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## Migrant Labour Crisis in India: Issues and Challenges

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**ABSTRACT:** India is a country of liberalization. In India, there are many people in present who are still struggling to become rich. In this paper the author analysis the concept of various factors which are implemented on the ways of migrant persons, various challenge how a migrant persons facing difficulties, and how to overcome form all of these changes. This study also defines the view through sociological, perspective manner. There are many reasons where migrant face lots of problem such as minimum wages of pay, lack of resources, extortion, exploitation and so on. Government also implements various schemes for the beneficial of workers such as improve the wages rate of workers, improves the rate in MNREGA scheme and many more. As we know that for the development of country it is more important that the ratio of urbanization shall be improved and policy involves making services available to protect the rights of migrant persons and to avoid discrimination.

**KEYWORDS:** Climate, Economy, Migrant labourers, Mnrega, Statutes

### I. INTRODUCTION

Our Nation is considered to be growing country but if looked otherwise, it is more of a suffering country. In India the ratio of rich versus poor is 4:1 which means that, more than four times the wealth out of 1 percent of the total population.

A migrant means a person who belongs from poor community or class belonging to the seventy percent of the people who are still struggling to become rich. Our Government always tries to give benefits to the migrant persons so that they are not suffering from crisis. This can be seen in today critical situation of pandemic of (COVID-19), where certain migrant labourers go back to their cities/villages. Due to great hardships suffering they don't have money to went their homes, thousands of people went to their villages on bicycles; rickshaw and many of them went by walking. But Government tries their best for example: they provided five kilos of rice, wheat to every family member with one kilo of pulses and grains. Help of Rs 6000 in two installments directly sent in the bank accounts of all farmers and Rs 500 directly sent in the bank accounts of women and so many benefits provide by the government during this pandemic so that no person shall suffer crisis and no person stomach remains empty. By walking on roads many migrant workers died due to lack of food, water and many other problems<sup>1</sup>

In India, Uttar Pradesh is one of the best state which is on top list in comparison with other states, the state provide certain benefits to migrant persons, to give benefit for every labour or poor people who don't have proper resources to feed themselves or their family members.

Luxurious atmosphere can only experience if a person have gone through some struggle. During the pandemic of COVID-19, migrant workers are the grave bearers of the consequences faced by human race at present who are deprived of the basic well-being of human kind.

From the report of ministry of finance and department of expenditure, the Finance minister has now revealed that eight crores migrant labourers, who are not covered under State and central food distribution systems, would be provided

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<sup>1</sup>[www.news18.com/news/India/mapping-accidents-of-thousands-migrant-on-the-way-to-going-their-homes-during-covid-19-pandemic](http://www.news18.com/news/India/mapping-accidents-of-thousands-migrant-on-the-way-to-going-their-homes-during-covid-19-pandemic)



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with free food grains for two months and now it has been further extended upto November 2020. This results that for Rs 3500 which comes to a remarkable 0.175 percent.

As per the census report of 2001 and 2011 the estimate of Rs 8 crore for about 5.6 million migrant labourers that the 2011 census had located. For example, while the number of inter-state migrants grew at 40 percent between 1991 and 2001 census, it came down to 20 percent between the census of 2001 and 2011.

## II. DISCUSSION

Need of the study:

As seen in today time the problem of migrant workers rises day by day. There are many reasons for raising the graph of migrant workers due to poverty, low wages, and lack of resources and lots of many reasons which effects on the ratio of migrant person. The need for this study is more important as to reduce the level of poverty in country.

Objectives:

- To improve the graph of poverty.
- To remove the discrimination on the basis of colour, caste, religion, education.
- To improve the graph GDP so as to improve the economy rate of the nation.
- To know the issues and challenges occurs on the way of migrant persons.
- To study the factors responsible for migrant persons.

From the data of independence in 1947 of partition approx 15 million people migrated. This data also shown in 2019 pandemic, during this pandemic many migrants don't have sufficient amount to go their homes, many persons face unemployment by terminating in their jobs or many of them debar for not having work in industries, and factories and so on this is the big reason for reduction in the economy of a country.

Not willing to be taken for granted anymore, they signaled that they give assurance the three pillars economic, social and health security, the Indian economy get to benefits from their labour. Deprivation undergone by our migrant workers has awakened the citizen of India to address underlying poverty and inequity and create supportive ecosystem that are leakage proof. Rural-urban sector interstate development gaps forced people from famous States to move to urban areas and more industrialized. Comprising 20 percent of the workers, migrant labourers became vital to every economic sector, especially the informal sector and MSMEs consisting nearly around fifty percent of India's GDP.

This scheme is not only bind for male migrants but it is applied on female's labourers. A large number of studies have found that migration earnings are used mainly for 'consumption' i.e. food, clothing, house repairs, social events and so on. Furthermore, new evidence shows that migration earnings are being invested in agriculture, small enterprises, education, and health schemes and so on.

Poor migrants are often employed in risky jobs, they are facing industrial accidents, exposure to hazardous chemicals, long working hours and unhygienic conditions are the main norms. Especially hazardous place include chemical industries, industries related with stone crushing, brick making, and steel utensil production and so on.

Neo-liberal measures seek economic growth by promoting consumerism and competition in market. With the limits of intrusion of government, it prostrates the mechanism and medium of economic and social justice. The social aspect of the migrant workers pin the facts that most of them belong to the rural sector, slums areas, marginalized community such as dalits, tribals and minorities.

The question arises when such dignity shall be included to understand the migrant problems in its fuller extent. While the announcement of government relief packages remain exaggerated. The overall number is quite substantial almost 30 percent of our total population, which corroborates the predicate that four out of five people below the poverty line, move all around for work and choose not to starve in their villages. But having worked in the bureaucracy for too long, one apprehension is to imagine how the corrupt tehsildars and inspectors may maul the good-intentioned move.<sup>2</sup>

In India there are many persons who face lots of crisis due to lack of proper resources. In India, there are many slums areas like northern regions of different States like Bihar, Sikkim this problem arose in huge manner because in such places there is lack of proper resources. The peoples don't have sufficient amount to purchase those resources due to huge poverty. The ratio is too high in poverty. As seen in today's time in India there are many places where the beggar walk on the footpaths, street lights and so on few of them are victim of trafficking.

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<sup>2</sup> [www.thewire.in/migrant labour](http://www.thewire.in/migrant-labour)



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In India, there are many examples which define the labour crisis such as the minor children's who attain the age of 6 to 14 years they are always do work in hazardous places such as in brick making, work in coal mines and so on which cause a great effect on their health also they are helpless because they don't have any other path to feed themselves and their families. In certain poor families there are many parents who can make pressure on their children to do a work which is totally wrong because this age is age of childhoods and in that period they learnt many good things to bright their future goals. On that major problem the Government also tries to implement various policies to stop the bonded labour or child labour but in India there are many peoples who always take work from children's and in place they don't pay the right wages to those children's.

Migration and its effects:

Migration in general terms means movement from one place to another in order to live and work. As seen in today's time there are three things which is more essential for growth of person i.e. food, shelter and home. These are the three things which is very essential need for a common people. Movement of people from their home to another city, state or country for a job i.e. called migration. In India the ratio of migration from rural areas to urban areas has increased in past few years in India.

Types of migration in India:

Internal migration: moving of a person to new home within a State, country.

External migration: moving of a person to a new home in different State, Country.

E-migration: leaving one country to move to another.

Immigration: person move into a new country<sup>3</sup>.

Causes of Migration in India:

- *Lack of opportunities*: this is first root cause of migration in India is opportunity given to citizen of India, as seen in today's time many persons don't get the opportunities to grow themselves for what they actually deserves. There is always partiality show in caste system due to which an individual don't get better opportunities.
- *Better education*: the second major tool of migration in India is not to get good education, in India, there are many children's who don't get good education due to better utility of resources. In slums and northern regions the problem occurs that person don't get the proper utilization of resources.
- *Globalization*: it is a fast trade and investment flows in many regions, which facilitated interest and awareness in migration. Globalization forces have reinforced the movement of skilled workers. Globalization has also increased economic disparities between countries.
- *Natural disaster*: natural disaster also create problem in crisis of migrant labourers, in India, due to floods, natural calamities and so on labour face so many difficulties. They don't job opportunities to enhance the skills.
- *Crop failure forced villagers to migrate to cities*: due to natural calamities, the farmers get huge loss in production of crop. When he thinks the rain is coming, in place of little rain, floods come this is the big reason where farmer get huge loss in production of crop.

People who move from one place to another in search of work or shelter are called migrants. Most of times migrants people are not skilled or educated therefore they usually employed as daily wagers means the workers who are paid at the end of each day for their services. Daily wagers do not get enough money for the survival of their families and suffering from many problems such as they do not have enough food to eat, proper resources of hygiene, a proper place to live and so on.

Impact of migration: Migration is becoming a most important subject for the life of cities and different states. Many opportunities and attraction of big cities pull large numbers of people to big cities. Migration can have positive as well as negative impact on the life of migrant labourers of country which are discussed briefly as:<sup>4</sup>

- *Lack of unemployment*: the first major point is lack of unemployment. In India, the ratio of unemployment is too high because due to not getting good education, not getting better jobs and so on these are all such reasons which are cause for unemployment.
- The loss of person's from rural areas, impact on the level of output and development of rural areas.

<sup>3</sup> Slideshare.net types of migration in India

<sup>4</sup> Blogs.ipleaders positive and negative impact on life of migrant persons



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- Having the ratio of large population puts too much pressure on natural resources, amenities and services.

It is a difficult for rural person to survive in urban areas because the social structure is totally changed, in comparison with rural areas and price of goods is also too high in urban areas in comparison with rural cities. The other problem is in urban areas there is no fresh atmosphere of weather as comparison with urban areas. Many migrant's persons are totally illiterate and uneducated; therefore, they are not only unfit for most jobs, but also lack basic knowledge and life skills. Poverty also causes hindrance which is unable to live a natural and healthy life. Children's who grew in poverty have no access to proper nutrition, education or health. Migration also increased the slum areas in cities which increase many problems such as unhygienic conditions, crime, pollution etc. Sometimes migrants are too exploited Migration is one of the main causes of increasing nuclear family where growth of children is without a family circle.

Positive aspects:

Unemployment is reduced and people get better jobs opportunities as per their qualifications and relevant experience and so on. Migration helps in improving the living standard of people. It also helps in social as well as casual life of person as they learn about new culture, customs and languages which help to improve brotherhood among the people. Migration of skilled workers leads to a greater economic growth of the region. Children's of Indian society get better opportunities for higher education. The ratio of population is decreased as well as reduced the birth rate.

Due to this pandemic the economy of our country as well other countries shake on a huge level. Lots of loss in business, industries as well as in other organisations happens. Many organisations, factories are decided to close-off factories due to non-availability of work in market; this is the reason where many migrant persons lost their jobs in this critical time because, they don't get support from their offices and so on. Due to this big reason many workers find employment in hometown for example, migrant labourers or daily wages labourers get some help from MNREGA schemes which is launched by the central government.

The Government also helps many migrant labourers by implementing various schemes under MNREGA. In 2019, pandemic of covid crisis Central Government increase the daily wages amount under this scheme of migrant labourers so that no migrant laborer get demolished from such schemes.

We all know how poor people have to pace the system even for their legitimate dues. Thus, immediate clarifications need to be issued in chaste bureaucratise, in all languages, to protect the vulnerable from the grasping or wobbling foot-soldiers of a genetically indifferent state. Exact names and identities are yet to be fixed for those without ration cards and had the government known exactly who exactly these shadowy people were, the problem may not have aggravated to such unmanageable proportions.

We have to think beyond the reflex obsession about Aadhar cards and privacy violations so as to come up with a really well thought out scheme for this class that has suffered such an unprecedented current crisis. We just have to formulate a digital multi-purpose benefit smartcard, that can be used anywhere, to draw money without queuing at remote banks and this improved DBT has to work at ATMs and other points and also entitle these overwhelmed sections to draw their rations from wherever.

But then, let us find out who exactly was responsible for this Tughlaq-style mess. It is not that we had never known that this problem existed. 'India' was fully aware that millions from 'Bharat' had populated their cities and this 'India' had become so addicted to their help that life was unimagined without them.

Loyalties, however, proved to be variable, both ways, since market forces override ethics in a globalised economy where must have without exception corner the have-nots. Now that the regime is keen to pass the contradiction on to the states, let us take a quick look at the constitution, especially on the limited issue of inter-state migration.

Statutes:

Article 217 read with 'list 1', under the seventh schedule clearly mentions 'item-81', namely, "inter-state migration and inter-state quarantine" to be a power of the centre. The Central Government alone is empowered to deal with this in general, and inter-state migrant workers are surely a part of the 'power' and the responsibility. The list of states' powers and responsibilities clearly do not mention 'inter-state migrants' but that does not absolve them totally, as they are both recipients of such labour and exporters as well.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Article 217 of Constitution of India



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The Concurrent List of powers on which the centre and states can both legislate and administer has quite a few relevant entries. Item-22 mentions “trade unions, industrial and labour disputes” while item-24 cites “welfare of labour” and allied issues.<sup>6</sup>

India is self-possessed to bring in the demographic dividend lasting decades. Our fertility rates are declining and youthful and skilled labour force growing faster than dependent populations, freeing up resources to invest in people, technology and capital. Notwithstanding the economic level of Covid-19, with “whatever it takes” public and private investment, it should lead to rapid poverty reduction, rise in living standards and GDP.

The social aspects of the migrant labourers pins the fact that most of them belong to the marginalized communities such as dalits, tribals and minorities. Their crisis is not only the fullness of the liberal nature of the State but also the prolonged historical social persecution and exploitation by those at the top of the ladder of society. The social abhorrence against the affirmative policies such as reservation and the dominance attitude of the social elite hindered the upward mobility of the migrant workers belonging to a particular caste and community. As a result of this external embarrassment, the young generations of these migrant workers are systematically sever from their capabilities and creative skills and pushed into the margin for the rest of their life.

The question of social goods such as self-respect and dignity shall be computed with to understand the migrant problem in its full extent. While the announcement of government relief packages remained exaggerate, the temporary help and relief of civil society organisations and charity of some individuals, through appreciable, rather than dignity and self-respect of these migrant workers.

The mere transportation facilities to their homes are not an all-time panacea for their problems. The change in the discriminatory social behavior and public attitude towards workers, the inclusion of affirmative policies and a transformation in the nature of state from establishment to a more welfare entity can advance an egalitarian social and economic realm in which rights, dignity and respect of the workers from socially marginalized sections are assured and protested.

There are several other reports that give corresponding figures viewed from different highly academic angles, but it helps to demolished migrant workers precious little, as neither this government nor its predecessor had setup appropriate administrative machinery actually and pervaded the desired goals.

The report decide that our economy is run by some 6.5 crore enterprises which employ over 90 percent of the labour force. The main fact behind this is the report had also warned the persons 13 years ago about that growing “informalization of the formal sector” and that the entire increase in the employment in the organized sector has been informal in nature”. Since then, the terms of trade have become even more adverse where unorganized workers are concerned as neo-liberal economics demands a pool of ruined workers, especially as formal employment is much too expensive and troublesome.

The associated sector has surely won many hard earned battles against combative capital but since all governments irrespective of colour publicly seduce the entrepreneurial class most passionately, they demand several pounds of human nature.

As per the report of informal workers constitute 92 percent of the total workforce and based on an empirical measurement high congruence between this segment of the workforce and 77 percent of the population of the poor and vulnerable. This committee contention that numbers below the poverty line “increased from 81.0 crore in 1999-00 to 83.6 crore in 2004-05 is surely on the higher side, but the point is who is in the governance was listening, except before elections.<sup>7</sup>

Moreover, the promised package of relief and rehabilitation, mainly to assist corporate, MSME’s, banks, financial institutions and, of course, people closer to the regime, could hardly be announced without at least dedicating a slice of it a thin one, as we have seen in the opening part for the hardest hit front unorganized migrant workers.

It was thus favored with 0.175% of the much-touted Rs 20 lakh crore in the scheme of Atmanirbhar package. This has recently been down to 0.155%. Time and patience have, however, both run out and crores of desperate migrants have reached home by now or are close to it, with little to thank the mighty orator they elected.<sup>8</sup>

Solutions:

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<sup>6</sup> Various lists defined under Article 217 of Constitution of India

<sup>7</sup> 2004-05 data of informal workers

<sup>8</sup> Scheme under Atmanirbharbharat



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The report of human development by united nation development programme of 2009 highlights that migration is integral to the process of human development and plays a very important role in achieving a sustainable development goals, thereby preventing migration could even be a expandable.

India needs to formulate migration centric policies, strategies and institutional mechanism in order to ensure inclusive growth and development and reduce distress induced migration, thereby increasing India's prospects for poverty reduction and achieving sustainable development of goals.

- Help workers make informed choices
- Protect human rights and labourers rights at source and destination
- Reduce cost of labour migration
- Regulate placement agencies and agents
- Build positive public perception of migrants

Relaxing the restrictions on prevent of migrants from accessing vital benefits such as food rations in their cities. The government aims that to constitute prevent migrants from the concept of one nation one ration. Provide free food grains to migrants persons.

Special measures should also take into account the particular situation of migrant women, who are among those most economically venerable and impacted by the present situation.

## III. CONCLUSION

From the whole study, it has been concluded that, the problem of migrant workers is not a new problem. The study of the research paper discuss various problems occurs in the way of migrant person, what are challenges facing by him, how he will manage all things as per his income whatever he earned. There are lots of reasons where migrant workers facing many difficulties in society i.e. minimum wages, low labour cost, poor resources and many more. It is more necessary that the ratio shall be decreased. Government of India also implements various laws so that no poor person shall be demolished. Government of India should strict the penal laws also so that no middle person grab the right of migrant person.

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