MIGRANT WORKER DURING COVID-19 IN INDIA

AN STUDY TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT AND STATUS OF MIGRANT WORKER DURING COVID-19

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The COVID-19 spread disrupted the status quo activities in Indian states — the immediate effect created chaos among people and states to develop strategies accordingly. But, a country like India which composed mainly of workforces in the unorganized sector implicated generous concerns over the rural half of the country. A lockdown has been imposed in the entire country to prevent the outbreak of the novel Coronavirus. People have welcomed this decision as they understand that desperate times call for strict measures. The manufacturing for all product categories has been stopped, until further notice, apart from the ones listed under essential items.

Indian migrant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic have faced multiple hardships. With factories and workplaces shut down due to the lockdown imposed in the country, millions of migrant workers had to deal with the loss of income, food shortages and uncertainty about their future. Following this, many of them and their families went hungry. Thousands of them then began walking back home, with no means of transport due to the lockdown. In response, the Central and State Governments took various measures to help them and later arranged transport for them. Many migrants also died due to the lockdown, with reasons ranging from starvation, suicides, exhaustion, road and rail accidents, police brutality and denial of timely medical care.

"One of the most telling human stories to result from the COVID-19 outbreak and the resulting nationwide lockdown is that of stranded migrant workers. But theirs isn’t a new story; it’s taken a pandemic for urban India to take note of an issue that has remained an unseen aspect of the country’s economy for much of its contemporary history." -

P Sainath, founder of People’s Archive of Rural India (PARI) and Ramon Magsaysay Award recipient

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During the pandemic of COVID-19 every section of society has effected. And for the marginalized working class it was a like dual pandemic. They have lost their livelihood especially the migrant worker. Now government has started planning to provide some employment opportunity to migrant worker. But it’s important to know that how many of these migrant worker has proper document or card (Like MNREGA card, Ration Card and Registration in Labor department) and also their expertise. Because without these registration and documents they will not be benefited.

To understand the status of migrant worker ASHA trust and Sajha Sanskriti Manch has organised an survey in which Lok Samiti has participated to collect the data from villages of Arajiline and Sewapuri block (Varanasi - Uttar Pradesh) India. Lok Samiti has collected 1394 data from the migrant worker.
REGISTRATION IN LABOUR DEPARTMENT

Yes - 24
No - 1362
Don't Know - 8

Total - 1394

REGISTRATION IN MNREGA

Yes - 69
No - 1320
Don't Know - 5

Total - 1394

KIND OF EXPERTISE

Unskilled Labour - 254
Skilled Labour - 1087
Technician - 28
Don't Know - 24

Total - 1394
**WILL YOU RETURN TO THE CITY?**

Yes - 709  
No - 673  
Don't Know - 12  

**Total - 1394**

**STATE FROM MIGRANT RETURN**

Here we are presenting the major ten states from where most of the migrant worker has returned.
Here we are presenting the ten major village of Arajiline and Sewapuri block from where most of the migrant worker is belonging.

On the basis of above finding there are some recommendation:

1. Making of ration card of all migrant worker.
2. Free and sufficient food should be provide to migrant families till March 2021.
3. Through organising camp labour card and other registration should be done.
4. Making the MNREGA job card for migrant worker through camp. They should get security of 200 working days with 600 INR wages.
5. Migrant should get job on the basis of there skills.
6. Safety kit should be provided to the worker during COVID-19.
7. Arrangements of allowance for migrant worker till they did’t get any employment.
8. Under the scheme of Ayushman Bharat, health card should be issued to migrant families through which they can get free treatment.
9. Financial help should be provided to labour for there startup.
10. Migrant should get at least 10,000 INR as a compensation for the difficulties they faces during lockdown.