



## Migrant Labour During Pandemic Covid-19 in India-An Impact Study

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### Abstract

This paper investigates the impact of the COVID-19 the epidemic on the migration. The rapid spread of the epidemic shut down countries around the world, resulting in widespread lockdowns that shut down on the mobility, commercial activities, and social relations. In India, the epidemic was a caused severe 'mobility crisis', with migrant laborers in many major cities demanding to return to their hometowns. His desperate attempts to return home by any means available made the lockdown ineffective in many areas, leading to skirmishes with the authorities, last-minute policy relief and, eventually, a system of transportation measures. The purpose of This paper is to highlight on the penetrability of India's internal migrants in terms of the mobility, gender and mental health. In addition, it critically analyzes the limits of public policy in addressing migrants and makes recommendations for further. In India, a nationwide lockdown for 21 days was announced on 24 March 2020. It was further extended in 31 phases till St. May. Implementing strict lockdowns and other measures, including a ban on interstate and inter-state movements to prevent the spread of the COVID-19, has dealt a serious blow to the livelihood of millions of the informal sector, especially migrant workers.

**Keywords:-** Covid-19, Lockdown, Migrant workers, Pandemic.

### Introduction

The global pandemic caused by the novel corona virus has created a huge upheaval in our lives. Today the whole world is facing with this epidemic. No country or corner of the world is untouched by this. From all the studies that have come out so far, one thing is clear that until its medicine or vaccine comes, we have to live with it. Scientists all over the world are searching for its exact medicine and its vaccine, but it will take time now.

This virus, originating from Wuhan city of China, caused unprecedented destruction in the whole world, India was also not untouched by it. The lockdown was imposed in India from March 25 to prevent its infection. Everything came to a standstill, except the essential services, rail, bus and air services all came to a standstill. Wherever he was, he became imprisoned. The lockdown helped in controlling the pace of infection, while the necessary health facilities, along with other necessary safety equipment, etc. could be properly maintained during this period. Had it not been done, it would have been difficult to guess how the situation would have been today.

But with this the economic activities came to a halt. The worst effect was on the migrant laborers. The work stopped for a few days due to the closure of the business, but the situation started to get worse as the lockdown increased. Along with the problem of eating and drinking, the problems of living started coming, the landlords started bothering for the hire. With an uncertain future, their patience dam started to break and then everyone started to go towards their village. On foot, carts, bicycles or trucks, tractors, etc., the migrant laborers of the flock with the help of road or rail tracks started walking towards their village.

This epidemic has highlighted the shortcomings of the model of development we have adopted. With this model, all economic activities have been limited in a few selected cities. As a result, the pressure of population increased in these cities, people are forced to live in

slums like harass, and pollution has increased. A very large percentage of the total population is obliged to live a worse life. This model of development needs to be changed and the government is also taking steps in this direction. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee National Urban Mission is a long-term ambitious plan of the present central government in this direction. If there are factories around villages or small towns tomorrow, creation of livelihood, facilities like the city are available, along with reduced labor migration, population pressure will come down on the cities and increasing pollution will also be curbed. The gap between the city and the village will be less. Although it is a long-term process, accelerating its pace is essential for building a prosperous and strong India.

At present, many laborers are again going to the cities, and they are compelled. There is also a need and compulsion of the factory owners and construction companies to bring back the workers to speed up the work related to the factories and construction of the cities tomorrow. These processes are now also visible. At such a time, the Central and State Governments need to take some concrete steps regarding the economic and health related safety of the workers so that in the future no time of natural calamity or God does not face such a situation if the corona crisis deepens. We just saw it now. This is in the interest of the state governments, the central government and the workers. It should not involve politics between the parent state of the migrant laborers and the governments of the host state as it has the economic interests of both the states.

### **Review of literature**

(Chandrasekhar & Ghosh; 2002; Jha, 2016)-The labor crisis and increasing vulnerability have a mirror image as to the increasing power of capital, which is reflected in the compression of part of wages, enabling capitalists to extract super profits. Even in the most 'protected' segments of the Indian economy, such as organized manufacturing, the share of wages has steadily decreased, and the share of profits has been increasing throughout the neoliberal period.

(Ginsburg et al., 2018)-The relationship between migration and health is found to be multidimensional and bidirectional. Health conditions may decide to migrate, but such transfers may have an impact on health

(UNDP; Kumar et al. 2009)-There has been evidence in the past of how the recession affects the workforce. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), during the 2008–2009 global financial crisis, an estimated 22 million people lost their jobs. India, like many other countries of the world, suffered a recession in 2009. United Nations Development Program

### **Objectives**

1. Raising awareness and developing understanding about migration issues so as to build a society where services are knowledgeable and able to meet the needs of migrants.
2. Providing support for migrants to ensure the defense of their rights, especially for the most vulnerable.
3. Reducing the effects of poverty, deprivation and social exclusion among vulnerable migrants by supporting provision and access to humanitarian aid.

### **Methodology**

The research objective of this study was to explore the experience of female migrant laborers during the COVID-19 epidemic in India. A qualitative research design was adopted, and the study was carried out during March–May 2020.

This narrative review used a comprehensive systematic literature search to identify relevant studies on Firozabad district in the state of Uttar Pradesh. The included articles were analyzed for four major themes or risk factors.

**Result**

Overall, studies consistently show that major epidemic outbreaks negatively affect the physical, financial, psychological, and social well-being of migrant workers. Migrant workers face a variety of challenges such as risk of contagion, job insecurity, psychological distress and discrimination. Factors associated with marginal socio-economic status of migrant workers were attributed to these challenges. A number of interventions were discussed, including increasing access to immunization, health screening at the border, promoting hygiene strategies, and financial support in medical fees.

**Discussion**

The findings highlight the need for greater public awareness and stronger response to the well-being of migrant workers during epidemic outbreaks. The implications of practice and research were discussed. This review calls for more open-access data and evidence-based interventions with long-term impact to advance research on migrant workers.

**Conclusion**

This paper provides the insight into the contemporary migrant crisis caused by the COVID19, by examining the status of internal migrant laborers in the relation to gender, mental health, and social security provisions. Any effective solution to the current migrant crisis requires accurate data on internal migrants that will provide visibility to invisible but broad categories of workers. Many expatriates are deprived of various government schemes due to their 'neither here nor there' a situation. This should be done in alignment with the effect interval analysis of such schemes. At this time, it is important to revisit NCE US recommendations and implement them effectively without diluting the specifics. It is also necessary to create migrant collectives for the better voice and a political agency of migrants.

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