A STUDY ON SOCIO ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID – 19 PANDEMICS AMONG MIGRANT WORKERS IN COIMBATORE CITY

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**ABSTRACT**

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. The impact of the study is evaluated in terms of employment and income generation, creation of social capitals, assets durability, distressed rural urban migration, savings and investment potentials, consumption level. Hence the main aim study on socio economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic among migrant workers with special reference to Coimbatore city. The sample size of the study is 136 respondents and convenience sampling method has been used. Simple percentage analysis has been used as a research tool for the study. From the study it is concluded that the language barrier is the most common problem faced by migrant workers. Migrant takes place only to increase the standard of living but covid-19 had made a major impact on their living.

***Keywords: Migrant workers, Pandemic, Multiple challenges***

**INTRODUCTION**

The year 2019 brought with it a new pandemic, the COVID-19 that was first reported in the month of December as per the reports from World Health Organisation, and put the whole world in an unprecedented crisis, that has pushed it into a state of lingering uncertainty (WHO, 2020). The coronavirus disease 2019, commonly known as the COVID-19 pandemic, a corollary of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 infection, has led to a global public health crisis, innumerable deaths, generalised economic depression, redundancy, and quarantines. The labour market impact of the COVID‑19 crisis has differed substantially across groups of workers depending on the types of jobs they held. Workers in jobs that could not be performed from home and required close physical proximity and high interaction with other people have paid a double price in terms of both a higher risk of income loss, when their hours were cut or their jobs terminated, and a higher risk of infection when they continued working. Migrants too were trapped in the lockdown with no jobs and no money, facing major economic setback, besides being isolated from their families due to the sudden lockdown.

In order to alleviate the suffering of migrants it is necessary to investigate, understand, and analyse the hardships they have been undergoing. In-depth explorations of the studies in the Indian context dealing with circular migration and their psychological impact are needed to foster greater awareness among the public and to introduce new measures that can be adopted to safeguard the rights of the migrants.

Migrant workers consist majorly of daily-wage laborers working in the manufacturing and construction industries. They are often denied adequate healthcare, nutrition, housing and sanitation, since many of them work in the informal sector. They mostly hail from rural areas but live in cities due to work for most of the year. Many have no savings and stayed in factory dormitories, which were shut due to the lockdown.

Migrant workers who decided to stay back during the exodus faced assault from their neighbors, who accused them of being infected with corona virus. They thus could not venture out to buy food. Many also faced police brutality if they ventured out of their homes.

Migrant workers faced with the situation of spending a few days in temporary shelters, which may be quarantine centers, while trying to reach to their native places, they are filled with anxieties and fears stemming from various concerns, and are in need of psycho-social support. The pandemic brought with it lockdowns and travel-bans that were imposed by the governments all over the world as a necessity to tackle the pandemic and to rein in its outspread. However, the lockdown upset the daily routines of the people especially the working class who were put in a major financial predicament.

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.

**OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY**

* To analyse the Socio-Economic impact of Covid-19 pandemics among migrant workers in Coimbatore city.

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The study is based on the empirical research by conduction survey. It is purely based on primary data from 136 respondents following convenience sampling method. Simple percentage analysis has been used as a research tool for analysis of the study. A well-structured questionnaire has been conducted to analyse the socio-economic impact of covid-19 pandemic among migrant workers in Coimbatore City

**ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

**Table 1**

**Challenges Faced by the respondents as a migrant worker**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Challenges** | **Respondents** | **Percentage** |
| Social Exclusion | 90 | 66.18% |
| Inadequate Living condition | 27 | 19.85% |
| Exploitation by middle men | 19 | 13.97% |
| **Total** | **136** | **100** |

**Inference**

From the table it is inferred that majority (66.18%) of the respondents faced social exclusion.

**Table 2**

**Work Mode of the Respondents**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Work** | **Respondents** | **Percentage** |
| Daily work | 70 | 51.47% |
| Concentration work | 42 | 30.88% |
| Residence/House Keeping | 22 | 16.18% |
| Others | 2 | 1.47% |
| **Total** | **136** | **100%** |

**Inference**

From the table it is inferred that majority (51.47%) of the respondents goes for daily work.

**Table 3**

**Reason for Migration of the respondents**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Reason** | **Respondents** | **Percentage** |
| More wages expectation | 55 | 40.44% |
| Employment opportunity | 48 | 35.29% |
| Lack of employment in negative state | 19 | 13.97% |
| Family situation | 14 | 13.97% |
| **Total** | **136** | **100%** |

**Inference**

From the study it is inferred that maximum (40.44%) of the respondents migrated to Coimbatore due to the expectation of more wages.

**Table 4**

**Legal status of the respondents as a migrant worker**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Status** | **Respondents** | **Percentage** |
| Permit worker | 47 | 34.56% |
| Non-permit worker | 28 | 20.59% |
| With in state | 47 | 34.56% |
| Outside state | 14 | 10.29% |
| **Total** | **136** | **100%** |

**Inference**

From the table it is inferred that maximum (34.56%) of the respondents are permit workers and within state workers.

**Table 5**

**Support received during pandemic from government**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Support** | **Respondents** | **Percentage** |
| Personal protective equipment | 39 | 28.68% |
| Free treatment | 34 | 25% |
| Food parcel | 24 | 17.65% |
| Free vaccination | 39 | 28.68% |
| **Total** | **136** | **100%** |

**Inference**

From the table it is inferred that maximum (28.68%) of the respondents received personal protective equipment and free vaccination during Covid-19 from the government.

**CONCLUSION**

There are more than 1.3 lakhs migrant workers stranded in the city of Coimbatore. The study gives an idea about the socio-economic impact by the migrant workers at Coimbatore. From this study, the research has concluded that the language barrier is the most common problem faced by migrant workers. The government must take necessary steps to improve the students of livings, to promote and implement various social security schemes, minimum wages act, pension, medical facilities, loan, educational facilities for their children. Migrant takes place only to increase the standard of living but covid-19 had made a major impact on their living. Internal migrant worker is a vulnerable community for the development of severe, acute and chronic, adverse mental health consequences due to COVID 19 pandemic, through various multidimensional factors, many acting concurrently to cause physical, mental, and socio-economical adversities

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