

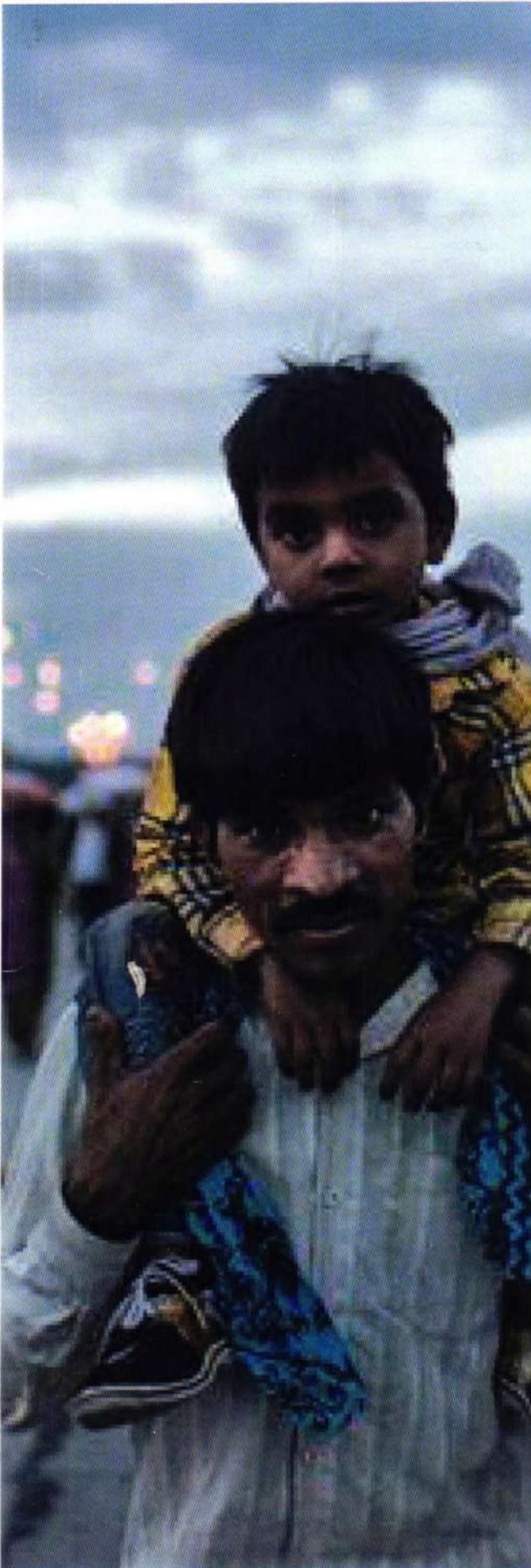
Analytical Study Of Migrant Labour During COVID 19



AN INITIATIVE OF
SOCIAL STUDIES FOUNDATION



Migration - An issue not to be politicized but analyzed

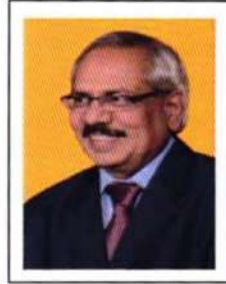


Resonance

Migration: We witness to the exodus of migrant workers towards their home on their foot or by any available means of transport. Though it is an individual choice, government both at the Centre and the states must play role to facilitate the decision of the individuals.

Editorial Board

Disclaimer : The views and opinions expressed in all articles are strictly personal views and opinions of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of SSF directly or indirectly.

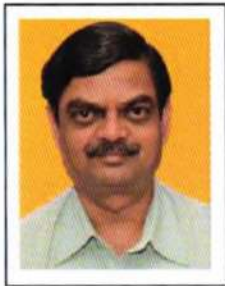


Dr. Chandrakant Rawal

Principal, Brihan Maharashtra College Of Commerce

Chief Editor

Rich experience in teaching Commerce and Management at Undergraduate and Postgraduate level.
Recognized Research Guide at Savitribai Phule Pune University



Hari Sowani

Director, SSF

Worked As Asst General Manager, BSNL Mumbai.
Science Graduate (Physics) & Bachelor Of Law (LLB)

Pramod Gosavi

Director, SSF

Retired Officer From State Bank Of India.
Worked As a Business Analyst (Banking Domain)
in Tata Consultancy Services.



Avinash Mulye

Director, SSF

Retired Officer From Bank Of Maharashtra.
Worked As Information System Auditor

Ritvik Joshi

A graduate from Symbiosis Law School , Pune
and a practising advocate.





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THE PRESENTERS



About Social Studies Foundation

Purpose

Social Studies Foundation is a section 8 company registered under the Companies Act, 2013 and have been functioning for more than a year. We are an organisation working with the prime objective of conducting social studies and research in multi-disciplinary aspects of the society, mainly focusing on various aspects of the socially discriminated, hence deprived classes of Indian society.

Aims

All the activities undertaken by Social Studies Foundation would be aimed at achieving the following:

- Assimilating all sections of the society while retaining and respecting their culture and identity
- Achieving ideal conditions of public health and hygiene, education and empowerment
- Provide vision documents to Governments, semi-government bodies, Municipal corporations and help, assist and guide in implementation of the same for Rural , Semi-urban and Urban development
- Establishing and maintaining a well-equipped research and development library
- Providing training, guidance, assistance, direction and arranging leadership development programs for the youths, social activists, research students to further improve and increase their working capabilities
- Helping and assisting the local social groups and social activists in managing and sketching the work and projects in the area of various social activities

Activities Conducted

Since inception, SSF has been conducting a number of social activities. Following are a few milestone activities:

- Published articles written by eminent persons on the lives of saints and social reformers who have worked towards the objective of promoting social harmony and social cohesion, in print and social media (Written as well as audio-visual format)
- Conducted research on subjects which are in consonance with our objective.
- Held a function to commemorate the Constitution Day on 26th November with a view to promote the cause of social harmony
- Held a conference with a participation of corporates and NGOs to deliberate on the how the corporates can play a more meaningful role in building up a discrimination-free society



THE FOREWORD

The Foreword

K. Syamprasad

State Executive Member, Samarasata Seva Foundation

Everybody was moved with the exodus of migrants, walking along with their families and belongings during the lock-down. Their number and plight were unimaginable. Majority of migrants are landless labours, mainly engaged in physical activities and their future is dark.

Politicians can play major role but they have been playing with regional sentiments for a long time. Parties like Shiv Sena, Dravidian parties and few Assamese parties have been thinking on this line, making the problem more complicated.

COVID-19 is a health emergency. Central government announced lock-down aiming that migrants should stay back. But some states did not follow them.. Politicians were joined by IAS officials. But several voluntary organizations, like Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh, Samarastha Foundation and Seva Bharati were engaged in relief work within government guidelines and rules. Their work still continues.

Some incidents, involving law and order also took place even as the central government arranged special trains with some role for state governments. But few states did not cooperate.

Congress and leftists tried to exploit the situation. They blamed Prime Minister and displayed some sympathy for migrants. Some elements tried to create anarchy by spreading misleading information and rumours. However, a deep sense of gratitude was experienced among all the migrants across the country. This is encouraging and morale boosting.

Despite some relaxations, economy is yet to restore. The state and union governments ought to implement schemes with utmost honesty. Many migrants are likely to stay back, giving us a big opportunity to make villages self-reliant. Government can seek help from honest voluntary organizations.

Government has primary responsibility to provide basic requirements to migrants. They must ensure that migrants are attended properly. Coordination between state and the central government is needed. Instead of getting into ego and political clash, they should raise to the occasion. They should adopt a policy, which would explore all the options for the betterment of migrants.



Tired, Poor, Huddled Masses - Yearning To Breathe Free



THE CRUX AT A GLANCE

Introduction

The outbreak of Covid-19 and the subsequent lockdown brought the world to a halt. The most affected by the lockdown were the already marginalized migrant laborers. As the means of earning were cut off, a grim situation had surfaced for the laborers. This report aims to summarize the state wise report on nature of migration, reasons of the migration, problems faced by the migrants and their suggestion for the future. This report is a summary of reports received from Bihar, Uttarakhand, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Rajasthan & Orissa.

1. Bihar

Nature Of Problem

Meagre employment opportunities, political apathy, retarded growth, administrative insensitivity, feudalism, caste system, meagre wages, bagar, (forced labour) frequent floods, famine and abject poverty forced or stimulated Biharies to migrate other parts of the country. The percentage of migrants increasing every year. Migrants, struggle with lack of livelihood opportunities, hard physical labour, unsafe work sites, bad living conditions, unspecified working hours, no insurance, no definite destination, no health care, no connections with the family.

Suggested Measures

- Registration of Migrants at the panchayat/local authority
- Financial security (inclusion)
- Focus on health care, education, extension of PDS, NREGA – anganwadi, awareness on legal rights & schemes
- Skill mapping
- State Co ordination

2. Orissa

Six frameworks have been suggested by this state to keep an accurate record of migration.

- First framework is to have a nationwide 'migrant labourers' registration. Drive for migrants' registration especially at panchayat level should be immediately carried out with specific reference to their number and nature (skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled) of previous employment
- Second framework is re-skilling the migrant labourers.
- Third framework is the creation of a covid-19 supportive fund (CSF) to assist the livelihood support systems among these migrant labourers.
- Fourth framework suggests empowering the Sarpanches with special governing powers.
- The fifth crucial framework is in the form of the contractual labour agreement in the destination state.
- The sixth framework of social solidarity economy (SSE) advocates state partnering with the community-based organizations (CBOs) and non-governmental organizations.

Suggested Measures

- Amendment to the Central Act on migrant labour act by way of including insurance and written contract for migrant labour engagement
- Election Commission should create a provision for conferring voting rights to the migrant labour in the state elections wherever migrant labourers are present
- Publicity of the various schemes and rights.
- State should include a new stream of admission of school and college students under a new quota called 'adverse conditions quota' so that the children of the migrant labour can access education without any major hassle.

- The state should open counseling centres and Helplines for guiding the immigrant labour so that they can find employment in organization/labour markets that match their skills
- The gram Panchayats that have directly addressed the pandemic problems of the immigrant labour, should also collect key information on the current skills levels of the workers, map them

3. Andhra Pradesh

Suggested Measures

- State government should arrange amenities to migrant labour of AP and migrant labour of other states.
- Rehabilitation of tribal people and creating employment opportunities to these uneducated tribal youth is foremost important.
- Drought & Dry areas should be identified and irrigation and water management should be used to facilitate agriculture & industry

4. Telangana

Reasons For Migration

- Declining trend in employment in Agriculture and search for employment: Agricultural technology has decreased the need for agricultural workers as improved transportation, use of fertilizer, and genetically modified crops resulted in increased production of food with fewer workers.
- Thus, driving many farm workers into cities in search of employment especially from rural to urban areas. In Telangana one can observe the syndrome where many people who practice agriculture in rural areas migrate to urban areas like Bangalore or Hyderabad to work in the industry and other informal sectors like construction and others.

Suggested Measures

- Poverty reducing strategies like MGNREG can be clubbed with migrant empowerment programme.
- Internal migration for manual work is an important livelihood option, notably in semi-arid, and agriculturally underdeveloped areas but needed to be justified by providing alternate employment once the labour return to the villages.
- Migration has the potential to reduce poverty, so the rights of migrants have to be protected. More primary studies are needed to better understand internal migration.
- Government agencies, governments and civil society need to make concerted efforts to make migration a less painful and more productive livelihood option.
- Provide transport facility to migrant labour and to their family;
- Schooling to their children.
- Protection from violence and rights of migrant labour and control social exclusion;
- Publish information and help regarding wage rate
- Protecting health of migrants.
- Department to give training and placement to migrant labour and provide registration, tracking and communication services to them.

5. Gujarat

- Labourers are not getting any benefits like EPF, ESI or Social Security Scheme under Interest Migrant workers' act. While those who are working as either contract labour or permanent labourers; 60% of them benefited with EPF and 55% had ESI benefits
- Government should keep a constant watch over this issue when Gujarat has about 55 lacs migrant workers.
- It was essential to carry out counselling programs in association with industrial unions, labour unions and social groups within migrant workers' clusters.
- Financial inclusion in banking sector is very important

6. Uttarakhand

Reasons Of Migration

- Uttarakhand produces migrant workers who are employed throughout the country and abroad in hospitality sector or as driver or security guard or engaged in small businesses or are professionals as chef or in IT sector
- The dilemma before the reverse migrants is that whether they should stay back or migrate again to their respective previous destinations. Majority of the reverse migrants are desirous of going back to their previous destination after the improvement of Pandemic scenario owing to following reasons : (1) Lack of proper, medical infrastructure. , (2) Lack of proper educational infrastructure. (3) Lack of Livelihood opportunities.
- High aspirations accentuated by lack of livelihood opportunities and lack of health, educational and other facilities as compared to big or small urban conglomerates is cause of migration.

Suggested Measures

- Agriculture, Horticulture and Floriculture should be given prime importance in Uttarakhand.
- State Government and Central government should concentrate for setting up Public sector units in the processing sector, if private sector investment is not forthcoming.
- Adventure tourism can also be aggressively developed in Uttarakhand
- Setting up of Wellness centres

7. Karnataka

Covid 19 and the subsequent lock-down created financial insecurity and blink future for migrants who were construction workers, coolies/ factory labours, security guards, drivers, loaders/ unloaders etc. Most of them are either daily wage earners or casual workers whose income has been stopped due to stagnancy in economic activities of urban areas

Suggested Measures

- There is need to expand activities of MGNREGA and include non-farm and productive activities like agro-based, food processing and agri-business activities.
- Migrant workers who returned to their native village are trying to find livelihood alternatives. For this Government should encourage to invest in small and medium long-term activities (MSMEs) and increase start-up programmes in rural areas.
- Immediate attention should be given to mapping of returned migrant workers and categorise them as skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled based on their previous employment experience background.
- Attention should be given to horticulture, commercial crops, floriculture, agro-based, food processing and agri-business activities in rural areas to generate more employment opportunities.
- Promoting rural industries and entrepreneurial activities.
- Improving the scope for agriculture by investing in rural infrastructure , irrigation etc.

8. Rajasthan

Migration takes place to Maharashtra, Gujarat, Delhi , West Bengal, Karnataka & Southern States. They mostly undertake job of daily wage labourers working on construction & infrastructure projects. Many start their own enterprise , start working in catering / sweet mart industry , steel industry , carpentry etc.

Introduction

The outbreak of Covid-19 and the subsequent lock-down brought the world to a halt. The most affected by the lock-down were the already marginalized migrant labourers. As the means of earning were cut off, a grim situation had surfaced for the labourers. This report aims to summarize assistance given to migrant labourers by Non Governmental organizations (NGO'S) during Covid-19 and their suggestion for the future. This report is a summary of reports received across the country.

1. Kaneri Math

Relief Work

During this Corona Pandemic the kits prepared by the monastery for distribution of rations were the most appreciated in the area. The math made such kits with all the necessities in mind and delivered the same all needy persons after observing all norms as prescribed by State / Central Government. The Math provided help to all migrant workers from various states across the country.

Suggestions For The Future

Swami Shri Kadsiddheshwar Maharaj said that poverty and lack of employment opportunities leads to economic migration. Therefore, it is important to create employment opportunities in the villages and make the migrants employable.

2. The BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha

Relief Work

BAPS engaged its 25,000+ volunteers and served more than 10,00,000 hot meals, delivered 9 million+ food/care packages and supported 25,000+ families, world-wide, through rent or accommodation support

BAPS centres in India, UK, Europe, USA, Canada, UAE, Africa, NZ and Australia not only made sizeable donations to respective government relief funds but worked closely with local bodies and governments to aid people world-wide by providing thousands of PPE kits, fresh fruits and vegetable packets, food grains. In Gujarat, BAPS worked closely with the State Administration for registrations, co ordination , logistical support to migrant workers. In Maharashtra, BAPS worked closely with local district administration.

Suggestions For The Future

- Centralized Information System : The key in any crisis is information collection and timely dissipation
- Effective PPP ie. Public private partnership
- Centralized decision making and Decentralized implementation

3. Seva Bharati

Seva Bharati was at the front-line during the pandemic to serve the society and the nation. During the lock-down, 5.07 lakh volunteers distributed over 4.66 crore food packets and helped over 44.86 lakh migrant labourers – (says Parag Abhyankar from the RSS's Seva Vibhag.)

In Maharashtra, more than 26,000 volunteers were volunteering at 6,277 locations. These volunteers distributed ,over 10 lakh ration kits, over 87 lakh meals and over 5 lakh masks and sanitisers provided. They provided assistance to over 1 lakh nomadic families. More than 24,000 people donated blood at camps. (Data received from news articles dated 10th August)

Moreover, Seva Bharati is also engaged in relief work such as blood donation camps, plasma donation co-ordination, providing logistical support for administrative relief work.

The organisation provided shelter homes to migrants travelling & walking back to their native place. In Maharashtra, the volunteers provide food for truck drivers as restaurants and other eateries were closed.

4. Bharat Utthan

Migration and Indian agriculture are inseparable. People engaged in Agricultural Activities in India are always try to migrate to non-agricultural activities migration takes place from loss making or less profit making to prosperous areas where migrants would make higher wage.

Suggestions For The Future

- Agricultural Reforms
- Reforms In The Rural Areas
- Change In Trade Policy
- Land Reforms

5. Bharatiya Mazdoor Singh

Suggestions For The Future

- The focus of India should be in this period is to at least finding a stable domestic ground from where it could reach to world again. And this stable ground is not possible without the robust economic order where both formal and informal sectors are to be dealt on their personal grounds.
- To make informal workers capable of dealing with crisis situation, it is high time to materialize the social security schemes actively. The Shram Yogi Man Dhan Yojna which aims to protect the informal sector workers (unorganized mainly) whose income is less than 15,000 per month.
- revival of handicrafts, artisans, and the indigenous self sufficient order of village which was a dream of Mahatma Gandhi.

6. Mahadalit Parisangh

Relief Work

'Mahadalit Parisangh' provided logistical support & food packets to the needy people during the lock-down mainly migrant labourers, garbage pickers, roadside slum dwellers, Adivasis, Musahars, Kanjars, Dhom, Dhrikars, Hadi, Chasa, Bhils , Kanjars, Banjaras, Leprosy patients etc. More than 500 volunteers of Mahadalit Parisangh were active in more than 80 cities, towns, towns, villages in 37 districts of 11 states of India.

The volunteers assisted thousands of migrant labourers, beggars, leprosy patients, saints, rickshaw pullers, daily wage labourers lock-down. The organisation donated lunch packets, food & other essentials to the trapped people and distributing food grains among the poor and migrant labourers.

Suggestions For The Future

- The State Govt should focus on skill development at the local level.
- There should be enhanced communication between Banks for providing loans/financial help to locals (sons of the soil).
- To improve the pay scale and financial condition of rag pickers & other safai karmacharis.



It was a little shocking to read BSP chief Mayawati's tweet when the nation was undergoing a painful experience of massive migration in May this year. While all non-BJP parties were blaming the Modi government, Mayawati chose to have some different view. On May 23, she tweeted, "The Congress is the real culprit in the plight of crores of migrant workers in the entire country due to the coronavirus lock-down. Had it provided enough employment opportunities; no worker would have left his home state. There would have been no exodus today".

Mayawati, of course, continued to criticize the ruling BJP but her statement on Congress was neglected as political parties preferred to have some different focus. All political parties – from Shiv Sena- AAP to Communist-Congress – targeted the Modi government for announcing lock-down with a short notice and causing plight to the labourer, who had moved from their native places to urban centers for jobs.

Migration during COVID pandemic was an excruciating experience for the nation. It reminded us of partition even though the reason was altogether different. Government had then estimated the involvement of seven crore people during the process of migration. Migration left such a deep impact that the Supreme Court had taken suo-moto cognizance of it, considered as a rare incident.

During this critical period, political parties were unanimous on certain points. Cash assistance or compensation to the migrants, shelter, transport arrangements, food and health care were the common suggestions made by all the political parties.

The role of state governments was not adequately discussed by the political parties. Health and law and order were two primary topics involved during the critical period. Under the constitution, health is a concurrent topic while law and order is a state listed subject, leaving rather little scope for the union government. With the Disaster Management Act in force, its actual implementation was vested in local authorities in the federal structure.

The union government's role was mainly restricted as a coordinator. It issued guidelines wherever necessary and issued rules, wherever possible. This reality was accepted by Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan. Kerala is the only state in the country, having Communist chief minister. In an interview to Al Jazeera on May 22, Vijayan said that lock-down is not a magic wand and it was the responsibility of the state government to take care of the guest workers. Vijayan maintained that the Kerala government had helped three lakh guest workers by providing them shelter, food, health care and transport arrangements.

The Polit Bureau of Communist Party of India (Marxist), on May 22, issued a statement on migrant labourers. CPI (M) criticized the union government for not taking any financial responsibility to assist migrant labourers and merely issuing instructions to the state government. Stating that migrants are forced to pay for tickets and food, CPIM (M) statement said that state governments were not given any financial help from the central government to assist the migrants. The party held the union government responsible for the problems being faced by the labourer, as lockdown was announced with short notice of four hours.

Congress, adopted the same line to criticize the union government but went a step ahead by announcing direct financial assistance to the migrants.

The Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi, on May 4, announced that party's state units will bear the cost of rail travel of needy migrant workers and labourers stranded at their workplaces. Sonia Gandhi described the party decision as 'a humble contribution' in standing shoulder to shoulder with these workers, who are the backbone of the country's economy. Sonia Gandhi also accused the central government and the Ministry of Railways of completely ignoring the demands made by the Congress for ensuring the safe and free travel of migrant workers and labourers to their homes.

Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha and West Bengal were the most affected states as they saw massive exodus in the month of May. UP had two major political parties - Samajwadi Party and BSP even as Congress is struggling for its existence in the state. While Mayawati criticized Congress and BJP, Samajwadi Party targeted BJP.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, on May 31, hit out at Yogi Adityanath government saying that the state government had failed to arrange transport even if it had a fleet of 70,000 buses. Akhilesh said in a press statement said that coronavirus was spreading and the economy was destroyed while migrants were not given any assistance.

Opponents of Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar, criticized him for not arranging transport to the migrants, who wanted to come to Bihar. RJD founder Lalu Prasad Yadav slammed Nitish Kumar on this front, saying that Bihar government had not made transport arrangements like Uttar Pradesh. Kumar's one-time colleague and election strategist Prasant Kishor felt that Bihar chief minister had not even raised the issue during his meetings with the central government.

In Maharashtra, Shiv Sena, which is a ruling party, pushed its theory. Sena mouthpiece Samana said in an editorial that the central government should take the situation as an opportunity to develop cities in UP

Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha and West Bengal on the lines of Mumbai and Pune so that Mumbai could be decongested.

AIDMK leader and Tamil Nadu chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami, on May 6, announced formation of ten teams, each headed by an IAS officer, to ensure smooth travel of the migrants. Palaniswami announced the launching of a portal, where labourers, who wanted to go back to their native places, could register. Tamil Nadu government also set a deadline of a week to complete transport of the migrants. Government organized seven lakh food packets and water bottles to the migrants. Tamil Nadu underlined the role of state government with the help of central government.

While the Modi government was being attacked by the other political parties, the central government came out with a series of solutions, which were announced in various phases. BJP was equally aggressive to counter the allegations made by the others.

In a week after announcement of lock-down, the Modi government declared food security scheme, which benefited to around 80 crore people, more than half of the population. It was described as the world's largest scheme during the period of pandemic.

On May 14, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a scheme for free food grain supply to all migrants for next two months. Under the scheme, migrants were to be given five kg wheat or rice per individual, one kg of pulse, one kg of gram (chana) even if a migrant worker does not have a BPL card. The scheme was further expanded by announcing one nation - one ration card,

Under this scheme, citizens having ration cards of any address in the country, were entitled to get food grains, anywhere in the country. The government further announced expansion of MANREGA to ensure migrants get earning at the place, where they had shifted.

The union government had asked all the state governments to collect food grains in advance from the center and ensure their distribution. Food and civil supply minister Ram Vilas Paswan had said then that around 650 migrants would be benefited because of the scheme. The government had then estimated the number of migrants to eight crores. Paswan announced that the nation had enough stocks of food grains even if the number exceeded eight crores.

Men and women, with children, walking down with luggage, without chappals and with funereal faces had moved the nation. With uncertain future and risk for their life, their plight had become more horrendous. However, it was encouraging to see that thousands of citizens and organizations worked selflessly, with the risks to their lives, to provide some relief to the countrymen.

Odisha chief minister Navin Patnaik had some different ideas in mind. Instead of any criticism, Patnaik made an emotional appeal to the people. He said, "Many Odia brothers and sisters will return to Odisha from the most corona-affected states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Rajasthan and our neighbouring West Bengal. They are our household members. During times of crisis, mother and motherland come first to our minds. They all are our children. Our brothers and sisters; taking care of them is our duty."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi appreciated the sufferings and hardships of the migrants. Modi, in a letter to the nation, written on the occasion of competition in the first year of his second tenure said

said, "In a crisis of this magnitude, it can certainly not be claimed that no one suffered any inconvenience or discomfort. Our labourer, migrant workers, artisans and craftsmen in small scale industries, hawkers and such fellow countrymen have undergone tremendous suffering."

Modi further observes, "However, we have to take care to ensure that inconveniences that we are facing do not turn into disasters." Modi said he was aware that a lot needed to be done. "There are many challenges and problems that our country faces. I am working day and night. There could be deficiencies in me but there is nothing that our country lacks. So, I believe in you, your strength and your abilities even more than I believe in myself," he said, reiterating his mantra of self-reliant India. To conclude, PM Modi's statement emphasizes his strong resolve to overcome the crisis effectively.

“ Due to the global pandemic this is certainly a time of crisis but for us Indians this is also a time for a firm resolve. We must always remember that the present and future of 130 crore will never be dictated by adversity.

- PM Modi

”



POLICIES & RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

Covid pandemic and the lock down announced by the government brought to focus inadvertently an important aspect of labour force in India that is migrant labour. Suddenly finding themselves out of the job their travels in trying to make their way back home are chronicled in detail and may not require a repetition. The issue has brought to focus lack of social security, uncertainty of employment, issues of living conditions associated with migrant labour. Social service organisations like Sevabharathi and RSS Played a pivotal role in assisting the migrant labour to reach their native places once government made arrangements of public transport like the shramic trains.

Samajika samarasta Vedika got some studies done on the migrant labour in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Orissa, uttara khand, Bihar and Karnataka. Based on the above reports and experiences gained during the reverse migration of the labour Covid lock-down times this paper attempts to examine how best to make migrant labour an engine of growth while taking care of their basic needs and social security concerns.

Labours And Their Vulnerability

Karnatak and Gujarat studies took a sample data of the migrant labour. Some of the striking features that are coming out of these studies are most of the migrant labour are in the age group of 25 -55. They are not illiterate but also not well qualified. Most of them discontinued their secondary studies or just completed higher secondary studies. Most of them are able to earn anywhere between 15000-25000. Another important aspect coming out of this sample survey is that most of them are addicted to some form of a intoxicant gutka or alcohol. In a dry state like Gujarat where the sample was done it is not known how alcohol was available.

Bulk of the migrant workers are working in informal sector, construction, and other construction related activities. Most of the migration is from the East to the west and to the south. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Bengal, Chattisgarh are the sources of migrant labour whereas Maharashtra, Gujarat, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamilnadu the destinations. There is also intra state migration from the Less endowed regions to better endowed regions. The study of Karnataka points out how lack of irrigation and drought force people from Northern Karnataka to migrate to places like Mumbai and Bangalore. Similar is the case for migration from rayalaseema in Andhra Pradesh due to prevailing drought conditions. None of these studies have brought out migrant labour working in organised manufacturing sector. Most of them are confined to informal sectors and construction activities.

All the studies brought out that the social security net is very weak leaving the migrant workers vulnerable especially where they are engaged as casual workers on a temporary basis. Gujarat study points out existence of social security net for most of the migrant workers in terms of EPF and ESI but that may be a state specific information from which we may not be able to generalize.

One of the biggest constraints in dealing with the migrant labour issue is the lack of authentic data. The very number of migrant labour is not known. 2017 economic survey covers issue of migrant labour in the chapter "India on the move and churning: new evidence" where they put the number of internal migration at 6 crores. At the time of reverse migration shramic trains carried 50 lakh migrants back home and those who travelled back home by road are around 20 lakhs. This excludes others who travelled on foot and other modes of transportation.

The Sixth Pillar Of Atma Nribhar Bharat

Such a huge labour force mobile and willing to go to other parts of the country for work is an asset and governments should look at them as a pillar of strength in building Atma Nirbhar Bharat . In fact migrant labour can be the sixth pillar of Atma Nirbhar Bharat in addition to the five pillars of economy, infrastructure, technology driven system, vibrant demography and demand as mentioned by the prime minister. To build the migrant labour force as an engine of growth Government of India and state governments need to take a series of measures both long term and short term.

Separate Department For Migrant Labour

Till now there is no focus on the migrant labour as such. Even getting reliable data is a major problem. Number of 6 crores of migrant labour as estimated by the economic survey of 2017 is substantial in numbers and deserves a separate focus. This can only be achieved by having a separate department to deal with the issues of migrant labour both at the centre as well as at the state. Government should immediately work in this direction create a separate department exclusively to look after the issues of migrant labour social security net, upgradation of skills, collecting maintaining data on migrant workers and share it with industry as required.

Building Of Data On Migrant Workers

This is the first and foremost issue for the governments to focus on. This data building can start from the supply side and since most of the migration is rural to urban if each Panchayat is given the responsibility of collecting and maintaining the full record of migrant workers with a detailed questionnaire this will go a long way in addressing the issues of the migrant workers and also empowering them reskilling them and utilizing their services in nation building. Orissa study shows this is successfully attempted in the state already. Labour

bureau located at Simla can co-ordinate this activity. This will facilitate building up strong database across the country.

Extending Social Security Net Work

Immediately ensuring social security net is made available to all the migrant workers should be top priority for both Central and state governments. One nation one ration card should be implemented across the country facilitating drawing of ration as per eligibility across the country. The existing labour laws which have a bearing for the migrant workers should be thoroughly examined necessary changes made. A review needs to be made about the existing regulatory framework to oversee the implementation of these laws and regulations and strengthened where ever found wanting. A separate wing or a department exclusively to look after the migrant workers and their problems need to be created.

Skill Upgradation And Reskilling

As could be seen most of the migrant labour are working either in construction activity or informal sector. With an upgradation of the skill sets they can find better jobs with higher levels of income. Since the government is planning to increase the manufacturing activity by encouraging MSME sector and attractive greater FDI it is essential the migrant labour is properly trained to take advantage of that opportunity to earn better income. There should be a well thought out training and skill upgradation programs involving the industry which is the end user and institutions like the national skill development corporation.

Cataloging And Supervising Manpower Supply Agencies

Most of the migrant labour are placed at the disposal of the employers by middle men who act as

manpower supply contractors. This area is totally unregulated and prone to exploitation of the migrant labour. Necessary legal framework should be put in place with a regulatory system to monitor and supervise the work of man power supplying agencies.

Development Of Underdeveloped Areas .

As observed most of the migration is from underdeveloped drought prone regions of the country. Even otherwise better off states like Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh there is a regular migration from drought affected North Karnataka and Rayalaseema to the more developed areas with greater economic activity. Focused development plan to these areas in terms of better irrigation facilities will ensure greater work for the labour in their native area this to some extent reducing the need for migration and reducing the strain on the urban services. In a multi-ethnic diverse country like ours large-scale migrations can lead to social tensions and conflicts of interest if the locals start perceiving migrants as a threat to their livelihood. This also needs to be kept in mind while devising the policies. A greater focus on industrialization of Uttar Pradesh Bihar Chhattisgarh and Bengal can go a long way in providing local employment discouraging migration. This would be much better model of development leading to a balanced regional growth.

Addressing The Issues Of Addiction In The Migrant Labour

Gujarat study has shown that there is a lot of addiction among the migrant labour to different substances, gutka, tambaku , liquor . This is a general Scourge ruining the lives of labour in India and has also undesirable social repercussions in terms of domestic violence. This also needs to be addressed on priority by having counselling centres deaddiction centres to work with them.

Finance Commission To Look Into Migrant Labour Issues

The next finance commission as and when it is constituted issue of migrant labour should be part of the terms of reference of the finance commission. That would facilitate them to study the issue in depth and make it part of their recommendations. This can also include study of the areas from where the migrant labour are coming and what needs to be done to develop those areas so that migrant labour can find work in places nearer to them.



Migrant labour can be the sixth pillar of Atma Nirbhar Bharat in addition to the five pillars of economy, infrastructure, technology driven system, vibrant demography and demand as mentioned by the prime minister. To build the migrant labour force as an engine of growth Government of India and state governments need to take a series of measures both long term and short term.



Introduction

Migration is a global phenomenon and the migrants are the major 'Movers and shakers' of development throughout the world. America is the glaring example of the migrants cluster and epitome of growth and development of the modern world. America is the product of the great Atlantic migration which originated from Europe and culminated in form of USA in the year of 1840 onwards. There is a unique annual migration, which is almost largest human migration in the world where millions of Chinese workers visit their hometown on the eve of CHUNYUN or spring festival for 40 days in the month of February and March, likewise Chhath Puja and Holy festivals are the CHUNYUN festivals of Bihar and Eastern UP, in which movement and mobility is purely voluntary. The fear of Corona and Fury of Covid-19 has compelled the world to revisit the contours of migration, emigration, immigration, reverse migration and diasporic dislocation as well dispersion. This pandemic is caused Havoc and panic amongst the migrants lot staying purposefully in host States.

“ खुद की लाश अपने कन्धों पे
उठाए हैं, ऐ गाँव के बाशिंदों, हम
शहर से आए हैं ”

Now, I narrate the woes of the migrants of Bihar and Eastern UP (more Bihar than Uttar Pradesh or extended Bihar) almost first phase of undeclared lock-down started in the first week of March, when I was holding Kashiram Jayanti celebration of on 15th March 2020 in a hall in New Delhi; that was the phase when the elite people, upper middle class and Middle Class too started settling themselves in a safe, stable and comfort zone.

Keeping in view the imposition of lock-down in some powerful countries, I rushed to Patna immediately on 16th March after paying partial tributes to the departed soul of Kashiram..

The very first declaration of lock-down on 24th March was the biggest jolt for the migrants because trains and another mode of conveyance were suspended without any grace period. In my opinion there should have been given at least 72 hours for the movement of people.. First lock-down period gave a fear, the second lock-down made people panicky. The mass media and social media highlighted the issues of migrant labour some sensibly and unreasonably too. With the passage of time and lock-down agonies, the circumstances become worse to worst. Almost all newspapers and visual media did not leave any stone unturned to display the vagaries of internally displaced and dispersed people including female, child ailing on foot, on cycle, on rickshaw, or on another non-conventional mode of commuting.

Recommendations

Here are my suggestion and observations to deal and get engaged with this issue of migration, migrants, workplace and nature of work.

- The full landscape of such migratory upheavals and its trajectory should be mapped out and be analyzed scientifically, technologically and humanly as well.
- The destination and originating point should be identified as host centres and home centres where their profile and Database should be prepared very much in exhaustively.
- There should be a relevant and effective inter-state migration legislation, which may cater to the challenges emanating from globalised new order out of liberalized economy procedure. Its nodal departments should be Ministry of Home Affairs.

- Every state should form an independent body to track and trace their human resource power and their capacity must be reviewed periodically.
 - Social security board be formed immediately which is already overdue since last 8 years.
 - Every state should have an Academy \ Research Centre to study the people power and HR power operating in formal, informal, non-formal or self-employment sector.
 - V. V Giri National labour institute Noida should be given the status of deemed to be university with the mandate of working on labour, employment and work and its network must be made region wise and state wise.
 - The state sector and PSU's have played very much pivotal role in the handling of the pains and problems of this working population so centre and state must try to safeguard such institutes, Institutions undertaking Enterprises, Foundation, Academy, Board and Council. it has been formed prominently that the private hospitals and private employers have disowned and made the distance from their own employees, staff and associates.
 - As per rough estimate, almost 50 lakhs non-residents Bihari (NRB) had arrived in this state, all of them are unorganized sector workers, hawkers, street vendors, Security guards, Construction workers, Carpenters, Rickshaw Pullers etc., The district Administration is engaged with them to map in their potential, skill and their aspiration, which is not being done in full niceties. Therefore, I suggest here that for such activities the Civil Society organizations a contribution should be mobilized the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) and urban local body (ULB) be made empowered and responsible for the enumeration and registration of their migrant population.
 - Migration study Centre should be opened in Patna and another in Samastipur with the help of government or any other social organization support or corporate push.
 - The Dare-devil and brave migrants should be felicitated at all district level especially foot Soldiers, Cyclist, Rickshaw pullers, Auto riders (three-wheeler) etc.,.
 - Rural industrialization should be promoted and appropriate technology be encouraged to get needs of local folk on the line Swadeshi, Gandhi, Vinoba and Deendayal ethos.
 - Bihar is India's largest highest domestic remittance-receiving economy. Reverse Migration of workers, the stories of their plight and dip in remittances will be sharply felt.
 - Present Government's "Sushasan Babu" halo has lost prominence but Central Government's support to Bihar is praiseworthy. The which are enumerated below :
 - 30 lakhs migrant people have been given a direct cash transfer of 210 crore.
 - All ration cardholders have been given free grains to the tune of 1141 crores.
 - Pension Fund has been given 1070 crores.
 - Stranded labourers have been given 203 crores.
 - Block Quarantine Centres have been given 777 crores.
 - Test assistance 700 crores.
 - For soaps and mask assistance a budget to the tune of 160 crores has been given.
- Almost 10,000 crore have been given by the Central Government to Bihar State to handle this difficult situation.

Conclusion

Therefore, state, society and individual at large have extended their best possible support to the migrant labour. Even the host States have rendered their all out support to handle this monstrous issue but all these had little impact on the woes of wanderers, who were rampant and adamant to rush to their home States. Let me be very much thankful to the supporting individual and Agencies for their best possible support, but I, here, suggest that the home states of migrant labour should be alert enough to resolve the issue and address the grievances at its own.

In case of Bihar it must have its own labour bureau for collecting, compiling and analyzing the data related to this floating population of working people. Bihar must have a research agency to forecast and predict the situations and circumstances in such exigencies. The department of labour resource of Bihar government must be strengthened and empowered. Bihar should study all the recent pronouncements of High Courts and Supreme Court in the interest of worker and migrant labour.



Introduction

Covid-19 has caused a major havoc in the economic sector, globally. The crisis induced by Covid-19 could be deep and long-lasting if viewed through the lens of migration. Intermittent and prolonged lock-downs, travel bans and social distancing have ruptured the economy of the nation by bringing core economic activities to a standstill. Countries that depend heavily on migrant workers in different sectors, such as health, transportation, agriculture, are facing additional challenges. To add to their woes, Covid-19 has brought along with itself limited employment opportunities, impending fear of unknown future and financial crisis for the migrants. Reverse migration of thousands of labourers has been tough on both the nation and the migrants. The extent of this sudden reverse migration was such that, even the best of the efforts of the Government of India, could not match the crisis.

Dignity Of Individual - Then and Now

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, in his last speech in the Constituent Assembly on 25 November 1949, said :

'On the 26th of January 1950, 'we are going to enter into a life of contradictions. In politics we will have equality and in social and economic life we will have inequality. In politics we will be recognising the principle of one man one vote and one vote one value. In our social and economic life, we shall, by reason of our social and economic structure, continue to deny the principle of one man one value. How long shall we continue to live this life of contradictions? How long shall we continue to deny equality in our social and economic life? If we continue to deny it for long, we will do so only by putting our political democracy in peril. We must remove this contradiction at the earliest possible moment or else those who suffer from inequality will blow up the structure of political democracy which is Assembly has to laboriously built up'.

Dr Ambedkar clearly was of the opinion that modern democracy is not so much to put a curb on power of the state as to bring about the welfare of the people. The soul of democracy lies in the doctrine of 'One Person One Value'. However, even after 72 years of Independence, we have not been able to realise the principle of 'one person, one value'. Covid-19 has exposed the profound inequalities inherent in our society. Undoubtedly, all sections of the society have been affected by this pandemic. But it is a temporary crisis for the middle class since they have health insurance, work from home facility, 'essential service providers' serving the needs of this middle class at the cost of their health among other privileges. Those who would be facing the brunt of this pandemic are the menial workers; migrant labourers, daily wage earners, women labourers, sanitation workers etc).

The hapless condition of the migrant workers who have been walking endlessly or cycling for days to reach their destination reflects a grim reality of globalisation. They are being pushed to the brink of survival. Article 21 of the Indian Constitution which talks about Right to life and personal liberty is highly compromised during this current pandemic. The unequal treatment meted out to migrant workers and people coming from abroad had clearly shown the grave violation of the core value of our Constitution i.e 'Dignity of the individual'. In other words, the 'invisible' (migrant workers) have become visible during the current pandemic. It is not that 'we the people of India' were never aware of the fact that problem existed. We know life in the cities could never be imagined without these migrant workers. They are the 'essential service providers' but the sad fact is market values override ethics in this globalised world. The problem lies in the structure of our economic system itself. The current phase of liberalisation in India has led to 'Crony Capitalism' and the cost of these measures befall the powerless and the marginalised sections of our society.

This is quite evident from the fact that in India, richest 1 % possess 76% of the total wealth in the country and remaining 99% .This is nothing but a new form of 'modern colonialism' with an appeal to shift from the rule of nation-states to the global corporations

Migration - Push and Pull Factors

One can trace the beginning of migration of labour to the British colonial rule. The worker were taken from rural to urban areas in order to meet the requirements of Britishers or to say capitalist model of development. Migrants workers were made to work in building infrastructure, roads, mining sector, factories, plantation etc. With the increasing number of towns and cities, people started migrating voluntarily too. Factors responsible for this were both Push and Pull factors. Some of the push factors includes landlessness, low productivity of agriculture, unemployment, drought, discrimination, low wages, flood, etc and pull factors involves better job opportunities, education and health facilities etc.

According to 2011 Census, there are 5.6 crore inter state migrants in India. However, this does not capture the seasonal migration of people or people who migrate on a temporary basis. Mostly people migrate to Northern states like Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Punjab etc. 90% of the migrant workers are employed in the informal or unorganised sector, a large number of them work on daily wages also. They work in sectors like construction, hotel industry, domestic helps, transport , rickshaw pullers etc. This phenomenon has accelerated since the onset of globalisation. Globalisation as a phenomenon introduced competition among the producers, who inturn try to maximise their profit by employing workers at a meagre wage. In a way, with the opening up of private sector, informalisation of labour has taken place. 93% of the labour force in the informal sector suffered vulnerability in many forms. Working conditions are mostly dirty, unhygienic, dangerous .

Working hours are long, no rest periods, lack of basic sanitation and creche facilities, lower wage rates , job insecurity, no social security measures like health facilities, maternity relief , insurance etc. Women migrants are more vulnerable to sexual violence and are made to work on lower wages as compare to men.

The announcement of lock-down has exposed the vulnerabilities migrant workers suffer. The whole country witnessed the precarious situation of migrant workers who, with no assurances from both state and central governments, started going back to their homes. We , as a society, collectively failed these sections of Indians who in fact are the driving forces of our today's economy.

The government has announced several measures for the migrants like Shramic trains, providing free food grains till November, Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyan aimed at providing need-based employment to people who returned back to villages from cities. Developing Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHC) for urban migrants is a welcome step by the government during the pandemic.

However, these piecemeal measures may help in short term but long term measures need to be adopted in order to empower our migrant workers, keeping in mind the pace of globalisation in the 21st century.

Policy Response

The reforms in the labour sector is the need of the hour. One, China is losing its advantage of being a manufacturing hub since a lot of international companies across the world are pulling out their base/factories from China . Secondly, the success of 'Self-reliant India' would very much depend upon how India is going to attract foreign investors to establish their manufacturing base in India. To do this, Labour reforms are essential .As opposed to concentration of powers in the hands of employers, government must bring a National policy on migration outlining all the minimum obligations of employers , grievance redress mechanisms etc. Skill deficit is another major obstacle in labour market. This poses a problem for both international investors and domestic players as well to invest in MSMEs.

- The major challenge government face to bring a policy on migrants is availability of accurate data on migrant population. First and foremost, sincere efforts must be undertaken to initiate documentation of migrant workers with the help of local level institutions and civil society organisations.
- Occupational Safety, Health and Working conditions Code 2019, which was introduced in the Parliament in July 2019 must be adopted immediately. It subsumes all the existing labour laws and promises more protection of labour rights. But the problem is more of implementation.
- Some kind of Migrant Redressal mechanism like Migrant Assistance Centres could be set up in cities and metros which may redress the violations of any policy or directives given by state and central government.
- In this digital age, the government could also think of something like Smart Card for migrant workers. After identifying the list of migrant workers, government may assign a unique identity like that of Aadhar. This unique identity may help workers

to accrue the benefits of social securities, pension and other advantages. Universalization of PDS, Universalization of social security measures must be ensured for the protection of migrant workers. Skill up-gradation programmes/training must be provided to migrants from time to time.

India, being a founding member of ILO (International Labour Organisation) , must promote the international labour standards signed at different points of time at ILO. Policy makers must make a concerted attempt to bring a National Policy on Migration which would ensure protection , well-being and prosperity of the labour force in the country.



Labours - Groping In The Dark

As nations across continents continue to battle the Covid-19 pandemic, photographs of migrant labourers walking long distances and their heart-wrenching tales of sufferings and hardships during the initial phase of the sudden lock-down in India presented a disturbing scenario.

The lock-down was enforced to check the spread of the outbreak of the highly infectious viral strain.

With the pandemic dealing a severe blow to the economy and various formal and informal sectors where the migrant labourers were employed, they yearned for safe environs of their homes in their villages in different parts of the country, and in absence of viable modes of transport, had to undertake long and arduous journeys.

Inter State migrant labourers in the present-day scenario have formed the backbone of formal and informal sectors of the economy- be it construction sites, textile units, dairies, brick-kilns or agriculture fields.

History Of Migrant Labour

Workforce of migrant labour has existed in ancient, medieval and modern India. Each historical phase has had its own pattern of migration, depending on its dominant socio-economic system.

At the beginning of human civilization, man was a hunter and made efforts to gather food, often wandering in search of food. This was probably the oldest form of migration - 'primitive migration'.

The pastoral tribe migrated from one place to another place. In those days, migration was often preceded by invasions and the phase also saw

various pastoral tribes trying to settle down as agriculturists. This was known as 'tribal migration' because tribes as a whole, and not a few individuals or families, migrated. Thus, tribal migration played an important role in the history of India.

During the British colonial rule in the 19th century, British India witnessed a formidably growing unemployment among the landless poor masses with the steady decline of traditional economy along with rapid growth of population. It was these destitute masses who migrated from India to overseas British colonies as indentured labour. Available data shows that during 1870, more than half a million labourers- men, women and children, picked from various parts of India, were 'exported' to British colonies.

As industrialization began, it brought yet another type of migration. In the 20th century, a new type of mass migration came up, in which the dominant pattern was- from rural to urban areas.

In the early years of industrialization, workers came from villages; they retained contact with the villages and returned to their native places from time to time. They were mostly agricultural workers who came to towns and cities when they had no work in the villages, but returned during the sowing or the harvest seasons. They could also be village-artisans who went to the towns to improve their conditions when they could no longer live on the meager earnings from their crafts, which had suffered under competition from factory-production in the modern industry, but cherished the freedom of their craft-based livelihood and returned to the joys of simple life in the villages.

Migrant labour is thus, essentially, temporary or seasonal in character. They never become residents of the place where they work. The term 'migrant labour' is also associated with the concepts of contract labour and bonded labour.

In the past, large numbers of Indian workers migrated to Ceylon, South Africa, West Indies or the East India under various types of indenture-meaning contract. Their wages were low, their working conditions were difficult, unhealthy or dangerous, and their living conditions far worse. Even now larger numbers of Indian workers have been migrating to the Gulf countries under similar conditions.

Internal Migration

Within the country itself, workers migrate from one state to another, from district to district, or from place to place in search of work and livelihood.

The labourers employed in the tea-plantations of Assam are traditionally migrant labour from Bihar or Odisha.

Migrant labourers worked under constraints such as the casual nature of employment, ignorance and illiteracy, the scattered nature of establishments, and superior strength of the employers, all operating singly or in combination. The early legislative measures were protective of the employers rather than of their workers.

The Minimum Wages Act was the first attempt at statutory regulation of wages, and to some extent, working conditions of workers in labour-intensive industries.

Migrant labourers in India, constituting a large part of the country's un-organized workers, face immense obstacles like lack of information, critical skills and bargaining powers that ultimately lead them to an exploitative web of informal arrangements comprising of low pay, unhygienic standards of work, unequal pay for women, and lack of social security. In a way India failed in providing socio-economic protection to its migrant labourers.

The rapid spread of Covid-19 and its impact on the economy have laid bare India's crumbling structures with regard to protection and lack of policy-consideration towards migrant labourers.

It is the responsibility of states towards internal migrants who help sustain their economies and of the Centre. Migrant labour force needs to protection from the effects of the government's sudden, large-scale decisions on the lives and livelihood of millions. Odisha, West Bengal and Bihar contribute to a large share of migrant workers and have taken measures to protect migrants in their destination states. Odisha's model of intervention, involving departments of Labour, Education, Women and Child and Panchayati Raj, is said to be quite effective.

Migrant labourers have a desire for a better life or leave their places for fear of persecution. This is true globally as well. In India, general movement is from North and East to West and South – from Bihar, U.P, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Odisha towards Gujarat, Delhi, Maharashtra, Haryana, Punjab, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

India's Migrant Labour Numbers

As per the Census of 2011, India's total population was 1.21 billion and internal migrants in the country formed 37 per cent of the population or came to around 454 million. From 2001 to 2011 there was 31.8 per cent growth in urbanization and the internal migrants grew from 220 million in 1991 to 454 million in 2011. Their number is likely to go up to 550 million in 2021.

According to Economic Survey of 2017 an average of nine million people migrated between states every year for education or work.

Labour falls under the Concurrent list in the Constitution of India, 1950. Thus, both the Central and State Government can make laws relating to migrant workers.

This situation has led to a number of Central and State laws without a well-strategized and uniform policy with a minimum basic level of protection for migrant workers that are strictly and uniformly enforced across the nation.

A lot of migrant workers get absorbed in the informal sector that provides production and sale of goods and services generally on a smaller scale. The outbreak of pandemic has provided a pretext to dilute the already weakened labour laws in the country by various State Governments.

Law Governing Inter-State Migrants

Most of the people are unaware of a key legislation for migrant workers, known as the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979. It was dead letter before the outbreak of COVID -2019, none of the government has taken any steps to implement the provision of the act and it was utter failure on the part of central government as well as state governments that, no government has taken cognizance of the provision of law despite of the fact that 42% of the population migrate for employment.

This legislation governing inter-state migrants in India was enacted to prevent the exploitation of inter-state migrant workmen by contractors, and to ensure fair and decent conditions of employment. The law requires all establishments hiring inter-state migrants to be registered, and contractors who recruit such workmen be licensed. Contractors are obligated to provide details of all workmen to the relevant authority. Migrant workmen are entitled to wages similar to other workmen, displacement allowance, journey allowance, and payment of wages during the period of journey. Contractors are also required to ensure regular payment, non-discrimination, provisioning of suitable accommodation, free medical facilities and protective clothing for the workmen.

It not only requires equal pay for inter-state workmen, but also requires other social protection that would make their employment significantly more expensive than intra-state workmen. This includes the payments of different allowances, and requirements that contractors provide accommodation and healthcare for such workmen.

Compliance with these requirements is not only onerous, it makes the cost of hiring inter-state workmen higher than hiring similar labour from within the state.

This will require a principled distinction between formalization and ostensible social-welfare. While the former seeks to make people or activities visible or "legible", the latter goes a step further. Social-welfare protections are predicated upon formalization, but non-compliance with onerous social welfare requirements can instead inhibit formalization. This is not merely because of high compliance costs, but also because the state can barely keep up with the task of ensuring compliance with such requirements, made worse given the disincentives to comply.

The Covid 19 pandemic has forced the national and international state agencies to re-look or formulate a new law in tune with the changing scenario.

Added to this, is the negligence by the Government in terms of lack of supervision and no strict penal law for non-compliance of the legislation. All of this results in the present condition of distress of migrant labourers.

There are numerous acts dealing with cause of labours but successive Governments have failed to implement the provisions of law in true letter and spirit. In 1923, The Workman Compensation Act was enacted to provide payment of compensation to workman or their dependent in case of personal injury caused by accident or certain occupational diseases arising out of and in the course of employment and resulting in disablement or death; In 1948, The Minimum Wages Act was enacted to for fixing minimum rates of wages for certain employments by both the Central Government and State Government besides other provisions; likewise The Plantation Labour Act, The Factories Act 1948, Employee's State Insurance Act 1948, Maternity Benefit Act 1961, The Contract Labour(Regulation and Abolition) Act 1970, The Equal Remuneration Act 1976, The Child Labour (Protection and Regulation)

Act 1986, The Bonded Labour Act (Abolition) 1976 are in force but the situation remained grim. These acts have created too many remedial forums but effectively nothing is happening in ground. Moreover, in contravention of the provisions of act, the penal provision are inadequate AND ineffective.

The constitutional scheme for inter- state migrant workers could be understood by reading Article 217 with list I, under the seventh schedule; clearly mentions at item no. 81 titled "inter - state migration and inter- state quarantine; empowers union government alone to deal with in general whereas list II is silent on the inter- state migrant labours but this does not absolve state to make welfare statue for migrant labours as they are both recipient of such labour and exporters as well. Through the concurrent list state are empowered to make effective laws the welfare of migrant workers. Item 22, 23 and 24 in the List III- Concurrent List deals with issues related to the trade unions, industrial and labour disputes, social security and social insurance, employment and unemployment, welfare of labour including conditions of work, provident fund, employers' liability, workmen's compensation , invalidity and old aged pensions and maternity benefits etc.

The insensitive attitude of the Government could be reflected from the fact that the government could not provide any information to the Delhi High Court in a recent petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, seeking implementation of the Inter-State Migrant Workers Act, 1979. In Shashank S Mangal vs Government of NCT of Delhi case, the Delhi High Court observed that the Union Government and the Delhi Government could not provide the details asked the court. Now the Union Government has proposed to create National Database for Unorganised Workers (NDUW) for maintaining data of migrant labours.

The features of the NDUW as per the `Concept Note' submitted before the Court are as follows :

- Creation of National Database for unorganized Workers seeded with Aadhaar.
- Integration of PM-SYM, NPS Traders Pensions Schemes and other schemes being implemented by the Central Govt. for unorganized workers.
- Sharing of information with various stakeholders through APIs.
- Mobile App for registration (Shramik Setu App)
- Access of pension account by beneficiaries through login and password.
- Exit Module of the schemes
- Grievances Module
- Call Centres (integrated with Grievances Module)
- Feedback for the users (Public and Registered) on the Portal
- Any other functions as decided by the Ministry

The Court observed that creation of a portal with the above features would bring all unorganized and migrant labour under a single umbrella so that benefits meant for them can suitably be provided. The Court noted that insofar as the provisions of the Migrant Workers Act are concerned, since the same envisages recruitment of workers through contractors and the said Act would have no application otherwise the same requires a re-look. The Government of India shall consider if any provisions of the said Act should be amended for the welfare of unorganized workers who are not engaged by a contractor, the Court said. Since the creation of a database is presently being supervised by the Supreme Court, the Court disposed of the petition.

A look at the track record of states reveals that rather than gearing towards protection of migrant labourers

many have taken the path of diluting labour laws like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh. Dilution of laws pushes us far away from formalization. Does India hold responsibility to fulfil its obligation towards the standards set by the core conventions of International Labour Organization (ILO) that India has ratified? These are crucial questions that need to be looked into.

According to a report by UNESCO and UNICEF in 2013 which referred to social inclusion of internal migrants in India, "It is clear that there is an urgent need to develop a governance system for internal migration in India, i.e. a dedicated system of institutions, legal frameworks, mechanisms and practices aimed at supporting internal migration and protecting migrants."

Further, social protection architecture should be developed that allows for portability of services like PDS, health insurance, education in order to ensure easy and equal access to migrants. Migrant workers have to be integrated into the larger state level policies. India's social and political rights should wean away from the assumption that people are sedentary and migration as a phenomenon be accepted so that evolving policy framework will fully include migrant labour issues during their formulation.

However, Kerala has shown a positive, forward looking path by introducing pioneering schemes such as Kerala Migrant Workers Welfare Scheme of 2010 that offers financial support for treatment of migrants for ailments, grant for their children's education in Kerala and retirement benefits to those who complete five years under the scheme.

Kerala also introduced another health insurance scheme known as 'Awaaz' which was rolled out in 2017 with a dual objective to provide health insurance coverage to migrants, and prepare a comprehensive database of migrant labourers in the state.

The Constitution of India prohibits forced labour. Article 14 upholds the right to equality. Courts in India have ruled that equal pay for equal work is not just based on gender parity but even for casual workers and daily wage labour versus formal employees. Our Constitution envisages to provide social security for every citizen of the country under various Articles. Articles 23 and 24 provide the 'right against exploitation'. This protects individuals against private citizens as well, and not only against the State.

The ignorance of these constitutional safeguards by the courts, and silence of governmental authorities has only resulted in an attitude of indifference towards the migrant workforce.

Migrant workers are the most vulnerable population in the world. Their migration is out of necessity, and not from choice. Access to food is not the only solution and providing free ration to migrant workers does not absolve the Government from its larger responsibility. It does not ease the distress of migrant workers in the long-term scenario as their concerns for maintaining good health, hygienic living and working conditions, education for their children and the larger issue of social security remain valid and unanswered.

International Best Practices

India needs to follow minimum international labour standards as established in International Labour conventions. United Nations (UN) has highlighted the human rights crisis India is facing amid this pandemic. India can also look at the European approach of labour policies which are majorly based on inclusion. Social inclusion means social cohesion in which every member is drawn together as an active member of the society. They provide for migrant support measures to integrate them into the workforce. European Union divides its migrant population into segments like high skilled workers, inter-corporate transfers, foreign students, seasonal workforce.

India should start the process of integration of migrant labour force into its formal economic framework. There has to be a comprehensive law on the protection of migrant labour force. Instead of doling out subsidies like food grains, the government must provide safety net in the form of monthly allowance by direct benefit transfer, insurance policies at low cost, occupational safety and skill enhancement schemes. Finally, there needs to be coherence and coordination between Central and State Governments for the regulation of labour laws.

Suggestions

The COVID 2019 has exposed the inadequacy of laws dealing with the migrant workers and labours as whole. The Union Governments needs to thinks weather the office of Chief Labour Commissioner has played any role in enforcing the provisions of Inter State

State Migrant Workmen(Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 or not and if not; then why ? the office of Chief Labour Commissioner of India does not have enough teeth to enforce the provisions of act.

A nodal agency shall be created at national level to coordinate with various states and their concerned departments to monitor and regulate the subject mentioned in the seventh schedule of the constitution; the sentencing policy shall be made more deterrent to effectively deals with the contraventions of existing provisions of law and a unified and comprehensive code or statute shall be enacted to regulate and deals with the issues flagged herein. Too many acts, creates too many law enforcing agencies and too may law enforcing agencies to deal with the similar issues, brings ambiguity and uncertainty.



Introduction

Migration and Indian agriculture are not separable. People engaged in agricultural activities in India are always keen to migrate to non agricultural activities. It is well known that for past hundreds of years the migration is taking place from rural areas where Agricultural Activities are carried on to Urban areas where largely non agricultural business are thriving. It is also known that migration takes place from loss making or less profit making to prosperous areas where migrants would make higher wage.

Status of Indian Agriculture can be best stated with just four figures. If we look at population engaged in agro activities and their share of Incomes (GDP) and population engaged in other sectors, Manufacturing or Services sector and their share in GDP. See the table below:

Sectoral Distribution Of GDP %	1950	2020
Agriculture	54	16
Manufacturing	14	28
Services	32	56

Population %	1950	2019
Agriculture	84	60

India Vs Bharat

It will be clear that though incomes of the people dependent on Agriculture is lowered by more than the reduction in population dependent on Agriculture. Agriculture incomes are coming back to the levels Indian industry was in the year 1950. This can be also viewed as to transfer of incomes /monies from Agri sector to other sectors. Sharad Joshi of Shetkari Sanghatana described in 1979 the situation as India vs Bharat.

He maintained that the incomes of farmers were transferred to non-farmers through systematic policies starting with Nehru Government. Second five year plan clearly laid down principle of giving lowering food prices for consumers. Second five year plan laid down huge outlay for Public Sector Undertakings, called "commanding heights of Indian Economy. But where would capital come from? Such capital came through price controls, trade policies and exchange rate management and effectively transferring surplus generated by farmers to Industries and Services Sectors. The proposition was simplified by explaining to lakhs of farmers that though , East India Company's rule was abolished after independence in 1947 , so long as farmers staying in rural parts (described it as Bharat) are concerned ,kingdom of East India Company Still exists and they don't allow Bharat to prosper. Farmers staying in Bharat are still being exploited by Indians.

Migration witnessed by all of us during Corona Crisis has to be seen in the context of India vs Bharat. Workers travelling from Cities be it Mumbai, Delhi or even a small industrial hub near Mumbai called Bhivandi started going back to their villages in Bharat. It was a typical case of reverse migration.

Can this reverse migration is also possible by reasons other than fear caused by the pandemic? Would it be possible to have such reverse migration due to policies of the Government ? This calls for not just reversal of Neharuvian policies but structural Agricultural Reforms .

Before we go into the need for Bharat Utthan, what is current scenario ? What is the approach by the present Government towards agriculture ?

Current Reform Measures

Present government has started taking steps faced with Corona challenge and threat the development . With the projections of GDP in the negative territory for 2020, it is perceived that the only sector which would show positive growth would be Agriculture. Which are these measures?

The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion & Facilitation) Ordinance 2020

The ordinance proposes ecosystem where the farmers and traders enjoy the freedom of choice relating to sale and purchase of farmers' produce anywhere in India and would have no compulsion to sell it in the Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) formed in various states. It will promote efficient, transparent and barrier-free inter-State and intra-State trade and commerce of farmers' produce outside the physical premises of APMC's. Besides, the Ordinance will provide a facilitative framework for electronic trading.

Restrictions on Agri Traders removed

There is not a single restriction, laws, either by Centre or State to control, manage etc. for traders in Industrial, Services sector (in fact other than Agriculture). A trader of Industrial Goods or services can sell, purchase hid goods, services anywhere any time in India. However, Agriculture suffered from such draconian restrictions on traders that they could not sell, purchase from any place, any traders they wanted to. They had to buy/sell it through licensed traders of APMC's.

License, quota raj was done away with in Industrial Sector in the year 1991 and it took nearly 19 years to partially dismantle trade licenses in Agriculture sector.

Contract Farming Reforms and success story of Gujrath

Contract farming changes lives of many farmers.

Simple reason is with the assured buyer and predetermined rates of produce. Farmer can then focus on their core activity of production. Potato Farming is one such success story of Gujrath.

Production under potato cultivation in India is increasing day by day with a shift from potatoes grown for the table to potatoes used for processing purposes. Considering production across India, more and more farmers are now growing processed grade varieties mainly due to the involvement of global food players such as McCain, PepsiCo and many other domestic players. India provides the unique advantage of potatoes being grown in different seasons and different geographies, thereby making process grade potatoes available all year round.

In this background consider state-wise production statistics. District-wise Estimation of Production and Area of Fruits, Vegetables and Crops in India has revealed that Banaskantha has produced 17.10 lakh MT of potatoes, which is 9% of the total production in India. Gujarat is followed by Agra which has produced 15.84 lakh MT of potatoes. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had lauded the farmers of Deesa (City in Banaskantha) for their potato yield and their progressive agricultural practices.

The McAlloo Tikki burger, French fries, and potato wedges — among the most beloved fast food items — all contain 'grown in Gujarat' element. Potatoes for these menu toppers come from farms of Deesa of Banaskantha district. Potatoes are sourced from farmers by McCain Foods- a Canadian multi-national.

Apart from McCain, a soft drink company and a local potato chip giant have contract farming deals for potatoes in the region, which have given high returns to the farmers.

Frito-Lay, the food arm of PepsiCo, is the largest potato procurement company and India is their third-largest operation worldwide. In India, PepsiCo

is generating healthy double-digit growth. Of the overall potato procurement 50% comes from contract farming. For its potato supplies PepsiCo has worked with more than 12,000 farmers working on over 6,400 hectares across India.

The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance 2020

In this background the above ordinance proposes to provide for a national framework on farming agreements that protects and empowers farmers to engage with agri- business firms, processors, wholesalers, exporters or large retailers for Produce for at a mutually agreed remunerative price framework in a fair and transparent manner. This ordinance also provides that the companies need to take delivery of farm produce from the farmers place instead casting obligation on the farmer to travel to deliver.

Reduction in the clutches of Essential Commodities Act

Government also proposed amendment to Essential Commodities Act and has taken out of its preview many agricultural produce. Essential Commodities Act is a draconian act of Colonial era, where distribution and movement of agricultural produce was restricted so as to ease supply for export to Britishers and at the same time it had effect if lowering of prices. Same Act was continued and now purpose was to continue smooth supply to consumers and at the lower prices. The Act was classic example of anti farmer law. For its implementation it created inspector raj, to ensure only three months quantity in the godown of the trader.

Are These Measures Sufficient ?

These measures are certainly welcome. However, they were long overdue. Reverse migration i.e. from cities to villages during pandemic was not to fill up any employment opportunities in villages particularly

Agriculture but more men started working on the fields than what was necessary. Will it give more production? Certainly no. Law of Diminishing Returns applies to such employment

The law of Diminishing Returns expresses basic relationship between labour and output i.e. quantity of agri produce. As more and more input such as labour is added to a farm land the labour has less and less of other factors to work with. The farm land gets more crowded and the marginal product of labour decline and is near zero.

Disguised Unemployment

One of the distinctive features of our economy is the prevalence of what our economists are in the habit of calling 'disguised unemployment'. Too many people subsist on agriculture. Seemingly they are employed. But their employment is not wholly productive. It is not wholly productive in the sense that production does not suffer even if some of the so-called employed are migrated to cities.

There are so many labourers engaged in small plot of land that that the marginal productivity of labour is reduced to zero, although the average productivity remains positive. As a result the marginal body of labourers (reverse migrated from cities) consume, but they do not produce. They are employed physically, but not economically. Hence the unemployment is hidden.

The organizational set-up of present family based Agriculture is what makes for this. Farms consist of family holdings, and productive operations are done by the members of a family as a group. Labour is not, dissociated from capital, and workers are self-employed. There are banks and the money lenders from whom farmers are indebted till death. Sometimes landlords from whom land is taken for tilling normally with chouthai (fourth part of the produce or value goes to landlord) But they get their rent and interest at stipulated rates; they do not perform the function of an employer.

Whatever produce is derived from productive operations therefore vests in the family and is enjoyed by all the members irrespective of their specific contribution; the redundant members are not just thrown away. The share of output that goes to the redundant units of labour is of the nature of transfer income. If, of ten persons working in a farm, four are redundant, in the sense that the farm could be managed equally efficiently with six persons, then, from the economic point of view, 40 per cent of the output of the farm can be viewed as being transferred to unproductive consumers. It is as if the entire output is the contribution of six persons who just 'save' a part of this contribution and hand it over to the remaining four. Disguised unemployment has such drastic effect on the family income.

Bharat Utthan - A Way Forward

With the reverse migration increasing disguised unemployment, we have seen how it adversely impacts incomes of those previously working on the farms. This gives us opportunity to look closely solutions to the low incomes in the Agri Sector in effect, rural economy, Bharat.

Remove The Bias Of Pricing In Favour Of Consumers

At the broader level, for agri Prices, bias towards Consumers has to be removed. Presently all our policies are geared towards ensuring that consumers get lower prices for food products. Terms of trade have always been unfavourable to Agriculture Sector. Due to this bias agri sector is looked at with tainted glass. All kinds of convoluted logic is applied to defend existing agri policies. If present Government decides not to have such bias of lower prices to consumers, it will have switch to market based prices for all agri products. It is this approach to market based prices will give rise to Bharat Utthan.

Trade Policy Of Agriculture

Though Industrial Export and Import policy was framed by the Govt for last many years. There was

no trade policy of Agriculture. Perhaps, adverse terms to farmers could not be documented. After many years, this Government has come out with Export Policy of Agriculture. However, it is pretty vague and is designed to maintain status -quo. It would not largely benefit agriculturist. In fact, when draft of the export policy was published for comments of public, it contained an important clause that the Govt. is committed not to ban export of Agri commodities (except those which were not part of Food Security Act such as pulses and coarse grains). The move was welcomed and representations were made to include commodities as pulses and coarse gains. In effect, it was demanded that no agri commodity should be banned for export .To the surprise of everyone, entire clause relating to not banning of agri commodities was dropped from the final Export Policy adopted by the Government. This clearly demonstrates that wherever international prices are higher than domestic prices and if farmer wants to sell his produce in the international market, it is possible that Government can ban that commodities export, either to ensure enough supply in the domestic market or not to have higher domestic prices in future. Such clear bias against the farmers and in favour of consumers' needs to be done away with.

It is essential that a new Agriculture Export & Import policy should be in place that it will not adopt adversely impacting (to farmers) trade policy clauses.

Replace China In World Production

Entire world is suffering from the viral attack of CORONA. Till the effective medical solution in term of medicine or vaccine emerges, the only way to control seems to be isolation and social distancing. After the virus was discovered in Wuhan, China it turned out to be pandemic affecting entire world. Entire world is suffering and all are of opinion that only nation to be blamed for the suffering is China. Related statements of the world leaders, particularly USA and Germany indicates that there would be severe retaliation against China.

The format of retaliation in the modern world has changed. It is no longer a physical or cyber war. It would be always "Tariff war". Many countries would resort to import tariff which would surely restrict or reduce Chinese imports to these countries. Restricting of Chinese imports by many countries has many fall-outs. One such fallout would be favourable on Indian Agriculture.

Latest available position of India and with respect to world and particularly China is :

Crop	India Production	World	India's %	Rank	Next To
Wheat	92.29	749.01	12.32	II	China
Rice (Paddy)	163.70	756.16	21.65	II	China
Groundnut (In Shell)	7.46	44.91	16.62	II	China
Rapeseed	6.80	68.09	9.98	III	Canada, China
Vegetables & Melons	123.63	1229.51	10.06	II	China
Fruits Excluding Melons	88.47	710.50	12.45	II	China
Banana	29.14	112.60	25.88	I	
Potatoes	43.42	374.25	11.60	II	China
Onion (Dry)	20.93	94.94	22.05	II	China
Sugarcane	348.45	1861.18	18.72	II	Brazil
Tea	1.25	5.91	21.14	II	China
Coffee (Green)	0.35	9.32	3.73	VII	Brazil, Vietnam Colombia, Indonesia, Ethopia, Honduras
Jute	1.90	3.31	57.31	I	
Cotton (Lint)	6.05	24.77	24.43	II	China
Tobacco Unmanufactured	0.78	6.40	12.23	II	China
Cattle	186.04	1488.96	12.49	II	Brazil
Buffaloes	112.57	199.39	56.46	I	
Sheep	64.30	1188.47	5.41	III	China , Australia
Goats	134.13	1025.64	13.08	II	China
Chicken	775.29	22562.53	3.44	VI	China, Indonesia, USA, Brazil, Iran
Total Eggs (Primary)	4.56	85.84	5.31	III	China , USA
Total Milk	165.33	809.80	20.42	I	

Source: Pocket Book of Agricultural Statistics 2018, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India

As would be noticed we are at second place in the world of production of many Agri Produce and next to China. It is this opportunity that India should grab to attain similar position in the world in Exports as well. However, to achieve this Position in the world market some smart solutions are needed.

Governance Of Agriculture

Presently, Agriculture Sector per se and every aspect of life if Indian Farmer is governed by different Ministries in the Governance structure of India. These ministries are:

- Ministry of Agriculture Cooperation & Farmers Welfare
- Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
- Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation
- Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change covering The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry covering International Trade Policies vii. Ministry of Rural Development- Department of Land Resources
- Ministry of Food Processing Industries of India
- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
- Ministry of Earth Sciences covering Indian Meteorological Department.

As the name and description of the above ministries suggest, every aspect of farming from Weather, Seed, Fertilizer, etc. to its export is covered by various different and distinct Ministries. Within Ministry of Agriculture Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, there are 27 Divisions and has five attached offices and twenty- one subordinate offices which are spread across the country for coordination with state level agencies and implementation of Central Sector Schemes in their respective fields. Further, one Public Sector Undertakings, nine autonomous bodies

ten national level cooperative organizations and two authorities are functioning under the administrative control of the Department.

Over a period of many years, several such Ministries handling different areas of Agriculture are established and evolved. The divisions within Agriculture Cooperation & Farmers Welfare. Ministry are also evolved over a period of many years and have been functioning for many years. One should not undermine the usefulness of organizing the subject of Agriculture in the above manner. No doubt, the administrative authorities have cogent reasons for evolving such type of Governance structure for Agriculture.

However, considering need to focus on the increasing incomes of the Farmers, there appears to be need to re-organize this Government structure .It is recommended that the Government structure of organization should be arranged crop wise instead of present divisions and different ministries. Therefore, all issues relating to farmers growing a particular crop would be addressed within a Ministry of Agriculture Cooperation & Farmers.

Therefore, such individual crop division, say cotton crop division should approach where a farmers are growing Cotton. Entire division should exclusively address all issues relating to Cotton, its seed availability, pesticide availability, micro -nutrient etc. Production, procurement and up to International Trade. Issues relating to Farmers growing Cotton would be handled by a separate Division within Agriculture Ministry. This Division should be able to handle, take policy decisions, execute the schemes relating to Cotton Production, Irrigation, Seeds (Issues relating to GM Seeds), Credit to Farmers, etc.

Land Reforms

Small fragmented Land and low productivity. Review of Agricultural Ceiling Act. In many states across India, land ceilings limits were prescribed beyond

which agricultural land cannot be owned and possessed. In Maharashtra limit of land holding is of 18 acres. The Land Ceiling Act came in to force in the year 1961. Obviously two generations must have passed with succession of land. Due to which land gets fragmented apart from disputes over small pieces of land. Similar situation exists for all other states in India. The effect is, today, 86% of land holding is held by small and marginal farmers holding less than 2 hectares of land (4.94 acres).

In such situation, use of basic farm equipments even tractor for tilling is avoided by the farmer. If you take example of Parbhani District Maharashtra, usage of tractor is practically not possible in many villages as the area required for the tractor to turn in the farm is not adequate. If such basic use is avoided, farmer tends to avoid any further modern mechanization. This will be also clear from the fact that use of harvester is not made extensively in many states. All such activities are carried out manually and as a result there is considerable productivity slippage.

We have no alternative than to use modern technology, mechanization practices in agriculture. As a consequence, consolidation of land by removal of Ceiling Act is a necessity.

Use of Genetically Modified Crops

Agricultural growth in the coming years cannot be separated from latest technologies. One of the important technologies is use of Genetically Modified crops. The fact remains that introduction of Bt-cotton transformed this country from a cotton importing destination to that of a cotton exporting nation.

At this stage, one is not asking for commercialization of GM crops, but an opportunity for fair, comparative trials and research. It is unfortunate that even research is banned for GM crops in India.

Large-scale analysis of data from authenticated reports covering a period of over 15 years has discounted risks and concerns on the health safety

of millions of human and cattle consuming GM-corn or soybean across the globe. The debate as to whether to allow GM Technology or not has gone on for too long and use of newer technologies to sustain food and nutrition security can only happen through a political decision.

Focus Only On Selected Crops

We have to be clear on our target. It is to capture Chinese share in the world market. It would not be possible in the Agri sector to give same treatment/benefit to every crop grown in India. So we will have to select some crops may be not more than 10 every year to encourage to achieve and grab Chinese share in the world market.

Remove All The Hurdles In The Value Chain Till It Reaches Export Destination

Considering the short term-ness of the opportunity, the speed would be of essence. The speed would be achieved only if every hurdle in the value chain from seed availability, its prices, availability of fertilizers, separate export hub, till dialogue for quality standards of importing country is removed expeditiously. Every commercial, legal hurdle should be removed. Perhaps, Cropwise interministerial group under PMO could be constituted exclusively for the purpose.

Conclusion

Reverse migration of labourers from cities should be understood in the context of "Disguised Unemployment" in Agriculture. The Corona Crisis gives us opportunity to carry our extensive structural reforms use of newer technologies in Agriculture which are long due. Agriculture of Bharat has ability to convert this crisis into golden opportunity to be a world leader in food production. Bharat Utthan is the way forward.

Imperative Of A Competent Economy

The calendar year 2020 has panned out to be one of the most bizarre period in modern human history. The continuing COVID virus pandemic has changed the perspective on life, death, society, politics, geo politics, commerce, economy, labour and many more.

COVID period has taught us many a lessons. One of the early lessons has been in the context of labour in general and migrant labour in particular.

It has been well known for last 70 years and more acute in recent times that the biggest issue facing India in short, medium and long term is creation of adequate jobs or employment. Given the young demographics of India which is expected to remain young for next 4 decades, India is going to face stark social issues if it is not able to handle the employments issues.

The government(s) (center an estates) have managed COVID pandemic well even from the perspective of providing free food, a small income and some employment via MNREGA to large number of people. Government estimates suggest that they are supporting 800 million people this way making it the largest social security framework any where in the world, in terms of number of people being taken care of. In addition, one card one nation for ration as well as health provisioning will also go a long way in providing basic security to a citizen in India provided we are able to implement it well.

The modern employment is a very fast moving phenomenon. Skills hugely required today may not be needed after a few days. It has happened to industry after industry. Sector after sector. It will continue to happen even at increasing pace going forward.

In that context, if India has to create sufficient jobs, it's labour has to be allowed to move freely across the nation so that India remains competitive in the world market and also for its own domestic markets.

Later on, the regional labour imbalances against the growth ensured that migration of labour became important. Larger cities where people could find jobs was an easy destination. Initially, the entire families would migrate over a period to the larger cities. However, labour having agrarian land in the original village acted as seasonal migrants and created a pool of workers which worked in large cities during lean months. Slowly, large cities became expensive for the entire families to move due to high cost of accommodation and living forcing large portion of the families to stay in villages creating a large floating migrant labour population in cities. Workers also moved from one region to another region for farm related work in addition to construction and other non- permanent work. Migrant labour movement from Bihar and UP during sowing or harvesting seasons to Punjab and other areas or people moving from Bengal and Orissa to Kerala with labour deficit are some examples of these semi urban or rural migration won floating basis.

The latest COVID and extended LOCKDOWN induced reverse migration opened our eyes to the hidden migrant labour issue. Indian unorganized market for employment is reasonably efficient due to the free internal movements allowed to any state.

Current estimates of intra and inter state migrant labour vary from 12 to 14 crores. Inter state migrant workers number itself is expected to be in the range of 4 to 5 crores.

In the meantime, in the spirit of newly acquired freedom, independent India also moved on to create detailed labour laws to provide various facilities for industries and other workers in organized sectors putting onus of well-being of workers on the employers of organized sector. Small and medium sector businesses were largely kept out of the purview of the labour laws. Each government announced even more stringent laws projecting themselves on side of the labour.

Elaborate paraphernalia of labour courts, highly onerous obligations on employers but little responsibilities on labour, politicization of unions and socialist fervour which lasted over 5 decades ensured that the organized industry in India became less competitive against the fast changing world. Almost hermetic inward looking focus of the society in those 5 decades post dependence protected inefficient industries and also protected to a large extent, inefficient, unruly and outdated skills having organized labour. Even during those 5 decades, more than 90% Indian labour didn't enjoy any protection who worked in unorganised sector.

Labour, Labour Systems and Laws

The forced liberalization of early 1990s brought out the two layered labour system of India in stark contrast in which the royalty of organized labour in public service or organized private sector gave an illusory promise of progressive labour laws to the entire population. It also ensured that neither Indian industry nor Indian labour remained competitive vis-a-vis rest of the world. When the large organized industrial companies slowly died, the privileged labour which had little or no interest in their own companies well being also lost their privileges. Labour couldn't be fired for very long due to lengthy court processes which go on till date. Industry's ability to adjust to sudden shocks diminished manifold making them hugely vulnerable to newer shocks.

Permanent and temporary jobs acquired interesting meanings during the period. Contract labour even in

government became primary mode of the employment due to unreasonable legal requirements relating to law, at odds with the realities of a poor country.

Other competing equally poor, even socialist countries realized their own issues faster and reduced the onus on the employers to a large extent to meet the growing need to provide meaningful employment to the large number of youth coming in to their market. They trained and re trained their labour and allowed the employers many flexibilities including hire and fire. Countries like china developed their labour system differently and Bangladesh developed it differently. Outcome was that Indian industry protected from outside competition for long was not able to compete with export oriented flexible labour force. It remains in similar situation even after seven decades and continues to search for protection. China and several East Asian countries became hugely competitive and stated being known as Asian tigers. India remained an elephant. Slow moving. China went even further and climbed from low cost, low quality products high cost, high quality products with a perspective that if the employer doesn't have a flexibility, she can't compete with the rest of the world and remain profitable, she will not employ people at all. Those competing societies took a decision that Employment is better than no employment. Their labour adopted to those new conditions with very little protection. For example, Bangladesh cloth factories also provided very low capital, high number of labour but flexible framework to their entrepreneurs who supply their clothing products to the entire world. India remained behind and continues to struggle even in textile and clothing even against Bangladesh.

Labour laws being concurrent subject, it became even more difficult to handle the changes and make them predictable as well as easy for employers to hire people. The maze that we created over seven decades continues to haunt us in a way that India continues to remain a low skill, low capability country

in Industrial areas with very little increase in the employment in organized sector for several decades now.

If India has to create huge number or industrial jobs, it will have to provide easy, no hassle and predictable labour market to the potential employers who have many more markets to chose from.

In the modern world, low scale industry will remain uncompetitive and will close down fast. Indian industry to reach world scale will have to go for higher automation, higher skilled labourers and when required fast change in labour as well as faster dispute resolution to take care of both sides on a fair basis. If we cannot provide the same to the prospective employers, our aspirations to become an industrial economy may not materialize.

To be sure, we need many changes in other areas too. Labour is not the only areas in which we need to become pragmatic and become benchmarked to the similar competing countries. We need administrative, judicial, land, tax, education and many other reforms

on immediate basis and simultaneously along with improvement in infrastructure to have a reasonable chance to be able to compete and attract industries to India and provide large number of jobs.

Each employee will have to continually upgrade, update themselves in addition to being continuously productive throughout for being able to remain employable. That is the way, future will unfold. Anything contrary or any slowness in reforms will ensure that Indian industry and Indian labour will remain less competitive to their peers in other parts of the world. That will also ensure India will continue to have one of the lowest labour participation rates going forward too.

All of us need to understand and appreciate the fast changing nature of the world industry as well as labour requirements and equip our people to deal with new emerging realities rather than dwell in an ideal and idle past long gone.

Changing Geo politics in favour of India during COVID and post COVID is going to give a huge opportunity to India, Indian industry and Indian labour.

Hope, we as a society will become more pragmatic and select more jobs as the option and do what ever it takes to get those jobs to India including a slight upper hand to prospective employers ?



Recommendations For Central Government

Central Government can play meaningful role by integrating efforts of concerned state governments along with NGOs and other associations working for the same cause. This report provides certain specific suggestions to central government including various department operating under different ministries.

Means Of Transportation

Development of Roads and means of Transportation to connect each village to promote employment and self-employment in local areas.

Coordinating Operations Of All Stakeholders

Government to act swiftly to bring Labour unions and social groups along with Government officials and farmers on one platform and to hold periodical review meetings on the related issue, how practical solution can be implemented to honour all stakeholders rationally.

Data Collection

- The Ministry of Labour should have a separate department under the Minister of State with adequate funds to collect data.
- Data collection should be initiated from all sources: such as Gram Sabha, Village Panchayats, ZP, Municipal Corporations, Industries, businessmen and traders.
- The secretary of the local bodies could be entrusted for collection of data of those people who move out from their village and at the time, when he returns to his village.
- A dedicated website under the Labour Ministry should be floated for the purpose of data collection and monitoring on regular basis by trained personnel is necessary.

- After collecting the data on migrant labourers in terms of skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled, the government should open center namely Migrant Labourers Information Centre at Block/Panchayat level to facilitate their well-being.
- To prepare a database of skilled and unskilled migrant labourers at the panchayat level to re-skill them.
- The Gram Panchayats which addressed the pandemics problems of the immigrant labour, should also collect key information on the current skill levels of the workers, map them and share the same with skill development and entrepreneurship agencies for re-skilling and up-skilling.
- A structured questionnaire for collection of data should be included in the census 2021 regarding the migration of population.

Technology

- The Central Labour Ministry should maintain a real time data bank for provision of labour and social security services to the migrant labour wherever they are working as skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers in the formal and informal sectors of economy. Use of technology and connectivity for updating be provided without delay.
- Registration of migrant workers covering their Socio-economic-educational-skill background using latest digital technologies. Unique ID number should be given by issuing cards (like Aadhar card) which will be useful throughout the country wherever workers migrate

Training

A few good officers trying their best is not enough. The local politicians and administrators must be trained and re-trained about how to respond to the

crisis so that the real relief work will not lack an important factor of care. District collectors be authorized to organise such need based training under the guidance of central government.

Other Provisions

- The Interstate Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment & Conditions of service) Act, 1979 emphasizes the role of contractor and Sub-Contractor who provides 5 or more workers.
- Registration of contractor to be mandatory, and the entry of the workers details should also be compulsory. All provisions need to be implemented with due diligence.
- The sociological, cultural and psychological issues such as gender equality, education to children of the migrant workers, the language barriers, the domestic violence, dignity of women, the old age problems of the migrant workers after retirement etc. needs to be addressed by the government in a planned phased manner under above act. The government can entrust such issues to the NGOs, or semi-government bodies to resolve.
- The central and state governments should promote Small Scale Industries in those districts from where migration is maximum.
- The emphasis on SME with Make in India, National Skill Development Council and Start-up India is a welcome step in order to increase employment which will reduce the number of migrants.
- The various schemes of housing, sanitation, health, school education for children, the vision of Smart City for which the central government has a separate budget allocation can be used for the migrant population also.
- The government of India's budgetary allocation and the financial participation of industries who employ migrant workers will ensure the best of the houses for the migrant labourers.

- The financial contributions by the industries for housing should be considered as CSR.

Legal Measures

- There must be a comprehensive law on the protection of migrant labour force.
- Existing laws related to migrant workers should be amended in order to ensure employment guarantee in case of inter-state migration, housing facility, medical facility, food security, better wage rates and other Social Security measures at migrant places.
- There should be a relevant and effective inter-state migration legislation, which may cater to the challenges emanating from globalised new order. Its nodal departments should be an appropriate Ministry.
- To provide safety net in the form of monthly allowance by direct benefit transfer, insurance policies at low cost, occupational safety and skill enhancement schemes be implemented.

Legal Measures - Implementation

- Strict implementation of One Nation One Ration Card system to ensure that none of the migrants would starve or go hungry, they wouldn't have to stand in long queues outside the fair price shops, that way social distancing could be observed and community spread can be avoided.
- Empowering and licensing competent civil society organization including the Labour Welfare Unions/ Associations to ensure professional monitoring and evaluation of the proposed legislative changes.
- The central government should create an appropriate platform for the state labour welfare commissioners. This will help to interact with the central labour ministry for ensuring provision of services to the migrant labour. This will also help to establish a labour welfare redressal mechanism through the labour welfare ministry.

MGNREGA

There is a need to expand scope of MGNREGA and include non-farm and productive activities like agro-based food processing and agri-business activities. This would not only help migrant labours to fetch more monthly income at local level but also speed up economic activities in rural areas.

Corporates

The Cooperate Social Responsibility (CSR) divisions of multinational and national corporate organization should conduct special drives for employment in rural areas. They should also help the immigrant labour to acquire new skills for introduction of startups. Social work groups should introduce Confidence Building Measures amongst the migrant labour for such activities CSR. Funding be made available to recognized NGOs.

Financial

- Provision of facilities for remittance of savings to and from migrant labourers to / and from their families be made available at no charge by all Banks and other remittance agencies during pandemic or any other calamity, natural or otherwise.
- Local Service Delivery Start-ups in rural areas should be creatively made available.
- The government should open counselling centers for guiding the immigrant labour so that they can find employment in organization/labour markets that match their skills

Welfare

- Help centers like counselling centers to build confidence, helplines for guidance, wellness (Yoga Asans, Meditation etc.), nutrition guidance, awareness against intoxicant vices and superstitions should be undertaken at native villages and migrated place with the help of various organizations.

- Conducive atmosphere and guidance should be provided for the utilization of migrants' remittances for family welfare, education, health and productive activities. This substantially improves the standard of living of migrant families at their native places

Agricultural Sector

Agriculture sector is backbone of Indian Economy. following Suggestions are made for policy changes, as a long-term measure, to control and reduce compelled migration.

Restructuring of Governance Framework of Agriculture

It is recommended that the Government organisation structure should be arranged crop-wise instead of present divisions and different ministries.

A Think Tank with crop-based work group will be useful to review, monitor and govern all activities of ministry in the interest of farmer, right from selection of seeds to marketing of crop.

Pricing Structure

In today's market-oriented economy promoting market-based prices which in turn will help in increasing the income of the farmers thereby reducing the tendency to migrate. Here the role of both governments is important to ensure that cost of production is fairly covered in market process.

Development Of Storage Houses And Cold Storage Facilities

Development of chain of storage Houses and Cold Storage Facilities at each Taluka place is recommended.

Land Reforms

Small fragmented Land and low productivity are basic issues, need immediate attention. Review of Land Ceiling Act is very much required.

Make unused and barren land, dry land available to small, marginal farmers and landless labourers for cultivation may be on lease.

Establishment Of Laboratories

Establishment of Laboratories at Taluka Places for developing tissue culture, testing of soil and water, testing quality of produce for gradation. These labs may provide services for animal husbandry for supplementary income.

Planning And Scheduling for Cropping Pattern

India being country of diversity in terms of seasons e.g. monsoon begins from one end and reaches to rest of India during different periods. Therefore, India needs comprehensive plan for agriculture processes and produce consisting grass root planning for cropping pattern, schedules of plantation, taking crop from farm and lastly taking it to market for better price. Micro planning about cropping pattern, agro production processes from standardization to packing and reaching to our customers. In due course focus may be provided to selected Crops suitable to localities.

Amendment In Trade Policy Of Agriculture

Trade Policy related to agriculture produce need regular review and modification based on circumstantial happenings, may be natural or man-made.

Other Suggestions

- Rainwater harvesting, developing and maintaining Water bodies in the farm fields, using available water resources optimally, cleaning of river sides for free flow of rain water and improving water storage capacity with increasing water level of nearby wells etc. activities need to be undertaken on continuous basis with the help of NGOs, local authorities etc.

- Construction of small dams
- Connecting rivers, a mega much awaited project needs attention with priority.
- Supply of uninterrupted electricity at fair rates particularly in rural areas.
- Promoting use of solar and wind energy for water pumps, use of vehicles and Agri equipment
- Availability of financial assistance / loans at low interest rates with insurance facilities to protect against natural calamities and unexpected occurrences.
- The diversification of food crops to cash crops and horticultural crops needs to be further supported by technology which will add to the income of the farmers.
- The agribusiness and the establishment of Food Processing Industries will reduce the number of intrastate migrations. The increasing facilities such as warehousing, cold storage, insurance, transportation and research on agricultural activities will further enhance the income of the farmers. This will employ youth and reduce the migration.

Conclusion

Migration is a worldwide phenomenon. In many cases an extreme negative aspect of migration makes it difficult to preserve human dignity and self-respect. In order to promote, control and reduce exploitation of migrants, the Central-State-Local Governments and NGOs should work together. The collection of data, implementing various legal and socioeconomic measures will be effective if all will work under Ministry of labour.

Accuracy of data will help to plan and execute data driven decisions effectively and efficiently. To ensure the participation of migrant workers in various cultural activities the NGOs should take initiative to educate them about its importance. The central and state government, businessmen and workers together can evolve an understanding to create

housing colony for the migrated population, which will take care of many socioeconomic issues. Ensuring economic prosperity of the migrant workers will not only make their life better, it will also contribute to the overall growth of the economy in the years to come.





Addendum - I

The State Reports In Details

Andhra Pradesh State Map



Labour Migration - Andhra Pradesh

Dr.Dasai Srinivasulu.
Retd. IAS Officer

Introduction

Andhra Pradesh is a newly formed state. It is consisting of 13 districts. AP is basically agricultural state Krishna- Godavari, Thungabadhra and Penna, are the important rivers in AP. The state has a long sea coast from Ichapuram of Srikakulam district to Tada of Nellore district. There are no sufficient fishing Harbors in AP. Except in Vishakhapatnam, there are no proper industries. There are a good number of Tribal People in AP.

- Vishakhapatnam city is a good educational centre and industrial center. Many migrant labourer come to Vishakhapatnam city both from neighbouring districts of AP, Orissa, Bengal and Chatthisgad.
- The fishermen of Srikakulam and Viajayanagaram districts go to Gujarat west coast as migrant labour. The fishermen of Nellore and Prakasham districts will go to Karanataka west coast as migrant labour.

- Even though Krishna and Godavari rivers flow through AP there are many dry land areas in different districts.
- Rayalaseema districts are most backward districts in AP.
- Anantapur district is worst-hit districts in view of drinking water. Because of Sri Puttaparthi Sathya Sai Baba Seva Trust, people in many of Anantapur district are getting drinking water. There are many mandals of Anantapur district struggling for drinking and agriculture water. As a result, thousands of people of Anantapur districts are going to Bengaluru city as migrant labour.
- The people surroundings areas of Kadiri town go to Muslim countries as migrant labour. In Adoni division of Kurnool district, people will go to Karnataka and Mumbai as migrant labour.
- People of Kurnool division go to Guntur districts as agriculture labour.
- People from dry areas of Kadapa district, go to Karnataka and Muslim country as migrant labour .
- The western parts of Chittur district is dry. The people of these areas go to Bengaluru and Karnataka as migrant labour. Many of the people in remaining areas, work in the brick industry.
- Uthrandra people go to Krishna districts and Hyderabad as migrant labour. They are involved in construction activities.
- The dry areas of different districts should be identified and a special scheme for drinking water should be planned. In these areas, through agriculture or by industry – the developmental plan should be chalked out. Through developmental programmes of backward areas of AP, we can minimize outgoing labour.
- With help from NGO's residential schools and junior colleges to sons & daughters of the migrant labour should be established. The sons & daughters of migrant labour should not be deprived of educational opportunities.
- Amravati, the new state capital and the surrounding areas are developing areas in future. There will be more constructive activities. A good amount of labour reaches there. Many facilities need to be provided.
- In rural areas, Mahatma Gandhi rural programme should be linked to the formation of rural roads and repairing of tanks.
- Andhra Pradesh is a newly formed state. Construction of posh buildings and capital should not be the priority. Creating employment facilities to uneducated rural unemployed, tribal unemployed should be the priority.
- Due to Polavaram project thousands of tribals are to be vacated from their native villages. Rehabilitation of tribal people and creating employment opportunities to these uneducated tribal youth is foremost important. If the state Govt fails in this the tribal youth will become the supporters of Naxalites.

Role Of State Government

- The state government should identify the migrant labour with village and district wise list. For this a survey is necessary
- State government should equally arrange amenities to all migrant labour of AP and migrant labour of other states
- Construction of new houses to SC., ST., BC., migrant labour should be the priority. In this housing construction activity many rural male, female will get the employment opportunities'.



Labour Migration - Telangana

Dr. Vannala Ramesh
Professor Of Sociology, Satavahana University

Introduction

The pandemic has laid bare the vulnerabilities of internally migrated population in India. The suffering of the migrants has been severe. It has been accentuated due to the lockdown.

The lockdown has led to loss of work, which led to loss of income, which led to lack of food, and access to health facilities, and lack of housing facilities as well. That most of the migrants work in the private sector (small and medium enterprise) is a fact.

And their employers were unable to support the migrant workers and did not have any social safety net in place for them is also a factor that helped the situation deteriorate. The migrants were left in the lurch as neither their employers nor the government came to their aid. The fact that internal migrants were so desperate to leave their work place and head back to their native place indicates that they had lost all hopes of survival in the cities and found solace in their native places. It was a desperate fight for survival that led to some of the people including women and children walking their way home hundreds of kilometers away.

Macro Level Situation

Large towns, cities and metros are economic centres because they contribute a major chunk to the State's GDP and as a consequence to the nation's GDP.

As urbanization gathers pace in India, these economic centres attract increasing number of migrants from nearby small towns, villages and also from other states. These migrant workers solve the supply-demand gap for unskilled, semi-skilled, and skilled workers across manufacturing and services sectors. Majority of them are employed in the "informal sector" with little or no access to social safety net. Hence it renders them highly vulnerable to pandemics or natural calamities.

Understanding of the root causes of internal migration as well as the problems faced by the migrants, especially during the current pandemic is of paramount importance for policy makers to define the problem properly and come up with sustainable solutions.

Data For Policy Making

To formulate an appropriate policy, the government needs credible data. As on today the following data is available for the government - 2011 Census of India, 2015 Working Group on Migration, Ministry of Urban Affairs, Government of India and the 2017 Economic Survey of India.

- Major Migrant Sending States are: Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Odisha.
- Major Migrant Recipient States are: Maharashtra, Delhi, Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu
- Two types of migration happen internally - 1) long-term (relocation of individual/household) & 2) short-term/seasonal
- Seasonal Migration periods: December - January, June-July - construction sites, brick kilns, rice mills, etc.
- Internal migrant population as per 2011 Census stood at 454 million (accounting for 30% of 2011 population - 1.21 billion) Estimated decadal growth of 31.8% (2011 to 2021)
- Internal Migrant population expected to cross 550 million by 2021
- Policies such as National Smart Cities Mission also have contributed to the internal migration
- During 2001 to 2011, India saw an increase of 139 million to migrant force. In comparison to 1991 (220 million) it almost doubled in 20 years.
- An estimated 28.3% of workers in India are migrants.
- So by this yardstick India has 175 million internal migrants in the informal sector and support lifeline of various State economies.
- Marriage and other family related migration, which was 72.2% of all migration during 1991 rose to 74.7% of all migration during 2011. The similar scenario is reflected in NSS data also.

Reasons Of Migration - Rural To Urban

- Declining trend in employment in Agriculture and search for employment: Agricultural technology has decreased the need for agricultural workers as improved transportation, use of fertilizer, and genetically modified crops resulted in increased production of food with fewer workers. Thus, driving many farmworkers into cities in search of employment especially from rural to urban areas.
- In Telangana one can observe the syndrome where many people who practice agriculture in rural areas migrate to urban areas like Bangalore or Hyderabad to work in the industry and other informal sectors like construction and others.
- Increased Cost of living and attraction for higher wages: The cost of living in urban areas is usually much higher than in rural areas. It costs more for rent houses, buy food, and use transportation. For this reason, wages are usually higher in urban areas. Thus, a search for higher wages is another reason people migrate from rural areas.
- Other reasons: Poverty, large family size, access to urban life, lack of non farm employment opportunities in villages, Small size of land or land less labourers, low level of wages in villages, work rigidity at villages, higher education opportunities in urban areas, acquisition of technical skills and better scope for employment opportunities in urban areas are the reasons for labour to migrant to urban centres.
- Workers engaged in Agriculture, MGNREG works, vehicle drivers and vegetable vendors and other activities in villages after returning to their villages.
- The average income earned per month of 64 % respondents is around Rs. 4000 5000 and above per month. The remaining respondent earned less than Rs. 4000. On the average their previous earning were around Rs. 20000 per month before they returned.
- Most of them are male workers in the age group of 40 to 60 years and belonging to OBC community living in slum huts and sharing toilets especially who migrated from Mumbai.
- Palpable condition is that they did not receive any help during lock-down and left with no money, no food, no transport facility and problems while crossing interstate borders.
- The ration of free 10 kgs of Rice and free vegetables provided from the Government and no help from other NGOs or employer. Government provided transport buses and trains helped them to reach their native places. A sum of Rs. 500/- was funded by the state government for their expenses.
- Observing the above findings we can conclude that the average monthly earning of the migrant labour who returned to villages is very low and that the government intervention is inevitable.
- The labour is not interested to go back to their work place so they have to be provided with sufficient wok at native place and food security. They want to stay with their families.
- According to a study by Dr. H.K. Nagu garu on Adilabad District, Workers from Adilabad District workers goes to Sholapur (Textile industry) of Maharashtra, Nagpur (industry, construction projects), though exact data is not available.

Micro Level Situation - Key Findings

- Total of 25 respondents of migrant labour who returned to their villages have been surveyed in each District of Jagatial, Karimnagar and Adilabad from different villages and found that most of them are daily wage workers, workers in construction activities.

Acts & Supportive Measures

- In both the cases, in case Interstate Migration Workers, The central Law, The Inter State Migration Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Condition of Service) Act, 1979 is applicable for registration of establishment and workers by the Principal employer and also contractor. Their welfare, payment of wages etc. are provided.
- In case the migrant workers within the state, then Contract labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1979 is applicable. Further, PW ACT, 1936, MW ACT, 1948, ER Act, 1979, Leaves, & Holidays Act, Maternity Benefit Act, Child Labour (P&R) Act, 1986. In case, the workers work in Construction work then, Building and Other Construction Workers Act, Apply and eligible for all the benefits, EPF, ESI Acts also applicable if more than 20 and 10 employees work in the establishment, respectively. If ESI Act is not notified in that area, then, WC Act, 1936 is applicable. But 90% of them not are not getting the facilities of those Acts.
- Further, There is an Act, called Social Security Act, under this , uncovered Workers can be covered and all the benefits extendable under those Acts can be extended by creating welfare Boards at State Levels. But this Act is not being implemented, because of Fund scarcity.
- In case of Building and Other Construction Workers welfare, Brick Kiln Workers. Boards have constituted in all the states, Cess at the rate of 1% of total construction value of 10 lakh and above(land value excluded) is being collected and huge amount is lying with the Boards underutilized can be used for shelter house in every city and district headquarters with all the facilities with minimum charges. To cater the education of migrant workers children in every district where more migration of workers takes place) one for girl child and one for boys should have seasonal residential school only meant for this category, by which education of these children will not be affected and there will not be any child labour at destination places Migration in Telangana

- Since there are no specific studies we have to depend on micro studies. Micro studies have found that the magnitude of migration in Telangana ranges from 4 to 80 per cent; the findings though show a pattern. Drought-prone, remote and underdeveloped villages show significantly higher migration rates. But in the course of time distress migration evolves into a regular livelihood option for most migrants particularly due to the absence of alternative opportunities.
- Migration for wage labour is undertaken not only by the landless and marginal farmers but also by small and even medium farmers. For instance studies conducted in Mahabubnagar district reveal that farmers owning between 10 to 20 acres make up a significant proportion of migrants [Narasimha Reddy 2003; Bheem Reddy 2002]. The two major official data sources on population mobility, the decennial Census and National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), do not capture fully the magnitude of rural labour migration, notably the seasonal migration, due to the methodology they use [Sainath 2004, Narasimha Reddy 2003, Srivatsava 1998]. Both NSSO and Census seem to reason that migration is a one-shot event that is undertaken for a long period of time.
- A peculiar feature in Telangana State is that the migrants are more or less depend on daily wage and work on piece meal in other states and urban centres like Hyderabad in construction activity and in SMSEs. Mahbubnagar district stands first in this direction of migration. In erstwhile Karimnagar District and nearby Karimnagar international migration is also witnessed majority migrants migrating to Gulf and Saudi Arabia for labour.

Major Suggestions

- Poverty reducing strategies like MGNREG can be clubbed with migrant empowerment programme.

- Internal migration for manual work is an important livelihood option, notably in semi-arid, and agriculturally underdeveloped areas but needed to be justified by providing alternate employment once the labour return to the villages.
- Migration has the potential to reduce poverty, so the rights of migrants have to be protected.
- More primary studies are needed to better understand internal migration.
- Government agencies, governments and civil society need to make concerted efforts to make migration a less painful and more productive livelihood option.
- The studies show that there is a close relationship between population growth and internal migration.
- Initiatives to support migrants can be taken up within the emerging policy framework in India.
- Support initiatives need to focus on gender dimensions as migration becomes increasingly feminized.

Priority Areas

The priority areas identified by the ongoing support initiatives include:

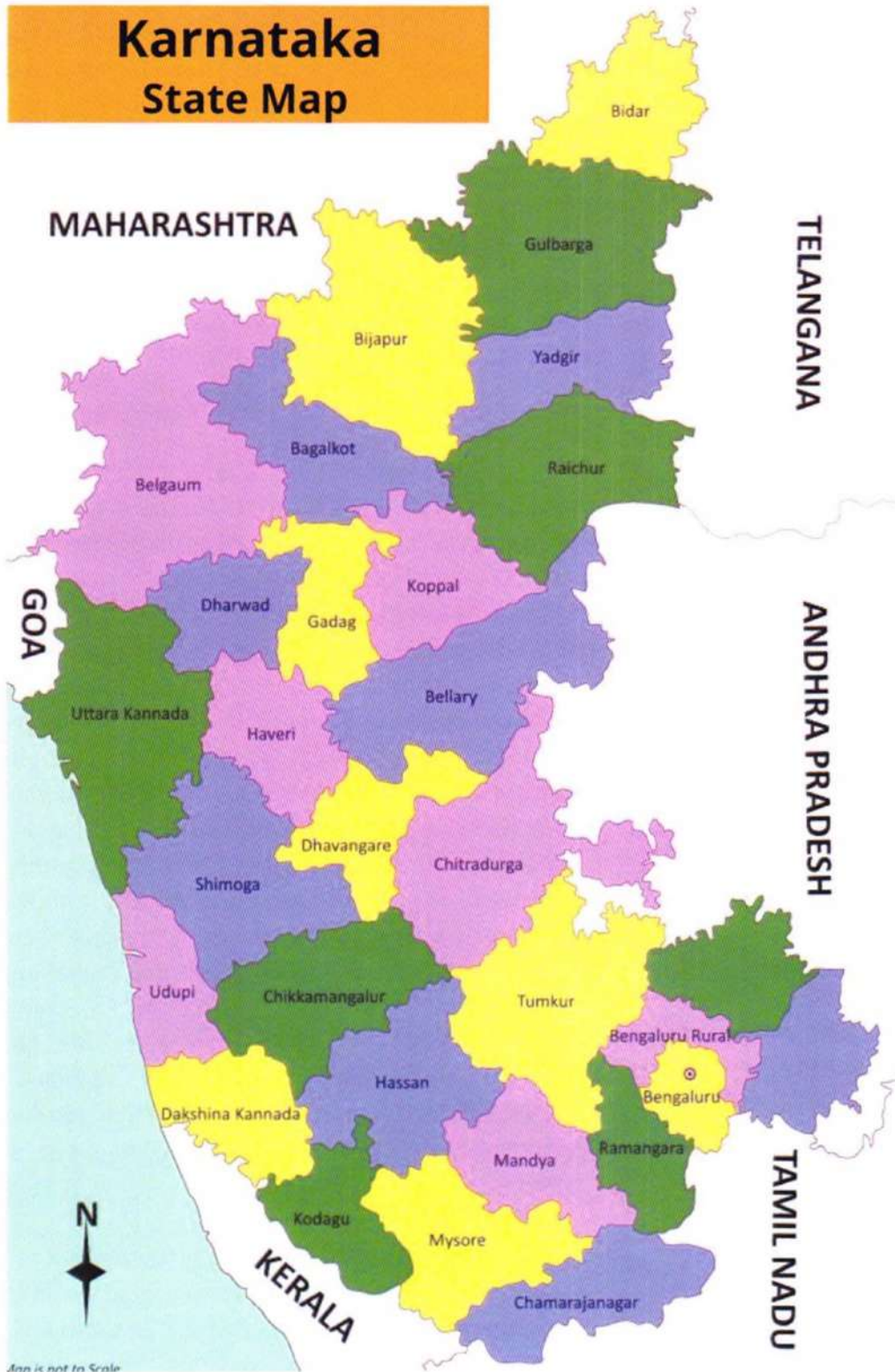
- Provide transport facility to migrant labour and to their family;
- Schooling to their children.
- Protection from violence and rights of migrant labour and control social exclusion;
- Publish information and help regarding wage rate
- Protecting health of migrants.

- Department to give training and placement to migrant labour and provide registration, tracking and communication services to them.

Re-Employment Strategies

- Engage migrant labour in Food processing centres in Villages. Agriculture development in the villages will lead to increased income of farmers and once agriculture develops in villages, there is a scope for establishment of Food processing centres in the villages of the agriculture produce. Once these centres develop the migrant labour can be engaged in packaging and transportation and marketing activities. The Self Help Groups are doing very well in this direction in Telangana State.
- Reorientation to old crafts and professions: A programme towards Atma Nirbhar Bharat, Self sufficient economy, villages has to be engaged in old crafts and age old professions need to be reoriented and the migrant labour be given skills in this direction. It is heartening to note that in Telangana workers are engaged from Uttar Pradesh for painting, carpentry work and the like who work for less wage in Hyderabad. If our own labour are given skills and are paid handsome wages inter state migration problem can be solved and the internal migrants can be used for the specific skilled work..
- Connecting Villages to institutions: Adoption of villages by educational institutions is going on but still it needs to be developed and every education institution, university or college nearby village should act as a watchdog on implementation of Government policies and can support migrant labour in reemployment and programme implementation taken up by the Central and State government.

Karnataka State Map



Introduction

Human migration (derived from Latin: migration) is physical movement by humans from one area to another, sometimes over long distance or in large groups. Historically this movement was nomadic, often causing significant conflict with the indigenous population and their displacement or cultural assimilation.

Only a few nomadic people have retained this form of lifestyle in modern times. Migration has continued under the form of both voluntary migration within one's region, country, or beyond and involuntary migration (which includes the slave trade, trafficking in human beings and ethnic cleansing). People who migrate into a territory area immigrants, while at the departure point they are called emigrants.

Small populations migrating to develop a territory considered void of settlement depending on historical setting, circumstances and perspective are referred to as settler or colonists, while population displaced by immigration and colonization are called refugees.

Labour Migration - Karnataka

Dr. Talwar Sabanna
 Professor and Chairman, Department Of Economics
 Rani Channamma University, Belgavi

Early human migrated due to many factors such as changing climate and landscape and inadequate food supply. The evidence indicates that Indo-Aryan migration from the Indus Valley to the plain of the River Ganges in Northern India is presumed to have taken place in the Middle to Late Bronze Age, contemporary to the Late Harappan phase in India (1700 to 1300 BC). From 180 BC, a series of invasions from Central Asia followed, including those led by the Indo-Greeks, Indo-Scythians, Indo-Parthians and Kushans in the north western India subcontinent.

Thus, migration from one area to another in search of improved livelihood is a key feature of human history. While some regions and sectors fall behind in their capacity to support populations, other move ahead and people migrate to access these emerging opportunities. Industrialization widens the gap between rural and urban areas, including a shift of the workforce towards industrializing areas. There is extensive debate on the factors that causes population to shift from those that emphasize individual rationality and household behaviour to those that cite the structural logic of capitalist development.

In this background migration has become a universal phenomenon in modern times. Due to the expansion of transport and communication, it has become a part of worldwide process of urbanization and industrialization. In most countries, it has been observed that industrialization and economic development has been accompanied by large-scale movements of people from villages to towns, from towns to other towns and from one country to another country. From the demographic point of view, migration is one of the three basic components of population growth of any area, the other being fertility and mortality. But whereas both fertility and mortality operate within the biological framework, migration does not. It influences size, composition and distribution of population.

More importantly, migration influences the social, political and economic life of the people. Indian constitution provides basic freedom to move to any

part of the country, right to reside and earn livelihood of their choice. A number of economic, social, cultural and political factors play an important role in the decision to move. The effects of these factors vary over time and place. In India, permanent shifts of population and workforce co-exist with the circulatory movement of population between lagging areas and developed regions and between rural and urban areas, mostly being absorbed in the unorganized sector of the economy.

Temporary & Seasonal Migration

Temporary or circular migration is a move made for a short period of time with the intention of returning to the place of usual residence. An important group of temporary migrants consists of seasonal migrants, who combine activity at several places according to seasonal labour requirement. It is established that temporary migration is the main source of income for rural households who are unable to support themselves through agriculture in their home communities, particularly those that have small landholdings or are landless. Prevailing regional inequalities and uneven development impel temporary internal migration from agriculturally backward and poor rural areas. Seasonal migration has long been a source of income for rural household unable to support themselves through agriculture. Households diversify their economic activities outside the traditional agricultural sphere by sending out members to work in urban areas in the lean period.

People also move from rural areas to nearby or distant cities to find jobs in construction or the unorganized informal sector. On the other hand, seasonal labour migration is an important survival option for landless labourers. Landless agricultural labourers in backward regions, who are trapped in debt bondage and belong to the lower social strata, and because of frequent failure of monsoon, migrate seasonally within or outside their states. Thus, among the broad group of the underclass or the socio-economically deprived, which includes the poorest of the poor, the landless, illiterates or those

with a very low level of education (say, primary school), unskilled the SC/STs/OBCs temporary migration is very high. Poverty is supposed to be a key push factor in temporary migration.

Migration and Remittances

Remittances and savings constitute a primary channel through which migrant workers are able to stabilize or improve their conditions of living, and which also impact on intra and inter-household relations, and the pattern of growth and development in the source areas. Remittances do play a role in reducing the poverty of households in the major recipient regions, which, in the case of internal migration, happen to be some of the poorest states/regions. They also play a role in improving consumption standards of the recipient households.

Hence, migration can be considered as a livelihood strategy to overcome various market constraints, potentially enabling households to invest in productive activities and improve their livelihoods. From this perspective, migration is seen as one of the main elements of strategies to diversify, secure and improve livelihoods. Further, remittances can simultaneously be seen as the return to household investments in migration, as part of a household risk diversification strategy (co-insurance through risk spreading, securing inheritance claims) and as a source of investment capital that can be used for entrepreneurial activities, education or to facilitate the migration of other household members.

Because of the important contribution of remittances to welfare, it has been argued that remittances are a safety net for relatively poor areas. Perhaps the most common reason for scepticism on migration and development has been the widespread belief that migrants rarely invest their money in productive enterprises, but instead spend it on consumption or non-productive investments. Expenditure in areas such as education, health, food, medicines and investments in housing as well as

community projects for education, health and recreational facilities can enhance people's wellbeing and ability to lead the lives they have reason to value. From a capabilities perspective on development as proposed, such improvements should be considered as "developmental".

Migration In North Karnataka

North Karnataka has vast areas under rainfed agriculture and this region is backward where poverty is more pronounced. It is a clear economic phenomenon that most of the backward talukas identified by the Nanjundappa Committee have large portions of their agricultural land under rainfed conditions. The yields per hectare are quite low, and the crops grown are largely cereals, minor millets and pulses. Animal husbandry has also not been developed well in the region due to perennial fodder shortage.

The frequent failure of rains has left most of the water bodies dry and majority of the bore-wells and open wells in the region, particularly in the rainfed areas, have either gone dry or the yield has come down drastically due to fall in the ground water-level. Therefore, employment is not available on regular basis in the dry area. Agricultural labourers constitutes around 40.00 percent of the main workforce, therefore seasonal migration is a regular feature in the North Karnataka. In Kalaburagi, Yadagir, Raichur, Vijayapura and Bagalkot district workers migrates to the Mumbai, Pune, Goa and Bangalore. Every year the migration has been reported on a large scale in the drought-hit areas because most of the people do not get employment in the agriculture fields.

Fishermen from Andhra Pradesh migrates to coastal districts in Karnataka like Mangalore and Udupi for fishing and related business activities. In recent period migrant workers from north India like Rajasthan, Jharkand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal are coming to Karnataka due to construction and other developmental activities taking place in Bangalore and surrounding areas.

Migrant Workers During Covid

The worldwide spread of novel corona virus disease (COVID-19) is severely affecting the global economy and as per the recent updates almost two-third of the global population is now under some form of a lock-down. This has threatened an economic bloodbath, where practically all economic activities around the world are witnessing a closure. According to the International Labour Organization, nearly 25 million jobs could be lost worldwide due to the pandemic and would mean income losses for workers between \$860 billion and \$3.4 trillion by the end of 2020. This will translate into falling consumption of goods and services, impacting the businesses and in turn viciously affecting the national economies. Among other continents, Asia would witness disruptions in backward and forward linkages in supply chains. Significant providers of employment like manufacturing, tourism and hospitality, travel, services and the retail industries along with small and medium enterprises, have already begun to bear the acute brunt of COVID-19.

The sudden notice for lock-down from March 25 had left states with no time to plan and implement ways of ensuring food security, wage flow, adequate transport or, alternatively, safe shelters with funds arranged for dependent families at home for migrant and wage labourers. The multi-pronged approach to aid labourers and also segments such as that of homeless people need smoothly functioning systems, none of which had been thought of earlier. Cities as engines of growth have come to a grinding halt. The reason for this is that the 'city-makers' like the daily-wage migrant (seasonal and circular) labourers (estimated at over 15 crore), street vendors, auto or rickshaw drivers, construction and utility workers are finding it onerous to survive amid no work and lack of social protection and rights, or proper inclusive policies is expensive and inconceivable. Similar is the plight of small businesses as well as freelancers and those operating in the gig economy, who have begun to bear the brunt of national lock-down.

On the other hand, big businesses and regular salaried citizens, though bearing the cost of social distancing, can navigate the rough waters and survive.

Thus, in the context of the prevailing pandemic and lock-down, the jobs and earnings of an estimated 20 crore workers, including casual workers, regular or salaried workers without any job security and sole self-employed (own account or unpaid family), are at stake. The absence of market activity will directly and adversely impact these vulnerable people and their families. We have seen the consequences in the last few days after national-wide lock-down and having lost their jobs, most of these informal migrant workers started returning to their villages with families.

The divergences between workers make any single policy approach untenable. The government response to migrant workers so far has focused around a one-point agenda of migrant shelters. Even as migrants have come into the media spotlight, a complete spatial understanding of migrant clusters is missing. They are part of the urban poor living in slums and rented accommodation in poor localities. However, they also work in rural and urban peripheries near brick kilns, mines, farms, cotton mills and so on, whose plight in this crisis remains invisible. Many live in industrial corridors outside the city – in factories, small manufacturing units and construction sites – where the shelter solution has not been able to reach. Without wages, these workers have been unable to purchase ration, and relief work has also been difficult to reach semi-urban areas. While some states have highlighted migrant workers' plight, however provisions are being made by the central government/ some state Governments for safe return of migrants.

Return migration had already begun from cities like Mumbai, Bangalore, Surat, Pune, Goa, Hyderabad as the fears of contracting COVID became prevalent and the indications of a possible shut-down of work and transport became increasingly imminent. With the

official announcement, the need to go back became more desperate, while the journey itself became more arduous. With the lack of transport options, many from cities across the country, started walking hundreds of kilometres to get home. Many are stranded near the inter-state borders and shelter homes. Many more who live in urban informal settlements and work sites, and who cannot sustain in cities for a fortnight or a month without earnings, were helplessly started to return home states/villages. The spread of COVID-19 where people live in cramped spaces and use shared toilet facilities, have also accentuated fears of disease.

In many cases, it is the male members who migrate to work in the cities, with their families (women, children and elders) undertaking rural work in the villages. These families have been among the worst affected. They are confronted with the complete lack of remittances, with their male family members returned to villages and staying without work. The financial loss is aggravated by the physical and psychological distress they suffered. There has been a complete disregard for the value of remittances for migrant households. This indicates a continued sedentary bias in the constructions of welfare, assuming all families to exist as coherent units in a stable spatial setting. As a result of these biases and misconceptions regarding the migrant population, the state has continued to exclude them from its policy planning. So, most of the migrant labourers were left feeling like "stateless" and in a state of disarray created by the suddenness of lock-down. They are national assets, and petty interstate parochialism should not come into picture at all.

The lifting of the lock-down will thus not give migrants the confidence to remain in cities. It is imminent to open the flood gates for reverse migration, of the urban poor who were forced to stay back in cities and at other work sites. The shocks caused by the lockdown are also likely to influence migration flows and patterns negatively in the immediate future. Several volunteer groups and social organizations (instance, Seva Bharathi) have

reached out to stranded migrant workers across the country since the lock-down, in the absence of a robust government machinery, which for all practical purposes, has failed the most vulnerable group of society. This workforce, ironically, also forms the backbone of the national economy. In this context, this report is focused on around 15 lakh migrant workers who returned in north-Karnataka due to covid-19 pandemic and their future perspectives.

Data Sources

Primary data was collated from the migrants who returned to their native villages due to Covid-19 vulnerability. For this a specially designed interview-schedule was developed and administered in the sample villages from Kalaburagi, Yadagiri and Bagalkoti districts of North- Karnataka. From each district 120 returned migrants were interviewed to collect information. Hence the total sample size was 360 migrant workers from the study area.

Data Analysis

Socio Economic Background

It is pointed out that 90.0 percent migrant workers were male and 10.0 percent migrants were female. Table- 1 presents that considerable number of migrant workers belong to the OBC which accounts 44.4 percent in study area. Further, 38.1 percent belonged to scheduled caste, 15.0 percent belonged to scheduled tribe and only 2.5 percent belonged to upper caste. This shows that majority of migrant workers belongs to SC/STs and OBCs from the north-Karnataka. Keeping the age of migrants in mind it is observed that 59.2 percent migrants were between 26-40 years, 20.8 percent were between 18 to 25 years and 20.8 percent migrants concentrated in the 41-60 years age group. This shows that migrant workers consist of predominantly working age between 18 to 40 years.

Sr. No	Particulars	Percentage
1	Gender	
	Male	90.0
	Female	10.0
2	Caste	
	SC	38.1
	ST	15.0
	OBC	44.4
	Upper Caste	2.5
3	Age	
	18-25	20.0
	26-40	59.2
	41-60	20.8
4	Education	
	Illiterate	20.8
	Upto SSLC	57.5
	PUC	20.0
	Graduate	1.7
5	Place Of Migration	
	Mumbai	50.8
	Banglore	35.81
	Goa	9.2
	Pune	4.2
6	Type Of House	
	Slum Hut	55.0
	Kachha House	45.0
7	Toilet Fascility	
	Own Toilet	12.5
	Sharing Toilet	58.1
	Open Space	29.4

Economic status of a rural family determines the educational levels of its children which in turn influence the gains from migration. Rural households due to their relative poverty in the villages, are not in a position to bear the high costs of better education for their children who are mostly compelled to leave

their village homes out of frustration from unemployment or under employment. But their lower educational levels become a major hindrance in getting higher income occupations in the urban Modern Sector. Further, examination of the education background of Migrant workers from Table - 1 shows that majority 57.5 percent migrant workers completed education below SSLC (Xth Standard). This is followed by 20.0 percent migrants workers had education up to pre-university (PUC) and only 1.7 percent migrant workers completed graduation. However, it is noticed that 20.8 percent migrant workers were illiterate. This clearly indicates that majority migrants in study area had education up to SSLC/PUC or Illiterate which made them to work in low income jobs at migrated place.

The major attraction for migrant workers in the North Karnataka directed towards Mumbai, Bangalore, Goa and Pune. Study findings shows that 50.8 percent migrant workers preferred Mumbai, 35.83 percent preferred Bangalore, 9.17 percent preferred Goa and 4.2 percent preferred Pune for their migration. It is quite interesting to note that Bangalore is emerged as destination for migration in recent period due to rapid construction activities taking place in the city. House or shelter is basic amenity to live alone or with family members at migrated place. As per our study, it is observed that 55.0 percent migrant workers live in slum huts and 45.0 percent migrant workers live in Kachcha house/ house with steel or plastic sheets. Thus, it is noted that all urban poor migrant workers live in slum areas and rented accommodation without any basic amenities. Further, study attempted to know the migrant workers access to toilet facility. Large majority 58.1 percent migrant workers are sharing toilet with others/neighbours and only 12.5 percent migrants have own toilet facility. However, it is discouraging to note that 29.4 percent migrant workers have no access to toilet facility and go to open place for toilet purpose. This clearly shows that migrant workers from this region live in slum area under unhygienic conditions which causes many health problems at migrated place.

Occupation And Income

Migrants coming out of the rural areas are generally poor, illiterate/semi literate and semi skilled/unskilled. Therefore, a major section of migrants find it easier to engage themselves in unskilled work to start an immediate earning then promote or switch on to better job if available in due course of time. Table - 2 unfolds the current occupation of migrant workers at migrated place. It is found that majority 38.3 percent migrants were engaged in 'construction activities' as labour, masons, tiles workers, plumbers etc. Whereas, 23.3 percent migrants work as 'coolie/labours' in informal sector, 10.0 percent migrants work as 'factory labours', 7.5 percent migrants involved in 'loading/unloading of logistics', 6.7 percent migrants work as 'security guards' and 4.2 percent migrants were 'truck/ auto divers'. Thus, it is found from the study that a substantial proportion of migrants are working in unskilled jobs or unorganised sector.

Sr. No	Particulars	Percentage
1	Construction	38.3
2	Security Guard	6.7
3	Factory Labour	10.0
4	Coolie / Labour	23.3
5	Truck/ Auto Driver	4.2
6	Loading / Unloading	7.5
7	Other Works	10.0
	TOTAL	100.0

Table 2 - Occupation Of Migrant At Migrated Place

Migration has an important bearing on the economic condition of migrant family. It is generally observed that economic condition of migrants outside the village is better, because cannot earn at home the money they need. Thus, the income of migrant at destination is another way of impact assessment of migration. As per Table - 3 it is worthwhile to note that majority 50.8 percent migrant workers had monthly income Rs.15,000 - 20,000, 38.3 percent

migrant workers had monthly income Rs.10,000 - 15,000 followed by 10.8 percent migrant workers had monthly income more than Rs.20,000. Thus, migrant workers monthly income at migrant place is far better than their income at their Villages.

Sr. No	Particulars	Percentage
1	Rs. 10,000 - 15,000	38.3
2	Rs. 15,000 - 20,000	50.8
3	Rs. 20,000 above	10.8
	TOTAL	100.0

Table 3 - Income Of Migrant

Place Of Staying During Lockdown

Millions of migrant workers stranded in cities without work and food during the lock-down, confined to their slum huts/shelters. With the lack of transport options, many from cities across the country, started walking hundreds of kilometres to get home. Many are stayed near the inter city borders and shelter homes. Many work who live in urban informal settlements and work sites. In this background information collected (Table - 4) on place of staying when stranded during lock-down presents that 62.5 percent migrant workers stayed in their own room/ house during lock-down. Another 30.0 percent migrant workers were provided temporary shelter by employer. Very few migrant workers i.e. 2.5 percent were accommodated by the Government in shelter/ relief camps. It is unfortunate to note that 5.0 percent migrant workers reported that they stayed on road side during lockdown period.

Sr. No	Particulars	Percentage
1	Own Room / House	62.5
2	Shelter By Govt	2.5
3	Shelter By Employer	30.0
4	On Road	5.0
	TOTAL	100.0

Table 4 - Place Of Staying When Stranded In Covid

Status Of Income During Lockdown

When lock-down was announced this hurt migrant workers most because they had no income due to loss in jobs. The Central and State Government had appealed to the employers of various migrant workers not to layoff or cut the salaries for the workers during this time of Covid-19 crisis. The migrant workers were enquired about status of income during lock-down. It is worthwhile to note from Table – 5 that large majority 85.0 percent migrant workers did not had income during lock-down. Only 7.5 percent each reported that they received either partial income or half income paid by employer during lock-down. Working like security guards or factory labours received meagre amount as income. This highlights that fate of migrant workers was pity as neither employers supported nor they had enough fund during lock-down to take care of the health and other needs of their families and themselves.

Sr. No	Particulars	Percentage
1	Partial Income	7.5
2	Half Income	7.5
3	No Income	85.0
	TOTAL	100.0

Table 5 - Status Of Income During Lockdown

Type Of Assistance

Migrant workers had come to the city with high hopes for a better livelihood but had been stranded jobless for nearly two months following the lockdown. It is pertinent to note from Table – 6 that 75.8 percent lockdown hit migrant workers did not receive any kind of assistance during lockdown when they were stranded at migrated places. However, 12.5 percent and 10.0 percent stranded migrant workers were access to receive 'cooked food pockets' and 'free milk', respectively. Only 1.7 percent migrant workers were able to receive 'ration kit' during lockdown period. This reveals the distress position and ground reality of the migrant workers across the country.

Sr. No	Particulars	Percentage
1	Received No Help	75.8
2	Cooked Food Packets	12.5
3	Free Milk	10.0
4	Ration Kit	1.7
	TOTAL	100.0

Table 6 - Type Of Assistance Received During Lockdown

Money In Hand During Lockdown

The study findings presented in Table – 7 highlights that 38.3 percent migrant workers had barely Rs100-500 in their hand. This is followed by 15.8 percent migrant workers left with between Rs.500-1000 and 16.7 percent migrant workers were left with between Rs.1000-2000. Further, it is unsatisfactory to note that 29.2 percent stranded migrant workers did not had money in hand to meet day to day expenditure. Thus, stranded migrant labours had to purchase rations for daily meals, but also had to buy essentials such as soap, oil, cooking gas, medicines, phone recharges etc. Further, they had to pay rent of room/ house at a time when they had no income. This highlights more grim picture of the migrant workers loss in jobs and income during covid-19 lock-down.

Sr. No	Particulars	Percentage
1	Rs. 100-500	38.3
2	Rs. 500 - 1000	15.8
3	Rs. 1000 - 2000	16.7
4	No Money	29.2
	TOTAL	100.0

Table 7 - Money In Hand During Lockdown

Problems Faced During Lockdown

The migrant labours, who are poor and unorganised living in overcrowded slum areas or homes or shelter are highly vulnerable to get infected and thus transmission through them is highly possible when it

comes to pandemics. Such large stranded migrant workers who are already struggling had been pushed to the brink. Thus, study also reveals the information about problems faced by stranded migrant labours during lock-down. When we enquired about their problems as shown in Table - 8, majority 80.8 percent migrant workers reported that they did not had 'work/ income' during lock-down period. Further, 8.6 percent migrant workers reported that they stayed in 'undeserved shelter' followed by 5.8 percent migrant workers 'did not had money' to spend on their essentials, 1.7 percent did not had food for eating and 3.1 percent reported 'absence of health facilities' for their health problems. This shows how migrant workers passed the brink of starvation and covid-19 opened a troubling window to the intense distress of migrant workers stranded by the lock-down.

Sr. No	Particulars	Percentage
1	Underserved Shelter	8.6
2	No Work / No Income	80.8
3	No Money In Hand	5.8
4	No Food For Eating	1.7
5	No Health Facilities	3.1
	TOTAL	100.0

Table 8 - Problems Faced During Lockdown

Means Used To Reach Native

The corona virus is so scary that if one dies, the authorities would cremate that person like an orphan as his/her parents or family members may not be allowed to participate or even to see the face (man dies alone). This increased panic among migrants and they wanted to return their natives. There was a need for special buses/ trains to transport migrant workers from stranded places to their native villages. To know about this, we enquired migrant labours about means they used to reach their native villages (Table - 9). It is found from our

study that 71.4 percent migrant labours reached their home villages by buses/ trains arranged by the Central/State Governments. Further, it is observed that 21.7 percent migrant labours reported that they reached their home by hiding in truck/van during lockdown. Whereas, 3.3 percent migrant labours used cycles/ bike to reach their native villages.

Sr. No	Particulars	Percentage
1	Riding Cycle / Bike	3.3
2	By Truck / Van (Illegally)	21.7
3	Govt Arranged Train/Bus	71.4
4	Other Means	3.6
	TOTAL	100.0

Table 9 - Means Used To Reach Native

Problems Faced To Reach Native

The migrant labours, who are poor and unorganised living in overcrowded slum areas or homes or shelter are highly vulnerable to get infected and thus transmission through them is highly possible when it comes to pandemics. Such large stranded migrant workers who are already struggling had been pushed to the brink. Thus, study also reveals the information about problems faced by stranded migrant labours during lockdown. When we enquired about their problems as shown in Table - 8, majority 80.8 percent migrant workers reported that they did not had 'work/ income' during lockdown period. Further, 8.6 percent migrant workers reported that they stayed in 'undeserved shelter' followed by 5.8 percent migrant workers 'did not had money' to spend on their essentials, 1.7 percent did not had food for eating and 3.1 percent reported 'absence of health facilities' for their health problems. This shows how migrant workers passed the brink of starvation and covid-19 opened a troubling window to the intense distress of migrant workers stranded by the lockdown.

Sr. No	Particulars	Percentage
1	Food Not Available	58.1
2	Unable To Meet Daily Expenses	26.4
3	Vehicle Not Available	10.0
4	Problem Crossing Interstate Border	3.9
5	Rude Behaviour Of Police / Officers	1.7
	TOTAL	100.0

Table 10 - Problems Faced To Reach Native

Work And Income After Return

Employment prospect in urban areas is higher than rural areas. Rural urban wage differentials is one of the most important economic variables explaining rural-urban migration. Extensive spread of covid-19 put migrant workers in further economic uncertainty and psychological distress. Migrants were asked what work they are doing now after return to their native place. It is observed from the Table – 11 that 25.6 percent migrants are not working right now at their village. As against this, 20.8 migrants are going to MGNREGA works and 26.9 percent returned migrants are going to others land as labour. Whereas, 25.0 percent migrants reported that they are working in their own land. Only 1.7 percent returned migrants are able to find work in non-farm fields.

Sr. No	Particulars	Percentage
1	Not Working	25.6
2	Going to MGNREGA Works	20.8
3	Going To Others Land As Labour	26.9
4	Working In Own Land	25.0
5	Non Farm Activities	1.7
	TOTAL	100.0

Table 11 - Type Of Work After Return To Native

Further, Table - 12 reveals the information about migrants income when they have started to work after returning their villages. It is found that 66.1 percent migrants are able to earn Rs.2000-4000 per month. Followed this, 11.2 percent each earn up to Rs.2000 and Rs.4000-6000 per month respectively. Only 11.5 percent migrants managed to earn more than Rs.6000 per month at the village.

Sr. No	Particulars	Percentage
1	Upto Rs. 2000	11.2
2	Rs. 2000 - 4000	66.1
3	Rs. 4000 - 6000	11.2
4	Rs. 6000 Above	11.5
	TOTAL	100.0

Table 12 - Monthly Income After Return To Native

Maintaining Family Expenditure

Returned migrants were enquired about arrangements made for their family expenditure at their village. Information provided in Table – 13 illustrates that 68.6 percent migrants are able to maintain their family expenditure with the help of income from their work. Against this, 19.7 percent migrants and 11.7 percent migrants reported that their family expenditure is met out of credit from money lenders and borrowings from relatives/ friends.

Sr. No	Particulars	Percentage
1	Income From Work	68.6
2	Credit From Money Lenders	19.7
3	Borrowing From Friends	11.7
	TOTAL	100.0

Table 13 - Maintaining Family Expenditure

Willing To Return

Since big cities depends on migrant workers for the revival of their economic activities. On the other hand migrant labours earnings and remittances stopped due to lock-down and they are unable to earn income than their earning level in urban areas. Hence, here an attempt is made to explore migrants willingness to return back to cities. Of the migrants interviewed around 75.00 percent migrants are willing to return back. Whereas, around 25 percent are not willing to return back. Further, we enquired reason for return back to cities. It is worthwhile to note from the evidences presented in Table - 14 that 50.8 percent migrants are ready to return cities because of higher wages available in cities. This is followed by 15.0 percent migrants because of 'inevitable to get full time work' which is not available in rural areas and 8.3 percent stated 'to meet family expenditure' it is inevitable to return back cities for their livelihood.

Sr. No	Particulars	Percentage
1	Not Willing	25.8
2	Not Getting Full Time Work	15.0
3	Higher Wages	50.8
4	To Meet Family Expenses	8.3
	TOTAL	100.0

Table 14 - Reason For Returning To City For Work

Among the migrants who stated that they are not ready to return to city mentioned the reasons like 'fear of lockdown (22.6 percent)', 'psychologically not prepared (25.8 percent)', 'want to stay in home/ village (35.5 percent)' and 'family members/ relatives not allowed (16.1 percent)' (Table - 15).

Sr. No	Particulars	Percentage
1	Fear Of Lockdown	22.6
2	Psychologically Unprepared	25.8
3	Want To Stay In Village	35.5
4	Family Not Willing	16.1
	TOTAL	100.0

Table 15 - Reason For Not Returning To City For Work

Expectations From Government

To understand the future plans based on their previous experiences during lock-down migrant workers were asked to state their expectations from the Government (both Central and State) to lead good life in future days. It is pertinent to note from the Table - 16 that 49.4 percent migrant workers expects higher wages for their work at their villages. Further, it is supported by 23.1 percent and 21.7 percent migrants who are expecting 'food security' and 'sufficient work at native place', respectively. And also 3.3 percent migrants demanded 'free and good education to children' and 2.5 percent migrants quoted 'free credit facility for self employment/ business'.

Sr. No	Particulars	Percentage
1	Food Security At Native	23.1
2	Sufficient Work At Native	21.7
3	Higher Wages For Work	49.4
4	Free Credit Facility For Self Employment / Business	2.5
5	Free Good Education For Children	3.3
	TOTAL	100.0

Table 16 - Expectations From Government

Recommendations

Based on above mentioned analysis this is right time to redesign our political, economic and social system. Strong measures are needed for the next planning to protect migrant labours who are right now at the bottom of ladder. Ascertaining these will answer the basic question whether the humanity still retains its rationality. Further, India's economic growth model is based on the cheap labour of rural-to-urban migrants who often work growth centres. They remained an unenumerated, unrecognised presence in cities and are excluded from many welfare/social security measures. The pandemic and lock-down has exposed this fundamental flaw in India's policy design.

Because, these are the people, who play a key role in national reconstruction required after the pandemic, and attending to them by the policy makers, administrators, industrialists, social organisations and the society at this time is the key. For this, following recommendations are outlined:

Central Government

- There is need to expand activities of MGNREGA and include non-farm and productive activities like agro-based, food processing and agri-business activities. This would not only help migrant labours to fetch more monthly income at local level but also speed up economic activities in rural areas.
- Migrant workers who returned to their native village are trying to find livelihood alternatives. For this Government should encourage to invest in small and medium long-term activities (MSMEs) and increase start-up programmes in rural areas. Hence, banks, other financial institutions and SHGs network should be initiated to avail loans at local level with low interest, limited security and flexible repayments.
- Immediate attention should be given to mapping of returned migrant workers and categorize them as skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled based on their previous employment experience background. This support re-skilling of poor migrant workers into potential workers when economic activities are fully revived. Further, this helps to enhance human resource power for different types of opportunities for workers in different fields.
- There is fluctuating demand for skilled and unskilled migrant workers due to uncertainties created by Covid-19 pandemic. This is good opportunity to Central Government to formulate comprehensive skill development strategy.
- Present ongoing PM-SYM (Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-daan) and DDU-GKY (Deen Dayal Upadya- Gramina Koushlya Yojana) should focus more on placement linked skill training to returned migrant workers. This creates local accessibility to job opportunities and retain them at local level.

- Social Security measures need to enhance and cover migrant workers effectively. Social Security Schemes like insurance, employment guarantee, pension scheme after 60 years age, unemployment allowance, one nation one ration card, health cards/healthcare security, housing, free education to their children up to higher and professional education should be extended immediately on priority basis to migrant workers.
- Existing laws related to migrant workers should be amended in order to ensure employment guarantee in case of inter-state migration, housing facility, medical facility, food security, better wage rates and other Social Security measures at migrant places.
- Priority should be given to registration of migrant workers covering their Socio-economic-educational-skill background using latest digital technologies. Unique ID number should be given by issuing cards (like Aadhar card) which will useful throughout the country wherever workers migrates. This registered data base would help for formulation of policies at national and state level and protecting migrants in emergency cases like covid-19 pandemic.
- Necessary provision shall be made by Election Commission to provide right to vote in migrated/destiny state. Hence, destiny state would take interest and initiate welfare measure and social security provisions to the migrant workers.

State Government

- Most of the workers migrates from drought-prone area due to failure of monsoon, famine or single crop to be grown. Hence, priority should be given to the development of dry land agriculture by providing necessary seeds, fertilizer, construction of small-check-bunds, credit and technology. This would ensure marginal and small farmers and agricultural labours about local employment opportunities during off-season.

- Attention should be given to horticulture, commercial crops, floriculture, agro-based, food processing and agri-business activities in rural areas to generate more employment opportunities.
- Practising organic farming would also help to overcome the constraints of dry land agriculture and boost the agricultural economy in the State.
- Fluctuations in agricultural prices is common phenomenon in agricultural economy. Therefore, efficient and strong agricultural marketing is basic need of our agrarian society to overcome these hurdles. Ordinance issued by State Government would help to control exploitation of farmers by middlemen and organized strong commission agents. This gives higher income to marginal and small farmers and prevents their migration during off-season. Hence, the effective execution of law is essential to strengthen agricultural market to overcome agriculture crisis which causes the suicide of farmers, and also retain helps to migrant workers at native village.
- Rural industrial and entrepreneurial activities like brick kilns, food processing, livestock, fishery, carpentry, pottery etc based on our traditional skills should be promoted. For this State Government should extend technological and credit help and market link be created for rural products. In this matter Government can also take the help of NGOs and SHGs.
- Government of Karnataka shall have tie-up with National Academy of Skill Development at Dandeli under Vishveshwaraiah Technical University, Belagavi for migrants skill development/training to create multi task jobs. Expenses of Short Term Training Program (STTP) for migrant workers should be borne by the State Government.
- Based on data created or mapping, district/ division level skill development centres should be started to cover returned migrant workers at local level. Simultaneously, job placements should be provided with the help of local MSMEs and District Industrial Centres (DICs).
- Industries where migrants are working should provide permanent/ temporary (seasonal) shelters, night shelters, medical facility, better wages, social security measures, free food at work place. Industries also give short term training to migrant workers to enhance their skills and acquaint with modern technology. Alongwith these Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) should initiate measures for the benefit of migrant workers.
- Help centres like counseling centres to build confidence, hiplines for guidance, wellness (Yoga Asans, Meditation etc), nutrition guidance, awareness against intoxicant bad habits and blind beliefs should be undertaken at native villages and migrated place with the help of various organizations.
- Conducive atmosphere and guidance should be provided for the utilization of migrants remittances for family welfare, education, health and productive activities. This substantially improve the standard of living of migrant families at their native places.
- Gram Panchayats should collect information about current skills of workers, their socio-economic background and map them. This further help for skill development, entrepreneurship, re-skilling and up skilling by Skill Development Centres and District Industrial Centres.
- State Government also should map-up migrant families children and initiate good education system for migrants children.
- Society has also responsibility of treating migrant workers with dignity and avoid social and gender discrimination. Society must aim to unite all, work for the benefit of all and establish Samarasatha among all.

Conclusion

Thus, the Covid-19 pandemic which results in lockdown have severely impacted migrant workers from north Karnataka region. It has not only thrown them out of work at migrated places/ cities, but also pushed them distress position and sufferings. Further, this created financial insecurity and blink future for migrants who were construction workers, coolies/ factory labours, security guards, drivers, loaders/ unloaders etc. Most of them are either daily wage earners or casual workers whose income has been stopped due to stagnancy in economic activities of urban areas.

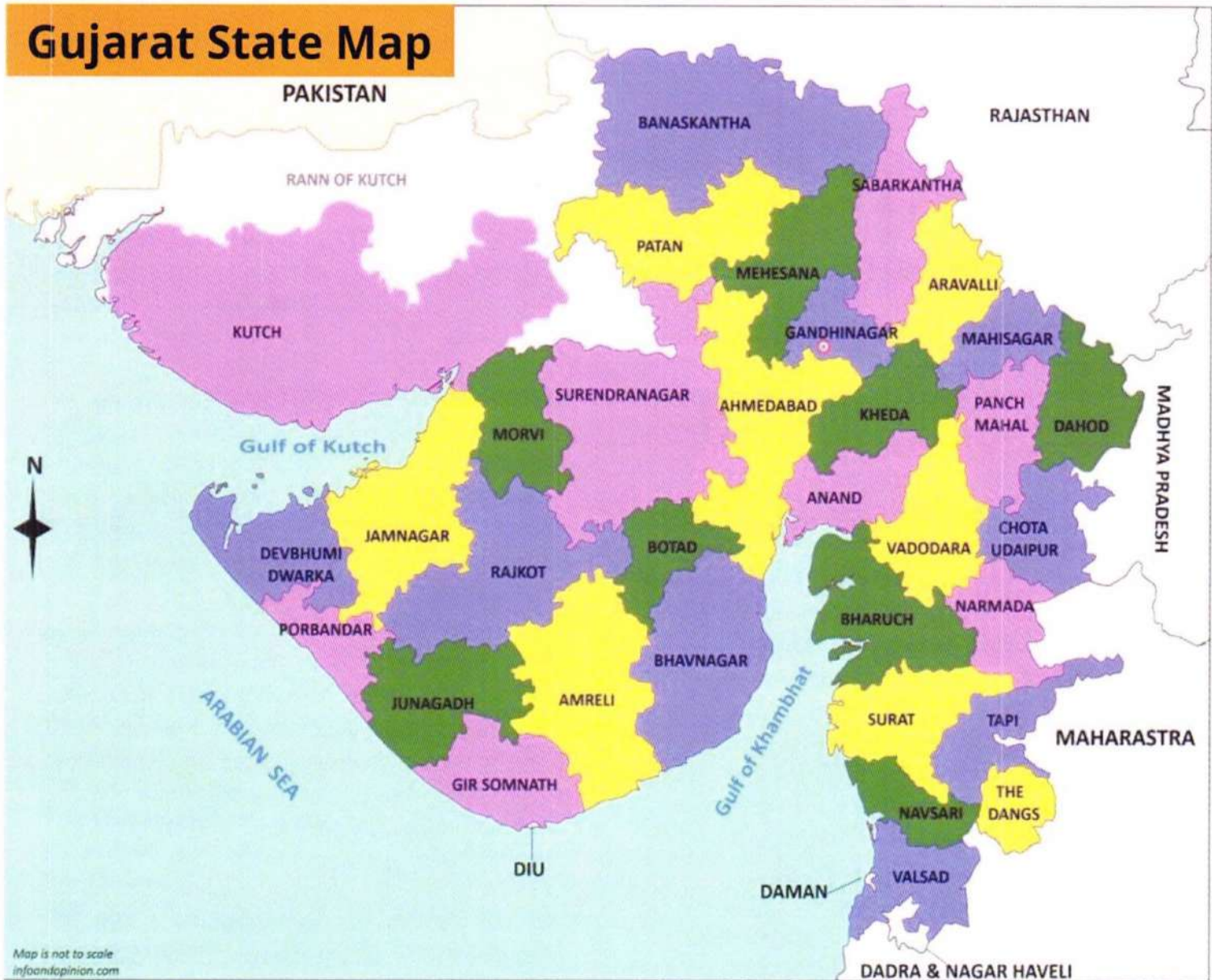
As a result of these unexpected development, migrant labours were unable to access food and other basic amenities to lead better life. Most of them experienced lack of money/ no money to travel or survive, loan and rent to be paid and faced uncertainty in the whole life what to do now and what about our future. The contractors who took them to city left migrant workers in mid without paying a meagre amount or compensation during these miserable days. Moreover, contractors and employers switched off their mobile phones.

These migrants managed to reach their native villages with all difficulties. When they reached, either they were not treated well or quarantined without any basic facilities. Even these migrant workers were humiliated as messengers of corona virus and blamed them as they are responsible for spread of this virus. Their nature of work and level of earnings changed drastically. Even then, migrant workers are ready to return to cities for better life due to lack of employment opportunities and low wages existing in native villages when compared to urban areas or migrated cities. Therefore, emphasis be made on enhancing their skills or re-skilling/up skilling through short-term training programs and prepare them how to tackle present and future situations.

All these future developments depends on how native and destination states responds to reduce migrant workers miseries based on above mentioned recommendations. Central Government and Government of Karnataka should take immediate measures and try to build confidence among migrant workers who wish to stay at villages or who wish to return to cities.



Gujarat State Map



Map is not to scale
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Labour Migration - Gujarat

Kishor Makwana
Author and Columnist

Introduction

Gujarat is peaceful, secure & prosperous since centuries and at the same time it is also world famous for its culture, service & hospitality. Gujarati temperament and culture reflects exactly in this poetry of the famous Gujarati poet, Shri Dula Bhaya Kaag, who says: 'Hey, if someone comes to you as an unknown traveller, give him a warm welcome'. Gujarat is the only state where one can get bread and shelter easily and that is why people from all

over India keep coming here for work. Millions of people are coming to Gujarat from all states of India for earning their livelihood and their hopes are very well fulfilled. At the same time, it is also a fact that migration of Gujarati workers to other places is almost non-existent. There are millions of people who come to Gujarat for work and eventually they become residents of Gujarat. Especially, large number of workers from Odisha, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan come to Gujarat. Is here from every state. Gujarati hospitality and traditions are

such that they feel like their own home after coming to Gujarat. They also become Gujarati and participate in the development of Gujarat. That is why Gujarati people took utmost care of migrant labourers during the period of the global Corona epidemic. Gujarati's made all arrangements starting from their food and other daily requirements to the arrangement for their travel back to their home states. Empathy and kind service are the tradition of Gujarat and that became more apparent in this global crisis.

The Migration Survey

There is an extensive study taken up on the issue of fleeing and exodus of migrant workers in Gujarat. This study was done in two phases. Migrant workers travelling through trains from Vadodara, Surat and Ahmedabad railway stations were asked a structured set of questions in the first phase. And the same questionnaire was used in the second phase for the migrant workers who were travelling on foot on the highways of the state. A total of 2852 workers were questioned out of which 1782 were travelling via trains and the rest of the 970 workers were travelling on foot on highways.

- As many as 60 % of respondents were between the age group of 26-45; while, 25% were falling under the age group of 46-55; but very few respondents were above 55 years of age. Talking about the marital status, then again 60% out of them were married, 29% of them were unmarried and rest 11% were either widow/ widower or divorcee. It is also to be noted that only 06% workers were uneducated and most of them were above 45 years of age.
- Out of rest, 23 % were having education up to schooling and about 28% attended or passed high-school; we can say that on an average 50% of total migrant workers were educated up to 10th level or less.
- Primarily, we can say that one of the prime reasons for such exodus was because of such a low level of education. But, on the other side, 25% out of them were studied up to 12th grade; and at least 10% of total workers were also passed through technical institutions. Gujarat was a "hot spot" for these 35% to avail their desired jobs because, Gujarati youth doesn't prefer to take up the job where they have to do extensive physical hard work for 12 t o 15 hours a day.
- Another surprising and shocking fact was; out of the total respondents from fleeing migrating workers 92% were Hindus and 06% Buddhist and only 1.5% were Muslims. Actually, the Muslim average of migrant workers in Gujarat is 20% but, they were not travelling along with others due to the fear of "Corona" pandemic. It's in fact a complex question that - why Muslims were also not travelling back to their home state along with others? One more surprising fact was 06% respondents were Buddhists; which shows that Dalit Hindus are converting largely into Buddhism. This should be a warning signal for Hindu Dharmacharyas; they shall have to think seriously about this.
- Coming back to the survey results - 25% of respondents owned the houses in the place of their working, while 35% of them were living in rental homes and 20% of total respondents were living in shared rental accommodation. Around 14% of total respondents were provided accommodation by their employers. Another fact we found was, approximate 25% of them were living in chawl type houses. And 50% were owning apartments, 25% raw houses, 05% have tenements and 25% owned a room in chawls out of those who own their own houses. None of the respondents were found as homeless. If we consider those 25% living in chawls and 6% living in makeshift slum type houses; almost 70% respondents were having proper place for living with good hygiene and clean neighborhood while 30% were not living in hygienic neighborhood, but at least they were not homeless.

- Study shows that 14% of total respondents were living alone. And 25% of them were living with their spouse, while another 25% were living with their spouse and kids all together and 07% were living even with their parents. 17% of them were living with their friends while 13% were living with another family member like brother or sister or uncle or aunt.
- Around 25% of them were self-employed or having some kind of small businesses. 24% of them were earning their living as casual labourers and 32% were employed as contract labourer and earning their monthly salaries; almost half of such contract labourers were working either as heavy vehicle drivers or heavy machine operators, while 25% of them are engaged in hard work jobs like rig operators, turners, arc-welders or boiler attendant. 18% are even employed with companies as permanent employees and earning their living beings. The most important outcome was that not a single respondent was unemployed.
- Those 24% who are earning their living as casual labourers told that they used to get desired work for 15 to 20 days in a month, when they were asked about their monthly average working days. Out of them, 21% are having 15-20 days work in a month, while 08% are working for less than 15 days in a month; 64% of them has 20-25 days' work in a month and 07% has more than 25 days' work in a month.
- Looking at their monthly income; 12% respondents were earning less than 15,000 a month and 17% were earning 15,000 to 20,000 per month. Some 24% of them fall in the slot of 25,000 to 30,000 a month and 13% are having their monthly income between Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 35,000 per month. Many such respondents found whose other family members were also earning, and they were in large numbers. Spouse of 40% respondents were also an earning member of the family, and 29% were such whose children were also having their own income.
- 65% of other family members like parents or sister or brother were also earning their own income. In short, family members of most of the respondents were also working and earning, so we can say that more than one member per family is earning their income from their workplace.
- Those working as casual labourers are not getting any benefits like EPF, ESI or Social Security Scheme under Interest Migrant workers' act. While those who are working as either contract labour or permanent labourers; 60% of them benefited with EPF and 55% had ESI benefits. All those NGOs who claim to work for the interest of the general public and keep filing PLIs (Public Interest Litigation) for trivial reasons, should take notice of such eye-opening facts. Almost 50% of migrant workers and labourers are not getting EPF and ESI benefits. Why no NGOs are coming forward and filing a PLI for such obvious reasons?
- Now, we also explored their financial positions and patterns of their commercial transactions. We noted that 97% of them were having their bank accounts, and an average 75% of them have taken a loan for one or other reasons. Figures of their loan amounts were : almost 44% respondents have taken loan of Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 25,000; while 25% respondents were such who have taken loan of Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1,00,000. Their purpose of loans were also different; if we classify them then, 25% of them have taken it for two-wheeler vehicle loans, 17% have taken it for mobile phones, and 12% of them have taken loans for appliances like TV, Refrigerator etc. 11% of them have taken personal loans, 13% for medical reasons, 07% have taken it for home repairs and 05% took it as housing loans. 40% of them took it from one of the other banks, 22% took it from private money lenders, while 17% took from their employers, 12% from friends and 08% took it from relatives.

- 23% of them didn't reply while responding to the question : 'how much cash are you carrying now?' But, it's an eye opening for all of us what we received as an answer from the rest of the 77%. 39% of them were having less than Rs. 2,500 with them, 24% were carrying between Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 5,000; 10% between Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 10,000 and there were about 05% respondents who were carrying the cash between Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000.
- One more shocking result of this survey was 90% of respondents were addicted to Gutkha. Around 50% of them were consuming alcohol and 45% were addicted to Kaini – mixture of tobacco and lime. It is also important to the Police and home department that 23% of them were also consuming drugs like hashish or weeds. It is also more shocking and eye-opening for society that average 65% of them watch pornography on their mobile phones and 22% even admitted very casually that they engage in physical relationship with sex workers, and they are also spending money for the same. This is most dangerous for society.
- We conclude that if all such organizations would have managed to carry out series of periodical meetings to discuss about future problems to be faced with migrant workers then they may have been able to take them into confidence with the help of print media as well as electronic media and they may have created the whole environment in such a way that issue wouldn't become challenge. It is also very much clear that if they have created such an environment of confidence then they wouldn't have believed in rumours and depressive messages circulating on social media.
- It was essential to carry out counselling programs in association with industrial unions, labour unions and social groups within migrant workers' clusters. These labourers were habituated with the work of 15-18 hours and in rest of the time they were hooked to their addiction. They will be quite depressed if they can't get any of them. It is obvious that no one can be free from such addictions in a matter of day or two. It was found that they used to intoxicate themselves by paying 10 times the normal cost during that lock-down period. It was possible for above mentioned organizations to arrange to supply them normal and legally allowed addictive products at nominal costs, that may have been a game changer. Instead of that, in some areas even the police department have warned them to flee away as now no one is there to take care of them. They became more eager to flee away when such incidents occurred repetitively.

Conclusions

- Gujarat Government shall have to keep a constant watch over this issue when Gujarat has about 55 lacs migrant workers. That was a mammoth failure of the government. The issue of migrant workers became a big problem only because the government couldn't foresee its future challenges. Government officers should have taken preventive measures right from the first week of April, when workers have received the salary of March.
- The government should have deployed officers and secretaries from the labour department right in the beginning to tackle the issue of migrant workers. They could have brought the industrial unions, labour unions and social groups of respective states on one platform for discussion within the areas where migrant workers were working in large numbers.
- Gujarat was known for its tradition of Mahajans; where industrial houses always took utmost care of their employees and especially laborers. But, even those industrial houses also forgot about their tradition in that critical period of lock-down. It is immensely required that Mahajan tradition should be revived in this most industrialized state. They could have taken creative initiatives in the lock-down period; where government was failed and could have prevented such a big mess-up as well as their current suffering without workers.

- We, in our society also have a tradition to provide food and water to needy, many charitable organizations used this practice during the devotees pilgrimage on foot to Dakor or Ambaji temples. They used to put up roadside stalls to provide such facilities to devotees. But, administration as well as such charitable organizations also failed to provide such kinds of facilities of food and water to migrant workers. This, as per our findings, is also a big lacking towards migrant workers.

State Government Measures

- However, later when realizing the challenge of migrant workers' issue; the state government took proper and step by step measures to deal with the issue.
- Government formed a team of one IAS and one IPS cadre officers for smooth coordination with the administration of destination states in order to avail permission for trains and other formal acceptances; and gave them the responsibility of the entire task
- It is not possible to avail required trains from railways; so the government made it compulsory to get registered for migrant workers in order to travel to their home states. Local government provided facility to register on-line from the comfort of their homes; so that they don't have to come out and violate lock-down regulations.
- These registration forms are then sent to the local administration for approvals; migrant labourers can travel only after its approval from them.
- After scheduling the state-wise trains, migrant workers were taken to their respective states with all due respect; keeping all norms of safety into account like safety, social distancing etc.
- More than 14.50 lac migrant labourers were transported to their home states in just 20 days; this shows the state government's excellent facilities and commitment to migrant labourers.

- Around 1000 trains were arranged during this period; which is the highest number of trains from any single state in the entire country.

RSS and Sewa Bharati

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) volunteers provided full support to the arrangements made by the government to send workers to many places in Gujarat. From the meals of the workers to their accommodation. Food Distribution 132467 workers benefited from a total of 61 centres in Gujarat. Medical Assistance Centre 20, benefited 16930, Bus-Train Assistance Centre 19, Beneficiary - 70898, assisted 220295 workers at a total of 100 centres.

Delhi



Labour Migration - Delhi

Advocate Vinod Diwakar
Additional Advocate General, UP

Introduction

The mass exodus of migrant workers from Delhi in the wake of the outbreak of Corona pandemic from March 2020 has put the focus on the plight of

workers from other states that flock to Delhi and its adjoining areas in search of employment and a desire to improve their economic lot. Pictures of thousands of migrant workers who had thronged Delhi's Anand Vihar bus depot and jammed the

national highway after the lock-down still present a haunting scenario. The migrant workers were hoping to get on to some bus which would take them to their home towns or villages in U.P. or Bihar. But, they found themselves caught in the quagmire of utter chaos, confusion and directionless administration of Delhi Government which did know how to handle the crisis. The civil administration and labour department have shown no concern to cope up with the crises. In the initial two months, there was absolutely no plan, arrangements, or policy to deal with the migrant workers.

If lock-down was ordered by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to contain the spread of the pandemic, it was the duty of respective state governments as well to make arrangements for the stranded migrant workers so that they were put up in camps and fed at least two square meals in a day.

The Delhi Government was caught unawares by the crisis, and long queues were seen outside food distribution centres where migrant workers had to wait for four to five hours to get a packet of food for lunch and then again line up to lay their hands on another food packet for their dinner. Such arrangements presented a sorry state of affairs. If several social organizations, temples and Sikh gurudwaras had not stepped in to feed the needy and hungry, the situation would have been worse. Two COVID -2019 relief centre were burnt by the migrant labours situated at the bank of Yamuna near Kashmari gate for lack of food and water.

The scenario on Delhi's borders with Haryana and U.P. as well as on railway stations, bus depots and airports was also no different. Train services had been severely curtailed, buses were arranged, but their number was too small, and the airport and other entry and exit points did not have Delhi government officials to keep track of inbound or outbound passengers. Borders were also not manned by government officials who could keep a track on the movement of migrant workers, and Delhi Police had to step in to fulfil these duties apart from holding a strict vigil on containment zones.

The health department of the state government could not cope up with the crises despite colossal budget allocation, this has also aggravated the problems of migrants workers and Delhi's residents.

On 12 June, the Supreme Court slammed the Delhi government for poor handling of the pandemic. Terming Delhi's COVID-19 management as "horrendous, horrific and pathetic" where patients are being treated "worse than animals", the highest court directed the state's chief secretary and health secretary to submit the status report on the issue immediately.

With the surge in cases, Delhi has been struggling with the limited number of healthcare professionals, availability of hospital beds, critical healthcare support infrastructure and other related resources to contain the outbreak. After recording more than 10,000 cases in the last three days, New Delhi's tally stood at 70,000 on June 24, surpassing Mumbai in terms of the number of cases.

Looking at Delhi's Covid-19 situation as well as the reports that have anticipated bigger surge in days to come, the Centre stepped in to provide the needed support to contain the pandemic. Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan have convened several meetings and have taken some important steps to control the crisis. The Delhi government was also being accused of hiding data on Covid deaths, going slow on ramping up health infrastructure, particularly beds, testing and a host of related decisions to contain the outbreak. The Mohalla clinic has failed to deal with COVID 2019 crises in all fronts.

For a city with 19 million populations, the hospital capacity for COVID-19 patients was less than 8000 in mid-June when the city began witnessing an exponential rise in infections. Shortage of beds, inadequate health personnel and patients in critical condition struggling to get themselves admitted in designated hospitals prompted the Delhi government to slow down testing and limit healthcare to Delhi residents only. Such a sorry state of affairs in the national capital with no known resource constraints points either to complacency or lack of a robust plan to tackle the pandemic.

The Multiplicity Of Authorities

Second, as national capital territory, Delhi faces peculiar challenges to manage a global pandemic that requires swift decision making and coordinated approach. The Delhi government has shown a casual approach towards dealing with the crises and most of the time the officers of the Delhi government kept involved in a blame game with the centre. The city has the distinction of hosting hundred-odd parastatal agencies, central departments, municipal institutions, L-G and an elected government often competing for the same roles. On health, there are three distinct authorities: Union health ministry, Delhi government and municipal corporation of Delhi (MCD) that administer a fleet of hospitals. For instance, while the Union government runs some significant hospitals such as AIIMS, Safdarjung and RML, MCDs control a number of other major hospitals such as The Hindu Rao, Rajan Babu TB hospital. Practically speaking, the Delhi government is in control of two major hospitals; LNJP, GTB and Deen Dayal Upadhyay hospitals.

With competitive politics at play (given the Centre and MCDs are in the hands of the BJP and Delhi government with AAP), securing the cooperation of all entities by the Delhi government has been mired with the constant bickering, blame games and sidestepping. For instance, for several weeks when the Delhi government and MCDs were fighting over Covid-19 deaths and availability of beds for patients, Delhi was slipping into crisis mode.

Even after three months of lockdown, MCDs have done little to expand beds in their administered hospitals and have conveniently blamed the city government for the crisis. However, the worst is concerning a flurry of recent orders on testing and quarantine procedures by L-G's office and Delhi government which shows there is little coordination and common cause on Covid-19. Thus, Delhi's disjointed governance system having multiple agencies and civic bodies fiercely competing to deliver the same set of services has turned out to be a significant hurdle to fight a pandemic that requires a coordinated response and unified command.

Neglected Tertiary Healthcare

Finally, the most critical factor impacting the collective fight against Covid-19 is the national capital's long-neglected tertiary healthcare system. It may be mentioned that the AAP government made massive political gains through an array of programs such as Mohalla clinics, polyclinics and free medicines and surgeries for 30 life-threatening diseases for the poor. Notably, between 2015-2019, the AAP government had nearly doubled budgetary allocations to healthcare from Rs. 3300 Cr. to Rs. 7485 Cr. Delhi's total expenditure on healthcare went bigger than the average of many large states in India.

However, these allocations have been mainly devoted to expanding primary healthcare and programs such as free medicines, critical patient surgeries, among others. Despite tall claims and promises to overhaul the city's tertiary health infrastructure significantly increasing beds, ICU wards and healthcare personnel, most of these remained on paper. For instance, the AAM party had promised to create 30,000 new beds in government hospitals in 2015. By the end of its tenure in 2020, a fraction (394 beds in 38 hospitals) of this promise was met.

Similarly, the AAP government wasted the opportunity to enhance the bench strength of critical health professionals during its eventful tenure. Despite its tall claim to have transformed the capital

city's healthcare, a recent report "The State of Health in Delhi" stated that Delhi is short of 66% medical lecturers, 34% shortage of medical staff, particularly doctors, surgeons and specialists, and 29% shortage of paramedical staff. The hospitals also lack 40% of administrative staff and 38% labour. In short, a neglected tertiary health system coupled with inadequate medical and para-medical personnel have lengthened Delhi's struggle to contain the spread of the virus. Hospitals in the national capital are found struggling to provide enough beds, arrange critical care units, adequate medical and nursing staff (with many testing Covid positive and in quarantine) to manage the outbreak.

When it comes to where the migrants choose to live in Delhi, there is a pattern too. For example, almost half of Punjabi migrants live in one of the two Western districts, North-West or West. These two districts are homes to nearly 40% of the migrants from Bihar. South and South-West districts host almost 60% of migrants from Odisha.

Apart from the health crisis which was presented by Covid 19 outbreak which exposed the shortfalls in the health infrastructure, the pandemic also brought out the deficiencies in the local government's labour department which was left clueless on the number of migrant workers and their employment in different sectors. In the absence of a database, the crisis overwhelmed the Delhi government, its ministers and officials who failed to work out a strategy for tackling the crisis – be it migrant workers or health infrastructure.

It was left to the Centre, and Union Home Minister Amit Shah had to step in May to show urgency and hold meetings with the Chief Minister and concerned departments to set up Covid care centres and monitor the situation round the clock to bring it under control. Hospitals were overflowing with patients, cremation grounds were full, and ambulances were hard to locate. Only when synchronized efforts were put in place, things started falling in place. Shramik Special trains were put in operation to ferry the migrant workers to their destinations.

Migrant workers often find work in the informal sector, making do with odd jobs as household helps and workers in shops, delivery of services either in shops or e-commerce platforms, setting up roadside eating joints, working as drivers or in hotels, restaurants, roadside eateries, and clubs as well as the health sector.

In industrial areas of Delhi like Naraina, Bawana or Mayapuri, migrant workers find jobs in accordance with their skills in a number of factories. Construction sites also employ a substantial chunk of workers and skilled workmen like electricians, plumbers, masons, carpenters, stone cutters, painters, and their helpers. There are other odd jobs as well like tailors, auto repair workshops, laundries, cobblers where these workers get absorbed.

However, in the absence of any scientific and comprehensive database of migrant workers, welfare schemes and other plans of the government remain inadequate for them.

After the Corona pandemic affected economic activities in a number of sectors severely, particularly in the unorganized sector, the migrant workers were the ones who faced the most hardships in the absence of any work and concerns of the wide and rapid spread of the viral disease. Economic shutdown hit them most, and the government remained clueless and helpless in devising strategies to help them.

The workers faced a double-edged sword – virus infection and joblessness. They were left with no other alternative but to return to their native villages. As national lock-down was imposed suddenly, lack of viable means of transport made their journey back home all the tougher till the time government intervention came in the form of running Shramik Special trains and arranging buses to ferry the workers to their respective states.

In a bid to help construction workers, the Delhi government started special camps in different assembly constituencies from August 24 to register them for a state-run welfare fund.

The camps will continue till September 12. Day one saw a lot of family members turn up at the centres on behalf of the construction workers. According to Delhi Government's Labour Minister Gopal Rai, the focus will be on areas such as Burari, Karawal Nagar, Badarpur, Najafgarh, Matiala, and Babarpur and so on as most construction workers stay there.

The special drive comes after the Delhi High Court on May 2 directed the Delhi Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board, which is under the aegis of the labour department of the Delhi government, to take steps to renew the membership of all the workers, in a bid to cushion their lock-down-induced loss of earnings.

The court had observed that over 500,000 construction workers in Delhi, who fell off the safety net under the watch of the city's welfare board, cannot be deprived of benefits just because they were unable to renew their annual registration.

Construction workers, including plumbers and electricians employed in the construction sector, painters, tile workers and security guards aged between 18 and 60, are eligible for registration under the scheme. They must possess a photo identity card, a bank account number, a residential proof for Delhi and other documents to prove that they have worked in the construction sector for at least 90 days in the 12 months prior to the registration.

Among the workers who had returned to their native places included both skilled and unskilled ones and those engaged as machine operators in factories, loaders, drivers, housekeeping staff, as well as those involved in packaging, construction workers, hand-embroidery workers, salespersons and security guards, among others.

The Inter-State Migrant workers in Delhi have faced multiple hardships with factories and workplaces shut down due to the lock-down imposed in the country, millions of migrant workers had to deal with the loss of income, food shortages and uncertainty about their future.

The unorganized sector which suffered severely due to the pandemic and the subsequent lockdown led to no small scale reverse migration and high retrenchment. Migrant workers walked hundreds of miles in the scorching heat, rains and often without any food or other help. Their plight has been etched in the media and will continue to be analyzed, for it has been yet another instance of policy failure, which has resulted in a catastrophe.

Traders' bodies estimate that nearly 60-70% of the labour force employed in Delhi left the city during the lock-down. Those belonging to neighbouring towns like Sonapat, Ghaziabad, Ballabgarh, and Noida account for just about 20% of the total workforce. As the Unlock process begins, only 8-10% of the workforce has been able to rejoin work in the last few weeks. As a result, compared to pre lock-down days, only 5-7% of the usual business activity has taken place given that there is already deficient demand and supply.

Delhi Grain Merchants' Association said that even though shops in such markets deal in essential commodities and were open throughout the lock-down period, over 70% of the workers had already left the city.

According to the Agriculture Produce Market Committee, most of the workers left when some COVID-19 cases were reported at the wholesale mandis. Only about 35-40% of the workforce is left here now.

While there is no official data for the inter-state migrants in the country, estimates for 2020 have been made by Professor Amitabh Kundu of Research and Information System for Developing countries. His estimates, which are based on the 2011 Census, NSSO surveys and economic survey, show that there are a total of about 65 million inter-state migrants, and 33 percent of these migrants are workers. By conservative estimates, 30 percent of them are casual workers and another 30 per cent work on a regular basis but in the informal sector.

If street vendors are added, another vulnerable community which is not captured by the worker data would mean that there are 12 to 18 million people who are residing in states other than that of their origin and have been placed at risk of losing their income.

A study by the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) and Azim Premji University in 2019 estimates that 29% of the population in India's big cities is of daily wagers. This is the number of people who would logically want to move back to their states.

That the inter-state migrant crisis after the lock-down was felt more by cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Surat is borne by the 2011 Census data. Professor Chinmay Tumbe of IIM Ahmedabad has highlighted that Delhi has a migration rate of 43%, of whom 88% are from other states and 63% are from rural areas. Mumbai has a migration rate of 55%, with 46% migrants from other states and 52% from rural areas.

More than 63 lakh people in the country's national Capital, Delhi are migrants from other Indian states. It is about 40 per cent of the capital's total population.

Delhi has the second-highest population of inter-state migrants in India; according to 2011 Census data on migration which shows that marriage and work or business drive the influx. The city-state only trails behind Maharashtra, a much larger and more populous state.

Among all states, however, Delhi has the highest share of inter-state migrants in its total population, an indicator of the attraction it holds for outsiders. There are a number of reasons for inter-state migration, particularly for those heading to Delhi.

As a neighbouring state, every third person from Haryana who has migrated to Delhi has done so because of marriage. For people from the North-Eastern states, education is the main reason for moving to the national capital. And for those from Kerala, it is mainly work or business which brings them to Delhi.

According to Census 2011, 19.8 lakh people moved to Delhi for jobs or business while 23.61 lakh came to the city with their families. The number of total workers was put at 55.87 lakhs out of which 54.56 lakhs were engaged in urban areas and the rest 1.30 lakhs in rural areas. As per Census 2011 data pertaining to Delhi, 1.81 lakh were working in households while 39,457 were working in an agricultural area.

As per Census 2011 figures 45.36 crores or 37 per cent of India's population represents the number of internal migrants.

However, looking at the decadal growth in the 10 years between 2001 and 2011, Delhi's inter-state migrant population has actually seen a decline in the share of people who migrated for work. This is because the number of male inter-state migrants who came to Delhi for work or business came down marginally, even as the total number of inter-state migrants increased by a million.

Almost half of the migrants in Delhi in 2011 were from Uttar Pradesh. The share of migrants in Delhi from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand increased consistently between 1991 and 2011. More than two-thirds of Delhi's migrant population came from these states in 2011.

A better way to measure a state's share in the total inter-state migrant population in Delhi is to adjust its share by its share in the total population of India. For instance, Uttar Pradesh is home to 17% of India's population, but nearly half of Delhi's migrant population is from the state. Similarly, the share of migrants from states such as Bihar and Haryana in Delhi is more than the share of these states in India's total population.

Recommendations

- The Provisions of Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 shall be strictly implemented, and adequate amendments may be incorporated for bringing uniformity in law and policy.
- The State shall be made more accountable to keep data of migrant workers.
- A Regulatory Authority may be established at the centre level comprising all State's representative.
- An inter-state task force may be created to keep watch on contractors and various agencies involved in issues related to migrant workers.
- For violation of law and provisions of act, strict penal provisions may be enacted and offence shall be made non-bailable, and punishment may be awarded up to 7 Years.





Uttarakhand State Map

Labour Migration - Uttarakhand

Ravi Prakash Arora
Retd. IAS Officer

Introduction

Uttarakhand has a total geographic area of 53,483 KM of which 86% is mountainous and 65% is covered by forest. Most of the northern parts of the state are part of Greater Himalayan ranges, covered by the high Himalayan peaks and glaciers, while the lower foothills were densely forested till denuded by the British log merchants and later, after independence, by forest contractors.

Recent efforts in reforestation however, have been successful in restoring the situation to some extent. The unique Himalayan ecosystem plays host to many animals (including bharal, snow leopards, leopards and tigers), plants and rare herbs. Two of Indians great rivers the Ganges and the Yamuna take birth in the glaciers of Uttarakhand, and are fed by myriad lakes, glacial melts and streams. Uttarakhand shares its borders with Tibet in the North, Uttar Pradesh in the South, Nepal in the East, Haryana in the west and Himachal Pradesh in the North West.

First of all I would like to make it clear that Uttarakhand does not produce migrant labourers. Uttarakhand produces migrant workers who are employed throughout the country and abroad in hospitality sector or as driver or security guard or engaged in small businesses or are professionals as chef or in IT sector. Approximately two lac migrant workers including small number of students have returned to the the source state Uttarakhand after covid-19 pandemic breakout in the world.

Uttarakhand has 13 districts in total namely Dehradun, Udham Singh Nagar, Haridwar and 10 Hill district Tehri, Pauri, Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Rudraprayag, Nainital, Almora, Pithoragarh, Champawat, and Bageshwar. The population of 10 Hill district is 53% and 3 plain district is 47% of the total state population of 10.09 million. Most of the returnees belong to the rural areas of the 10 Hill Districts of Uttarakhand. District wise number of (Approximately) 1,97,178 returnees until now are shown in the following table.

Number Of District	Number Of Returnees
Almora	31,344
Bageshwar	2,375
Chamoli	10,828
Champawat	19,228
Nainital	16,074
Pauri	40,562
Pithoragarh	16,964
Rudraprayag	14,309
Tehri	29,500
Uttarkashi	15,906
Total	1,97,178

According to one of the reliable estimates reverse migrants can be divided into three categories on the basis of destination to which they had migrated for livelihood.

- 25% to 30% reverse migrants have come from different towns of Uttarakhand like Dehradun, Rishikesh, Kotdwar, Rudrapur, Haldwani, Almora and Pauri.
- 60% to 65% reverse migrants have come back from states like Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Karnataka, Tamilnadu, Goa, Maharashtra etc.
- 3% to 5% reverse migrants have returned from Dubai, Oman, Ireland, China, New Zealand, Australia etc.

It will be pertinent to point out here that the average age of reverse migrants is 30 to 45 years. The dilemma before the reverse migrants is that whether they should stay back or migrate again to their respective previous destinations. Majority of the reverse migrants are desirous of going back to their previous destination after the improvement of Pandemic scenario owing to lack of proper medical and educational infrastructure and livelihood opportunities.

None of them seem to be interested either in Agriculture/Horticulture, because of small average land holdings and MNREGA. In fact they are not migrant labourers but migrant workers used to doing blue collared jobs only. Only approximately 30% are expressing inclination to stay back at their native place or state.

Migrant labourers from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal come to Uttarakhand especially to get involved in construction activities. Their number is approximately 40,000. After the outbreak of COVID 19 Pandemic, most of them have returned back to their Home states. Now there is perceptible dearth of construction workers. Even prestigious Char Dham road construction program has been adversely hit owing to the lack of availability of construction labourers.. It is hoped construction labourers from outside states shall comeback, once pandemic recedes and situation ameliorates.

RSS and Rashtriya Sewa Bharti has done a commendable job during COVID 19 Pandemic break out in Uttarakhand state. Following table illustrates services given, to Corona patients and migrant workers respectively until 5th June, 2020 .

Service To Covid Affected

- Centres- 805
- Karyakarta - 4226
- Ration Kit Distribution – 68,055
- Food Packets – 11,67,555
- Mask distributed – 1,09,252
- Blood Donation - 422 Units

Service To Migrant Labours

- Food distribution Centers – 03
Beneficiary migrants – 27,095
- Health Centers – 05
Beneficiary migrants- 638

Interestingly Uttarakhand is not amongst the poor states of India. From below poverty line yard stick (11.26%) it is 11th among 28 states of India. Moreover it is second fastest growing state in the country. Uttarakhand has had a peculiar problem of migration in the past so much so that Almora and Pauri have witnessed the decline of 17868 number. 375 villages in Hills are abandoned villages, having single digit population in 2011.

With this background it can be concluded that migration has been a chronic problem in Uttarakhand motivated by high aspirations and accentuated by lack of livelihood opportunities and lack of health, educational and other facilities as compared to big or small urban conglomerates. Hence the likelihood is that 70% of the reverse migrants shall go back to their previous destination of employment, once the pandemic situation improves. According to one of the reliable estimates only 30% are willing to stay back. Hence the proposed policy framework and solutions should target this 30%.

This shall also help the state in near future to promote and facilitate reverse migration, which is strategically very important being the border state of China and Nepal and cannot afford to have ghost or abandoned villages.

Solutions and Recommendations

Agriculture, Horticulture and Floriculture should be given prime importance in Uttarakhand. We already have an example of Himachal Pradesh, which has already attained spectacular success in this sphere and both states have almost similar soil and climatic conditions. The average size of land holding in the state is 0.95 hectare, while the national average is 1.57 ha. There is a scheme of NABARD which promotes the concept of producer organizations of their own. Small producers do not have the volume individually (both inputs and produce) to get the benefit of economies of scale. Besides, the agricultural marketing, there is a long chain of intermediaries who very often work non-transparently leading to the situation where the producer receives only a small part of the value that the ultimate consumer pays. Through aggregation, the primary producers can avail the benefit of economies of scale. They will also have better bargaining power vis-à-vis the bulk buyers of produce and bulk suppliers of inputs. Central and state government should be reminded to promote this scheme of NABARD to the fullest possible extent, because herein lies the key for providing better livelihood opportunities to the agricultural land holding rural populace of Uttarakhand.

State Government and Central government should concentrate for setting up Public sector units in the processing sector, if private sector investment is not forthcoming. This shall ensure readymade market for vegetable and fruit producer organizations and individual growers. Government can think of determining minimum support price for different vegetables and fruits for the purchase to be used in public sector processing units. The state government can also work towards the branding of different products produced by processing public sector units.

For a long period Indian agriculture has been under the shackles of Inspector Raj. Central Government on 5th June 2020 has promulgated these ordinances to free farmers from the obligation to sell their produce in designated mandis only, allowing corporate investment in contract farming and abrogating the limit of keeping stock of pulse, potato, onion, etc. These reforms were long pending and should be expeditiously implemented at the ground level because this can motivate heavy corporate investment in agriculture sector. This will definitely have salutary impact in the enhancement of the farmer incomes.

Sikkim has been declared first organic state in the country. Traditionally also farmers in Uttarakhand make a scanty use of fertilizers. Hence Uttarakhand can also be developed as an organic state. This can give a boost to the Agricultural economy of the Uttarakhand.

Uttarakhand also known as Devbhoomi, is well known for its rich medicinal plants resources. These plants play a vital role in traditional Indian system of medicines viz., Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Naturopathy and even in Homeopathy and Allopathy. The state government should concentrate to give boost to the cultivation of medicinal plants and ensure profitable prices to cultivators of their produce.

Adventure tourism can also be aggressively developed in Uttarakhand viz., Trekking, Paragliding, Ziplining, canoeing and Kayaking, Cable car ride, Bungee jumping, Elephant safaris, camping and river rafting. This shall give extra fillip to employment opportunities, for inhabitants in Uttarakhand.

Auli in Chamoli District has been developed in Uttarakhand for the purpose of Ice - skating. Here the National and International Events can be organised on a regular basis. But unfortunately because of the apathy and lack of passion among politicians and bureaucrats, things are not running smooth here. There are possibilities of developing more Auli type destinations in Uttarakhand e.g. in

higher reaches of Chakrata of Dehradun District. These ice skating destinations can also be rich source of employment to the inhabitants of Uttarakhand.

For all the construction activities of Uttarakhand bricks are procured from outside the ten hill districts of Uttarakhand. While plenty of sand and gravel is available on the beds of rivers in Uttarakhand, which can be used by the inhabitants of Uttarakhand villagers to make bricks. This is a huge opportunity for employment. Only thing required to be done is the framing and promulgation of rules by State Government of Uttarakhand empowering village panchayats to use local resources as per 73rd constitutional amendment.

Uttarakhand Govt can also start schemes to help setting up of Wellness centers, where people coming from the hurly-burly life of cities can find heaven of solace and recharge themselves participating in activities at the Wellness center viz., different type of exercises including Yoga Asans, Meditation, Spiritual sessions and following strict nutritional diet, in the natural surroundings of Himalaya.

If the aforesaid suggestions are implemented passionately, animatedly and in a transparent manner, Uttarakhand shall soon occupy the position of one of the premier states of India and the reverse migrants who have come back to the state after COVID 19 outbreak shall not think of going to their previous destination of employment. The future migration from the hill districts shall also come to halt and migrants in other state may also think of coming back to their native state.



Labour Migration - Bihar

Anonymous
Retd. IAS Off

Introduction

Migration has a long history in Bihar. It had roots prior to the East India Company but was regulated and vigorously followed by British. Labours from Bihar were mainly taken for Assam tea plantation and gardens. When Bengal was emerging as an industrial hub many Biharies were employed in Bengal factories, mills and construction sites. They were also taken for sugar and coffee plantations of British foreign colonies.

Bihar is a densely populated state with 1106 people per square km. Its population is more than 10 crores. Bihar is the third most populous state in India. As many as 55.3 percent of rural Bihar lives below

poverty line while 20 districts are flood-prone, eight districts are drought affected and only 10 districts are more or less free from either floods or droughts. Lack of employment opportunities, political apathy, retarded growth, administrative insensitivity, feudalism, caste system, inadequate wages, bagar, (forced labour) frequent floods, famine and abject poverty forced Biharies to migrate to other parts of the country. The percentage of migrants increasing every year.

When industrialization was going in Bengal, Bihar became major labour supplier as Bengal, Bihar and Orissa was one province. After independence and reorganization of states, the green revolution accelerated the process of development in north

western parts besides improvement of Rail, Road communications and the labour sardars (contractors) who were in search of cheap labour encouraged migration. Dhobis, barbars domestic servants, plumbers, electricians, unskilled workers for bricklines, child labour for carpet making industrial units, cooks, drivers, carpenters, tailors, masons, were taken for migration. In fact, 54 Members of parliament of erstwhile Bihar and officers of various services took along with them to New Delhi and their place of posting and exposed them to the fruits of migration. They were not from one district but were from several villages. These people had opened the routes and eyes of labourers to the islands of development and progress.

The migrants' first destination was Delhi. Some sardars (contractors) had took them to Surat and Mumbai, Punjab and Hariyana because of green revolution. Slowly the problems in Punjab and Hariyana, forced Biharies to go to various states like Gujarat, West Bengal, Andhara Pradesh, Telengana, Karnataka, Chattisgarh and Jharkhand. Migration is from the poorer districts of Bihar and from scheduled castes, landless labours and other marginalized communities of Bihar.

The nature of migration is very precarious and exploitative. At present, there is no state where Biharies are not working. A conservative estimate of the workers who returned to Bihar is shocking. They are 38,874 cooks, 14,773 domestic helps, 30,000 drivers, 62,000, tailors, 15,000, mechanics, 3,90,000 construction workers, engaged in roads, bridges, dams, 15,000 electricians, computer, I.T. and banking services. Agriculture:-Bihar is an agricultural state more than 70 to 75% of people depend on agriculture. As many as 80 % of people source of income has to come from agriculture only. Bihar society is basically agrarian and semi feudalistic in nature. Power and land are the hands of upper castes and some of the backward classes like lurking and yadav. Land ownership determines social and economic power. So it is predominantly rural.

Only 25 % land has assured irrigation, no consolidation of holdings, absence of agricultural extension work, feudalistic nature of holdings, failed land reformers, forced labour or beggar, bonded labour, insufficient infrastructure like go-downs, market yards, failed cooperative systems and financial institutions, bad road networks and communications hamper the agricultural production. Failure of cottage industries added to the misery of people and encouraged migration

Governance

Governance in Bihar is highly influenced by political bosses. Even though panchayat raj system is the oldest system in Bihar, it has failed to the decentralization of power. Almost for 20 years, there were no panchayat elections. It is poorly administered state. Implementation of Public Distribution System, implementation of NREGS, Indira Awas and Social security schemes and etc are not up to the mark. For getting all the benefits of government schemes, one's name should have been entered in the BPL list .Faulty preparation of list deprived the legitimate poor people. Affluent sections of the people are garnering the benefits due to corruption. Education and health systems are also poorly administered.

Problems Faced By The Migrants

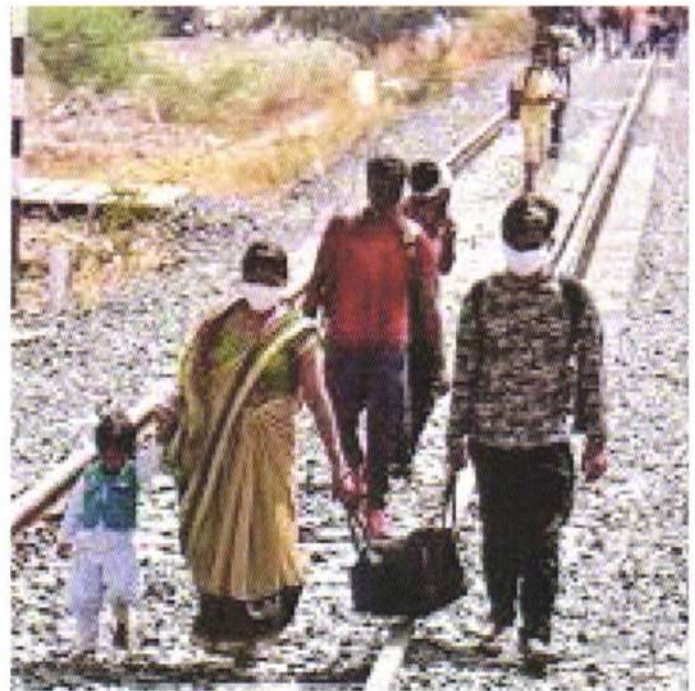
Migrants, struggle with a lack of livelihood opportunities, hard physical labour, unsafe worksites, bad living conditions, unspecified working hours, no insurance, no definite destination, no health care, and no connections with the family. Before migrating from Bihar, the emigrating workers borrow money from private lenders at an exorbitant rate of interest ranging from Rs. 5 to 10 % per month per hundred. To repay the debt migrants send money through money orders. The postal workers with the connivance of some anti-social elements take away the money. On account of this, the family suffers a lot. While they are returning by train, Railway employees torture them even though they have valid tickets in order to extract money.

They are also poisoned on the way. Bihar migrants face harassment, looting, exploitation while travelling on trains with their earning during festivals. They have little information regarding rights and entitlements. Migrants often return with disabilities, diseases and more debt burden. They invest very little in their living conditions to save and remit money. They live in cramped unhygienic hutments. In order to pay debts and maintain family, migrants force their children for child labour. In Many cases, they turn into child labour. Moneylenders also exploit the situation. Migrant remittance of money may not exceed not more than Rs. 10000 per annum, which is spent good and payment of sundry debts and some relief from starvation. 85 % of migrants earn less than Rs. 5000 a month, lack of skills prevent them from occupational mobility. They are also not paid minimum wages.

Measures To Be Taken

- Migrants while going to certain destinations should enter their all details in panchayat office.
- Salary and other details of the contractors and employers and their address, phone numbers etc.
- Universal social security or protection required for migrants.
- Enhancing and strengthening P.D.S, NREGA, social security and anganvadies etc.
- Affordable health care,
- Security to the migrant's workers while transiting.
- Insurance of the migrants.
- Establishing workers resource centres and created awareness about rights and entitlement.
- Legal aid.
- Help Line.

- Coordination with the destination state by originating state.
- Financial inclusion (stopping from the clutch of money lenders)
- Health card.
- Enrollment of their children in schools and Anganwadi.
- providing dignified living conditions.
- Skill mapping and employment generation both for the skilled and unskilled at the state.



Odisha State Map



Labour Migration - Odisha

Prof. I. Ramabrahmam,
Vice Chancellor, Central University of Odisha, Koraput

Introduction

The objective of this article is to engage with the pandemic-induced nationwide lockdown and its impact on the migrant labourers. While doing so, it also provides a set of policy pointers and action frameworks for the economic rehabilitation of migrant labourers with specific reference to their life and livelihoods.

As anticipated, covid-19 pandemic has been infecting the entire world though infection in China, the

country of origin, has been declining phenomenally. The current covid-19 condition in India is very grave. The escalating covid-19 confirmed cases have ranked India in the fourth position across the world. The health condition may even become worse and the worldwide rank may go to the next rank in days to come. Keeping in view its severity, the government of India has announced five successive phases of lock-downs that have become the longest or 'recording-breaking national lock-downs' across the globe. The reason for lock-downs is obvious: to contain the spread of covid-19 and to (re)structure the poor healthcare infrastructure.

As we have witnessed, the prolonged lock-downs have affected the jobless and homeless internal migrants. These labour migrants are forced to migrate to the source state because of the loss of employment opportunities in the destination states. The latest World Bank (2020) policy brief titled 'Covid-19 Crisis: Through a Migration Lens' has emphatically emphasized that the lock-down in India has impacted the livelihoods of nearly 40 million internal migrants. As a result, with the loss of job in the destination state and lack of employment avenues in the source state, the life and livelihood patterns of these migrant labourers have become more challenging, which has drawn serious attention among the administrators, policymakers, development practitioners, and nonetheless academicians. In this context, the current article finds its relevance; it provides six suggestive frameworks, which would facilitate in expediting the task of migrants' economic restructuring during covid-19.

Six Suggestive Frameworks

Nationwide Migrant Labourers Registration

The first and foremost framework is to have a nationwide 'migrant labourers' registration', which has been rightly observed by our Supreme Court on 9 June 2020 - "It appears that we are framing certain frameworks without facts, which are always frustrating. The entire nation is soaring for migrants' economic restructuring without having any accurate data on them. There is no concrete data on migrant labourers in India. When the state institutions and non-state institutions are working hard to find out appropriate policy frameworks in easing migrants' melancholy, the absence of accurate data on lock-down-induced migrant labourers will put these frameworks into futile and migrant workers into woebegone". Thus, a drive should be immediately carried out at panchayat level for migrants' registration. Their number and reference and nature (skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled) of previous employment should be specifically recorded. Thereafter, an effective 'information kiosk' or 'counselling centre' at the block or panchayat level can be accurately devised,

which will disseminate appropriate and authentic information about job avenues and policy prescriptions for migrants. Thus, the state-level labour commission should monitor these activities and it should accumulate appropriate data about the numbers as well as the nature of migrants, such as skilled migrants, semi-skilled migrants, and unskilled migrants on a priority basis to frame any action plan for the economic restructuring of these migrant workers.

Skilling The Migrant Labourers

The second most effective framework would be re-skilling the migrant labourers. We need to map out an action plan in re-skilling these jobless migrant workers, which will not only rehabilitate those who have lost their jobs but also rejuvenate India's sorry state of economic affairs due to covid-19. This re-skilling involves delivering the appropriate mix of updates and new learning or training on various kinds of life-supporting economic activities among migrant workers. This re-skilling will provide new employment opportunities. This will, no doubt, turn the poor migrant workers into potential workers soon after the opening of the establishments after lock-down. To make this into reality, we need to prepare a database of skilled and unskilled migrant labourers to re-skill them at the panchayat level. Like recently launched Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support (SWADES) for Indian returnees as part of Vande Bharat Mission by the government of India, the state governments need to launch its skill-mapping drive in the form of State Migrant Returnees Arrival Database for Employment Support (SMRADES) to harness the skills of migrant labourers. Along with the government, the IT companies are required to come forward and to conduct a series of life-supporting re-skilling training sessions for these migrant workers. These re-skilling training programmes are expected to improve their employment opportunities, working potentials, and contented living conditions of migrant labourers. That apart, the CSR units of different companies should start focusing on the educational and livelihood opportunities of these migrant households.

Besides, the universities in collaboration with skill development departments should undertake block-level re-skilling training activities for the poor migrants in an uninterrupted manner. This will be a larger societal responsibility of the university at the time of the pandemic.

Covid-19 Supportive Fund (CSF)

The third crucial framework is the creation of a covid-19 supportive fund (CSF) to assist the livelihood support systems among these migrant labourers. Apart from government-led initiatives to support migrant labourers like Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana or Arogya Sanjeevani Policy that people access at the time of bare crisis, other financial institutions like LIC of India should extend helping hands in supporting these migrants during this pandemic situation. As a leading financial and insurance company in India, the LIC should come forward in contributing to India at the time of its crisis. Instead of simply spreading an idealistic slogan of 'Har Pal Desh Ki Saath' and liberalizing its premium payments at the time of the pandemic, it should rather develop a concrete initiative in addressing the problems of migrants. This concrete initiative should be in the form of a generation of CSF, which will be dedicatory used for designing certain Janata policies in terms 'One Rupee Insurance Policy' and Start-up Loans to the poor migrant labourers, which will ultimately revitalize their economic condition. This proposed CSF, if adopted by LIC, will be a life-supporting venture capital for most of the migrant labourers among whom the majority might be its current or future committed customers.

Financial Power To The Sarpanches

The fourth fundamental framework covers financial power to the Sarpanches. In its historic people-centric approach to contain covid-19 and roadmap for effective protection and dignity of migrant labourers, the Neveen Patnaik-led government in Odisha has delegated 'Collector's Power' to

Sarpanches following the provisions of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, Epidemic Diseases Act, 1987, and Odisha Covid-19 Regulation, 2020. These Sarpanches are playing a pivotal role in governing the Temporary Medical Centres (TMCs) or Quarantine Centres (QCs) at the grassroots level. In addition to this administrative power, certain financial power with minimum financial allocation will boost them in finding out the poorest among the poor migrant labourers. With this financial power, they can create certain employment opportunities for these migrant labourers at the grassroots level, which may be considered as, for example, Biju Patnaik Migrant Returnees Employment Guarantee Programme (BPMREGP). This Programme will accelerate the process of economic restructuring among poor migrants at ground level. This will significantly strengthen the state's confidence to tackle the pandemic predicaments of migrants.

Contractual Labour Agreement

The fifth crucial framework is in the form of the contractual labour agreement in the destination state. It seems these labour migrants, as a mammoth labour population, are working in the destination state without any sense of socioeconomic and healthcare security. The destination states should instruct its industries or the companies that engage these migrant labourers to go for a contractual labour agreement between the migrants and the industries. These agreements should ensure their social, economic, and healthcare security. That apart, these are the populations, as we know, who play a pivotal role at the time of the election. Therefore, they should be provided with the political right in terms of voting right in the destination state. They should have a voice in the larger processes of decision-making in the destination state. Besides, the executive wing of the government should be serious enough in looking after the socioeconomic and healthcare issues confronted by these massive populations instead of acting as per the instruction of the judiciary every time.

Social Solidarity Economy (SSE)

Finally, in contemporary times the framework of social solidarity economy (SSE) is regarded as the engine of economic development in rural areas. Along with the state and private institutions, the community-based organizations (CBOs) and non-governmental organizations under the rubric of civil society are playing a very proactive role in helping these migrant workers, which have been emphatically appreciated by the Supreme Court. Several women-led SHGs in Odisha are engaged in fighting against the pandemic in the form of awareness campaigns, running kitchens, and stitching masks to stop the spread of covid-19; this makes women more self-reliant. This social solidarity economy (SSE) could be rightly viewed as an effective tool for rural transformation. This SSE should not be left as an urban smart economy since it has its own unique identity. Since the life and livelihood condition of migrants prevail in and around rural areas, it is high time now to rethink and redesign an alternative economy in the form of SSE with minimum supportive venture capital, which will not only release a fair response to migrants' economic restructuring but also replenish the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (ABA), a clarion call by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to kick-start India's new economy at the time of the pandemic.

Recommendations

Central Level

- According to the 2011 population census of India, there are about 45.36 crore migrant workers who are settled in different places in the country. The Central Labour Ministry should maintain a real time data bank for provision of labour and social security services to the migrant labour where ever they are working as skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers in the formal and informal sectors of economy.
- The central agencies should now publish a policy document highlighting the support they have offered to the migrant labour by way of provision of Shramik Express trains with free travel fares for the migrant labour. The labour has also been provided food and beverages throughout their travel to their destination states and districts. The migrant labours were also given a onetime support of Rs 2,000 at the end of their travel by the receiving states through a central scheme of support to the labour.
- The Section 16 of Chapter V of the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 emphasizes the duty of every contractor employing inter-state workmen '(d) to provide and maintain suitable residential accommodation to such workmen during the period of their employment; (e) to provide the prescribed medical facilities to the workmen, free of charge'. There should be an amendment to this Central Act on migrant labour act by way of including insurance and written contract for migrant labour engagement.
- This would ensure that the central government would be able to provide not only employment security but also offer insurance and social security schemes like ration cards and health cards.
- The contractors should also provide at least three months advance salary to the migrant labourers during pandemics like situations or artificial or natural disasters in the destination states. They should also enable the migrant labour access social security schemes like 'Ayushman Bharat'.
- As the central government cannot ensure professional monitoring and evaluation of the proposed legislative changes as above, there is need for empowering and licensing competent civil society organization including the Labour Welfare Unions/ Associations.

- The central government should create an appropriate platform for the state labour welfare commissioners to interact with the central labour ministry for ensuring provision of services to the migrant labour as elaborated above.
- The central government through its labour welfare ministry should establish a labour welfare redress mechanism/ Ombudsman facility.
- The Election Commission should create a provision for conferring rights to the migrant labour in the state elections wherever migrant labours are present (in destination states). This would ensure that the respective state governments would provide welfare and social security services alongside provision of minimum wages.
- The audio visual publicity department of the central government should proactively produce short videos on migrant labour and the support offer to them in contrast to the viral video of Debjyoti Saha that shows the privileged life of a few and the travels of millions of migrant labours. The students of film institute's architecture and fine arts universities should be asked to produce the said type of videos
- Several women-led SHGs in Odisha are engaged in fighting against the pandemic in the form of awareness campaigns, running kitchens, and stitching masks to stop the spread of covid-19; this makes women more self-reliant. This social solidarity economy (SSE) could be rightly viewed as an effective tool for rural transformation.
- The state is providing quarantine facilities to all the returnee migrant labour. Of the 5.45 lakh migrant workers, over 3.5 lakh of them have been provided with quarantine facilities at the Temporary Quarantine Centres (TQC). Besides, they are provided with food and beverages for 14days at the TQCs, Rs 2,000 is given to each person along with 3months of ration while returning to their villages after recovering from COVID-19.
- The state should include a new stream of admission of school and college students under a new quota called 'adverse conditions quota' so that the children of the migrant labour can access education without any major hassle.
- We need to map out an action plan in re-skilling these jobless migrant workers, which will not only rehabilitate those who have lost their jobs but also rejuvenate India's sorry state of economic affairs due to covid-19. This re-skilling involves delivering the appropriate mix of updates and new learning or training on various kinds of life-supporting economic activities among migrant workers. This re-skilling will provide new employment opportunities. This will, no doubt, turn the poor migrant workers into potential workers soon after the opening of the establishments after lock-down. To make this into reality, we need to prepare a database of skilled and unskilled migrant labourers to re-skill them at the panchayat level. Like recently launched Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support (SWADES) for Indian returnees as part of Vande Bharat Mission by the government of India, the state governments need to launch its skill-mapping drive in the form of State Migrant Returnees Arrival Database for Employment Support (SMRADES) to harness the skills of migrant labourers.

State Level

- As more than half of the migrants are unlikely to return to the places of work where they came from, they should either be re-skilled for employment in the local MSMEs or provide them with basic orientation for working as wage labourers in programmes like MGNREGS. The Government of Odisha is hopeful of generating 20 crores Mandays of wage employment.
- SSE is regarded as the engine of economic development in rural areas. Along with the state and private institutions, the community-based organizations (CBOs) and non-governmental organizations under the rubric of civil society are playing a very proactive role in helping these migrant workers, which have been emphatically appreciated by the Supreme Court.

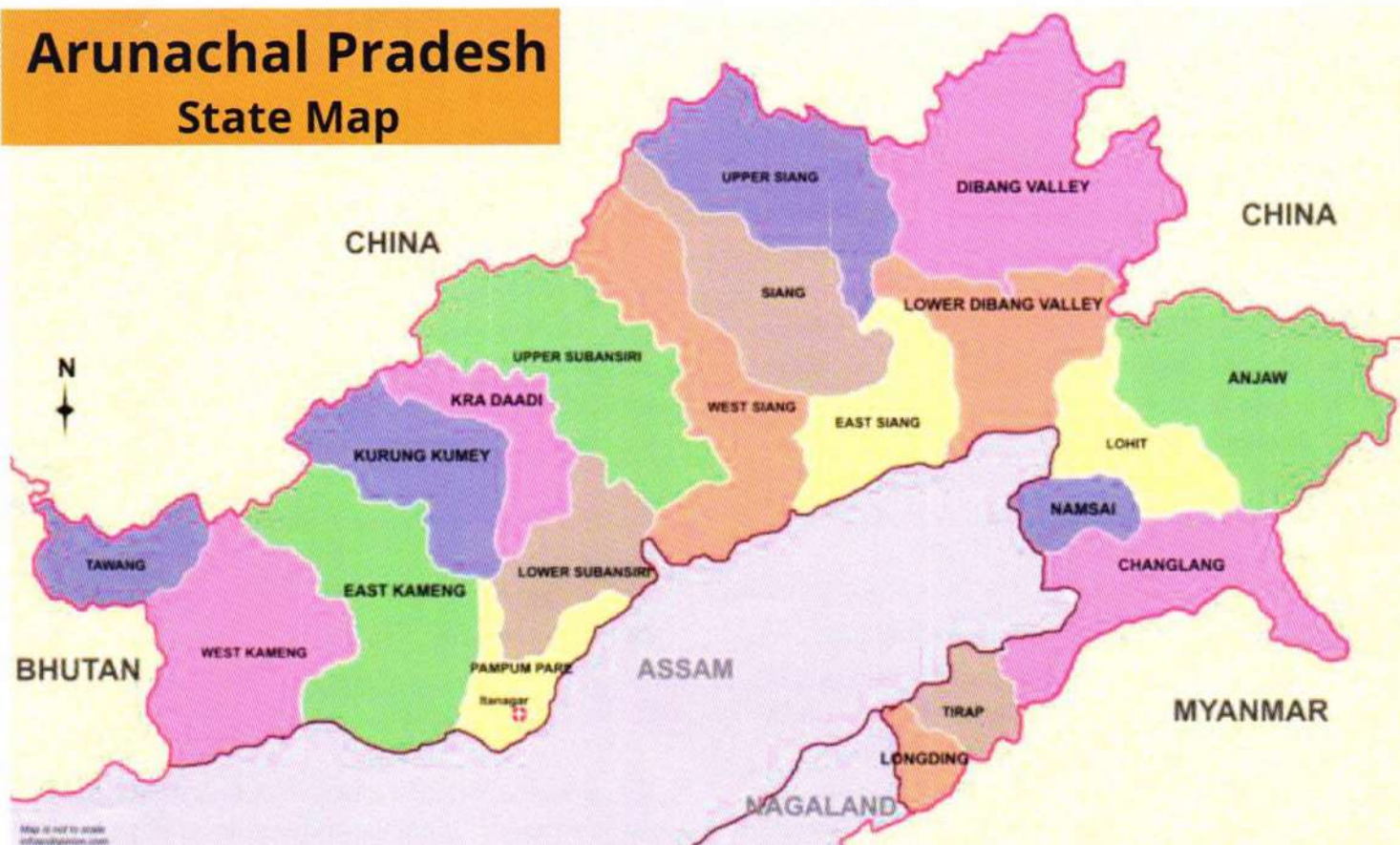
- Aadhar or Voter Id cards should be accepted for issuing the MGNREGS cards/entitlements to the returning migrants, as many of them would not be eligible for getting enlisted for MGNREGS wage employment due either to administrative reasons or non-conformity with the program parameters.
- Development programs like the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Swachh Bharat, Ministry of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation, Microenterprises, Micro Financial Institutions (MFIs), Service Delivery Start-ups in rural areas on lines similar to Zomato and Swiggy, should be creatively made use of with amendments.
- The demand for home delivery is likely to increase multifold even in semi-urban and rural areas during the COVID times that may necessitate social distancing for quite some time from now. In any case, many states are following the guideline of closing down hotels and restaurants of different hues. Therefore, there will be adequate demand for delivery boys and girls with their own two-wheelers.
- ICDS should also be used to strengthen the fragile rural livelihood systems by way of enabling the wage workers to take up multi-tasking jobs including carrying meals for lactating mothers and young school-going children.
- The state labour commission should update its database regarding the migrant labourers.
- After collecting the data on migrant labourers in terms of skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled, the government should open centre namely Migrant Labourers Information Centre at Block/Panchayat level.
- The state should open counselling centres and Helplines for guiding the immigrant labour so that they can find employment in organization/labour markets that match their skills.
- The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) divisions of multinational and national cooperate organization should conduct special drives for employment in rural areas. They should also help the immigrant labour acquire new skills for introduction of startups. Social work groups should introduce Confidence Building Measures amongst the migrant labour. Personality development programmes should be customized to suit the education and personality development needs of the children of the migrant labour.
- The Biju Pattanaik Migrant Returnee Employment Guarantee Programme (BPMREGP) is helping the return migrant labour in finding employment for the migrant labour

Panchayat Level

- The Government of Odisha has empowered the Sarpanches of Gram Panchayats and urban local bodies with the powers of the district Collector so as to organize TQCs with the help of health care workers and the local organization including the police.
- The gram Panchayats that have directly addressed the pandemics problems of the immigrant labour, should also collect key information on the current skills levels of the workers, map them and share the same with skill development and entrepreneurship agencies for reskilling and up skilling.
- Local NGOs and Universities and Colleges should be assigned with the responsibilities of working with the gram Panchayats so as to enable the immigrant labour find suitable employment.

Apart from government-led initiatives to support migrant labourers like Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana or Arogya Sanjeevani Policy that people access at the time of bare crisis, other financial institutions like LIC of India should extend helping hands in supporting these migrants during this pandemic situation.

Arunachal Pradesh State Map



Labour Migration - Arunachal Pradesh

Shri. Sai Prasad

Introduction

Migration of persons from one place to another is not a new phenomenon both in India and elsewhere in the world. Opportunities in urban areas for employment, education, etc have been a pull factor attracting migrants from rural to urban areas and from smaller towns and cities to larger urban areas. There is also migration in the opposite direction from urban to rural areas due to various reasons. It has been discussed by many researchers, who have emphasized social and cultural, distant and economic factors as causes of migration.

Before we further proceed on the subject we need to find answers to some of the important key questions, like, (i) who are the migrant workers? (ii) Why do they migrate from their native places? (iii) Where do they migrate? What is the status of migrant labour?

Are they aware of the law and legal protection available to them if any? There is no clear definition of the term Migrant labour, it is generally accepted that when a person moves to any other place other than the place of birth or place of ordinary domicile, for any reason then it is called as migration. This migration could be from rural areas to semi urban areas or urban areas, or even trans-border, when the people migrate from one place to another within the country it is called internal migration and when they move from one state to another it is called inter-state migration. Mostly the poor, unemployed and underemployed migrate from one place to another in search of employment and livelihood.

In the absence of critical and adequate skills, information and bargaining power, most of the migrant workers often get caught in exploitative labour arrangements that forces them to work in low-end, low-value, hazardous work.

Lack of identity and legal protection accentuates this problem. The hardships of migrant workers are especially magnified when state boundaries are crossed and the distance between their "original place" and "destination to which they have migrated" increases. These migrant labour in urban areas end up in a slum area and reel under abject poverty with sub-optimal living conditions or many times in pathetic condition. Many of them do not have access to primary benefits which are generally granted to all the citizens of the country by the Government. While some of them are aware of some of the basics of legal frame work etc but they are helpless due to the prevailing circumstances which do not offer any recourse to them.

COVID and Migration

The recent lock-down due to Covid 19 pandemic, once again triggered off discussion on the issue of Migrant labour, and the same is being discussed widely in different forums. Many studies are also being undertaken to highlight the plight of the Migrant labour. As part of the discussion many issues are being highlighted, and some are trying to exaggerate, and dramatize the facts, while there a few who are even trying to draw perverse conclusions. Nevertheless there are some genuine concerns which are being highlighted. Lack of social security, lack of legislative support, lack of basic facilities, over exploitation of the migrant labour are some of the issues being highlighted.

It is an undeniable fact that due to sudden imposition of the lock down the Migrant labour who are vulnerable sections of the society particularly the women and children have suffered a lot. The sudden announcement of nationwide lock-down on the night of March 24 gave the migrant labour little time to go back to their families. Many have lost their jobs, their incomes, and having spent whatever little savings they had; some of them were reduced to an almost beggar-like situation, looking at anyone who can feed them. The governments, despite all their best efforts,

have not been able to redress their problem of hunger. Even civil society could not fully bridge the gap. This was despite the fact that the Government of India, Ministry of Labour and Employment issuing an Advisory on 20th March 2020 itself to all the Chief Secretaries of the State Governments to ensure that the establishments do not either reduce the wages of the workers or terminate them due to lock down, besides several other matters to protect the interests of the labour.

Obviously this advisory of the GOI was not taken seriously by the states, and large number of distress calls received by the Chief Labour Commissioner indicated the actual situation at ground. The 20 control rooms set up across the country were not of much help to the workers. Many were not aware of the existence of such control rooms and even a few persons who were aware and made calls to control rooms could not get the required help and support. If one tries to analyze things in retrospect, we may find that both the GOI and State Governments did not pay required attention to the Migrant labour woes. Even when it came to light that many are adopting difficult methods including walking long distances with family and children to reach their respective native places, adequate and timely arrangement for at least providing them transport was not done.

Government Directives

The Governments issued directives that wages to the labour should not be withheld or reduced, they should not be retrenched, the house owners where these labour reside should not insist for rent etc. But there was no mechanism to ensure compliance with these directives. Ministry and State Government authorities would definitely know that it would be almost next to impossibility to ensure compliance with their directives which involve huge costs to the employers. Many persons who employed these migrant labour did not have adequate resources to pay the dues of labour as they themselves were in

trouble. As it is the compliance level of laws in our country is poor and expecting that during pandemic time employers/enterprises would comply with such directives in itself is unrealistic. What is more surprising is that even the directives to provide ration without insisting for Ration Card could not be implemented for various reasons. The civil society responded to the plight of these people by providing temporary shelters, food, and some basic amenities, but that could not prevent the long marches of migrant labour.

While focus of the Government was to strictly enforce the lock-down they could not pay required attention to other aspects and genuine concerns of citizens more particularly the migrant labour. It is unfortunate that after 30 years of successful implementation of economic reforms which are branded as inclusive by successive regimes, the benefit of economic growth does not appear to have percolated down and has bypassed three-fourth of the population.

One of the important factor which is limiting the study of the issue is about the data. Due to non-availability of the authentic data the conclusions drawn by different studies vary. What made the migrant labour to undergo inexplicable misery, is an issue which has to be examined before any attempt is made to draw conclusions and make recommendations. Is it a lack of legislative support, lack of legal remedy, limitation of funds, non-availability of information, red-tape in taking decisions, bureaucratic hurdles, interstate issues, or personal and psychological behaviour of the vulnerable group. If one is honest in his reply then it is a combination of all these which culminated into this situation.

Laws For The Migrants

Let us examine the existing laws with regard to the migrant labour in our country. In order to protect the interests of migrant labourers and avoid their exploitation, the Inter-State Migrant Workmen

(Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, was passed in 1979. The law is meant "to regulate the employment of inter-state migrant workmen and to provide for their conditions of service etc. As per this law, establishments hiring inter-state migrants must register themselves and only licensed contractors can engage such labourers. The licensed contractors must provide details about the labourers whom they engage, to the state labour department.

Thus as per the existing system in the country the State Governments collect the data about the migrant labour from licensed contractors who engage them. In most of the states this data base is not regularly updated, even where it is updated the information is incomplete. It is a popular perception and also proved correct with a test check in some cases that the actual number of migrant workers are under reported as many of them are not engaged through licensed contractors. Even in cases where the migrant labour are engaged through licensed contractors the actual numbers are more often under reported. There is no mechanism to capture the date of migrated persons who are engaged either in petty jobs or petty establishments etc. There is no way to collect information about the persons who migrate to different places and find some wage employment directly themselves. Despite this legislation we find that the migrant labour still do not get fair wages, better living conditions, social security, and host of other benefits envisaged in law. Although law is important, but what is more important is a culture to respect the law and follow it in its true spirit.

As long as the Governments compete in doling the money, and compete in announcing the Welfare Schemes, it may be difficult to develop the habit of complying with the labour laws. Notwithstanding the law the enterprises should be in a position to take care of their employees/labour who contribute for growth of their establishments. Unfortunately very few have this sense of concern for their workers.

Temporary Nature Of Work

One of the largest group of the migrant labour is Construction Workers. In building and other construction works more than eight million workers are engaged throughout the country. These workers are one of the most vulnerable segments of the unorganized labour in India. Their work is of temporary nature, the relationship between employer and the employee is temporary, working hours are uncertain. Basic amenities and welfare facilities provided to these workers are inadequate. Risk to life and limb is also inherent. In the absence of adequate statutory provisions to get the requisite information regarding the number and nature of accidents was quite difficult and due to this to fix responsibility or to take corrective measures was not an easy job. Although the provisions of certain Central Acts were applicable to the building and other construction workers yet a need was felt for a comprehensive Central Legislation for regulating the safety, welfare and other conditions of service of these workers.

In pursuant to the decision of the 41st Labour Ministers Conference held on 18th May, 1995, the Committee of State Labour Ministers had expressed its consensus for the Central Legislation on this subject. In order to regulate the employment and conditions of service of building and other construction workers and to provide for their safety, health and welfare measures THE BUILDING AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION WORKERS (REGULATION OF EMPLOYMENT AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) ACT, 1996 was passed. This Act also envisages registering the establishments as well as workers. Welfare Boards as envisaged in the Act have been constituted in almost all the states and they are functional, yet there is no comprehensive data about the construction workers much less about the migrant people among them.

One of the surveys conducted by an NGO indicated that majority of the construction workers do not

have BOCW Card which entitles the workers to access the benefits announced by the Government. One need not be surprised to know that many of the construction workers are literate yet they are unable to get these cards. While the cess as envisaged is being collected, the welfare and social security measures as envisaged had not fully accrued to the construction workers. The money that is collected as cess for welfare of construction workers is either misused or is not spent at all. It is any body's imagination whether giving refrigerators, laptops etc spending huge money be considered as welfare of construction workers.

Unappropriated Money

There are countless instances in almost every state of the country where this money is misused and spent on unnecessary doles and vanity items. Some NGOs have even documented that even those so called vanity items which were stated to be distributed to construction workers were never received by the beneficiaries at all. In addition to this prodigal consumption, the Welfare Boards have been spending huge amounts for their luxurious maintenance beyond the limits prescribed. In spite of all these aberrations, there is huge amount of more than Rs.35000 crores which was lying unspent. During this pandemic time a directive was issued to transfer money to the individual accounts of the construction workers so that they can sustain their living expenses.

The GOI gave freedom to the states to decide the amount to be transferred to each of beneficiary. However, in some of the states this advisory was not implemented at all and in states where they claimed to have implemented did not even transfer one tenth of the unspent balance available with them. A survey conducted by the NGO indicated that 94 per cent of the registered construction workers did not get any amount at all. This appears to be true as still there is an unspent balance of over Rs.30,000 crores.

Similar is the case with the National Social Security Fund, where the envisaged benefits could not be passed on to the beneficiaries. There is no centralized data of construction workers in the country. In many states the data is incomplete and inadequate. The Labour Bureau with its headquarters at Chandigarh and Shimla, is responsible for collection, compilation and publication of labour statistics and other information relating to labour such as employment and unemployment, wages, earnings, industrial relations, working conditions etc. However, the Labour Bureau does not collect the information about the Migrant labour and hence the question of publishing the data does not arise.

Official agencies tend to underestimate short-term movements, and thus play down or miss seasonal migration altogether, which according to recent field studies account for the bulk of migratory movements for work. Railways have claimed to have ferried back over 91 lakh workers. An unintended consequence of this migration has been that a massive database has emerged—Railways now have the names, addresses, phone numbers and Aadhar details of those who travelled. State governments too have collated similar data from those who travelled in buses from one state to other. The Governments may at least use this data base as a starting point to maintain a comprehensive data on migration which would defiantly be useful for public policy.

Studies About Migration

Different studies are adopting different numbers about the Migrant labour and these numbers range between 3.90 crores to as high as 45 crores. The large variations in the numbers are mainly because there is no authentic data about migrant workers or migrant labour in the country. The Economic Survey of India estimates that the magnitude of inter-state migration in India was close to 9 million annually between 2011 and 2016, while Census 2011 pegs the total number of internal migrants in the country

(accounting for inter- and intra-state movement) at 139 million. The Ministry of Labour and Employment in their Annual Report mentioned that according to the 2011 Census (Provisional Report), 45 Crore persons have changed their place of residence within the country and out of this, 4.6 Crore or 10.22% left their place for work. It may sound incredible but the Annual Report mentioned this number of 45 crores which indicates the magnitude of the migration in our country, and capturing the details of such huge numbers would not be a simple task unless a robust system is built.

We should not forget that Collecting data involves costs which may be very huge even when the technology is used, and the process of collecting and updating data should be a continuous process. Now the issue is why there is no authentic data about the Migrant labour. The answer could be straight and simple lack of will both at political as well as at Bureaucratic level. Let us not forget the reality that in a vast diverse and densely populated country like ours, policing of all aspects is not possible. Legislation alone will not bring about the required change, the civil society has to transform and has to respond in a matured manner.

This is not only a problem of migrant labour it is much more as the migrant labour contribute make massive contribution to our GDP. If the issue is not properly handled, there is danger of production costs going up in many states due to which we may lose the competitive advantage which we enjoy in those goods and services. In addition to that the Government may have to spend more money on MNREGA etc in some states which may not create any productive assets to the nation. One of the studies conducted indicated that at present only 15 urban centres account for 80% of the GDP. There are more than 100 cities in India and another thousand towns which together can absorb the employment urge of the rural migrant if economic activity is spread widely, decongesting the cities. If social security network and employment is available in

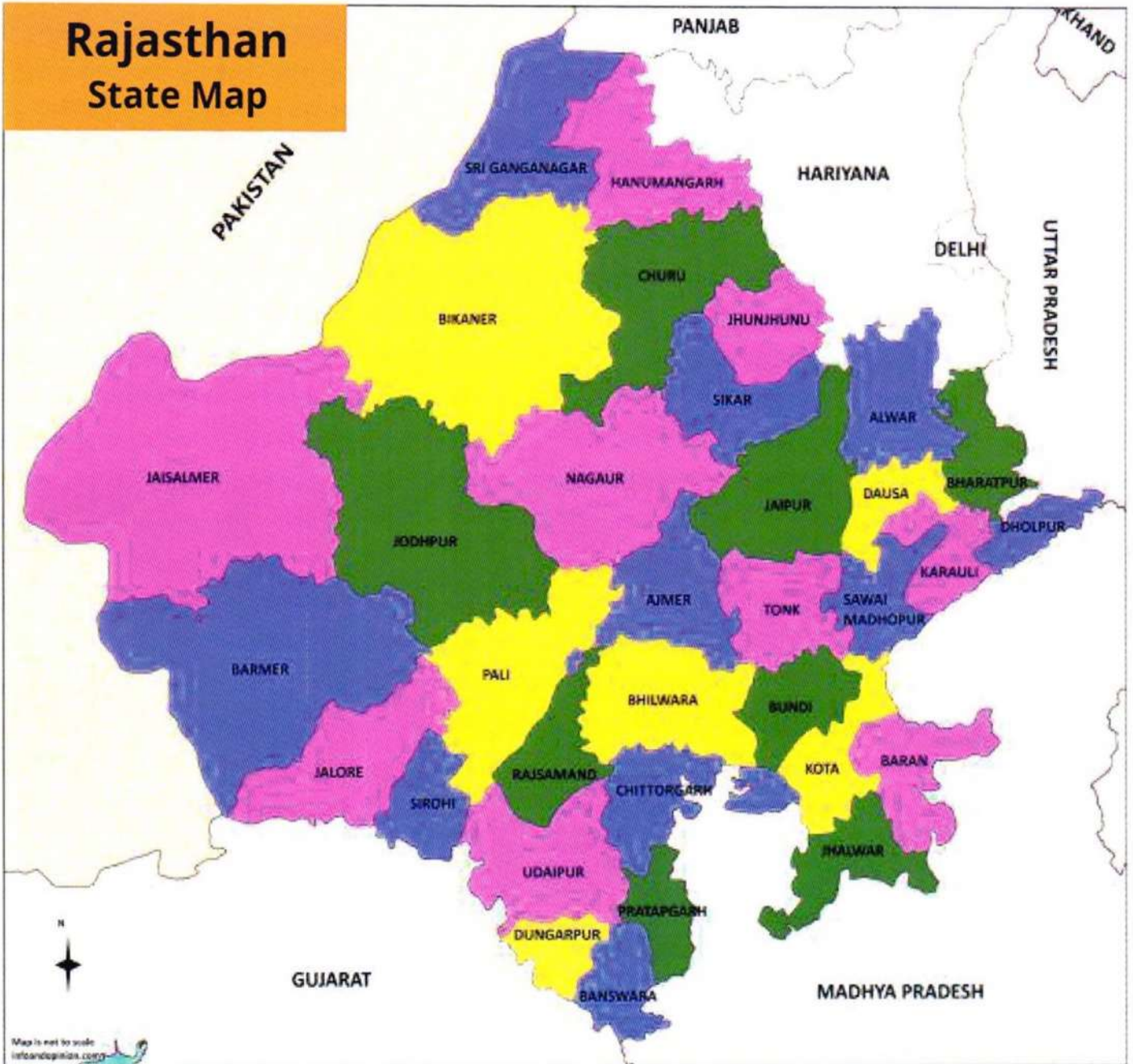
more urban centres than those who rushed back from far off places across the country can perhaps find jobs nearer home.

The problem of migration is sought to be checked by the Ministry of Labour and Employment through a multi-dimensional course of action through rural development, provision of improved infrastructural facilities, equitable dispersal of resources to remove regional disparities, employment generation, land reforms, increased literacy, financial assistance etc.

In order to generate better employment opportunities at State level, the Government have launched a number of schemes like PradhanMantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (PMAY), MNREGA, etc. It is again reiterated that Governments effort alone would not be sufficient to improve the conditions of the migrant people in our country, as a civil society all of us have to take responsibility and strive hard to improve the situation.



Rajasthan State Map



Labour Migration - Rajasthan

Kanhaiyalal Berwal

Retd. IPS Officer | Trustee - RHRD Foundation, Jaipur

प्रवासी मजदूर व कामगार

राजस्थान एक अलौकिक पर्यटन गंतव्य में रूप के विश्व के लाखों पर्यटकों का पसंदीदा स्थल है जो कि सुनहरी रेत के टीलों सुंदर पर्वतमालाएँ और अन्य एक शानदार झीलों को समेटे हुए खूबसूरती से बसा हुआ है | राजस्थान देश के उत्तर पश्चिमी छोर पर स्थित है जिसका कला और सांस्कृतिक विरासत का एक लंबा इतिहास है और यहाँ कई मनोरम शाही महल विद्यमान हैं जो की सांस्कृतिक , एतिहासिक और फोटोग्राफी अन्वेषणों के लिए जाने जाते हैं |

यह भौगोलिक क्षेत्रफल 3,42,239 वर्ग किमी की दृष्टि से भारत का सबसे बड़ा राज्य है | राज्य को प्रशासनिक रूप से सात संभागों और तैंतीस जिलों में विभक्त किया गया है | 2011 की जनगणना के अनुसार राजस्थान की कुल जनसंख्या 6.85 करोड़ है जो देश में सबसे कम जनसंख्या घनत्व वाला राज्य है | क्षेत्रावर विभाजन की दृष्टि से राजस्थान कि शहरी आबादी 1.70 करोड़ है जो की कुल आबादी की 24.9 प्रतिशत है जबकि ग्रामीण आबादी 5.15 करोड़ है जो की कुल आबादी की 75.1 प्रतिशत है |

पिछले कुछ समय से क्रोना महामारी का संकट पूरे विश्व में छाया हुआ है | अपना देश भी बड़े संकट के दौर से गुजर रहा है | लॉकडाउन में बहुत बड़ी संख्या में मजदूर , कामगार (कुशल एवं अकुशल) पुरे देश में एक कोने से दूसरे कोने में गए | राजस्थान के प्रवासी मजदूर बड़ी संख्या में जो राज्य के बाहर पूरे देश फैले हुए थे वे विभिन्न प्रान्तों से वापस अपने प्रांत राजस्थान में आए हैं और अन्य विभिन्न राज्यों के जो मजदूर , कामगार राजस्थान में रोजगार के लिए आए हुए थे वे अपने अपने प्रांतों की तरफ लौटे हैं | इस प्रकार से इन प्रवासी मजदूर , कामगारों की एक बहुत बड़ी समस्या रोजगार व पुनर्वसन की राज्य सरकार एवं केन्द्र सरकार के सामने खड़ी हो गई है |

सूक्ष्म लघु एवं माध्यम औद्योगिक इकाइयाँ अर्थव्यवस्था का एक महत्वपूर्ण भाग है जो राज्य में रोजगार एवं उद्यमिता के आधार निर्माण में बहुत सहायक है | विशेष रूप से रोजगार सृजन में इसके योगदान को व्यापक रूप से मान्यता मिली है | राज्य में वर्तमान उद्योगों के विस्तार, आधुनिकरण एवं परिवर्तन तथा नवीन उद्योगों की स्थापना के लिये वित्तीय संस्थानों के माध्यम से वित्तीय साधन उपलब्ध करवाए जाने चाहिए |

राज्य की जनसंख्या का तीन चौथाई हिस्सा ग्रामीण क्षेत्र में निवास करता है | राज्य के नियोजित विकास हेतु राज्य के ग्रामीण विकास की प्रारम्भ की गई सभी योजनाओं से ग्रामीण क्षेत्र में प्रवासी मजदूर एवं कामगारों को रोजगार के अवसर उपलब्ध कराये जा सकते हैं | राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी योजना को विस्तार देकर रोजगार बढ़ाया जा सकता है |

राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण आजीविका मिशन व प्रधान मंत्री रोजगार सृजन कार्यक्रम को बढ़ावा देकर रोजगार बढ़ाया जा सकता है | राजस्थान कौशल एवं आजीविका विकास निगम व प्रधानमंत्री कौशल विकास योजना को सक्रिय कर प्रवासी मजदूर व कामगार हेतु रोजगार के अवसर बढ़ाए जा सकते हैं |

राजस्थान के शेखावाटी व अन्य क्षेत्रों के मारवाड़ी व्यवसायी देश के विभिन्न कोनों में फैले हुए हैं | महाराष्ट्र , गुजरात , दिल्ली , प.बंगाल व दक्षिणी राज्यों में कलकत्ता, मुंबई, सूरत ,अहमदाबाद ,चेन्नई आदि बड़े शहरों में इनके द्वारा बड़े बड़े औद्योगिक प्रतिष्ठान खड़े किए गए हैं | यदि ये लोग इस प्रकार के प्रतिष्ठान राजस्थान के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में प्रारंभ करते हैं तो निश्चित रूप से बहुत बड़ी संख्या में लोगों को यहाँ रोजगार दिया जा सकता है | इसके लिए राज्य सरकार एवं केंद्र सरकार को मिलकर इसके लिए प्रोत्साहन देना चाहिए |

इन लोगों की मदद के लिए कुटीर एवं घरेलू लघु उद्योगों को प्रोत्साहित करना चाहिए, विभिन्न औद्योगिक घरानों को आगे आना पड़ेगा तथा राज्य सरकार व केन्द्र सरकार के सहयोग से विभिन्न प्रकार के रोजगार सृजित करने पड़ेंगे और ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में भी इन लोगों को स्थापित करने हेतु इनके रोजगार की व्यवस्था करनी पड़ेगी |

महत्वपूर्ण विचारणीय बिंदु

- जोधपुर , बाडमेर , पाली , जैसलमेर और जालौर से अधिकतर माइग्रेशन महाराष्ट्र , गुजरात और कुछ दक्षिणी भारत मे होता है |
- सबसे अधिक जैन और महेश्वरी समाज का माइग्रेशन है | लेकिन वह अधिकतर स्थायी हैं | कोरोना वाइरस फैलाव भी इनका पुनः राजस्थान आगमन कम हुआ है |
- सुथार समाज का काम महाराष्ट्र , गुजरात और दक्षिणी भारत मे काफी है | मूलतः इनका काम लकड़ी पर नक्काशी का काफी फेल हुआ है | ये अधिकतर वापस राजस्थान आए हैं |
- हमाली और ड्राइवर का काम करनेवाले अधिकतर गुजरात गांधीधाम और उसके आसपास हैं | यह कॉन्ट्रैक्ट पर हैं | ये भी अधिकांश वापस राजस्थान आ गए हैं |
- छोटी दुकाने , गले आदि महाराष्ट्र , गुजरात , और दक्षिणी भारत में हैं | वह भी वापस आ गए हैं |
- मिठाई का काम पुरे भारत में है जिसमे अधिकतर राजपुरोहित समाज है |
- स्टील का काम भी कुछ लोग करते हैं | सुरत में हीरा घिसाई का काम राजस्थानी करते हैं जो अधिकांश वापस राजस्थान आ गए हैं
- पूरे भारत में हाइवे किनारे ढाबे इसी क्षेत्र के लोगों के है |
- राइका समाज के लोग पशुपालन हेतु दिल्ली , गुडगांव और अन्य क्षेत्रों में जाते है , जो वापस आए हैं |
- शेखावटी के कई व्यवसायी परिवारों ने देश के विभिन्न शहरों में व्यावसायिक प्रतिष्ठान स्थापित किए हैं , अतः इस क्षेत्र के पढ़े लिखे लोग उनके यहाँ प्राइवेट सेवा में लगे हुए हैं |

- इसके अलावा बहुत बड़ी मात्रा में यहाँ के मज़दूर भवन निर्माण के कार्यों के लिए देश के विभिन्न प्रांतों में भी गए हुए हैं तथा विदेशों में भी इस काम के लिए बड़ी संख्या में आते जाते हैं | अब अधिकांश मज़दूर वापस इस क्षेत्र में लौटकर आ गए हैं |
- मध्य प्रदेश व यूपी , बिहार के मज़दूर इस क्षेत्र में खेती करने के लिए आते हैं जो वापस मध्य प्रदेश व यूपी तथा बिहार की तरफ़ वापस लौट गए हैं |
- झुंझनू , सीकर , अलवर व भरतपुर के काफ़ी बड़ी संख्या में मज़दूर दिल्ली में मज़दूरी हेतु जाते हैं जो वापस लौट आए हैं |
- राजसमंद , नागौर ज़िले के कुछ लोग महाराष्ट्र गुजरात आंध्र की तरफ़ जाकर वहाँ बड़े पैमाने पर दूध का काम करते हैं इस क्षेत्र के जांगीड़ जाति के अन्य लोग बड़े पैमाने पर लकड़ी के फ़र्नीचर के काम में लोग हुए थे जो वापस लौटे हैं |

राजस्थान के दक्षिणी भाग के ज़िले बांसवाडा , डुंगरपुर , प्रतापगढ़ , उदयपुर व सिरौही जिले से बड़ी संख्या में मज़दूर , कामगार गुजरात में भवन निर्माण , कृषि व फेक्ट्रियों में मज़दूरी हेतु जाते हैं | ये भी अधिकांश राजस्थान में वापस लौटकर आये हैं | ये अधिकांश आदिवासी हैं, इनके रोज़गार की बड़ी समस्या उत्पन्न हो गयी है | इनके लिए खाद्यान्न व रोज़गार का बहुत बड़ा दायित्व राज्य सरकार का है | तात्कालिक सहायता के लिए नरेगा कार्यक्रम के माध्यम से मदद की जा सकती है | राजस्थान के प्रवासी मज़दूर / कामगार के सम्बन्ध में रिपोर्ट प्रेषित है | राजस्थान के प्रवासी मज़दूरों/कामगारों के आवागमन के आँकड़े राजस्थान के ज़िला मुख्यालयों पर ज़िला प्रशासन द्वारा एकत्र किये गये हैं जिनको राज्य स्तर पर एकत्र किया गया । (आँकड़े राज्य सरकार के सहयोग से प्राप्त हैं)

अन्य राज्यों से आने वाले प्रवासियों का विवरण

- विभिन्न राज्यों से राजस्थान आने के लिये कुल 9,44,354 प्रवासियों ने पंजीकरण कराया है |
- लगभग 53% प्रवासी महाराष्ट्र (3,70,894) और गुजरात (1,23,413) राज्य से हैं | इसके अतिरिक्त 28% प्रवासी कर्नाटक (1,05,289), तमिलनाडु (64,013), तेलंगाना (43,915), आंध्रप्रदेश (38,423), केरल (15,098) एवं पांडिचेरी (534) से हैं |
- शेष 1,82,775 अन्य राज्यों से आ रहे हैं |

कर्नाटक

- कर्नाटक से लगभग 1,05,289 प्रवासी वापस आना चाहते हैं |
- 10,834 ट्रेन के माध्यम से , 980 बस के माध्यम से 16,099 प्रवासी चौपहिया वाहनों के माध्यम से एवं 847 दोपहिया वाहनों के माध्यम से आना चाहते हैं |
- शेष 76,529 प्रवासियों द्वारा परिवहन के किसी विशेष माध्यम के लिये प्राथमिकता नहीं दी गई है |

महाराष्ट्र

- महाराष्ट्र से लगभग 3,70,894 प्रवासी वापस आना चाहते हैं |
- 1,08,524 प्रवासी चौपहिया वाहनों के माध्यम से 35,941 ट्रेन के माध्यम से , 4,062 बस के माध्यम से एवं 4,901 दोपहिया वाहनों के माध्यम से आना चाहते हैं |
- शेष 2,17,466 प्रवासियों द्वारा परिवहन के किसी विशेष माध्यम के लिये प्राथमिकता नहीं दी गई है |

अन्य राज्यों में जाने वाले प्रवासियों का विवरण

- राजस्थान से अन्य राज्यों में जाने के लिये कुल 9,39,639 प्रवासियों ने पंजीकरण कराया है |
- लगभग 10% प्रवासी महाराष्ट्र (50,650) और गुजरात (42,271) से हैं | इसके अतिरिक्त 4% प्रवासी कर्नाटक (14,550), तमिलनाडु (10,523), तेलंगाना (8637), आंध्रप्रदेश (7,208), केरल (3,268), पांडिचेरी (144) से हैं |
- शेष 8,02,388 अन्य राज्यों को जा रहे हैं |

कर्नाटक

- राजस्थान से कर्नाटक को लगभग 14,550 प्रवासी जा रहे हैं |
- 3,711 प्रवासी चौपहिया वाहनों के माध्यम से 1,169 ट्रेन के माध्यम से , 101 बस के माध्यम से एवं 380 दोपहिया वाहनों के माध्यम से आना चाहते हैं |
- शेष 9,189 प्रवासियों द्वारा परिवहन के किसी विशेष माध्यम के लिये प्राथमिकता नहीं दी गई है |

- राजस्थान से महाराष्ट्र को लगभग 50,650 प्रवासी जा रहे हैं |
- 21,093 प्रवासी चौपहिया वाहनो के माध्यम से, 3,283 ट्रेन के माध्यम से, 717 बस के माध्यम से एवं 1,114 दोपहिया वाहनो के माध्यम से जाना चाहते हैं |
- शेष 24, 443 प्रवासियों द्वारा परिवहन के किसी विशेष माध्यम के लिये प्राथमिकता नहीं दी गई है |

अन्य राज्यों से आने वाले प्रवासियों की स्थिति

अवधि के आधार पर अन्य राज्यों से राजस्थान में आने वाले प्रवासियों की स्थिति / प्राथमिकता

राजस्थान से विभिन्न समयावधि पर कुल 1,39,478 प्रवासी अन्य राज्यों में गये थे इनमें सर्वाधिक लॉकडाउन प्रारम्भ होने के 6 माह या उससे अधिक समय से गये हुए प्रवासियों की संख्या 65,607 (47.04%) है , 1 माह पूर्व 27,911 (20.01%) प्रवासी , 2 माह पूर्व 21,734 (15.58%) प्रवासी एवं 3 माह पूर्व 21,341 (15.30%) प्रवासी प्रवासित हैं |

श्रेणी के आधार पर अन्य राज्यों में गये प्रवासियों की स्थिति

राजस्थान से श्रेणी अनुसार कुल 4,18,436 व्यक्ति अन्य राज्यों में गये थे | इनमें सर्वाधिक 2,10,416 (50.29%) प्रवासी श्रमिक हैं | इसके अतिरिक्त 59,349 (14.18%) छात्र एवं 56,598 (13.53%) निजी क्षेत्र के फंसे हुए कर्मचारी हैं |

कारण के आधार पर राजस्थान से अन्य राज्यों में गये प्रवासियों की स्थिति

राजस्थान से गये कुल 1,39,478 प्रवासियों में से सर्वाधिक 1,00,085 (71.76%) प्रवासी राजस्थान में घर / परिवार होने के कारण आना चाहते हैं | इसके अतिरिक्त 19,814 (14.21%) प्रवासी लॉकडाउन उपरान्त अन्य राज्यों में रोजगार अवसरों के आभाव के कारण वापस प्रदेश आना चाहते हैं |

कुल 1,39,480 प्रवासियों में से 1,33,005 (95.36%) प्रवासी राजस्थान के मूल निवासी हैं |

अन्य राज्यों से जाने वाले प्रवासियों की स्थिति

अवधि के आधार पर अन्य राजस्थान से राज्यों में जाने वाले प्रवासियों की स्थिति / प्राथमिकता

राजस्थान में विभिन्न समयावधि पर कुल 1,76,686 प्रवासी अन्य राज्यों से आये थे | इनमें सर्वाधिक लॉकडाउन प्रारम्भ होने के 6 माह या उससे अधिक समय से गये हुए प्रवासियों की संख्या 95,069 (52.91%) है तथा एक माह पूर्व तक 40,287 (22.42%) प्रवासी , 2 माह पूर्व 23,468 (13.06%) एवं 3 माह पूर्व 20,862 (11.61%) प्रवासी प्रवासित हुए |

श्रेणी के आधार पर राजस्थान से अन्य राज्यों में जाने वाले प्रवासियों की स्थिति

राजस्थान से श्रेणीनुसार कुल 5,39,059 व्यक्ति अन्य राज्यों में जाना चाहते हैं | इनमें सर्वाधिक 3,44,920 (63.99%) प्रवासी श्रमिक हैं | इसके अतिरिक्त प्रमुखतः 59,457 (11.03%) निजी क्षेत्र के फंसे हुए कर्मचारी एवं 47,178 (8.75%) छात्र हैं |

कारण के आधार पर राजस्थान से अन्य राज्यों में गये प्रवासियों की स्थिति

राजस्थान में फंसे कुल 1,79,687 प्रवासियों में सर्वाधिक 1,00,173 (55.75%) व्यक्ति लॉकडाउन के कारण राजस्थान में रोजगार अवसरों के अभाव में वापस अपने राज्यों में घर पर जाना चाहते हैं | इसके अतिरिक्त प्रमुखतः 46,709 (25.99%) प्रवासी बाहर व्यवसाय / नौकरी करने के कारण एवं 15,300 (8.51%) व्यक्ति पर्यटन अथवा पारिवारिक समारोह में आये थे , जो वापस घर जाना चाहते हैं |

कार्य के आधार पर राजस्थान से अन्य राज्यों में जाने वाले प्रवासियों का विवरण

राजस्थान में फंसे कुल 1,79,686 प्रवासियों में से 58,685 (32.66%) प्रवासी फैक्ट्रीयों में मजदूरी करते हैं , 19,710 (10.97%) राजस्थान में नौकरी करते हैं एवं 80,480 (44.79%) अन्य कार्य करते हैं |

महाराष्ट्र से आने वाले प्रवासियों का विवरण

महाराष्ट्र से आने वाले कुल 42,165 प्रवासियों में से 37,991 ने ट्रेन से एवं 4,174 ने बस से आने को प्राथमिकता दी है | इस हेतु कुल 27 ट्रेनों एवं 144 बसों की आवश्यकता होगी | इनमें मुख्यतः मुम्बई से 8 ट्रेनों में 12,517 प्रवासी एवं 56 बसों में 1676 प्रवासी , ठाणे से ७ ट्रेनों में 9,565 प्रवासी एवं 24 बसों में 708 प्रवासी , एवं पुणे से 4 ट्रेनों में 6,263 प्रवासी एवं 22 बसों में 663 प्रवासीयों को राजस्थान लाया जाना है |

बिहार (ट्रेन से) जाने वाले प्रवासियों का विवरण

महाराष्ट्र से आने वाले कुल 42,165 प्रवासियों में से 37,991 ने ट्रेन से एवं 4,174 ने बस से आने को प्राथमिकता दी है | इस हेतु कुल 27 ट्रेनों एवं 144 बसों की आवश्यकता होगी | इनमें मुख्यतः मुम्बई से 8 ट्रेनों में 12,517 प्रवासी एवं 56 बसों में 1676 प्रवासी , ठाणे से ७ ट्रेनों में 9,565 प्रवासी एवं 24 बसों में 708 प्रवासी , एवं पुणे से 4 ट्रेनों में 6,263 प्रवासी एवं 22 बसों में 663 प्रवासीयों को राजस्थान लाया जाना है |

राज्य में आने वालों के ई-पास की स्थिति

ई - मित्र पर पंजीकृत राजस्थान में आने वाले (Inwards) और राजस्थान से अन्य राज्यों को जाने वाले (Outwards) प्रवासियों के ई - पास / ई - एनओसी की समग्र स्थिति

विभिन्न राज्यों से राजस्थान में आने के लिए और राजस्थान से विभिन्न राज्यों को जाने के लिए कुल लगभग 24.69 लाख प्रवासियों द्वारा ई - पास / ई-एनओसी हेतु आवेदन किया गया , जिनकी वर्तमान स्थिति निम्न प्रकार है :-

Sr. No	Status	Count	Percentage
1	Pending	4,483	0.18
2	Closed	5,68,937	23.05
3	Migrated	13,44,447	54.46
4	Migration Cell	1,08,681	4.40
5	Non Responsive	4,42,059	17.91
	TOTAL	24,68,607	100.0

ई - मित्र पर पंजीकृत राजस्थान में आने वाले (Inwards) प्रवासियों के ई - पास / ई - एनओसी की स्थिति

विभिन्न राज्यों से राजस्थान में आने के लिए कुल लगभग 12.76 लाख प्रवासियों द्वारा ई - पास / ई - एनओसी हेतु आवेदन किया गया , जिनकी वर्तमान स्थिति निम्न प्रकार है :-

Sr. No	Status	Count	Percentage
1	Pending	1,164	0.09
2	Closed	3,03,605	23.79
3	Migrated	6,23,108	48.83
4	Migration Cell	65,885	5.16
5	Non Responsive	2,82,312	22.12
	TOTAL	12,76,74	100.0

परिवहन के साधन अनुसार राजस्थान आने वाले (Inwards) प्रवासियों के ई - पास / ई - एनओसी के लम्बित आवेदनों की स्थिति

विभिन्न राज्यों से राजस्थान आने वाले प्रवासियों के ई - पास / ई - एनओसी हेतु कुल 1,164 आवेदन लम्बित है जिनकी परिवहन के साधनों की वर्तमान स्थिति निम्न प्रकार है:-

Sr. No	Status	Count	Percentage
1	Train	241	20.70
2	Bus	157	13.49
3	2- Wheeler	746	64.09
4	4-Wheeler	0	0
5	Non Specic	20	1.72
	TOTAL	1,164	100.0

प्रवासन सैल (Migration Cell) को प्रस्तुत राजस्थान आने वाले (Inwards) प्रवासियों की परिवहन के साधन अनुसार स्थिति

विभिन्न राज्यों से राजस्थान आने वाले प्रवासियों के कुल 65,885 प्रकरण प्रवासन सैल को प्रस्तुत किये जा चुके है , इनमें विभिन्न राज्यों से ट्रेन एवं बस के माध्यम से आने वाले प्रवासियों की स्थिति निम्न प्रकार है :-

Sr. No	Status	State	Count	Percentage
1	Train	Maharashtra	1,164	0.09
		Karnataka	3,03,605	23.79
		Tamilnadu	6,23,108	48.83
		Gujarat	65,885	5.16
		Telangana	2,82,312	22.12
		TOTAL	17,096	100.0
2	Bus	Gujarat	3,465	46.75
		Delhi	1,132	15.27
		Madhya Pradesh	563	7.60
		Haryana	490	6.61
		Maharashtra	431	5.81
		TOTAL	7,412	100

राजस्थान आने वाले (Inwards) प्रवासियों से प्राप्त Call की स्थिति

हैल्पलाइन 181 पर राजस्थान आने वाले Non responsive श्रेणी के प्रवासियों से प्राप्त Call की राज्यवार स्थिति निम्न प्रकार है :-

Sr. No	Status	Count
1	Karnataka	1,162
2	Maharashtra	1,117
3	Bihar	577
4	Uttar Pradesh	452
5	Tamil Nadu	450
6	Gujarat	368
7	West Bengal	313
8	Kerala	277
9	Andhra Pradesh	235
10	Delhi	198
11	Telangana	161
12	Punjab	144
13	Madhya Pradesh	142
14	Haryana	112
15	Odisha	93
16	Goa	72

17	Assam	72
18	Chattisgarh	46
19	Jharkhand	44
20	Jammu Kashmir	34
21	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	30
22	Himachal Pradesh	23
23	Uttarakhand	20
24	Nagaland	14
25	Daman Diu	13
26	Meghalaya	13
27	Chandigarh	12
28	Pondicherry	6
29	Mizoram	5
30	Arunachal Pradesh	3
31	Sikkim	1
32	Manipur	1
	TOTAL	6,210

ई - मित्र पर पंजीकृत राजस्थान से जाने वाले (Outwards) प्रवासियों के ई - पास / ई - एनओसी की स्थिति

राजस्थान से विभिन्न राज्यों में जाने के लिए कुल लगभग 11.93 लाख प्रवासियों द्वारा ई - पास / ई - एनओसी हेतु आवेदन किया गया , जिनकी वर्तमान स्थिति निम्न प्रकार से है :-

Sr. No	Status	Count	Percentage
1	Pending	3,319	0.28
2	Closed	2,65,332	22.25
3	Migrated	7,21,339	60.49
4	Migration Cell	42,796	3.59
5	Non Responsive	1,59,747	13.40
	TOTAL	11,92,533	100.0

परिवहन के साधन अनुसार राजस्थान से अन्य राज्यों को जाने वाले प्रवासियों के ई - पास / ई - एनओसी के लम्बित आवेदनों की स्थिति

राजस्थान से विभिन्न राज्यों को जाने वाले प्रवासियों के ई - पास / ई - एनओसी हेतु कुल 3.319 आवेदन लम्बित है जिनकी परिवहन के साधनों की वर्तमान स्थिति निम्न प्रकार है :-

Sr. No	Status	Count	Percentage
1	Train	1,688	50.86
2	Bus	521	15.70
3	2 Wheeler	1,095	32.99
4	4 Wheeler	6	0.18
5	Not Specified	9	0.27
	TOTAL	3,319	100.0

प्रवासन सैल (Migration Cell) को प्रस्तुत राजस्थान से अन्य राज्यों को जाने वाले (Outwards) प्रवासियों की परिवहन के साधन अनुसार स्थिति

राजस्थान से विभिन्न राज्यों को जाने वाले प्रवासियों के कुल 42,796 प्रकरण प्रवासन सैल को प्रस्तुत किये जा चुके हैं , इनमें विभिन्न राज्यों में विभिन्न परिवहन के साधनों के अनुसार जाने वाले प्रवासियों की स्थिति निम्न प्रकार है :-

Sr. No	Status	State	Count	Percentage
1	Train	Bihar	6,218	41.92
		Uttar Pradesh	2,403	16.20
		West Bengal	2,393	16.13
		Madhya Pradesh	701	4.73
		Jharkhand	617	4.16
		TOTAL	14,833	100.0
2	Bus	Uttar Pradesh	1,678	39.00
		West Bengal	682	15.85
		Gujarat	422	9.81
		Bihar	393	9.13
		Delhi	199	4.62
				TOTAL

Sr. No	Status	State	Count	Percentage
3	4 Wheeler	Gujarat	976	29.32
		Maharashtra	667	20.04
		Telangana	295	8.86
		Karnataka	244	7.33
		Uttar Pradesh	185	5.56
		TOTAL	3,329	

राजस्थान से जाने वाले (Outwards) प्रवासियों को किये गये Call की स्थिति

हैल्पलाइन 181 पर राजस्थान से विभिन्न राज्यों को जाने वाले Non responsive श्रेणी के प्रवासियों से प्राप्त Call की राज्यवार स्थिति निम्न प्रकार है

Sr. No	Status	Count
1	Karnataka	86
2	Maharashtra	168
3	Bihar	5,055
4	Uttar Pradesh	2,256
5	Tamil Nadu	46
6	Gujarat	121
7	West Bengal	2,148
8	Kerala	31
9	Andhra Pradesh	22
10	Delhi	96
11	Telangana	26
12	Punjab	73
13	Madhya Pradesh	529
14	Haryana	80
15	Odisha	107
16	Goa	10

17	Assam	80
18	Chattisgarh	184
19	Jharkhand	324
20	Jammu Kashmir	19
21	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	5
22	Himachal Pradesh	18
23	Uttarakhand	54
24	Nagaland	90
25	Daman Diu	1
26	Meghalaya	11
27	Chandigarh	7
28	Pondicherry	6
29	Mizoram	
30	Arunachal Pradesh	5
31	Sikkim	1
32	Manipur	16
	TOTAL	11,671

प्रवासियों हेतु संचालित केम्पों की जिलेवार स्थिति

राज्य सरकार एवं गैर - सरकारी संगठनों एवं धर्मार्थ संगठनों द्वारा प्रवासियों हेतु दिभिन्न जिलों में शिविर संचालित किए जा रहे हैं जहाँ पर उनके ठहरने एवं भोजन आदि की व्यवस्था की जा रही है ।

प्रवासियों के आगमन पर सत्यापन की व्यवस्था

शहरी क्षेत्र में उपखण्ड अधिकारी (बी. एल. ओ द्वारा) ।

ग्रामीण क्षेत्र में ग्राम विकास अधिकारी द्वारा ।

कौशल विकास

- इन शिविरों में जो अकुशल . श्रमिक / कामगार हैं उनके कौशल विकास के लिए राज्य सरकार यदि प्रशिक्षण एवं कौशल विकास की व्यवस्था कर देती है तो इनको रोजगार देना आसान होगा । राज्य सरकार को इनकी कुशलता के अनुसार रोजगार उपलब्ध कराने की व्यवस्था करनी चाहिए ।

प्रवासी श्रमिक / कामगारों के लिए आयोग

- राज्य सरकार इन प्रवासी श्रमिक / कामगारों के लिए आयोग गठित करे जो इनकी समस्याओं का समाधान कर सके व इनको पुनः स्थापित कर सके ।





Addendum - II

Role Of Various NGOs During The Pandemic

स्वयं सेवकों का सेवा कार्य

नर को नारायण और सेवा को परमो धर्म मानने वाले भारतीय समाज ने कोरोना संकट के समय सभ्यता की अपनी गहरी जड़ों का पुनः स्मरण कराया है। कहते हैं संकट के समय व्यक्ति की तरह समाज और राष्ट्र का चरित्र भी सहयोग और सद्भाव की कसौटी पर कसा जाता है। पहली बार दुनिया में आई कोरोना महामारी ने देश के लाखों लोगों के सामने भोजन से लेकर दूसरी तमाम परेशानियां खड़ी कर दीं जिनका हल देने के लिए भारत का समाज तत्पर हुआ और जरूरतमंदों की सेवा व सहायता के वृहद अभियान में जुट गया। संकट के इस काल में समाज के अलग-अलग संगठनों, धार्मिक संस्थाओं के साथ राष्ट्रीय स्वयंसेवक संघ और सेवा भारती ने इस सेवा कार्य में अग्रणी भूमिका निभाई। सेवा का यह कार्य अनवरत रूप से अब भी जारी है। हिमालय के उत्तुंग शिखर से सिंधु की अतल गहराइयों तक फैले विस्तृत भारत के इस ऐतिहासिक भूभाग पर रहने वाले लोगों की समस्याएं अलग तरह की थीं और उन सभी का समाधान देने का हर संभव प्रयास राष्ट्रीय स्वयंसेवक संघ ने किया। सेवा के महाअभियान का मोर्चा लाखों स्वयंसेवकों ने सहर्ष थाम रखा है जो भोजन, राशन, रक्तदान, काढ़ा, और प्लाज्मा की व्यवस्था हर जरूरतमंद के लिए उपलब्ध करवाने में जुटे हैं। इतना ही नहीं मजदूर वर्ग के लिए राष्ट्रीय स्वयं सेवक संघ इस समय महती भूमिका निभा रहा है।

आज भी याद आते हैं वो दृश्य और वो गहरे संकट का काल जब देशभर में प्रधानमंत्री ने लॉकडाउन घोषित किया था और बड़ी संख्या में प्रवासी मजदूरों ने अपने घरों की ओर पैदल ही चलना शुरू कर दिया था। ऐसे वक्त में रास्ते में फंसे मजदूरों के लिए शेल्टर होम बनाये गए। तमिलनाडु के चेन्नई में 96 शेल्टर होम में मानसिक तनाव से मुक्ति के लिये भोजन के साथ साथ योग और काउंसिलिंग की व्यवस्था भी की गई। कर्नाटक के मांड्या में नेपाल से आये 16 तीर्थयात्रियों को भोजन किट देने का काम सेवा कार्य में लगे स्वयंसेवकों ने किया। जब 1500 से ज्यादा मजदूर महाराष्ट्र - गुजरात सीमा पर मिले तो उनके रहने और भोजन की व्यवस्था को स्वयंसेवक आगे आए।

जब मुम्बई नासिक मार्ग पर होटल बन्द थे तो लगभग 3000 ट्रक चालकों को भोजन करवाना, आंध्र प्रदेश के नेल्लोर में 9000 जरूरतमंदों को समरसता सेवा फाउंडेशन और सेवा भारती कार्यकर्ताओं द्वारा भोजन कराया वहीं धूप से बचने के लिए अनेक केंद्रों से बड़ी संख्या में छाते भी उपलब्ध कराने का कार्य किया गया।

जरात के मोरबी स्टेशन पर श्रमिकों को लगातार 3 से 4 दिनों तक भोजन मुहैया करवाने पर स्टेशन अधीक्षक हुसैन अहमद जुनेजा ने स्वयंसेवकों का आभार माना और परिवार सहित स्वयंसेवक संघ से जुड़कर कार्य करने की इच्छा जताई।

स्वयंसेवकों द्वारा रोजाना अलग-अलग तरह से की जा रही मदद, समाज के लिए उदाहरण भी बन गए। राष्ट्र के हर कोने में जुटे स्वयंसेवकों ने मध्य प्रदेश में भी अनेकों उदाहरण पेश किए। स्वयंसेवकों ने महाराष्ट्र से जुड़े खंडवा, सेंधवा तथा गुजरात से जुड़े आलीराजपुर, झाबुआ आदि क्षेत्रों में भोजन पानी की व्यवस्था की तो इंदौर, रतलाम, देवास में सूखा भोजन, चप्पल, जूते, दवाई व स्नान आदि की व्यवस्था की। 150 केंद्रों के माध्यम से मध्य प्रदेश के मालवा प्रांत में प्रतिदिन 75000 लोगों की व्यवस्था अनेक दिनों तक की गई। इसी कड़ी में इंदौर में 2 दिन तक 1400 यात्रियों को शारीरिक दूरी का पालन करते हुए उन्हें रेल में बैठाने और भोजन उपलब्ध करवाने की व्यवस्था की गई। दतिया, शिवपुरी बायपास, ब्यावरा में राजमार्ग पर मजदूरों को भोजन चाय बिस्किट की व्यवस्था करने के साथ विदिशा में महाराष्ट्र से आ रहे 10500 मजदूरों को भोजन करवाने के साथ ही 500 लोगों के लिए वाहन व्यवस्था करवाई गई ताकि प्रवासी मजदूर अपने गंतव्य तक सकुशल पहुंच सकें। महाकौशल प्रान्त में बस स्टैंड, रेलवे स्टेशनों समेत 14 स्थानों पर पर भोजन, पानी, बिस्किट-चाय की व्यवस्था और चप्पल बांटने सहित, सिवनी में 45 दिन तक लगातार प्रवासी मजदूरों के लिए भोजन की सेवा की गई। सिवनी, रीवा सहित अनेक स्थानों पर चिकित्सक व दवा की व्यवस्था भी की गई जिसका लाभ लाखों प्रवासी मजदूरों को मिला। वहीं छत्तीसगढ़ के 12 स्थानों से पुलिस के सहयोग से ट्रकों द्वारा बड़ी संख्या में मजदूरों को उनके स्थान तक छोड़ने की व्यवस्था की गई।

कोरोना संकट में सक्रिय समाज का स्वरूप उभरा तो संवेदनशील सरकार का चेहरा भी सामने आया। स्वयंसेवकों ने जहां-जहां आवश्यकता हुई प्रशासन का हरसंभव सहयोग किया और जरूरतमंदों को मदद पहुंचाने की कड़ी बने। जिसका उदाहरण हैं मध्य प्रदेश, उत्तरप्रदेश की सरकारों से बात कर मजदूरों को बड़ी संख्या में वाहन, बस आदि उपलब्ध कराए गए ताकि प्रवासी मजदूर अति शीघ्र आपने गंतव्य पर पहुंच सकें।

प्रवासी मजदूरों के लिए उत्तराखंड में 14 दवा/ मेडिकल कैम्प लगाए गए जिसमें 2657 मजदूर स्वास्थ्य लाभ ले सके। यहां बस स्टैंड एवं

रेलवे स्टेशन पर 4 केंद्र बनाए गए थे जिनमें 8135 लोगों को भोजन पानी बिस्किट की भी व्यवस्था की गई थी।

मेरठ, मुरादाबाद, दादरी रेलवे स्टेशन पर भोजन पानी, मास्क की व्यवस्था करना, रेलवे स्टेशन पर हाथों को सेनेटाइज कराने की व्यवस्था करना शामिल रहा। स्वयंसेवकों के इस सेवा कार्य की प्रशंसा समाज के हर वर्ग ने की। मेरठ स्टेशन में मुस्लिमों द्वारा सेवारत स्वयंसेवकों का स्वागत किया गया। मुरादाबाद स्टेशन पर पूर्वोत्तर जा रही ट्रेन के यात्रियों के भोजन एवं पानी की व्यवस्था कम समय में सेवा भारती कार्यकर्ताओं द्वारा की गई जिसकी स्टेशन अधीक्षक एवं रेलवे के अन्य अधिकारी प्रशंसा करते दिखे। मेरठ में स्वयंसेवकों ने भोजन पानी, चाय बिस्किट, शारीरिक दूरी बनाने, अपने साधनों से जिले की सीमा तक 195078 मजदूरों को पहुंचाने का कार्य किया गया। स्वयंसेवकों ने देशभर में कई उदाहरण समाज के सामने प्रस्तुत किये हैं। ऐसा पहली बार नहीं हुआ, जब जब राष्ट्र में प्राकृतिक आपदा आई है स्वयंसेवक समाज की मदद में आगे आए हैं। ब्रज प्रान्त में 35 भोजन केंद्रों पर 48247 मजदूरों को भोजन, 14 स्थानों पर 2657 मजदूरों को आरोग्य सुविधा, 9 स्थानों पर 8315 मजदूरों को प्रशासन के साथ जिले या प्रान्त की सीमा तक छोड़ने का अद्वितीय कार्य किया गया तो धुले शहर में केरल के 175 लड़कों के 2 दिन से भूखे रहने की खबर पर स्थानीय स्वयंसेवकों ने भोजन, चाय, पानी, गैस सिलेंडर व राशन की व्यवस्था करवाई। इसी तरह जालना शहर में तमिलनाडु से आए कुछ नागरिकों के लॉकडाउन में फंसने के चलते उन्हें भोजन और ठहरने की व्यवस्था करवाई गई। ऐसे अनेकों व अनगिनत कार्य हैं जो हर कोने में स्वयंसेवकों द्वारा निस्वार्थ भाव के साथ किये गए। परभणी जिला के पाथरी माजलगांव महामार्ग पर पैदल जाने वाले लगभग 500 लोगों को भोजन देने की प्रतिदिन व्यवस्था की गई। पैदल यात्रियों को भोजन, आरोग्य चिकित्सा, भोजन पैकेट चाय-नाश्ता, शरबत पिलाया गया तो जिन मजदूरों के पैरों में चप्पल -जूते नहीं थे उनको चप्पल-जूते भी दिए गए।

मध्यप्रदेश के उदनखेड़ी में एक प्रवासी महिला को प्रसव पीड़ा होने पर सिविल अस्पताल में भर्ती करवाने का संवेदनशील कार्य किया गया। स्वयंसेवक बताते हैं कि उत्तर प्रदेश के नूर मोहम्मद और उनकी पत्नी जब मार्ग से गुजर रहे थे तभी उनकी पत्नी को प्रसव पीड़ा हुई तभी स्थानीय स्वयंसेवक कवि कसार ने तुरंत एंबुलेंस की व्यवस्था कर अस्पताल ले जाने में मदद की। यह वो कार्य हैं जिन्हें बगैर वक्त गंवाए स्वयंसेवकों ने किया। जालना शहर में भी इसी तरह का उदाहरण सामने आया जहां आंध्र प्रदेश के रहने वाले एक गरीब परिवार की महिला को जब प्रसव पीड़ा हुई तो स्वयंसेवक संदीप बोंद्रेवाल व मनोज जाधव ने तुरन्त एंबुलेंस बुलाकर मदद की।

यह समाज के साथ आत्मीयता का ही तो प्रतिबिंब है कि इन सेवा कार्य में दिव्यांगजनों से लेकर समाज में अकेले रहने वाले बुजुर्गों तक, परेशानी में पड़ी महिलाओं से लेकर मजदूरों तक की चिंता की गई।

अंता के पास डेरु माता जी के मंदिर पर कोटा शिवपुरी राजमार्ग से जाने वाले यात्रियों को श्री देवकीनंदन जी राठौड़ वह अन्य स्वयंसेवकों के द्वारा भोजन नाश्ता, पीने का पानी, ठहरने की व्यवस्था आदि का प्रबंध किया गया। इसी जिले के शाहाबाद राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग पर टोल प्लाजा पर प्रवासी मजदूरों को भोजन पैकेट चाय नाश्ता आदि की व्यवस्था की गई। राजस्थान में जयपुर से दिल्ली, जयपुर से आगरा, जयपुर से अजमेर, जयपुर से कोटा इन सभी राजमार्गों पर यहां से निकलने वाले पदयात्री मजदूर तथा ट्रक चालकों को स्थान स्थान पर भोजन पानी चाय, अल्पाहार तथा ठहरने की व्यवस्था स्वयंसेवकों ने करवाई। सभी के लिए चिकित्सा व्यवस्था और जरूरतमंद को जूते चप्पल पहनाकर आगे की यात्रा के लिए भेजने का कार्य करते स्वयंसेवक दिखे। यही सेवा कार्य विदर्भ प्रांत से गुजरने वाले श्रमिकों के लिए भी किया गया। स्थान स्थान पर भोजन, अल्पाहार, वैद्य सहायता और पाथेय वितरण कर आगे का रास्ता प्रशस्त किया।

निस्वार्थ समाज संगठन

राष्ट्रीय स्वयंसेवक संघ भारतीय समाज में किसी तरह का भेद नहीं मानता। देश के प्रति श्रद्धा और निष्ठा रखने वाले, भारत को अपनी मातृभूमि और यहां के महापुरुषों को अपना आराध्य मानने वाले हर व्यक्ति के प्रति उसकी समान आत्मीयता है और यह आत्मीयता सेवा में भी दिखती है। सेवा के इस विशाल कार्य में समरस समाज के भी दर्शन हुए। संघ को अनेक धार्मिक सामाजिक संगठनों का सहयोग मिला तो संघ ने भी उनको हरसंभव सहयोग दिया। जाति, मजहब, अमीर, गरीब का भेद किये बिना सभी प्रवासियों की निःस्वार्थ सेवा का अनुपम उदाहरण भारतीय समाज ने प्रस्तुत किया। मठ, मन्दिर, गुरुद्वारों ने भी सेवा में कोई कमी नहीं आने दी और संकट में पड़े अपने भाई बहनों की सेवा को ही अपना प्रथम धर्म माना।

ऐसे समय में जब संक्रमण का खतरा सबसे अधिक रहा सेवा कार्य दोहरी चुनौती भरे थे। अपने प्राणों की चिंता न करते हुए यह सेवा करना खतरे से खाली नहीं था। संघ ने चरित्र निर्माण के माध्यम से समाज के संगठन का जो व्रत लिया है यह उसी की एक कड़ी है। अपने कार्य को ईश्वरीय कार्य मानते हुए राष्ट्रीय स्वयंसेवक संघ ने समाज में अलग संगठन ना होकर पूरे समाज को संगठित करने को ही अपना ध्येय माना है। सेवा के पीछे की उसकी दृष्टि संपूर्ण भारतीय समाज के साथ आत्मीय वृत्ति की रही है और इसी वृत्ति पर आज स्वयंसेवक सेवा कार्य में जुटे हैं।

Background

The BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha is a socio-spiritual organization in consultative status with the United Nations that serves the society without any discrimination of caste, creed, colour or religion all over the world.

“Ātmavat sarva-bhūteṣu” i.e., one should feel the happiness and distress of others as his own, is a teaching imbibed in the culture of BAPS, and practiced through Sanstha’s Centres, Saints, volunteers and employees, globally, under the leadership of the 6th spiritual successor of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan, Pragat Guruhari Param Pujya Mahant Swamiji Maharaj and inspired by Bhramhaswaroop Param Pujya Pramukh Swamiji Maharaj (the 5th spiritual successor of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan) whose life’s motto was, “In the Joy of others, lies our own.”

Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan and his spiritual successors have established that without Social work, spiritual organisations are incomplete. BAPS has since its inception been at the forefront of relief operations wherever it is present and can reach out to those in distress, globally.

Before the Government declared lock-down, the BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha closed down all its Mandirs and centres for followers and visitors and advised followers to follow dharma, bhakti and conduct seva from their homes.

Thereafter, practically following the doctrine of “Ātmavat sarva-bhūteṣu”, in letter and spirit, the Sanstha commenced substantial relief operations surmounting the limitations and challenges of lock-down - the limitations of resources and manpower and the monumental challenges of logistics and commenced providing hot meals, rations, vegetables,

ready to eat meals, hospital beds, whatever can be done and all this while strictly following the norms of social-distancing and ensuring that the sanstha contributes to the welfare of the society without endangering anyone and thereby setting an example for all socio-spiritual- cultural organisations.

In all, BAPS engaged its 25,000+ volunteers and served more than 10,00,000 hot meals, delivered 9 million+ food/care packages and supported 25,000+ families, world-wide, through rent or accommodation support. BAPS centres in India, UK, Europe, USA, Canada, UAE, Africa, NZ and Australia not only made sizeable donations to respective government relief funds but worked closely with local bodies and governments to aid people world-wide by providing 1000s of PPE kits, fresh fruits and vegetable packets, food grains, water tanks, medicines, sanitizers and supporting 300+ local hospitals by arranging blood donation camps. BAPS recognized very early that mental health management was key during the pandemic and therefore BAPS arranged for hundreds of online prayers, daily mandir darshans, spiritual assemblies, motivational talks and family counselling sessions that were attended by millions across the world. Thus, apart from physical well- being, BAPS managed the mental well-being as well by putting spirituality in action.

In the present pandemic circumstances, all sections of the society have been very deeply affected. Under these circumstances, it is only natural that the weakest of the public, receive all requisite support in these very trying times.

Pan India Initiatives For Workers Woes

BAPS activities are led and coordinated largely by Sadhus and Volunteers. In addition to volunteers, for regular operations such as construction and kitchens, BAPS engages a large number of employees

employees. These staff members are employed across 1000+ centers across India, in various departments like kitchen, sanitation, administration, construction, etc. As soon as the pandemic started, many of these activities were either downsized or completely shut-down. Though the employees were being taken care in the mandirs / centers, it was natural that they were concerned about their families in their villages. BAPS recognized the human need of families being together during a crisis. Thus, BAPS, being a conscientious organization voluntarily adopted HR policies with a human touch that mitigated the stress on employees and provided a smooth passage to the employees to reach their homeland and their near and dear ones.

BAPS Headquarters in Ahmedabad acted as the central coordination centre while the implementation was decentralized. As soon as the pandemic started, senior sadhus in each mandir were asked to arrange for the logistics of transporting their migrant employees to their hometowns. BAPS sadhus and volunteers in each center arranged for private buses to carry their employees to their hometown. BAPS also ensured that requisite permissions were taken from the respective government agencies. Not just transport, BAPS also arranged for food packets for their employees to carry for their long journey. Their families were also informed about these arrangements so that they were also less stressed. BAPS treated their migrant employees as if they were part of their family. Not only was no money charged from employees, but no wages were cut and the employees were also given cash in hand for their journey and for home expenses. This way BAPS centers across India managed to transport 10,000+ migrant workers belonging to the lowest strata of society to their hometowns.

Had commercial organizations also adopted such policies, voluntarily, the migrant labour crisis that our country witnessed could have been mitigated. This also points to the fact that commercial organizations

should not only pursue profits but be a contributor to mitigating society's challenges, thus helping Government and NGOs.

Gujarat - Assisting The Administration

Gujarat being an industrial state, the migrant labour population in Gujarat is one of the highest in India. Hence, the labour movement was high from the state of Gujarat. Government has initiated Shramik Trains to get the labour back to their hometowns. To manage registrations and logistics, Government of Gujarat had started 235 camps, but that was not enough. There was chaos as most of the laborers were uneducated and did not know how to fill the forms or even read them. Like always, BAPS came to the fore.

BAPS sadhus urged their volunteers to contribute their time, talents and resources. Mr Manish Sharma, CMD of AKSHAR TRAVELS, Ahmedabad came forward with a team of BAPS volunteers, to support the State Government. A plan was made with suggestions from BAPS sadhus & presented to the respected collector of Ahmedabad Shri. K K Nirala - IAS & their team.

After the entire presentation of support plan, Hon. Collector of Ahmedabad had asked about any consultancy / support fees. In true BAPS spirit of selfless volunteerism, Mr Manish said that it is our solemn responsibility to support the government and migrants workers in this global pandemic. He added that that it is not the time for commercial business but an opportunity to serve our people and government.

Akshar Travels established a call centre with 40 dedicated lines and adequate staff. 26,000 entries were received and 157 employees were engaged in this operation including manually filling the forms of the uneducated laborers. Akshar Travels helped the state government to transfer about 2.40 lakh migrant workers from Gujarat to the rest of India in trains.

The voluntary work was managed professionally - a migrant register was made and the migrants were updated via SMS about their approvals, train schedules and all other details. Daily reports were created and shared with respective government agencies and departments. Continuous collaboration with various state governments was done at each level to ensure daily food in camps, lodging in schools/centres and to ensure that the workforce was strategically and efficiently deployed. At each step, the BAPS team got constant support, motivation and guidance from Sadhus to keep working in this time of crisis. It was a wonderful example of public-private partnership working together for societal good. The shared resources, complementing skills, seamless information exchange and passion for serving the nation ensured that the migrants going home from Gujarat had ample support.

Maharashtra - Providing Meals To Workers

In Maharashtra, BAPS worked in close co-ordination with respective local administrations in conducting relief operations in Mumbai, Pune, Nashik, Dhule, Kolhapur, Sangli and Nagpur.

BAPS's first initiative was to provide hot meals to the front-line service providers to enable them to focus on their work. BAPS along with their group organisations provided hot meals, rations, vegetables, ready to eat meals, hospital beds, all this while strictly following the norms of social-distancing and ensuring that they contribute to the welfare of the society without endangering anyone. BAPS analysed the problems faced by the Administration, NGOs and beneficiaries in providing meals to the migrant labourers.

The problems included cooking in makeshift kitchens, requirement of a large number of cooks and helpers, large utensils for cooking, large number of utensils for serving, large number of people required for serving, plates and other utensils for the consumers, dealing with these utensils, washing or disposing. Each of these posed multiple challenges.

BAPS reviewed this situation and conceptualised a solution. The 'Swaminarayan Vegetable Masala Khichadi' packets, a wholesome ready-to-eat meal by itself, having carbohydrates (rice), proteins (dal), vitamins (through vegetables), spices, fats (ghee and oil), a ready-to-eat solution, hygienically, factory packed, retort technology based, with long shelf life (6 months) - without use of any chemicals or preservatives that was easy to deal with from perspective of logistics, distribution and the ease and convenience of use, eliminating all challenges of hygiene, protection from viruses, social-distancing and protection of all involved since these packets are factory made in a safe and controlled environment where labour is suitably protected.

BAPS distributed more than 1,50,000 (one lakh fifty thousand) such meals to frontline service providers and to migrant workers.

As an example of the logistics involved, 6,000 meals were distributed through the Pune Collector's office, 2,500 meals through the Office of the Joint Commissioner's Office, 2,000 meals through the Inspector General's Office, Kolhapur and 1,500 meals through the Commissioner of Police, Pimpri-Chinchwad.

Repatriation Of Workers Stuck Abroad

Just like in India, BAPS played a key role in UAE to get Indians stuck in the Middle-east to their homes in India. Under the banner of the BAPS Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi which is under construction, BAPS's small but passionate group of volunteers came forward to help their countrymen. Most of these Indians in UAE were migrant labour or working class Indians, many of whom had no means to manage themselves. 70,000+ meals were supplied to 1400+ migrant workers during the pandemic situation in UAE. Temporary accommodation was provided for two months to more than 250 workers who had lost their jobs and had no place to stay. BAPS worked with Indian Consulate in Dubai and provided volunteers for supporting the Consulate's Vande Bharat Mission.

A team of 10-12 dedicated volunteers from BAPS spent more than 5000 hours at the Consulate in collecting data about Indian citizens in distress, assisting in filling the online forms, providing them assistance in booking their flight tickets and giving all other logistical support. 24/7 information booths and logistical help-desks were setup at the Dubai, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi airports. BAPS also paid for the flight tickets of 125+ migrant workers who couldn't afford their flight tickets back to India.

It is one thing to help those who ask for help and a completely different thing to support those who did not even ask for help. BAPS, in true humanitarian spirit, reached out to even those who didn't ask for help. When BAPS Mandir Ltd. director Shri Ashok Kotecha, came to know that an Indian labour class citizen has been charged Rs 1.5 Cr hospital bill for his COVID treatment in a Dubai hospital, he reached out to the Indian embassy. The Indian embassy requested the hospital to waive off the bill and the hospital obliged. Over and above that, Mr Kotecha personally went to get the patient discharged from the hospital, paid for his and his family's travel and even gave him some money for expenses during the journey. Thus, BAPS Hindu Mandir in Abu Dhabi and its volunteers acted as guardians of all Indians in Middle-east who wanted to travel back to country and cared for them with love and compassion.

Summary And Suggestions

The crisis began due to ignorance of the disease and was accentuated by panic, misinformation, and lack of information. No one envisaged a crisis of such a scale and so, no one was prepared for this level of migration movement. But, experience makes us wise and allows us to learn and better ourselves. Some of the suggestions for better migrant labour management for the future are as follows:

Centralized Information system:

The key in any crisis is information collection and timely dissipation

- **Central Database:** In the future, the governments at both central and state levels should maintain a register of all migrant labour force in each state with information about their respective hometowns etc. Each private company should be mandated to maintain and share this information with respective state governments. This database will prove as the backbone for planning any movement in the future.
- **Standard Unchanging protocols:** Protocols should be created for such a crisis as is the case with NDRF at times of disasters. These protocols can be SOP for crisis declaration, SOP for evacuation, SOP for logistics, food, medical check-ups, etc.

Effective PPP (Public Private Partnership):

- Private firms should be leveraged and made part of the solution implementation. The government ought to treat them as partners. Rather than mandating the private firms to just pay salaries, government can ask them to play a role in arranging for food and logistics for the people they employ. For example: Firms can be told that they give 1 month salary to migrant employees in hand, use the 2nd month's salary to arrange for their travel to their homes and use the 3rd month's salary for getting them back to work. This way the responsibility of a large chunk of labour force can be divided into smaller, more manageable factions. The labour force would also feel empathy for their bosses of they help them in this crisis.
- Private firms and their management can be effectively managed to efficiently implement food distribution.

Centralized Decision Making and Decentralized Implementation

- Government should take decisions regarding SOPs, protocols, information dissipation and work delegation, uniformly and consistently at the state or central government levels

- The implementation should be decentralized and be allowed to function under guidance of local bodies for effectiveness.
- Monitoring and troubleshooting has to happen at all levels depending on the size and scale of the problem

The underlying thought behind all such actions of human disaster management has to be love, compassion and the urge to help everyone while protecting their dignity. Only then, will everything fall into place and everyone will pull towards a common goal. And only then can we uphold Shri Pramukh Swami Maharaj's all-encompassing motto : 'In the Joy of Others, Lies our Own'.



The much debated migrant crisis, followed by mass exodus of intra- regional migrants to their home town shadowed under fear, hunger, inability to feed the dependents, shame, insult and hopelessness from society and bureaucracy has opened new pathways to re- formulating the policy and public approach towards the dominated working force i.e. the informal/ blue collar workers. The specific segment of work force is largely deprived from a secure source of livelihood including job security and social security. Considering their significant number in work force (83% of total working population), it is easy to replace them and difficult to maintain a record of them.

Considering the given background, the current development in migrant crisis has emerged in the form of them returning back to their respective destination in the search of jobs again. In this way, a cycle of migration consisting 'migration- reverses migration- migration again' has completed. Introspecting the causes of 'migration again' are layered and could be understood with three parameters i) demand from the metropolitans/ or agriculture based economies (characterizes as pull factor) ii) the survival question in front of labourers (the need) iii) lack of sufficient opportunities in the origin places (push factor). These three features continuously urged the labourers to again look at the destination of their work despite being inadequate to provide 'satisfactory living' or forcing them to again get into the vicious cycle of hand to mouth situation.

However, the crisis period in any country no matter how long it would be comes with perspectives regarding the solutions and future prospects as how in the long run one can see the country shape through the crisis. The Corona Virus is also comes with different perspectives about how India should and could react in the crisis situation along with that it has opened the gates for certain prospective for future as well.

We will first look into the perspectives given by scholars regarding the ongoing crisis that has particularly focused on the migrants. Different scholars are providing a bleak future of India and talked about heavy investments from the central government through Universal Income Transfer to revive the economy. Also they are somewhere avoiding giving extended suggestions for the particular time of crisis but looking into the pitfalls in the overall policy structure regarding the workers.

In this sequence, they are suggesting to draw long run policy initiatives which are not to be implemented urgently. The instances could be suggestions like amending the labour codes, universal social protection and access of universal health care services to the workers. These are definitely the initiatives to be taken but it is not the immediate actions to be taken and it will take quite some time to make into action.

Also dispatching money without work would not be a good idea as it will further led to hike up the unemployment which is still mounting. Introducing MGNREGA is another suggestion from scholars where the unskilled workers were given certain amount for working a certain period of time during the UPA government. It can be a fruitful initiative however it is important to inspect under the scheme that it will not merely be another act of dispersion of money without any significant work. Ensuring here to at least fulfill the basic work requirement is essential so that it could fulfill the purpose of construction and justifies the payments.

Looking into the future prospects of the crisis, from the migrants' perspective strictly would give the revival of agro economy with the help of returnees. Also revival of handicrafts, artisans, and the indigenous self-sufficient order of village which was a dream of Mahatma Gandhi could be possible amidst of crisis situation.

In this sequence, it is the time to actually substantiate different schemes of government of India by connecting them with the crisis situation. Skill India, Made in India, Kaushal Vikas Yojna could be some of the initiatives that can be truly utilize in the time of crisis.

Also, women who consist of almost half of the country population, it is the time to utilize them as it was earlier reported that even in rural spaces, the participation of women in labour force is falling sharply. The reason could be participation in the education has risen sharply without having enough jobs in the formal sector among others such as family obstacles, maternity, responsibility of aging parents. However it is important to lurk the female participation with implementing the existing policies for working women in the informal sector.

Further as the government is now investing 10 percent of the GDP for Atma Nirbhar Bharat could be creatively utilize to ensure the self-reliant nation in every aspect. It has now clear that even after finding the vaccine of the virus, the world is going to be in compartments for a long period of time due to the horrors of COVID- 19, it has experienced.

The focus of India should be in this period is to at least finding a stable domestic ground from where it could reach to world again. And this stable ground is not possible without the robust economic order where both formal and informal sectors are to be dealt on their personal grounds.

Speaking of stable domestic ground, it is important to synchronize the urban and rural spaces by bridging the gap between the two. It is widely accepted that capitalism has provided the epicenters of growth and development which continuously hinder the 'distributive justice' in a nation. This capitalistic practice needs to be revised by creating an order of inter- related economy.

A sustainable urban development which has sufficient (if not equal) space for the migrant workers is important to create to ensure the fulfillment of at least basic needs of them.

It is now certain that the world standards (global standards per se) could be important on the foreign fronts but in order to understand and solve the problems of domestic front; we have to go back to the roots for an equal development. Time has demanded us to be aiming the global standards without un- following the traditional values and economic order which we needed most at the present.

To make informal workers capable of dealing with crisis situation, it is high time to materialize the social security schemes actively. The Shram Yogi Man Dhan Yojna which aims to protect the informal sector workers (unorganized mainly) whose income is less than 15,000 per month. They have to contribute between 55 to 200 rupees per month and after the age of 60; they will be provided 3000 rupees per month. This scheme is broadly a pension scheme for unorganized sector but as major displacements have been happened since March, the beneficiaries have scattered and the income sources have been dried up. Hence it is difficult for a daily wage labour to maintain dispensing any amount be it 200 or 55 for investment in such schemes. Also the process is not labour friendly as they have to visit bank every now and then to enquire about their investment.

In this regard, government has the responsibility to introduce technological intervention so that the schemes would be beneficiary friendly. Also there is no need for an extension in the schemes regarding the migrants or returnee but an effective and creative collaboration of different existing schemes is capable of resolving the issue. For example, the emerging market of sanitizers and masks could be one of the key employment generation tools which have huge market as of now and even in the future.

The social security scheme like SYJDY (Shram Yogi Jan Dhan Yojna) needs an active employment policy which is already existed in the current policy frame through Skill India, Atma Nirbhar Bharat among others. The need is to efficient planning to attract the labour force, providing the work and social security altogether.

कोरोना और महादलित परिसंघ की भूमिका

चीन के बुहान शहर से निकला कोरोना आज पूरी दुनिया पर कहर बन कर टूटा है। नावेल कोरोना वायरस की मार से बचने के लिए दुनिया के देशों के पास कोई दवा नहीं है। हाँ इससे निपटने के लिए भारत, रूस अमेरिका सहित दुनिया के कुछ देश वैकसीन बनाने में लगे हुए हैं। फिलवक्त बचाव और साफ सफाई ही कोरोना से बचने का एकमात्र उपाय है।

कोरोना महामारी कितना जानलेवा है, इस बात से पता लगाया जा सकता है कि जितना प्रथम और द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध में जान माल की क्षति नहीं हुई थी उतना अकेले नॉवेल कोरोना से हुई है।

कोरोना की मार से हमारा देश भारत भी अछूता नहीं है। भारत सरकार और राज्यों की सरकारें कोरोना महामारी से बचाव और फैलाव को रोकने के लिए युद्ध स्तर पर लगी हुई है। बवायुद्ध इसके हजारों लोगों की मौत अब तक हो चुकी है। अर्थ ब्यवस्था भी पूरी तरह चौपट हो चुकी है। ऐसे में दुनिया भर में सामाजिक सरोकार से जुड़ी स्वयं सेवी संगठनों की भूमिका महत्पूर्ण हो जाती है। इस वैश्विक महामारी में 'महादलित परिसंघ' (भारत) भी मानवता का मिशाल व राष्ट्र धर्म का पालन किया है।

'महादलित परिसंघ' के 'स्वयं सेवकों' ने लॉकडाउन के दरम्यान हजारों प्रवासी मजदूरों, रेलवे स्टेशनों पर के भिखारियों, कुष्ठ रोगियों, साधु-संतों, गरीब और लाचार लोगों, रिक्स ठेले वालों, दिहाड़ी मजदूरों, लॉक डाउन की वजह से अपने घर से दूर फँसे लोगों, को लंच पैकेट, लंगर लगाकर भोजन दान तथा गरीब व प्रवासी मजदूरों के बीच लगातार खाद्यान्न वितरण का कार्य महादलित परिसंघ ने किया है।

'महादलित परिसंघ' मुख्यतः प्रवासी मजदूरों, कूड़े कचरा चुनने वालों, सड़क किनारे झुग्गी झोपड़ी लगाकर जीवन बसर करने वालों, आदिवासी, मुसहर, नट, कंजर, डोम, धरिकार, हाड़ी, चासा, भील, नट, कंजर, बंजारे, कुष्ठ रोगियों आदि की बस्तियों में जरूरतमन्दों को रसद, खाद्यान्न कीट, लंच पैकेट इत्यादि पूरे लॉकडाउन के दौरान वितरण किए गये हैं।

साथ ही फ्रंट फुट पर लड़ने वाले कोरोना योद्धाओं जैसे सफाई कर्मचारी, पुलिस आदि को देशभर में फूल-मालाओं से स्वागत अभिनंदन व उनका मनहौसला बढ़ाने का काम किया है।

ोबल,

महादलित परिसंघ ने भारत के 11, राज्यों के 37 जिलों में 80 से अधिक शहरों, नगरों, कस्बों, गांवों में 500 से अधिक कार्यकर्ताओं के साथ देश के विभिन्न स्थानों पर सेवाकार्य किया है। जिसमें प्रमुख है.....

- बिहार में :- पटना, मोतिहारी, नालंदा, राजगीर, बेगूसराय,
- झारखंड में :- धनबाद, हजारीबाग, रांची व अन्य 16 प्रखंड।
- असम में :- गोवहाटी, न्यू बोगाई गाँव, चिरान्गा।
- त्रिपुरा में :- अगरतला
- पश्चिम बंगाल में :- कोलकत्ता, हावड़ा, वर्द्धमान, आसनसोल, बैरकपुर, बरकार, सिल्लीगुड़ी, जलपाईगुड़ी
- उत्तर प्रदेश में :- गाजीपुर, वाराणसी, कानपुर, झांसी, ललितपुर, शाहजहांपुर, लखीमपुर, बरेली
- मध्य प्रदेश में :- इटारसी, उमरिया, बैतूल, आमला, अनूपपुर, नैनपुर, रीवा, सागर
- गुजरात में :- अहमदाबाद, गांधीनगर, राजकोट, भरुच, वडोदरा , खेड़ा, नवसारी आदि
- दिल्ली
- उत्तराखंड में :- हरिद्वार,
- महाराष्ट्र में :- नागपुर आदि

भारत में अचानक आए वैश्विक महामारी कोरोना वायरस ने सबसे ज्यादा बुरा असर देश के अंतिम व्यक्ति महादलितों /प्रवासी मजदूरों पर छोड़ा है। लाखों लोग बेरोजगार हुए, भूख के शिकार हुए हैं। केन्द्र सरकार व राज्य सरकारें इनके लिए विशेष पैकेज, श्रम संसाधन योजना के अन्तर्गत रोजगार, स्व रोजगार मुहैया करा रहीं हैं। इनका स्कील डेवलपमेंट के लिए काम हो रहा है। बवायुद्ध इसके दुनिया के दूसरे नंबर के सबसे बड़ी आवादी वाले देश भारत को कोरोना की वजह से जो नुकसान हुआ है उसकी भरपाई करने में अभी समय लगेगा।

अनुभव

पूरी दुनिया ने प्रथम और द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध देखा है। हमारा देश भारत ने भी पूर्व में कई युद्ध और आपदाओं को झेला और उसके खिलाप देशवासियों ने एक जुट होकर लड़ा और विजय हासिल किया। पर कोरोना जैसा भय ब्याप्त लोगों में शायद ही कभी हुआ होगा। बावयुद्ध इसके, हिंदुस्तान के लोग अपनी अदम्य साहस और एकता के बल पर एक दिन कोरोना पर भी विजय प्राप्त कर लेंगे। ऐसा मन में है विश्वास।

कोरोना आपदा के समय सेवा कार्य के दौरान 'महादलित परिसंघ' के स्वयंसेवकों में मानवीयता का संचार प्रस्फुटित हुआ और राष्ट्र प्रेम के प्रति समर्पण के भाव कई गुना और भी बढ़ा। परिसंघ के स्वयंसेवकों में प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के द्वारा कोरोना काल में समय समय पर राष्ट्र के नाम संदेश का भी गहरा असर पड़ा। प्रधानमंत्री जी के भाषण से लोगों में समाज सेवा के लिए समर्पण का भाव और भी ज्यादा पैदा हुआ।

महादलित परिसंघ के स्वयंसेवकों ने एक दूसरे से आपसी समन्वय और सहयोग कायम कर जरूरत मंदों की मदद की। लॉक डाउन के दौरान परिसंघ ने जो सेवा कार्य किया उससे परिसंघ के लाखों कार्यकर्ताओं में राष्ट्रवाद, मानव सेवा के लिए समर्पण भाव और आत्मानंद प्राप्त हुआ।

वैश्विक महामारी कोरोना काल में सफाई कर्मियों की महत्ता को पूरे देश के लोगों ने महसूस किया है। जब देश कोरोना से उबर जाएगा, तत्पश्चात सफाई कर्मचारियों की स्थायी बहाली होनी चाहिए। क्योंकि एक तरफ हमारी सेना सरहदों पर बाहरी दुश्मनों से देश की रक्षा के लिए लड़ती है। वहीं दूसरी तरफ देश के भीतर 'स्वक्षता सैनिक' हैजा, प्लेग, कोरोना जैसी महामारी के खिलाफ देशवासियों को बचाने के लिए लड़ते हैं। कोरोना काल में 'स्वक्षता सैनिकों' की भूमिका को पूरा देश ने देखा है। तभी तो देश के हर हिस्से में इनका पुष्प वर्षा कर के लोगों ने स्वागत किया। प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी का स्वक्ष भारत अभियान सफाई कर्मचारियों के बिना सफल हो ही नहीं सकता। अतः 'स्वक्षता सैनिकों' और इनके बच्चों के बेहतर भविष्य के लिए देशवासियों, 'संघ' और भारत सरकार तथा राज्यों की सरकारों को जरूर सोचना चाहिए।

कर्मचारियों को 'स्वक्षता सैनिक' नाम दिया जाना चाहिए। इन सफाई सैनिकों का वेतनमान देश के सैनिकों के समतुल्य होना चाहिए। सरकार को इनका बीमा कवर एक करोड़ करने का आदेश देना चाहिए।

प्रवासी मजदूर

वैश्विक महामारी कोरोना से यदि सबसे ज्यादा कोई प्रभावित हुआ है तो वह प्रवासी मजदूर हैं। जो दो जून की रोटी कमाने के लिए अपने घर परिवार को छोड़ हजारों मील दूर शहरों, नगरों और महानगरों की ओर लाखों की संख्या में पलायन करते हैं।

कोरोना महामारी ने ऐसे प्रवासी मजदूरों को सड़कों पर ला दिया। इनके काम छूट गए। लाखों मजदूर अपने प्रदेश और अपने गाँव घर आने को विवश हुए। बिहार, उत्तर प्रदेश, बंगाल, मध्यप्रदेश, छत्तीसगढ़ आदि राज्यों में बड़ी संख्या में मजदूर अपने घर वापस आये। बिहार राज्य जहाँ का मैं निवासी हूँ, यहाँ लगभग 30 लाख मजदूर वापस अपने गृह राज्य में लौटे हैं। इतनी बड़ी संख्या में मजदूरों को रोजगार मुहैया करना किसी भी राज्य सरकार के लिए एक बड़ी चुनौती है।

परंतु गौर तलब बात है कि घर लौटे अधिकांश मजदूर प्रशिक्षित मजदूर हैं। कोई राज मिस्त्री, तो कोई मील मजदूर, कोई पेंटर तो कोई कारपेंटर, कोई ऑटो ड्राइवर तो कोई ट्रक बस ड्राइवर। यानि ऐसे मजदूरों का स्कील डेवलपमेंट पहले से हुआ है जिनका नियोजन राज्य सरकारें चाहे तो अपने यहाँ कर सकती है। इनके स्व नियोजन में बैंकों की भूमिका बढ़ गयी है। यदि सरकारें और बैंकों में बेहतर समन्वय हो तो भूमि पुत्रों को उनके राज्य, शहर और गाँव कस्बे में ही रोजगार उपलब्ध हो सकते हैं।

आगामी योजना

'महादलित परिसंघ' आगे आने वाले दिनों में सम्पूर्ण देश में फैले अपने हजारों, लाखों कार्यकर्ताओं को देश में आये किसी भी आपदा विपदा से निपटने के लिए कार्य योजना तैयार करेगा। छोटे छोटे सेमिनार और सभा सम्मेलनों के माध्यम से स्वयं सेवकों में राष्ट्र प्रेम और मानवीयता की भावना को और भी जाग्रत करने के लिए विद्वान विशेषज्ञों का सहारा लेगा और राष्ट्रवादी चिंतकों को आमंत्रित करेगा। परिसंघ द्वारा समरस समाज बनाने की दिशा में अनवरत कार्य किया जाएगा।

महादलित परिसंघ यह मांग करता है कि विषम परिस्थिति में काम करने वाले, देश को हैजा, प्लेग और कोरोना से बचाने वाले सफाई

Introduction

The media occasionally discusses the issue of migrant workers. Newspapers publish articles. Every year, labourers travel in bullock carts to cut the sugarcane required to be sent to the sugar factory. This particular issue has been discussed for so long. Congregations are seen queuing up on the road with all their belongings like children, wives, pots and pans.

Sometimes political discussions take place on the occasion of Chhat Puja and the issues of labourers in North India come up.

At the beginning of Corona pandemic this year 2020, the difficult issues of labourers from different states, skilled labourers, unskilled labourers, temporary labourers etc. came to the fore. As the means of earning were cut off and due to chaotic situation, these labourers started carrying their families. Some of them were worried about how to light the fire in their homes.

During this period many social organizations, NGOs and individuals such as philanthropists arranged for these labourers. The workers were assisted in a number of ways, including providing them with food, medicine, temporary residential camps etc. Some could not go to their village. Due to the closure of work and income sources, there was a shortage of food as well as money. Many had ration cards in their name having different residential address, may be from other state also, so they could not get ration grains and other help.

In such difficult situation government as well as NGOs distributed food packets containing grains, oil, tea-sugar, milk powder etc. Some of them had come here with their animals for fodder, while some were from nomadic tribes living through folklore like Vasudev etc. The society voluntarily gave helping hand to all such people. The society took care of everyone including the circus animals.

However, in all these times, it was not a normal problem but a very serious social problem. And if so, the far-reaching effects of this on society began to be felt among social activists and NGOs.

Services By Kaneri Math

In such difficult situation the famous Kaneri Math situated at Kaneriwadi in Kolhapur area did a lot of service for the migrant labourers during the flood in the last year as well as during the early period of Corona Pandemic. Help was provided to all migrant workers from various states like Rajasthan, Goa, Karnataka, and also the workers from various districts of Maharashtra like Vidarbha, Marathwada, Konkan, as needed. The monastery also helped everyone from Tamil Nadu to Kerala, whether they were MIDC area workers or carpenters. They took care of their basic till they reached their original place of destination.

To speak on this subject and to know the views of the Math towards this problem, one of our Karyakartas met Swami Shri Kadsiddheshwar Maharaj. During the course of discussions he expressed his views as under:

"Poverty is the main reason for migration. We see it everywhere more and more" That's what Swamiji said. We asked him, "Migration is inevitable right now; but what do you think about whether or not it should be from an idealistic standpoint?"

On this, Swamiji said, "There are 127 eco-climatic zones in our country. Accordingly the customs, norms, anatomy, diet, habits, food, even the size of the animals also change. This means that the animals in the Konkan are a little lower in height and can graze on any steep hill. But the animals in the Kolhapur area will not be able to stand on such a hill.

In this way, people who are accustomed to certain foods, with certain physical postures, leave their part only for the stomach. Migration should not happen if these issues are considered. But at present, it would be difficult to think in such an idealistic way."

Swamiji further said, "About fifty thousand workers returned from Mumbai, Pune due to Corona Pandemic in Shahuwadi Ajra Chandgad Bhudargad area. Also, the number of workers going from here to Rajasthan, Goa, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh was very high"

On that we asked, "These workers have been left to fend for themselves. The employer has not given any guarantee about their future. The contractor uses them only as a commodity. The main reason is that these workers are unorganized and our labour laws are not strict enough"

On this Swamiji said, "We have to think of both the employer and the worker. Our people often work well when they are doing it on job work basis. But if this work is permanent, it takes four days to do two days' work. It is true that local workers should be given jobs. But experience is that local workers are involved in festival and such type of situations, so they ask for more holidays / leaves. Instead, labourers from Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, contribute in a better way. People residing here contribute more in Mumbai. So the employers also prefer outside workers"

During the discussions we asked Swamiji what exactly are the problems of these migrant labourers and what could be done about it.

"Migrant labour is one of the most insecure social factors. There is no job security, no compensation in case of accident while working, no insurance in case of death, pensions are far away but for some reason when there is no work, the guarantee of adequate ration is also not there.

Women don't even have maternity leave or some concessions. The issues of children's education are solved only on paper. In fact, sugar schools, brick kiln schools are just places to cheat government grants and reap benefits. Child deaths occur. Children are malnourished. They are deprived of education.

From our monastery, we are facilitating the education of children as much as we can. But we can't serve to such big groups consistently. If there is livestock with them, it is very difficult to make arrangements properly. There are many such problems. At the same time, when the crisis strikes, they try to return to their original place of destination where their umbilical cord is. But even there, they have no guarantee of employment or livelihood. They just go back to their place of origin"

What do you think should be the plan for dealing with this problem while doing the social work as set up by Kaneri Math?

He replied, "Basically, this is not the work of the monastery. But in times of crisis, whatever the crisis, the devotees of the monastery naturally extend help to the society and also build economic power behind them. Organizations working on the same subject need to think deeply by collecting data on it.

Take a very simple thing. Panipurwala is from Bundelkhand. Kadwa or Leva Patel from Kutch are in the business of saw mills. The skilled unskilled workers who carry the furniture and the JCB Poklen drivers are all migrant workers. They have low education, are in need and are extremely insecure.

If we able to register everyone state wise, collect data it will be helpful. To facilitate such registration we may create Google Forms, with the help of some applications (i.e. Migrant Labour App) and collect from them the complete information, about their various basic needs such as children's education facility, factory names, job requirements, worker registration, if renting a home is required all that matters, then we can alleviate some of these problems in the future"

During this discussion, Swamiji told the story of a Kerala worker. Swamiji gave new information about the regional nature of the student movement in Kerala.

Hospitals have more Kerala workers. They start to serve in a very good way. Then the people of Kerala demand for nursing from the hospital. And as their numbers grow, they form unions and make the hospital dance to their tune. That is why sometimes unorganized workers are more suitable for employers. Because of this, their work goes smoothly.

During this Corona Pandemic the kits prepared by the monastery for distribution of rations were the most appreciated in the area.

Vikram Patil, an activist of the Math, took care of this large department. The monastery made such kits with all the necessities in mind and delivered the same all needy persons after observing all norms as prescribed by State / Central Government.

It is necessary to think holistically about the problem of migrant workers in society. In fact, we are all raised in the core of the same Indian culture. Even though the language and customs of the migrant workers are slightly different, they gradually give up their differences. An integrated atmosphere is created. Due to this transition of culture also takes place.



Work Done By Other NGO's

Introduction

Migrant labour has been among the worst affected due to the lockdown. Their efforts to leave the cities before the lockdown, and the extraordinary efforts some put in to get back home, suggest that they have very low resilience to stay in cities without employment. There is a significant gap between strong intentions reflected in existing laws and their implementation.

Due to the lack of state capacity to enforce such provisions in the law, government inspectors do not maintain records of inter-state workmen, and also verify whether all the other requirements regarding wages, allowances, accommodation and health care are complied with. Another angle to it is that the onerous requirements set out in this law incentivise contractors and employers to under-report inter-state workmen rather than to register them. While farmers get cash transfers, and labourers in rural areas have MGNREGA, there are hardly any schemes for informal workers in urban areas.

Private organizations in such case have stepped ahead to bridge this gap. There are several NGOs and charities as well as corporates that have run service programmes for the migrant workers. Let us take a brief cognizance of the same in the article ahead.

Akshay Patra

City Base : Bengaluru , Karnataka

Type Of Support : Food Relief Service; cooked meals and distributing grocery kits

Volume Of Help : 2,79,23,298 cooked meals and distributed 7,62,904 dry grocery kits across Rajasthan

Sandeep Lele

Consultant, Information Technology

Karnataka, Telangana, Gujarat, Maharashtra, NCR, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Punjab, Tripura, Jharkhand and Himachal Pradesh.

PM Cares Fund

Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES Fund)

City Base : Prime Minister's Office, New Delhi

Type Of Support : Dedicated national fund with the primary objective of dealing with any kind of emergency or distress situation, like posed by the COVID-19 pandemic

Volume Of Help : Render financial assistance; provide grants of payments of money to the affected population. So far Rs. 2000 Crore have been allocated for ventilators to Government Hospitals run by Centre/States/UTs; Rs. 1000 Crore : For care of migrant labourers (funds allotted to State/UT Govts.); Rs. 100 Crore : For vaccine development

Oxfam India

City Base : New Delhi

Type Of Support : Distribution of dry ration, hygiene and safety kits

Volume Of Help : 14 states; food requirement of nearly 227355 people; 60080 packets of ready to eat cooked meals have been distributed in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Goonj

City Base : New Delhi

Type Of Support : Food Relief Service;

Volume Of Help : 25 states; 2.2 million kgs of ration; 1,20,000 kgs of fresh vegetables; 5 lakh face masks

Action For Social Advancement

City Base : Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

Type Of Support : Distribution of cloth masks, training to prevent COVID-19

Volume Of Help : Dry ration distributed to 21,254 families; seeds for kharif 2020 at subsidized cost for small and marginal farmers

Grameen Sahara

City Base : Kamrup, Assam

Type Of Support : Development facilitating organization initiated in 'support of sustainable livelihood

I-Saksham

City Base : Munger, Bihar

Type Of Support : Builds local youths as community edu-leaders, in socio-economically backward areas, by developing their capacity in modern pedagogy practices and use of digital technology.

Volume Of Help : During pandemic, they started teaching kids on normal phone calls thus ensuring that children without internet connections are not left behind.

Pradaan

City Base : New Delhi

Type Of Support : Awareness generation, door to door supply of food grains and oils, a few other items of daily necessities including cleaning materials like soaps, sanitizers, detergents etc.; Converting Anganwadi centres, Panchayat buildings and school buildings into quarantine / isolation centres for the migrant workers who are coming back to their villages

Volume Of Help : Reached people in 9,000 very remote and backward villages of 36 poorest districts in seven states of India; Identification of returning migrants and contacting them for MGNREGA job card preparation; precautionary measures to safeguard women and take care of the more vulnerable people. Partner: Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives

Ankuram

City Base : Hyderabad

Volume Of Help : Spotted migrants from Madhya Pradesh walking on the highway. Moved them to their shelter, where they were offered food and water and convinced to stay – instead of walking 800 km home. Initially the cooked food was provided, later they were provided with dry rations and vegetables. Psychological counselling also provided for those who showed signs of depression.

SeSTA

City Base : Bongaigaon, Assam

Type Of Support : Seven Sisters Development Assistance (SeSTA) is an NGO that works directly with poor and marginalised communities in 14 districts of Assam and Tripura. The NGO is collecting funds for the small and marginalised farmers of many rural villages in Assam taking a stance against COVID-19, one district after another.

Volume Of Help : The NGO is currently working with over 12,000 families directly to reduce poverty through enhancing assets, capabilities, and facilitating access to sustainable income-earning opportunities.

Seva Mandir

City Base : Udaypur, Rajasthan

Type Of Support : Seva Mandir is implementing Covid-19 relief projects that are designed in a way to directly improve people's livelihoods in a sustainable way. These projects have a multifaceted approach to cover a range of development needs, such as restoring and constructing water harvesting and clean drinking water infrastructure, rejuvenation and protection of common land, improved farming techniques and increased agricultural outputs.

Rotary Club of Mumbai Queen's Necklace

City Base : Mumbai

Volume Of Help : Served over 60 lakh hot meals and food kits across Mumbai, Thane and Palghar, distributed through partner NGOs. The project has raised Rs 11 crore till date, with funding from Rotarians as well as corporate donors.

Transform Rural India Foundation

City Base : New Delhi

Type Of Support : Initiative of TATA Trusts: TRI works to bring equal opportunities to India's poorest, supporting them in their journey to prosperity, dignity and a better life.

Volume Of Help : Currently working on top priority needs: 1) Immediate food, healthcare, and sanitation 2.) Bolstering public health professionals with protective equipment. 3.) Economic restoration in the immediate and long run

Azim Premji Foundation

City Base : Bengaluru, Karnataka

Type Of Support : Azim Premji Foundation is a not-for profit organisation that has been working since 2000 with the elementary education system in rural government schools.

Volume Of Help : Wipro's IT campuses at Hinjawadi in Pune have been converted to a 450-bed intermediary care COVID-19 hospital and have been handed to the state government. Wipro has extended immediate support to 78 lakh people in 467 districts across 26 states and 3 union territories, in the form of food, dry rations and personal hygiene items. Also, Wipro has delivered over 2,02,300 PPE kits and N-95 masks for frontline health workers.

Ankuram

City Base : Hyderabad

Volume Of Help : Spotted migrants from Madhya Pradesh walking on the highway. Moved them to their shelter, where they were offered food and water and convinced to stay - instead of walking 800 km home. Initially the cooked food was provided, later they were provided with dry rations and vegetables. Psychological counselling also provided for those who showed signs of depression.

Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action

City Base : Mumbai

Volume Of Help : Distributed 8 lakh cooked meals to frontline workers, migrant workers and Bhiwandi's power loom workers. For stranded construction workers, food is prepared in a kitchen specially set up at a stadium in Nerul and then transported by Mumbai Mobile Crèches, an NGO with expertise in setting up day-care centres at construction sites.

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