

## INCLUSION OF MIGRANTS: SOME INNOVATIVE PRACTICES IN INDIA

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**Abstract :**

*India's total population, as recorded in the recently concluded Census 2011, stands at 1.21 billion. Internal migrants in India constitute a large population 309 million internal migrants or 30 per cent of the population (Census of India, 2001), and by more recent estimates 326 million or 28.5 per cent of the population (NSSO 2007–08). Migrants faces crucial problems regarding identity, children's education, health issues, legal aid and disputes, problems of female migrants etc. Some critical problems come along with the problem of migration. To overcome with these problems and for a better inclusion of these migrants in all manners, some serious steps should be taken by the government and by some social services groups, NGOs. The present paper focuses on some innovative practices implemented for the better social inclusion of internal migrants in India.*

**Keywords:** - *Migrants, labour migration, inclusion, innovative practices.*

### INTRODUCTION

India's total population, as recorded in the recently concluded Census 2011, stands at 1.21 billion. Internal migrants in India constitute a large population 309 million internal migrants or 30 per cent of the population (Census of India, 2001), and by more recent estimates 326 million or 28.5 per cent of the population (NSSO 2007–08). The cities of Mumbai, Delhi, and Kolkata are all among the world's top ten most populous urban areas, and India has 25 of the 100 fastest-growing cities worldwide. Lead source states of internal migrants include Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Uttarakhand and Tamil Nadu, whereas key destination areas are Delhi, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab and Karnataka. There are conspicuous migration corridors within the country: Bihar to National Capital Region, Bihar to Haryana and Punjab, Uttar Pradesh to Maharashtra, Odisha to Gujarat, and Odisha to Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan to Gujarat.

The constraints faced by migrants are many - lack of formal residency rights; lack of identity proof; lack of political representation; inadequate housing; low-paid, insecure or hazardous work; extreme vulnerability of women and children to trafficking and sex exploitation; exclusion from state-provided services such as health and education and discrimination based on ethnicity, religion, class or gender. While there is more attention to and policies for emigrants, internal migrants are accorded very low priority by the government whose policies have failed to provide legal or social protection to this vulnerable group, said the UNESCO report "Social Inclusion of Internal Migrants in India", released by rural development minister Jairam Ramesh.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To understand the concept of labour migration.
2. To know the status of India's internal migration.

3. To know the challenges of internal migrants in India.
4. To highlight some innovative practices for better inclusion of migrants in India.

#### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:**

This study relies mostly on information gathered from secondary sources such as Government reports, journals, books, case studies, articles, research papers and web sites.

#### **DEFINITION OF MIGRATION:**

Migration is defined as a move from one migration defining area to another, usually crossing administrative boundaries made during a given migration interval and involving a change of residence. Internal migration involves a change of residence within national borders (UN 1993).

*The Census of India* defines an internal migrant as a person residing in a place other than his/her place of birth or one who has changed his/her usual place of residence to another place.

In Asia, Africa and Latin America, approximately 40 per cent of urban growth results from internal migration from rural to urban areas (UNESCO 2012). In India for instance, about 60 per cent of growth in the urban population is due to natural increase, while rural–urban migration has contributed to about 20 per cent of increase in urban population. Migrants of all durations are defined as lifetime migrants because the time of their move is not known. They are those who came to the place of enumeration at any point during their lives and have been living there ever since, whether this happened just a week before the census or a few decades ago.

#### **INDIA'S INTERNAL MIGRATION FLOWS:**

Internal migrants in India are expected to touch 400 million in the 2011 census, over half the global figure of 740 million and almost twice as many as China's estimated 221 million. These internal migrants, comprising a third of India's population.

According to a UNESCO report entitled *Social Inclusion of Internal Migrants in India* (2013), three out of ten Indians are internal migrants. The population of internal migrants in India went up from 309 million in 2001 to 400 million in 2011. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Uttarakhand and Tamil Nadu are identified as the lead source states of internal migrants, whereas key destination areas are Delhi, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab and Karnataka.

More than two-thirds (69 percent) of India's 1.21 billion people live in rural areas, according to the 2011 Census of India, but the country is rapidly urbanizing. The cities of Mumbai, Delhi, and Kolkata are all among the world's top ten most populous urban areas, and India has 25 of the 100 fastest-growing cities worldwide. 2011 census data show that for the first time, India's urban population has grown faster than its rural population since the last census. 31% percent of India's population is now classified as urban, up from almost 28 percent in 2001. In 2007-08, the NSS Survey measured the migration rate (the proportion of migrants in the population) in urban areas at 35 percent.

#### **INTERNAL MIGRATION: CHALLENGES & SOME INNOVATIVE PRACTICES:**

Migration has become a universal phenomenon in modern times. Due to the expansion of transport and communication, it has become a part of worldwide process of urbanization and industrialization. Increased levels of migration cause cities to face many socio-economic and environmental challenges that exacerbate urban poverty and intensify inequalities in access to income and services, and thereby deepen social exclusion.

Despite the fact that approximately three out of every ten Indians are internal migrants, internal migration has been accorded very low priority by the government, and existing policies. Indian states are stepping forward to provide legal or social protection to this vulnerable group. Challenges of internal migration and some innovative practices in India has discussed here with.

#### **IDENTITY:**

A person without an identity or address proof is viewed with suspicion not only by law enforcement agencies but also by other members of society, particularly those from the higher echelons. According to rough estimates in a study by Priya Deshingkar, circular migrants contribute 10 per cent of

India's GDP. Therefore, it is time that India came up with an inclusive policy in place for migrants.

A large number of NGOs working in the grassroots such as Gramin Vikas Trust in Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, and Aajeevika Bureau in Rajasthan had issued informal identity cards to migrant labourers. Such proofs of identity were recognized as valid by local authorities and had started much before the advent of Aadhaar.

The Bangalore based *Labour Net programme* has also issued migrants with identity cards. LabourNet undertakes the registration of unorganized sector workers, including migrants. Workers are charged an annual fee of ` 150 (USD 3) & they get accident insurance coverage, a laminated LabourNet identity card and a bank account opened in their name. LabourNet has registered approximately 44,000 workers since 2006.

*Disha Foundation* in Nasik has issued identity cards to 15,000 migrants enrolled in the trade unions of various sectors. Migrants are provided with official membership and a photo identity card for the union.

### INCLUSION OF WOMEN:

According to 2001 Census, of 309 million migrants based on place of last residence, female migrants constitute 218 million while it is 91 million for male. Thus migrants constitute around 30 percent of the total population; whereas male and female migrants constitute 18 percent and 45 percent of their population respectively. Not only in terms of magnitude but also from the perspective of development, internal migration of females is an important factor influencing socio-economic development of the country as it has greater potential for reducing poverty.

Contrary to the popular notion, 70% of all internal migrants in Indian are women in search of better opportunities who are abandoning their villages for metropolitan cities.

In India, 60 per cent of women do not have access to toilets so in **Mumbai** 35 different organizations came together to initiate the '**Right to Pee**' campaign because in the absence of toilets, women are forced to defecate in the open, with the constant fear of being seen by bystanders, or being physically assaulted.

Other campaigns such as the "*Occupy Men's Restrooms*" movement on Women's Day on 8 March 2012 (by the Nagpur-based NGO Sahyog) and the "No Toilet No Bride" campaign by the **Haryana** Government have similarly pushed for ensuring women's right to basic sanitation and health.

With the support of UN Women and the NGO, Child Rights and You (CRY) the NGO *Sanlaap* has begun a project through which the girls are connected to vocational trainings to ensure they are able to make a living, look after themselves and educate others about trafficking.

Government of **Delhi** and the NGO Jagori is running the Safe Cities Programme to give the protection to the female workers against sexual harassment, and to provide solutions and strategies to make Delhi safer for women.

### EDUCATIONAL INCLUSION:

Seasonal migrants often take their children along when they migrate, which negatively impacts their regular schooling. This is one of the reasons for high dropout rates in schools in many states. In the case that migrant children take up education at the destination, they face learning difficulties based on differences in academic curricula and language, especially in the case of inter-state migration.

Jamnagar, Rajkot, Junagadh, Surat and Dangs these five districts of **Gujarat** has started a Centre for Social Knowledge and Action's intervention to provide elementary education to children in the 11-14 years age group in seasonal hostels called *SETU*. By 2010, a total of 5,478 children had been covered by *SETU*.

Through a multiple interventions, *Aide et Action* plan has directly reached out to 9,000 interstate migrant children between 2009 and 2012, making education accessible to children in their active schools.

In **West Bengal** the mantra of the Mobile Education Programme of Butterflies is: "If the children cannot come to the school, let us take the school to them". Under the Mobile Education Programme, the 'Chalta Firta School' (Mobile Learning Centre) has brought the school to the children's doorstep.

### HEALTH INCLUSION:

The health of migrants is affected by a host of factors, such as the health environment in the place of origin, transit and destination, the conditions of the journey, access to drinking water and basic amenities, and food and nutritional intake. At the destination, migrants are exposed to health risks including

communicable diseases like malaria and tuberculosis, and occupational health hazards such as respiratory problems, lung diseases, allergies, kidney and bladder infections, back problems and malnutrition. Migrants often suffer injuries and accidents at worksites, yet do not enjoy any medical care or compensation.

As a priority, National Aids Control Organization (NACO) has scaled up migrant interventions, targeting migrants at destination as well as at origin and transit locations. These interventions provide information about risks, and counseling and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, including information on HIV testing and antiretroviral treatment.

Besides targeted interventions led by NACO and State AIDS Control Societies (SACS), there exist other non-targeted migrant HIV programmes implemented by NGOs, such as: Avert Society in **Maharashtra**; REVAMP: Reducing Vulnerability of AIDS in Migrant Populations, a CARE India initiative, in Uttar Pradesh and Delhi; and HAMARA HIV/AIDS initiative in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

*Disha Foundation* piloted a project designed to improve the sexual and reproductive health (SRH) of migrants in Nasik, **Maharashtra**.

### **LABOUR MARKET INCLUSION:**

Migrants are mostly employed in the informal economy, often working as construction workers, agricultural labourers, hawkers and vendors, domestic servants, rickshaw pullers, electricians, plumbers, masons and security personnel. Devoid of social security and legal protection, they work in poor conditions and face labour market discrimination. Minimum wages are often flouted and employers bear no responsibility for health, shelter and other basic requirements of migrants.

In order to improve the employability of migrants in remunerative sectors, Disha Foundation, an NGO, has organized skill up gradation and capacity building programmes to develop the skill sets of migrants, as well as they organize some skill development and training and certificate programmes for migrants.

Operating within the framework of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission, Jeevika, Bihar promotes market-linked skills enhancement and placement of Bihari migrant workers. In addition to Jeevika, the Government of Bihar has also instituted the Bihar State Migrant Labour Accident Grant Scheme, which provides compensation to a deceased migrant family up to 1 lakh in event of death (USD 1,786); 75,000 for permanent disability (USD 1,340) and 37,500 for partial disability (USD 670).

The Tribal Development Department, Government of Maharashtra and Disha Foundation, Nasik have joined efforts to establish a Migration Resource Centre with support from the Revenue, Urban Land Ceiling, Municipal Corporation, and Public Works Departments.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Internal migration in India is large and diverse. In a historical sense, migration goes hand in hand with growth and development. The magnitude and variety of internal migration flows in India, as well as the distresses associated with them, are enormous. Such kind of innovative practices really helps to develop the skill of migrants and increases the level of confidence which helps to increase their productivity. A concerted national strategy that ensures access to entitlements and basic work conditions will be essential in building a sustainable and equitable pathway to progress.

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