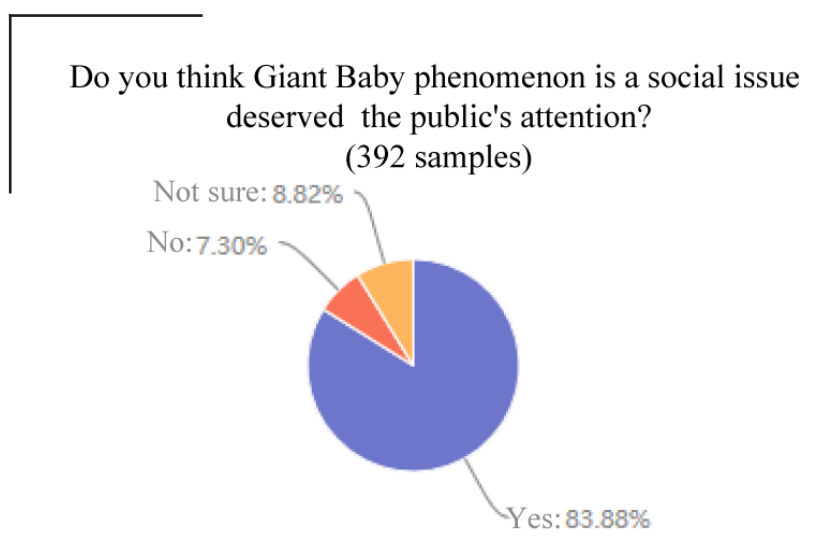
“A girl in my corporation, almost thirty, never shown ability to consider and judge on practical affairs. Every time she runs into trouble, the very first line she mutters is ‘My mom said ...’.”

This is a part of conversation provided by the gentle man mentioned above. Sighing deep , he presented a fresh sample of "giant baby" in his life.

Giant babies are seen as nuisances by the general public. The vexed young lady who hurls abuse at her husband in the street, the top student who cannot stand a slight academic failure, the classmate who is not able to take care of himself in the graduation trip ... They startle us in the news, in public places, and in our social relations.

According to a majority of respondents in the survey, the giant baby phenomenon has brought considerably negative consequences to our society.

A well-known Peking University psychologist, Wu Zhihong believed that social problems from littering in public places to codependency in romantic relationships have their roots in the new level of suppression on the mental growth of millennials (Cr).



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### ***What Can Be Done?***

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Not only the general populace are obliged to self-examine time-to-time if their behavior pattern happened to tally with that of an Giant Baby's, to improve the condition, our society awaits a cure to the disease, a vaccine that resolves Giant Baby as a lesion once and for all. In our random-sampling survey "Do you think Giant Baby is a problem that deserves public attention?" More than 90 % of our samples acknowledge it's an important, some manner as their grand parents spoil their parents. Though the exact harms fall on the children manifest in alternative ways (the fact is proven by confessions of former guardians of our key sample Mr. Zhang), the rest of public judgment doesn't deviate from the fact we obtain. Survey objects managed to point out Giant Baby phenomenon's elusive nature and the complicity to define its terminology. The problem is real and approaching, yet still, there isn't a branch of study about it being established in Chinese universities to learn the socially recession as a science. What we always can do, is to try to raise the public awareness of Giant Babies. To a sickness yet to meet its miracle drug, the best option is to strife its happening in the cradle. We expect those with conscience who's aware of their flaws to accept it as a part of them and try to make some change. We expect our generation's immune system to resuscitate, we want to see the young to produce the antibody themselves. After all, they choose their lives. As Zhang said in the end part of his interview, the best way to he'd come up to prevent his daughter to be one of the Giant Babies, is to constantly improve her comprehensive capacity with tournaments. Maybe those who was immature will have his way?