

Covid-19 and Its Impact across the Unorganized Sector in India

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ABSTRACT

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced the entire world to announce nation-wide lockdown, closing of factories, industries, fishing, building and construction etc. All kinds of households, whether based on primary, secondary and tertiary activity or region-wise rural as well as urban have received a blow. The migrant labourers, factory workers, fishermen, those engaged in animal husbandry, beedi rolling and other people who belong to the unorganised sector are now struggling to make their ends meet. There is a major risk of unemployment with no other source of income to survive in this pandemic. The reason being the nationwide lockdown and temporary shutdown of the industrial sector, whose time period also seems uncertain. This research paper aims to put lime light on the impact of COVID-19 on the unorganised sector and dwell on the challenges which they are currently facing and will face once the dust settles.

Keywords: Migrant labour, COVID-19, lockdown

I. INTRODUCTION

The start of this decade left the whole globe in a state of pandemonium by the recrudescence and surging of a viral pandemic COVID-19. On March 22, India observed a 14-hour voluntary public/Janatha curfew at the instance of the Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi. It was followed by mandatory lockdown in COVID - 19 hotspots in all major cities. Further on March 24, the Prime Minister ordered a nationwide lockdown for 21 days, affecting the entire 1.3 billion population of India. On April 14 the P.M extended the nationwide lockdown till May 3 which was followed by a two-week extension starting from 3 - 17 May with substantial relaxation. Beginning of June 1, the government has started unlocking the country (barring containment zones) in three unlocks phases. This pandemic affects all sectors of the economy adversely. It also affects the economic position of thelabours. This resulted on

transportation, institution, programs, industries etc. shut across the country. The lockdown had adversely affected various unorganized sectors in India. There are number of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) effected, maybe they have no name, no brand but provided food, clothes, shelter million of households. The workers whose day to day life depended on wages of those Sectors, now suffer from hunger. The pandemic situation's impact of crisis led fall in employment and wages income of workers of different social groups on their standard of living. The impact to unorganized workforce livelihoods, cultures all are tremendously collapsed due to this covid-19 pandemic.

According to the economic survey 2018-19, 93% of the total workforce in India is from unorganized sectors. During this lockdown period their production, export, import all are stopped. So Socio-economic growth of India also stopped. This nationwide lockdown means loss of income for more than 400 millions of informal workers. According to the ILO(International Labour Organization) push them into deeper recesses of poverty.

In India the extend of lockdown was the major issues of the workers, they battled with the hunger and poverty due to their economic imbalance. While some of them walking to reach their home, braving thirst, hungry by road. Some of them stayed there and worked to earn their daily bread.

OBJECTIVES

- To know the problems faced bylabourers in unorganised sector.
- To identify the major issues in the worker's daily life.
- To know theimpact of COVID-19 on various unorganized sectors in India.
- To find out how the rate of unemployment could be reduced .

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In order to collect data base information regarding this various reports were being thoroughly examined from secondary sources such as journals, blogs, articles, e-library, published research papers, national and international agencies and many authentic websites related to the impact of covid-19 on unorganized sectors workforce.

Phenomenon Of Economic Migrance

In India, the condition of people migrating from one place to another dates back centuries ago. There are diverse reasons for people to travel from their native places such as economic conditions, environmental stress and family uncertainties. Construction is prominent industry that deploys the migrant labours. This industry involves both workers who possess adroitness and inexperienced, as there would be a collation of both. The migrant workers globally are vital to the development of any industry and firm. Their involvement in the work and their dexterity are prominent to the development of the economy. These transients are helpless against the SARS-CoV-2 contamination and can at last become the conveying agents for the spread.

MENTAL HEALTH OF THE LABOURERS OF UNORGANISED SECTOR

Due to the predicament that they are subjected through, the migrant labours are prone to psychological illness such as weariness, anxiety and suicidal thoughts. More than 30% of suicides as a reverberation of the pandemic among the migrants has been observed, of which Maharashtra the highest is followed by several Indian states. As indicated by the mental issues among transients during COVID-19 recorded by the , inner traveller labourers are experiencing high degrees of nerves and fears because of different worries in COVID19 pandemic, and are needing psycho-social help. The consistent opposite movement of a large number of transient specialists to their local towns can end up being negative for the emotional wellness and rustic India might be especially helpless to self destruction in not so distant future because of the substantial financial heap of jobless traveller workers.

IMPACT ON VARIOUS UNORGANIZED SECTORS

In developing country like India, economic growth depends upon various unorganized sectors. There are number of small, medium and micro sectors, which contributes for the development of India's Economy. Millions of

people who work in those Sectors are jobless due to covid-19 pandemic. The present and future conditions of these sectors are severally affected by covid-19. Some of them are:-

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)

As per the official estimates, there are about 63.05 million micro industries, 0.33 million small and about 5,000 medium enterprises in our country. The beedi workers, flowers vendors, news paper distributors, shopkeepers, building and construction workers, Saw Mills, oil Mills etc. all are in these areas. They have no interaction with their workplace. Production, import& export were all stopped.

Food and Agriculture Sectors

The India food processing industry accounts for 32% and agriculture is about 58% of total India's population. In 2019, 42.93% of the workforce in India was employed in agriculture. In 2018-19, 51% of workforce in India were employed in food service industry. Due to transportation problem required substance produces materials were not imported and exported, social distancing norm made the workers to lag behind in their work due to shortage of workers ,time and distance.

Dhaba, Hotel, and Restaurants

Average every town and mega town approximately 500-700 dhaba, there are number of popular and unpopular hotels and approximately 700,000-900,000 restaurants across the country. Since corona viruses spread be afraid in every human mind, families did not wanted to have foods outside home. By extension of food delivery workers like Zomato, Swiggy etc. Gained job but servers, have lost their works due to lockdown.

Online business/ Internet business Services

In digital era online business in today's economy plays a major role in India. Flipkart, Amazon, Snapdeal, Myntra and many more are the online marketing platforms. Thousands of delivery boys take a part time or fully involved in this job. Due to Problem of lockdown and social distance maintaining people lost their job security.

Fishing and Aquaculture Production

Fishing in India's major industry employing about 145 million people. India ranks 3rd in fisheries production. India has ponds and tanks, floods plain lakes, rivers and canals utilized for aquaculture purpose. Most of the farmers are now tending to fishing production. About 40% of the available areas are used for aquaculture currently but due to transportation problem and its higher costs for feeding created greater risk for fish mortalities.

RELIEF MEASURES

Soon after the nationwide lockdown was announced in late March, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced 1.7 crore rupees spending plan for the poor. This consisted of cash transfers and steps to ensure food security. The central government had released Rupees 11,092 crore to States and UTs under the NDRF, to fund food and shelter arrangements for migrants. To help for provide jobs and better wages to workers, the average daily wages under the MGNREGA was increased to Rs. 202 from Rs. 182 as of April 1. From the PM cares fund Rupees 1000 crore was allocated for the support of migrant labourers. FM Sitharaman further announced that free food grains for the migrant labourers targeting 80 million migrant workers by spending Rs. 35 billion.

The Government of India launched the GaribKalyanRojgaurAbhiyaan initiative to tackle the impact of covid-19 on migrant workers in India. It is a real public works scheme which was launched on 20th June 2020 with an initial funding of Rupees 50,000 crore for 116 districts in 6 states.

II. FINDING AND SUGGESTION

The impact of the crisis may even be higher in emerging economies like India due to already slowing growth rates, poor health infrastructure and a significant population living in extreme poverty. This corona pandemic brought a huge shock to the various labour market in India. In India there is a need of cheaper bank loans to the unorganized sectors, cheaper raw materials, reduced fuel price, to create grassroots level job opportunity for decreasing the unemployment rate, to ease of doing business, to create fixed wages, medical facility etc. to the workers.

The outbreak of covid-19 has resulted in not only the forgone income associated with calamity and fatality, but also it led to a substantial increase in the private and public expenditure on healthcare and impact on the human capital of the economy. During this lockdown period huge migrant labour started living their workplace to walk hundreds of miles towards their home towns.

The government must approve Labours of essential and adequate subsidies to keep them occupied during the national lockdown periods. The efficacies of the migrant labours are crucial in many industries. A necessary psychological awareness in their specific camps could be organised along with provision of rations and supplies. The scheme —one nation and one ration card could be rapidly enunciated by the government

and implement along all parts of the nation. It is the liability of the government officials to ensure the safety of the migrants as they are considered as the tower of strengths of skilled labour; above all they too are the citizens of India. Providing proper medicating treatments to the people and also provision of daily essentials should be considered as obligatory by the government.

III. CONCLUSION

With long term lockdown due to covid-19, systematically unemployment increased throughout the country. Just as the right antidote to sickness is a healthy body, the antidote to covid-19 in the medium term is a healthy economy. On the onset of a possible second wave of COVID-19 and extending lockdown policies, the indemnity of the people are as important as the quest for discovering a potential vaccine towards obliterating the pandemic and crisis.

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