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POST COVID CHALLENGES IN EDUCATION, INDUSTRY AND DIGITAL ECONOMY

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COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND INTERNAL MIGRATION OF WORKERS IN INDIA

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Abstract

In liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation movement of workers, goods and services are not restricted in normal conditions. Peoples also travel from one country to another with conditions. Economy of every country was seriously affected due to breakout of COVID-19. During the lockdown period big setback to the service industry and affected on employment opportunities. Rate of unemployment is suddenly increased in the lockdown period. Agriculture, mining, poultry, transportation, construction field, taxi, rickshaw, retailers and poor wage earners are remarkable suffered economic losses. During the lockdown period internal migration of workers is started. The movement of people in inter-state or from one district to another is called as internal migration. During the lockdown period the rate of labour migration is increased. Internal factors of migration of workers are job opportunities, low family income, literacy level, low standard of living, agricultural uncertainty, poverty, love and affection of place, fear, food crisis, riots, shelter, trade cycle, closing of industries, famine, marriage and attraction of native place. Reasons of migration during lockdown period are fear of COVID-19 pandemic, worse effect of lockdown, reduction in earning capacity of the workers, jobless, temporary shutdown of industrial and commercial unit, scarcity of essential goods, freezing the source of income, unable to meet routine expenses, unsecured economic and health

environment, unable to pay house rent and special attraction of their native village.

Key Words: Internal Migration, COVID-19 and Pandemic Situation

1. Introduction

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak began in Wuhan city of China and disease spread in different countries and affected the economic development. When novel corona virus breaks out in the world it creates challenges. Lockdown resulted to put restrictions on the movement of people and transportation of goods. That has created fear in the minds of people. Negligence of people and not taking the appropriate preventative measures caused to pandemic situation. At the initial stage of outbreak of novel corona virus people did not use face masks when they are travelling. Appropriate actions at the early stage were not taken in various countries to prevent spread of novel coronavirus. People are taking novel coronavirus casually and are not obeying the rules formed by the government for purchasing of essential goods and services. This approach resulted to wide spread of corona in the world. Government announced one-day voluntary 14 hour's public curfew on 20th March, 2020 as a pre-trial of lockdown. Thereafter on 24th March, 2020 Central Government declared a nationwide 21 days' lockdown from 25th March 2020 to 15th April, 2020, 15th March, 2020 to 3rd May, 2020 called as 2.0 lockdown

period, from 04th May, 2020 to 17th May, 2020 called as 3.0 lockdown period, from 18th May 2020 to 31st May 2020 called as 4.0 lockdown period and it was again further extended from 1st June 2020 to 30th June 2020 called as 5.0 lockdown and extended up to 31 July, 2020 for the preventative measures against COVID-19. The research was carried in this period to understand the reasons and consequences of the internal migration in India. At the early stage it was spread in different regions of the world mainly due to business visitors and tourists. Major reason for the spread of COVID-19 is movement of novel coronavirus patients at international and national level. At the initial stage of novel coronavirus, it rapidly spread around the world due to not taken appropriate precautions. Foreign return person is kept under observation by medical supervision. Every person is required to take action as self-protector. A country which imposes restrictions on movement of population enable to restrict it a better way. Migration of workers resulted negative effects on Indian economy. The negative effects of migration are loss of job opportunities, financial problems, instability in life, mental stress and fear and effects on standard of living. There are some positive effects of migration of workers such as development of brotherhood in the society, reduction of exploitation of workers, experienced freedom and reduce population density in large cities. In future pandemic crisis will be resulted to changes in all sectors. It is a universal phenomenon of migration of workers. Due to the poverty jobless person migrate to large cities but pandemic situation caused reverse migration of workers to the villages.

2. Methodology

In this study the researcher attempted to explain internal migration of workers during the lockdown period.

2.1 Objectives of the study

- The research was carried to understand the causes of migration in India during lockdown period.
- To study the effects of internal migration in India during lockdown period.
- To study the push and pull factors caused for the migration of workers.

2.2 Scope of the Study

The study relates to internal migration of workers in India due to COVID-19 pandemic. Large number of workers migrated from one state to another during lockdown period. It will be attempted to understand the reasons of become jobless and fear and unrest in the mind of workers. The scope of the study confined with only internal migration of workers in India. The period of the study related to only lockdown declared by the Central Government. It covers the study of causes of migration. The research was carried during the nationwide lockdown in five stages.

2.3 Limitations of the Study

- The study is only confined to internal migration of workers.
- Correlated literature on internal migration and COVID-19 pandemic situation were not sufficient available for present study.
- Researcher relies on the questionnaires filled by the respondents in Google Forms.
- The researcher only attempted to analyse the causes and effects of migration during the nationwide lockdown period.

2.4 Source of Data

The researcher collected the data through primary and secondary sources.

2.5 Contribution of the study

- The present study will help to understand the causes and effects of migration of workers.
- The study will assist to formulate policy for efficient administration of internal migration of workers during pandemic.

3. Results and Discussion

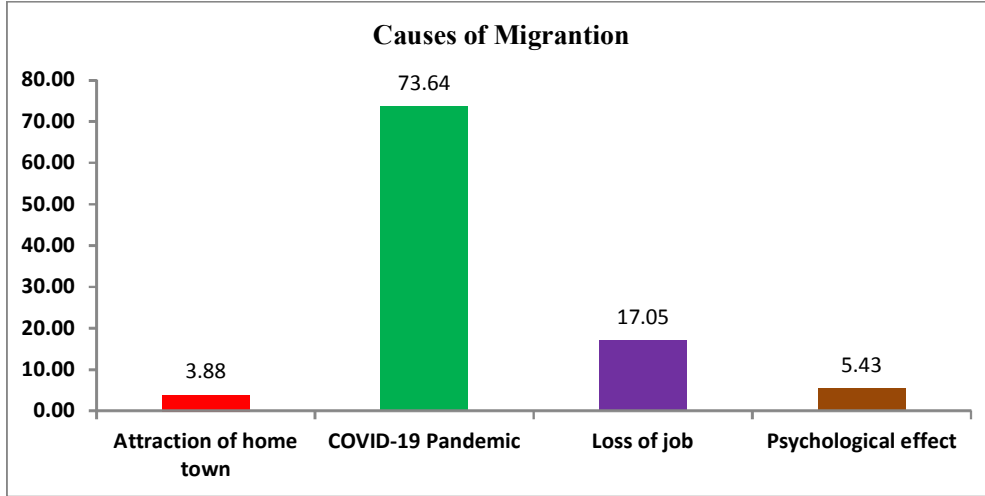
In 1947, people were displaced between India and Pakistan which caused a very serious external migration of people between both the countries. The movement of people from one State to another due to COVID-19 pandemic is the second largest internal reverse migration in India. When lockdown is declared migration of workers started to travel to their native place. But government restricted the movements of workers during phase 1.0 and 2.0 of lockdown but allowed to migration in phase 3.0 and 4.0 of lockdown with some preventative measures. Special trains were arranged to migrant workers for travel to their native place. 826 trains were departed from different parts of the country to leave migrants to their native place. Through train total 990000 migrants travelled up to 5th June 2020. Out of the total train fare, Central Government contribute 85% and rest by State Governments. State of Maharashtra arranged 32000 state transport buses

for the migration purposes. Near about 380000 migrant workers travelled through buses during the phase 4.0 of lockdown. Train and bus facility made available to those workers who have negative test of the COVID-19. Supreme Court of India ordered that not to charge traveling fare from the internal migrants. Huge crowd gathered in the testing canter to acquire the medical report of not having COVID-19 disease. Before migration workers are facing difficulties such as non-availability of means of transportation, shelter, food, drinking water, fear and unrest in the mind, increased prices of essential goods, documents to travel from one state to another. In second phase (2.0) of lockdown inter-state transportation of essential goods were allowed with some restrictions. Each district was sealed to prohibit the movement of population to break the chain of novel coronavirus disease. Central government announced twenty lakh core relief packages to all sectors. Government package will be help to the boost of industry and other sector of the economy. Pandemic affected on global economy and many countries suffered recession. It is a great challenge to all countries to rebuild economy. It also affected of the society. cultural, orthodox and traditions of the society in the lockdown period. The results analysis of respondent's opinion is as follows.

Table No. 1
Cause of Migration of Workers during Lockdown Period in India

Cause	No. of migrants	%	Rank
Attraction of home town	5	3.88	4
COVID-19 Pandemic	95	73.64	1
Loss of job	22	17.05	2
Psychological effect	7	5.43	3
Total	129	100	

Source: Primary data

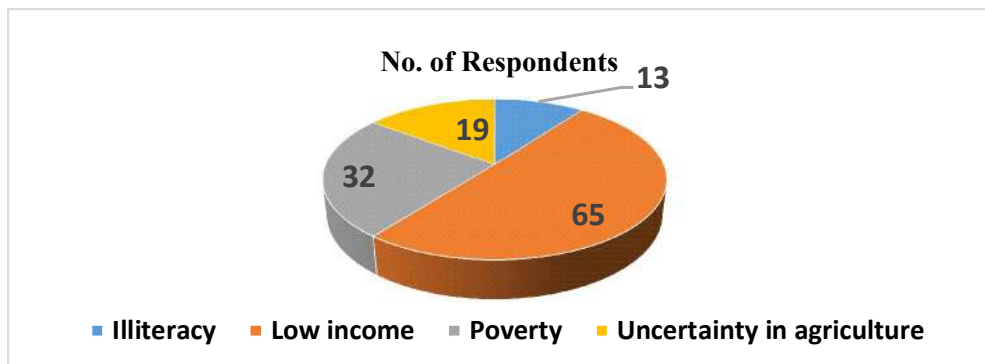
Diagram No. 1

From table no. 1 and diagram, it is observed that nearly 74% workers migrant due to COVID 19. 17% worker migrants because they lost job due to COVID 19 pandemic. Ranking showed that workers migrant due to COVID 19 pandemic.

Table No. 2**Strongest Push Factor for Migration of Worker**

Cause of Migration	No. of Respondents	Rank
Illiteracy	13	4
Low income	65	1
Poverty	32	2
Uncertainty in agriculture	19	3
Total	129	

Source: Primary data

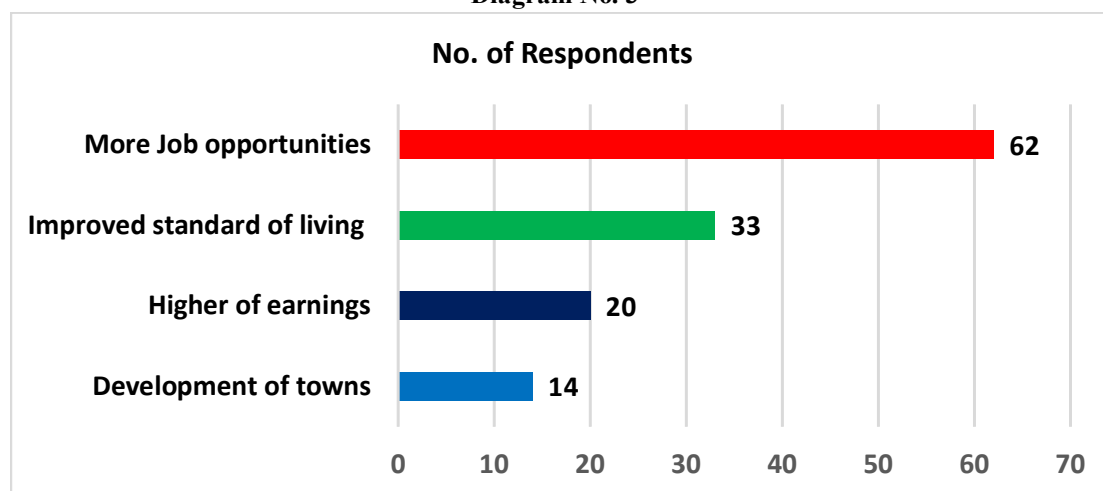
Diagram No. 2

From table no. 2 and diagram, it is observed that 65 respondents reported that strongest push factors of migration are low income of the workers. Then rank poverty, uncertainty in agriculture sector and illiteracy. Hence worker are migrated to their native place.

Table No. 3**Strongest Pull Factor for Migration of Worker**

Strongest Pull Factor for Migration	No. of Respondents
Development of towns	14
Higher of earnings	20
Improved standard of living	33
More Job opportunities	62
Total	129

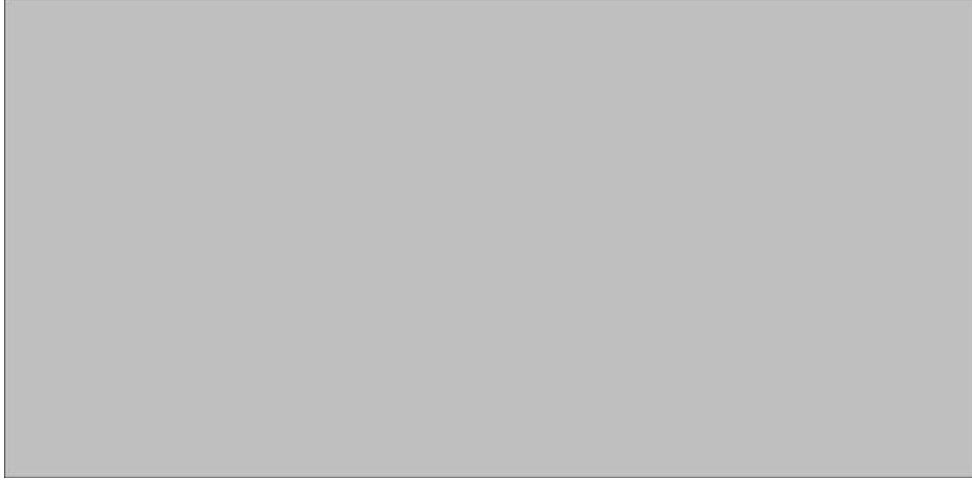
Source: Primary data

Diagram No. 3

From table no. 3 and diagram, it is observed that more job opportunities are strongest pull factor for migration of worker and follow improvement of standard of living.

Table No. 4**Effects of Migration of Workers on Indian Economy**

Response	No of Respondents
Negative Effects	61
None	31
Positive Effects	37
Total	129

Diagram No. 4

From table no. 4 observe that 61 respondents feel that Covid-19 Pandemic situation had negatively affected on the Indian Economy. According to opinion of 37 respondents that pandemic created business opportunities and 31 respondents reported that there is no effect in of pandemic on Indian economy.

4. Findings and Suggestions**4.1 Findings**

1. The movement of industrial workers restricted due to lockdown period. Industrial workers suffered mental and financial problems. Non-availability of industrial job they are going to their native place.
2. During phase 3.0 and 4.0 of lockdown period the Government allowed workers to migrate with some preventative measures.
3. The migration of workers during COVID-19 pandemic caused negative and positive effects on economy and society.
4. Migrant workers preferred walking route to their village due to non-availability of means of transportation.

4.2 Suggestions

1. Social distancing is the way to safe against the coronavirus. It helps to break the chain of coronavirus.
2. When unlock process will be started the original States provide transportation facilities, welfare facilities, collect detailed information of the entering workers and protect the rights of workers of unorganized sector.
3. Government should rigorously think about the regional economic development of the country.
4. Develop well training and financial facilities to the rural agricultural labour for self-employment.

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