

The Covid-19 Pandemic and its Impact on Internal Migrants in India: Regional Perspective and Response

Dr. Mohd. Faheem

*Lecturer, Indian Studies Program,
Prithi Banomyong International College, ThaPrachan Campus, Thammasat University,
Bangkok, Thailand, 10200
Email – mohammad.f@pbic.tu.ac.th*

Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic characterizes a serious health crisis on the earth planet. It can possibly make destroying impacts connected with society and economy. There are internal migrants which are important part of India's economy which is around 20% of the labor force. There are 100 million inward migrants in India. Around 40 million of people from various states in India. This paper looks into the presence of migrant workers in the urban communities across India that have been intensely impacted by the step of lockdown taken by the government of India. This paper finds the regional scenario of mass flight of migrant workers from the important Indian urban centers to their rural homes. This study sums up with the significance of internal migrants particular those who are workers whose contributions in different cities' economies and after the lockdown, need to provide essential help in term of social security and also to develop the data resource in the destination sources in order to link the government schemes.

Keywords: Covid-19, health, internal migrant, government etc.

Introduction

The coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic spreads around the globe as a serious health crisis which is the biggest challenge before the world that has happened since the Second World War. There is a serious impact on the global society since this COVID-19 emerged from the city of Wuhan in China. Due to this problem which is considered a serious health crisis globally and World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared the coronavirus COVID-19 as a global pandemic.

The world has now reached the woeful corner of further than 5.5 million deaths, and the mortal family is suffering under nearly unbearable burden of loss. At the same time, the immediate detector is the coronavirus epidemic that has disintegrated global profitable conditioning and its rampant spread countries were forced to stop transnational travelling as well as locked up themselves.

Also, the lockdown has been flattered as the only system to control the spread of the epidemic and nearly every country has adopted this system. Amidst the lockdown, multiple issues related to social, educational, well-prepared, cerebral situations and numerous further have been noticed which has created the disastrous impact on the lives of the people. As India is known as land of diversity, particularly the nature of civil political setup where central and state governments deal the emergence of coronavirus epidemic and its impact is diverse and innumerable.

This paper examines the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the internal migrants due to lockdown across the countrywide. The speedy spread of this largely transmissible complaint urged the Government of India to apply a public lockdown on the 24 March, 2020 which was seen as the only possible

decision to help the fast spread of the contamination from the coronavirus in India with tight restrictions on movement and transportation means in the country. The action of the lockdown lead to wide fear among migrant in the major different metropolises of India. On the extremely a spur of the moment announcement of lockdown obligation in the country, Internal migrant especially people who taken the path of highway faced many problems. There are factories and work places closed because of the lockdown was imposed in India, a huge number of migrants needed to manage the deficiency of pay, difficulties of having food and vulnerability environment about their future.

This paper is studied in the five parts. Firstly, this paper provides the COVID-19 scenario in India which concentrate on spread of coronavirus pandemic in a chronical way in India and government response in term of public position strategy and policy to strict the effects of COVID-19 on the people livelihood. Secondly, the general information of internal migration in India in term of data. This part of the paper providing how did the COVID-19 pandemic affected migrant people through an analysis of various components. Thirdly, the paper provides a local perspective of COVID-19 impact on internal migratory labours in India. The fourth part highlights the government response to COVID-19 impact from the assessing of lockdown on internal migratory workers. The fifth part deals with the discussion and conclusion with the policy recommendations on the base of assignment learned from the COVID-19 impact on internal migrants in India.

Covid-19 Pandemic Scenario in India

The COVID-19 pandemic is an unknown extremity. No country can be said to be set completely, and indeed countries that have acquitted themselves fairly well have had recurrences or executive mishaps. In this regard, the Indian story is unique in the sense of spreading epidemic and response to handle this extremity. For India, as for the rest of the

world, COVID-19 has been a disaster of unknown proportions.

In India, the first case was detected in the district of Thrissur in Kerala State on 30th January where a person had a travelling history of Wuhan City of China. After that many cases were came in the month of February in that state. In the week of March, the cases have seen in different cities particularly in Delhi and Hyderabad and followed in the different part of the country. There was a concern arrived with continue increasing of the cases and there were 22 new cases happened in the city of Jaipur among the foreign tourists. Most affected state was Maharashtra where cases were increasing very fast.

In case of mortality, India's first COVID-19 casualty was recorded on 12th March, when a 76 years old man having a travelling history to the country of Saudi Arabia died in Kalburgi district of Karnataka, testing positive two days after his death. On 13th March, other death was recorded in Delhi a 69 years old woman with travel history to Italy. After a third death on 17th March, in Maharashtra — this time a 69 years old man with trip history to Dubai — further people capitulated to COVID-19 in several corner of the country. On 2nd April, the losses crossed 50. By the end of May, around 5,164 people had died in the country. As per the Health Ministry, COVID-19 has affected the male population more than the female population. In India, men regard for nearly three-fifth of cases recorded till the end of February, 2021.

In term of mortality, the first Covid dead was happened on 12th March with an old man from the district of Kalburgi, Karnataka who had a history of traveling to Saudi Arabia. There was another demise in Delhi was happened to an old lady aged of 69 whose travelling history of Italy. The third demise was taken place in the state of Maharashtra on 17th March and this a man of 69 years old who had a travel history to Dubai and further the death number of Covid-19 in many parts of the country. As per record, the death reached to 50 on 2nd April. There are 5,164 loss their

lives in the country by the end of May. There is a report of Health Ministry, the male population has more affected than female population due to Covid-19. The main consideration for impact of COVID-19 is a socio-economic aspect. In this regard, India is not unique. There is disruption has taken place in many sectors of economy such as construction, manufacturing, hospitality and industrial center and working groups particularly on unorganized workers.

India recognized early the crisis arisen by COVID-19 and subsequently deal in a sorted way in cycle with the advance development of the pandemic. For fighting against the pandemic, before India has multiple unique challenges particularly the geographical landscape of the country where multiple way of entry ports, sound number of internal and external travelers, highly and large dense urban population, poor government health infrastructure and facilities and various cultural and traditional practices that bound to huge gatherings. The responses of Indian to take the entirety of society along, with pertinent spread for different groups of socio-economic, occupational, linguistic.

The response from India to Covid-19 has described in three phases between the month of January and May, 2020 which is confined travelers from the other countries and monitoring movement across the borders in order to limit of spreading the cases. The way to contain by the means of testing, tracing and separating the tourist connections and also ready to prepare strict lockdown measures in order to stop spreading contamination with the proper development of health facilities including testing centers and medical equipment.

In order to know the issue and the danger presented by COVID-19 to India's 1.38 billion population, the government authority, interestingly, summoned the pertinent the arrangement as per Disaster Management Act, 2005 to apply in whole country gone to lockdown from 25th March, 2020 onwards. There is proper social distancing measures

and it was extensively used effectively to contain the covid-19 spreading. Only essential services were performed and there are all earning sources have stopped and those services were media people, delivery workers, grocery shops, telecom departmental services and medical workers.

Internal Migrants Scenario in India

The figures of the people who were internally migrant in India according to 2011 census where 454 million people which is 37 per cent of total population of India. This trend of census shows that more than 560 million internal migrants will be in 2022. There are 139 million migrant workforces have been increased during 2001-2011. In this increased migrant workforce, there is one-third are interstate and inter-district which is about 200 million and in 200 million, roughly 140 million are to be migrant workers which constituted two-thirds (Surojit Gupta, 2020).

According to Prof. IrudavaRajan, there is an estimated number of migrants is 600 million in 2020. In other way, little less than total population of India is living the place out of their place of birth. In other way, if these migrants number consider as one country then it would be the third most populous nation in the world just after China and India and at the same time almost double the size of the United States.

Generally, there are two types of migration in India. One is long term migration in which permanent movement by an individual or in a group and on the other hand, there is short term migration. There is 28.3 percent of workers in India are migrants as per National Sample Survey. There is as per Economic Survey of India nearly nine million people migrated from one state to another every year for the reason of education or work. This survey showed that many people migrant to the state of Delhi Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat from the state of Maharashtra, Odisha to Gujarat, Odisha to Andhra Pradesh. From these migration corridors, sharing of in-migration states are more progressive states in term of economy of the

state where the migrants are from out-migration states play an important role.

In Indian economy, migrant workers are backbone because for the millions of people in India migration is an important livelihood strategy. Majority in migrant workers, there are mainly daily-wage labourers engage in the industries of manufacturing and construction. They have often lack of proper health facility, nutrition deficiency, housing and sanitation and among them many engage informally. They migrated from rural and settle for years in cities and many do not have saving and staying in factory residences which during the lockdown were closed. Even there is Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act, 1979 but there is no any department to do registry for them (Roli Srivastava & Anuradha Nagaraj, 2020). One most important aspect for migratory workers is, they belong to socially marginalized section. They earn very low income as most underprivileged orders of workforce (Frontline Magazine, 2020).

Migrant workers played an important role for contributing in the country's economy mainly through the urban economic activities. The well-developed major urban centers of India where are the major administrative and business centers are existing which attract the rural migrants from the backward states. There are the main states of Delhi, Haryana, Karnataka, Punjab, Maharashtra and Gujarat which share much higher of in-migration than other states. Last one decade, Delhi and Maharashtra had largest in-migrant people in India. There are the four states Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh so called as BIMARU states which share much higher of out-migration than other states. Particularly Bihar and Uttar Pradesh had largest out-migrant people in India.

The lack of system to collect the data related to migration pattern particularly record of temporary, seasonal and circular types. There is an estimation, 85 percent of working class are in the informal sector in India particularly in two poor states Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, there are more than 80 percent of people who are working in this sector. The labor force

survey of government says, there is 71 percent people who have a regular working income without having written job contract in non-agricultural industries. In the total figure, more than fifty percent workers are able to benefit of social security. On the other hand, daily wagers are in poor shape particularly without social security and residing in poverty bound environment (Champa P., 2020).

Impact of Covid-19 on Internal Migrants in India

The effect of COVID-19 pandemic on the internal migrants in India have witnessed when the across country lockdown was placed end of March 2020 for 21 days and there was the closure of small business and full stopped of all means of transportation including railway and flight networks (WHO, 2020). The quick impact was cutback of employment in large numbers of internal migrant laborers who dwell in various urban areas in India. Nonetheless, the limitation transformed into a test for every day for wage laborers and daily wage workers who can't keep on making their residing nor return to the places where they grew up, because of the closure of rail and road means of transportations.

The short-notice prior to initiating lockdown abandoning great many migrants accumulated serious analysis as the public authority had not dealt with the crisis of migrant in spite of delivering 20 lakh crore rupees (265 billion dollars) alleviation assets to handle COVID-19, bringing about scores of migrants strolling back home for a significant distance, basically fearing viral transmission through their long travelling. The quick difficulties looked by these migrant workers were connected with food, living places, loss of wages, apprehension about getting contaminated and uneasiness. Accordingly, a great many of them began escaping from different urban communities to their local spots. Numerous migrants lost their lives either because of difficulty on the way, desire of foods, mishap or comorbidity and some even done self-serious crime of suicide.

On 14 September 2020, Labor and Employment Ministry expressed that data

gathered from different state governments demonstrated an expected 10 million migrants had endeavored to get back because of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting lockdown. There is no such information was kept up with on the migrant numbers in the country who had either lost their lives, or become jobless, because of the pandemic. These number of 10 million give a proportion of the feeling of work shock that India's economy looked bad shape due to back of migrants.

At the time of lockdown, the internal migrants of the urban areas become unemployed and also no transportation means that forced to them travel by walks and bicycles for coving long distance to reach their local home towns. There is also no social security system worked properly.

Many were captured for abusing the lockdown, subsequent to being gotten at between state borders, timberlands among states and surprisingly on boats to cross waterways. A portion of the migrants passed away on from depletion. There are others loss of lives on in mishaps on the roads subsequent to strolling or stowing away in vehicles.

There are 120 workers were caught by police of Gujarat and sent to them to the state of Maharashtra even some of them being injured. There are 16 migrants in Aurangabad district were died due to hit by a cargo train. 26 migrants were lost their lives in a accident between two trucks conveying migrants in the district of Araiya in Bihar. There is an instance of a 15-year-old young girl conveyed her sickly dad with a bicycle for 1,200 kilometers from Bihar to Gurugram throughout seven days.

There are different effects suffered by the migrants in India especially on the fronts of financial and social. In the time of the lockdown in India, the nation over sudden prohibitions on development, non-attendance of work prompted no cash or money related means to manage everyday food expenses and maintain the social distancing as per rules of isolation, all have achieved huge degrees of

apprehension, tension which thus started socially temperamental lead and mental breakdowns just as fits of anxiety among inward transient or migrants laborers (Choudhary P.R, Ghosh R.K, Sindhi S, 2020). Ongoing break of deserted migrant laborers to move for catch transport facilities at stations, making pressing undertakings to get back to their home states dismissing lockdown rules is an instance of this. This continually achieves the interminable circle of powerlessness to pollution, disconnection, stress, and encroachment of preventive measures. Apprehension levels and nervousness are to be certain design in these workers, compelling an impressive part of them to travel a couple 1,000 kilometers by strolling by walking to show up at their neighborhood local spots without any plan of food or staying during their movements.

From the economic point of view, around 450 million informal workers containing 90% of India's labor force were not allowed to have paid leaves (Sengupta Sohini, Jha M.K., 2020). A bigger piece of them are migrant workers who are at the edge of the crisis or disaster during the lockdown when these between state migrants picked to walk many kilometers to reach to their local spots.

Response of Impact of Covid-19 on Internal Migrants

In India, the first instance of COVID-19 was recognized on January 30, 2020. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) gave its first rule on movement cleanliness and social separating (NDMA, 2020). The rise of COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing cross country lockdown to control its further flare-up and to alleviate the impact of the lockdown on a weak group of people, Government of India on 26 March 2020, declared a package of 17 million rupees under the Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Yojana (Prime Minister's Poor welfare scheme). It has inside its ambit wellbeing laborers, farmers, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural

Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) laborers, economically weak classifications, particularly females, old, and sloppy area laborers, Jan Dhan Yojana (People's Wealth Scheme) account holders and Ujjwala Yojana (Lighting Scheme) recipients. The plan involves 5 extra kilograms of wheat or rice and one kg of favored heartbeats consistently to 800 million recipients for the following three months. the Government at the center likewise provided a request to the state legislatures to utilize Building and Construction Workers Welfare Fund of 520000 million rupees to give help to Construction Workers through direct benefit transfer (DBT).

The government provided clearing orders coordinating that the property managers ought not request lease during the time of the lockdown and that employers should pay salary without derivation. It additionally reported that the people who disregarded the lockdown were to be shipped off government-run quarantine offices for 14 days, and that it had requested to the state governments set up prompt help camps for the migrant workers getting back to their local states.

One more advance taken by the public authority to report the National Migrant Information System (NMIS), an internet-based data set made by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). This was to assist with smoothing out the development of the laborers. It would assist states with tracking down the current number of stranded migrant workers and their area. The public authority wanted to keep the laborers refreshed by taking care of their telephone numbers in the system (DeeptimanTiwary, 2020).

There are alleviation camps arrangement have been set up by the state governments to give temporary houses to migrant's laborers to stop the mass migration. Thusly, Delhi government every day gave free food to 400,000 individuals. More than 500 hunger help centers were set up by the Delhi government. Early month of April, 2020,

7500000 individuals were being given food the nation over in food camps run by the public authority and Non-government Organizations (The Tribune, 2020).

To accommodate the needs of the migrants and avoid them from leaving the camps, the government of Kerala different food being provided by adding menu of north Indian dishes, providing carrom boards and recharge facilities for phone cells., as well as provide essential things such as masks, sanitizers, and medicines. To take care of the necessities of the migrants and keep them from leaving the camps, the public authority of Kerala changed the food being given by adding north Indian dishes to the menu, giving carrom loads up and re-energize offices for telephones, just as give other basic clinical things like medicines, masks, and sanitizers (Arnimesh, Shanker, 2020).

After the mass migration of laborers occurred in time of the lockdown, the governments organized vehicle facilities to send migrant individuals to back their homes. In any case, as per the Stranded Workers Action Network (SWAN), migrants were befuddled with regards to the specific methodology to enroll themselves for movement. Moreover, many registration portals of the states were either in English or the native language of the states they lived in, which not very many migrants could comprehend. Further, general absence of data from the public authority to the migrants had brought about them paying enormous amounts of cash in order to enroll by themselves (MitraRitwika, 2020). On account of the Uttar Pradesh government, to choose to organize transports at Delhi's Anand Vihar bus stop to return the migrants to their towns for nothing. Huge groups then, at that point, assembled at the bus stop (Somesh Jha, 2020).

The Indian government has stepped up and send off "Shramik Special" trains for the migrant laborers and others abandoned. The Ministry of Home Affairs passed on to the state governments for quickly mentioning for trains to move the migrants, expressing that the trains were essentially chiefly implied for

the people who were abandoned because of the abrupt lockdown. The public authority then, at that point, reported that the Railways would offer 85 percent sponsorship on the train tolls, with the state governments subsidizing the excess 15%. 50% of the train coaches changed over into COVID-19 consideration habitats were utilized for these trains. A large portion of the workers from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh were utilized to go by these trains.

The monetary related alleviation measure has been taken after the across the country's lockdown was declared. Finance Ministry of the Union government reported a US\$24 billion spending plan for poor people. This comprised of money transfer and steps to guarantee food security. Toward the beginning of April, 2020, the Union government had delivered 11,0920 million rupees to states and Union Territories under the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), to subsidize food and residence facilities were arrange for the migrants. To assist with giving positions and wages to laborers, the normal day by day compensation under the MGNREGA were expanded to US\$2.80) from the prior US\$2.60.

The government of India declared to assign 10,000 million rupees for migrant workers from the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations, or the PM CARES, Fund Trust which is made on 27 March, 2020. Through this fund, each state gets least 10% or 1000 million rupees from the total allotted for migrants, with the extra award to be settled based on a population of state(half weightage) and the quantity of positive Covid-19 cases it has (40% weightage).

The government of India sent off the Garib Kalyan RojgarAbhiyaan drive to handle the effect of COVID-19 on laborers in India. The Garib Kalyan RojgarAbhiyaan (GKRA) is a 125-day development with a mission to resolve the issues of returnee laborers and correspondingly impacted countryside population by Covid-19 pandemic through a multi-pronged methodology of giving prompt

work and provide open doors for livelihood to the concerned(Ministry of Rural Development, 2020).

In the mass migration transient emergency during the across country lockdown, the job of various states to handle the emergency was especially grateful. In COVID-19 pandemic emergency, in the midst of the suspension of transports, trains and flight facilities, the states which were getting of good number of migrants for example, Delhi, Gujarat, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra have intervened to give fundamental conveniences like residence facilities and provide food for stranded workers. The Kerala model of others conscious treatment concurred to migrants who are alluded to as visitor laborers has been broadly and grateful gesture.

Discussion and Conclusion

The world has been changed a lot because of COVID-19 pandemic and the effects on the human life particularly socio- economic terms. This crisis of COVID-19 spread globally and strict the travelling and damage livelihood of millions of people and at the same, fatalities took place not only due to novel coronavirus but also the problems generate from it. The country like India which is presently second most corona caseload country where 11.3 million people are infected but 95 per cent people recovered and the morality is 158, 483. In term of total population of India, the figure is not very high but due to diversity of the country in many fronts such as social, economic and political, this crisis is a quite challenging to handle. The migration within the country is quite alarming because different factors. For this perspective India has more 450 million Internal migrant people and among them Inter-State migrants are very significant component for Indian economy which contribute 10 percent of Gross National Product. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, internal migrants' workers particularly in the in-migration States such as Delhi, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and Kerala suffer a lot while they lost the works when government of India taken to announce nationwide lockdown to avoid from the

spreading of different coronavirus in the country. Most of the internal migrants particularly workers come from poor states such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and generally belong to socially marginalized categories of citizens. These migrant individuals in the time of lockdown had quick difficulties looked by them were connected with food, living places, loss of income, apprehension about getting contaminated and worries.

The government of India responded through various steps have taken to tackle the exodus of migrant workers such as monetary relief measure, arranging the buses and trains and providing funds for livelihood in terms of food and shelter. The nature of Indian political governing system is responsible for providing best practice of assistance during the crisis. At the same time, there is existing loophole in the system in the case of proper data of migrant people in India particularly the cities where most of the migrant workers are there. There are many states who play impactful role to tackle the migrant workers issues due to COVID-19 pandemic.

This paper brought to give a lot lesson to learn to confront future difficulties, for example, to have real data set for the abandoned labour at the pace where they would like to move especially information on volume and attributes of the migrants is expected to move the advantages of social scheme of the governments at present and for the future requirements. There is also to implement of lockdown with a ground preparation and also better coordinate between the state governments and central government. Another significant example learned is migrants can't be disregarded as main part of being developed for a length of time.

Policy recommendations and suggestions

1. There is need to acknowledge decentralization as an essential methodology of offering types of assistance to the needed migrants.

2. Convergence of different facilities connected with food and health related

projects, water and sterilization projects, job providing programs should be made compelling.

3. It is high an ideal opportunity to build up collaboration and coordination between the governments at all levels.

4. There is a need to reinforce the information base on relocation and migrant families through Census, National Sample Survey (NSS) and NFHS and Migration Surveys.

5. Strengthen the social security system for migrant workers based on authentic data base at the destination cities level.

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