



## **Design Thinking for the Mitigation of Migrant workers' Problems during Pandemic Crises - A study.**

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### **Abstract**

*The Covid19 is the eye opener for everyone as to the magnitude and dimensions of the problems of the migrant workers. Migration of workers has become a social, economic, Socio-economic and socio-cultural problems drawing attention throughout the world. The collapse of rural livelihood in many parts of India also forced the workers to migrate from their native places in search of employment. Economic, Social, Political and Geographical push and pull factors are responsible for the movement of workers within the nation and across the nations. The present study tries to find out the socio-economic and socio-cultural profile of the sample migrant labourers who were residing during the study period in the study area of Covid -19. The study will be attempted to find out the direction of migration, the pattern of migration. An attempt had also been made to identify the problems faced by the migrants as also the suggestions put forth by the migrants to make their stay more beneficial to them in future, especially for the informal workforce and more specifically for the migrant workers.*

**keywords:** *Mitigation, Migrant workers' Problems, Pandemic Crises and Design Thinking*

### **Introduction:**

Migration is an expression of the human aspiration for dignity, safety and better future. It is the part of the social fabric, part of our very make-up as a human family. Migrant labourers are those who move from their place of origin to another place within the country or outside the country with an objective to earn gainful employment. The generation of productive and gainful employment with decent working conditions, on an adequate scale to absorb our growing labour force must form a critical element in the strategy for inclusive growth. The basic weakness in our employment performance is the failure of the Indian economy to create sufficient amount of additional high quality employment to absorb the new entrants into the labour market and also facilitating the absorption of the surplus labour that currently exist in the agriculture sector, into higher wage, non agriculture employment.

Migration is a common phenomenon in the growth centres all over the world. The growth centres generate demand for labourers. They are mainly employed in unorganized informal sector. The share of the migrants in the total population is higher in the urban areas than the share of the migrants in the rural areas. Females migrate more than the males in the rural areas as well as in the urban areas. This is



because most of the female migration is due to their marriage. Males from both the rural and the urban areas have not shown any tendency to migrate to the rural areas as most of them migrate mostly for economic reasons. The lack of employment opportunities in the rural areas and the better employment prospects and the infrastructural amenities in the urban areas motivate people to migrate to the urban areas. However, an excessive migration to the urban areas has its own serious consequences on the urban infrastructure, civic amenities, environment and the like. Thus, there is an immense need for developing the rural and the backward regions of the country to promote a balanced. Addressing the socio-economic and socio-cultural problems of migrant workers is the focus of the study.

## Major Research Works Reviewed:

### International

**De Haan, A and Rogaly, B (2002)** in their article on “Migrant Workers and Their role in Rural Change” had stated that migration from one area to another in search of improved livelihood is a key feature of human history.

**Li Giang (2003)** finds in his study on the labour market for peasant workers that, as in many developing countries, such workers are largely employed in the informal sector and listed under “Informal unemployment”.

**Tan Shen (2003)** had analyzed the motive forces for migration from the rural to the urban centres in China, and had pointed out the following motives. Firstly, leaving home for elsewhere was a question that was decided by the migrants whole family rather than by the individual alone.

**Colin Macandrews et al., (1975)** had studied about the internal movement and its effects in Malaysia. In Malaysia rural urban migration had also worsened racial tensions.

**Philip Martin et al (1996)** have summarized the important benefits that flow through labour migration. The number of jobs and the economic activity had increased in Asian countries, as also the trade between the labour exporting and labour importing countries.

### National

**Vikhas Jha (2005)** in his article on “Migration of Orissa’s Tribal Woman; A New Story of exploitation” explains the causes for the migration of the tribal women workers.

**David Mosse, et al., (2005)** have examined the seasonal labour migration for casual work in urban construction and related industries was an irreversible and painful and socially disrupt element in the livelihood of the bhill adivasis in Western India.

**Vatsala Narain and K.B. Gotpagar (1983)** their study “Bombay and its in migration” had stated that the age of the migrant at the time of arrival to the city was 18 years for men. The work participation rates of migrants (males only) appear to be higher for migrants than for non-migrants.

## Research Gap:

The study also has attempted to find out the direction of migration, the pattern of migration. That is whether migration had taken place individually or as nuclear families or as joint families and the factors that had influenced migration in respect of the socio-economic changes that had taken place among the migrants in terms of the changes in their income, employment, education, wealth, savings and outstanding debt and the changes in their employment pattern. An attempt had also been made to identify the problems faced by the migrants as also the suggestions put forth by the migrants to make



their stay more beneficial to them in future, especially for the informal workforce and more specifically for the migrant workers.

## Objectives of the Study:

1. To study the socio-economic and socio-cultural conditions of the select migrant workers in the study area.
2. To find out the push and pull factors responsible for migration.
3. To study the occupational mobility of the selected migrant workers.
4. To examine the work availability in the study area and the working conditions of the migrant workers.
5. To analyse the living conditions, the housing conditions and the income, expenditure, assets and savings position of the migrants.
6. To investigate the extent and the amount of income flows back to their native place or place of origin.

## Research Question

1. Who are the people migrating and why and how do they migrate?
2. Does migration actually lead to securing gainful employment?
3. Do the migrants get income commensurate with their skills?
4. Do they able to save money?
5. Do they remit money to the native place and does the money is used in productive way?
6. Do the migrants able to save money from the income generated?
7. Do the migrant labourers have different attitude towards the present social environment?
8. What is the attitude of them as to cultural elements viz Values, lifestyle, attitude and behaviour, education, customs and manners and material culture
9. What is the impact of migration in terms of education and employment of their children?

## Hypotheses

**H1:** Measure the quantum of Livelihood crisis due to Reversal of migrant workers during Covid-19 pandemic.

**H2:** The expenditure of the migrant worker was lesser in his native place and higher in the place of destination.

**H3:** There was no significant difference between the savings position of the migrant workers during the period of pre and post-migration.

**H4:** There was no significant occupational mobility between the previous occupation and the present occupation of the workers after the migration had taken place.

**H5:** There was no difference between the days of work in a week for the sample migrant workers before and after their migration.

**H6:** Socio-cultural factors influencing the migrant workers in all sectors.

**H7:** Migration factors influencing towards of education and employment of their children.

**H8:** Migrant workers of the attitude influencing towards to cultural elements viz Values, lifestyle, attitude and behaviour, education, customs and manners and material culture.



**H9:** categorise the migrant workers income wise

**H10:** The Income of the migrant worker was lesser in his native place and higher in his place of destination.

### **Research Methodology**

The researcher will select the migrant workers in India for the purpose of his study. The important industries located include the Cotton Mills, Coir Works, Construction and Hotels, etc . These industries have a dominant role in the entire India and they also provide employment opportunities to the people living in and around the district. Hence the number of migrant workers is quite large in India and the researcher will do that a study of the migrants in the India would be very useful.

### **Sample Size and Sampling Procedure**

As per the studies there were approximately many migrant informal workers engaged in different industries like construction works, hotels, agricultural and other allied activities in India. The researcher will select as per requirement of the study. sample of migrant workers will be selected from different states in India. The technique adopted in the sampling procedure is known as the representative sampling technique and this sampling technique will be adopted for carrying out the present research work. Thus a total number of 500 and above sample migrant workers will be selected for the present research work

### **Data Collection**

The field work will carried out to suit the convenience of the respondents. The researcher will meet the respondents at their residence and will conduct a face to face interview with them. The field survey will be carried out after 7.00 p.m, which is felt to be convenient for the majority of the respondents.

### **Sources of Data**

The study is as based on primary data. The researcher will use of the interview schedule as a tool for data collection, besides the data collected from secondary sources such as The Census of India, The National Sample Survey Organisation Data The Statistical Handbook of India ; Taluk Level Census Handbooks and such other similar published secondary sources.

### **Tools of Analysis**

The collected data should be processed in a proper way to fulfill the objectives of the study. Tabulations, percentages, averages, and ratios had also to be worked out wherever it was necessary, besides descriptive statistics such as Chi-square test, Garrett Ranking technique and Logistic regression analysis had also been used.

### **Innovation/Path-breaking aspects of Research.**

However, an excessive migration to the urban areas has its own serious consequences on the urban infrastructure, civic amenities, environment and the like. Thus, there is an immense need for developing the rural and the backward regions of the country to promote a balanced development and to prevent the disproportionate growth of the urban areas. Inter-State migration of workers being the movement of human beings takes place for certain cherished objectives such as better employment, better wages, better working and living conditions and better livelihood.

1. The socio-economic and socio-cultural issues of migrant workers need to be addressed for all out growth of this nation.



2. Consciously the migrant workers standard of living, health, education need to be addressed.
3. The Rural India need to be protected focused for self-reliance in agriculture with growing population.
4. Policy guidelines for the registration of their movement, insurance and welfare measures.
5. Industrialization and modernization needs to focus on comprehensive policy initiatives from government in respect of migrant workers.

**Conclusion :** The employer who employs migrant labourers must provide these facilities to the workers. Government should enforce the proper implementation of Interstate Migrant Workers Law for providing these facilities in the work place. Whenever any construction project has been taken up and is likely to last for some longer time, then the Government/Employers should take necessary steps for the schooling of the school going children of the construction labours. Thus they help and contribute to the economic development of the State. Migrant labourers are the most vulnerable and exploited among informal workers and have not received any attention in the labour policy in the States which are sources (origin) of supply of migrant workers. In order to ensure a good level of attitude towards present social environment the migrants shall be provided with proper hygiene and sanitary facility, provide awareness regarding family responsibility and social status; impart local language to improve social interaction.

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