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PERSPECTIVES OF MIGRATION: A COMMENTARY**B.V. Patil**Matoshri Bayabai Shripatrao Kadam, Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Kadegaon, Sangli, (MS), India
drbvpan@gmail.com**ABSTRACT**

This paper addresses the challenges of migration of workers during the lockdown period. When lockdown was declared a production of goods and services hampered due to non-availability of the human resources. In India, five times nationwide lockdown was declared by the Central Government. Apart from this State Governments has declared lockdown to control the pandemic situation. Migrant faced multiple hardship during the lockdown. The motion of economic activities is slowdown. Workers become jobless. In the lockdown financial position of the workers were badly affected. They were unable to maintain the standard of living in the cities. Workers migrated to their native place. In the lockdown means of transportation were banned. Workers were unable to adopt the economic and health environment and started reverse migration from town to their native place. Migrant workers faced problem of transportation, e-pass for cross of district and State borders, food and shelter during the migration. The rights of the migrant workers were neglected during the lockdown period. Evidence based policy is essential of the efficient management of the migration during the lockdown period.

Keywords: Migration, COVID-19 and Pandemic

1. Introduction

Under Covid-19 circumstances the global economy is facing different challenges. Workers who were working in the factories, service sector were locked in the home in pandemic situation. NGO's, doctors, actors, politician and police came forward to shed tears of migrants during lockdown period. The declaration of lockdown depends on the cases of Covid-19 patient. Lockdown has seriously affected on the economic development of the country, production of goods and services and availability of labours. Consumption pattern of the society are suddenly changed in the lockdown. In the market essential goods were not sufficiently available to consumer. Economic relationship of producers, supplies and consumer is disturbed in pandemic situation. Meat market is totally collapsed due to rumours. Poultry industry was a serious victim of fake news. Poultry owner selling one hen only for rupees ten but consumers were not willing to purchase at that time. Farmers were badly affected in the lockdown. The whole attention of the Government is on control of pandemic situation. Government is playing its role to curb Covid-19 and expecting the cooperation from the society. The Migration of workers are affected on the industrial development of the country. Lockdown and economic development are two opposite

situation and Government attempting to balance it. Root cause of the migration of workers is Covid-19 situation. Economic, financial, psychological factors affected on the workers during lockdown. Pandemic situation and restrictions on the movement of workers generate the fear in the minds of the workers. The unfortunate reality is that there has been increase the rate of the migration during the Covid-19 pandemic situation. The migration of workers creates problematic situation which affected of the Indian economy. The workers are the backbone of and industrial and commercial activities. Migration of workers badly affected on the entrepreneurial, production, service and marketing of goods and services. Micro, small and medium enterprises were negative effect of the migration. Due to non-availability skilled workers during lockdown, production units closed for temporary period. Large number of workers migrated from one state to another during lockdown period. Due to jobless, fear of Covid-19 and unrest among workers they started to migrate in the lockdown period.

2. Review of Literature

S. Mohanakumar (2018)¹ in his book review sum up that trend and pattern of migration in Punjab is a paradox. The wage rate and regular employment attract labour to Punjab.

Neena Malhotra and Pushpa Devi, (2016)², in their study found that migration was the highest in Maharashtra. Net migration rate was the highest for Maharashtra followed by Haryana, Punjab and Gujarat. They concluded that per capita credit to industrial sector indicates the positive relation with volume of in migration of workers and population below poverty line and percentage of irrigated area shows significant relation with volume of out migration.

Piyasiri Wickramasekara (2008)³, concluded that governments, employers, workers, NGOs, academics, mass media need to work together for the benefit for the migrant workers.

3. Methodology

In this study the researcher used descriptive research design to explain the major problems faced by the migrant workers during the lockdown period. The data had processed by using graphical presentation and percentage to bring out the results of migration of workers.

3.1 Aims and Objectives

1. To study the main difficulties faced by the migrant workers during migration in pandemic situation.
2. To suggest appropriate way to manage migration of workers in pandemic situation.
3. To study the government initiatives in management of migration situation during lockdown period.

3.2. Research Design

Descriptive research design is used to study the internal migration of the workers in India during lockdown period. In this researcher attempted to understand the phenomenon of migration of workers caused by COVID-19 pandemic.

3.3. Scope of the Study

This article focusses on issues regarding the effect of Covid-19 on migrants. The study attempted to understand Indian perspectives of migration in covid-19 pandemic. It concerned to the migrant who migrated in Indian territories due to Covid-19. It enlightens the major problems faced by the migrant during lockdown. The study relates to management of migration of workers in COVID-90 pandemic.

Scope of the study was limited to migration of workers in India. The period of the study concerned to lockdown. Attempt was made to understand causes of migration and attempt to suggest remedies. It also covers the efforts taken by the Government for managing migration. The research was carried during the nationwide lockdown.

3.4. Limitations of the Study

The study confined to understand problems faced by the migrant workers in India. The results drawn on the basis of the questionnaires filled by the respondents in Google Forms.

3.5. Source of Data

For the present study researcher depends on the primary and secondary data. Primary data was collected through discussion. Discussion is mostly concerned the migration and lockdown situation. The researcher observes migration of workers. Additional observation concerned to role governments and individuals helping hands. A well-structured questionnaire is prepared in Google Forms and circulated. Secondary data is collected through Government circulations, newspapers, periodicals, research articles and Web sites related to COVID-19 and migration.

3.6 Expected contribution of the study

The study helps to understand the problems of migrant workers. It will be useful to Government for efficient administration of migration of workers during lockdown.

4. Results and Discussion

During the strict implementation of lockdown, transportation facilities were not available. Many of workers preferred walking route to their village. Some migrants started using bicycles to go their village. Migrant were crowded on the way for any transport facility but due to lockdown all means of transportation are banned. Due to close boundaries of the district, migrants are not permitted to enter one district from another. Receiving States are unwilling to accept the migrant workers easily. After entered in the district they are kept in institutional quarantine for fourteen days. The journey of the migrant was very difficult and painful. Migrants are

carrying only essential goods in the way of traveling. The workers of are going to their native place by walking from one state to another. The NGOs and individual person provide road side assistance to the migrants when they were in difficult situation. Food pockets, water bottle, milk to the children to the migrations were provided. No vehicle is available for the lift to the migrant. Day by day they are walking with a positive mind that one day they can reach their village. Migrants travelled by trucks, containers, tanker and rickshaw. The traveling experience is horrible and painful. They start waking in the early morning and in the night and rest in the afternoon due to high heat. Migrants were traveling in miserable condition and on life-threatening journey. In some area of Bombay people are afraid of using common toilets and they are under fear. They are facing shortage of money due to job deprivation. In the month of May, 2020 Supreme Court said that railway and State Government don't charge any

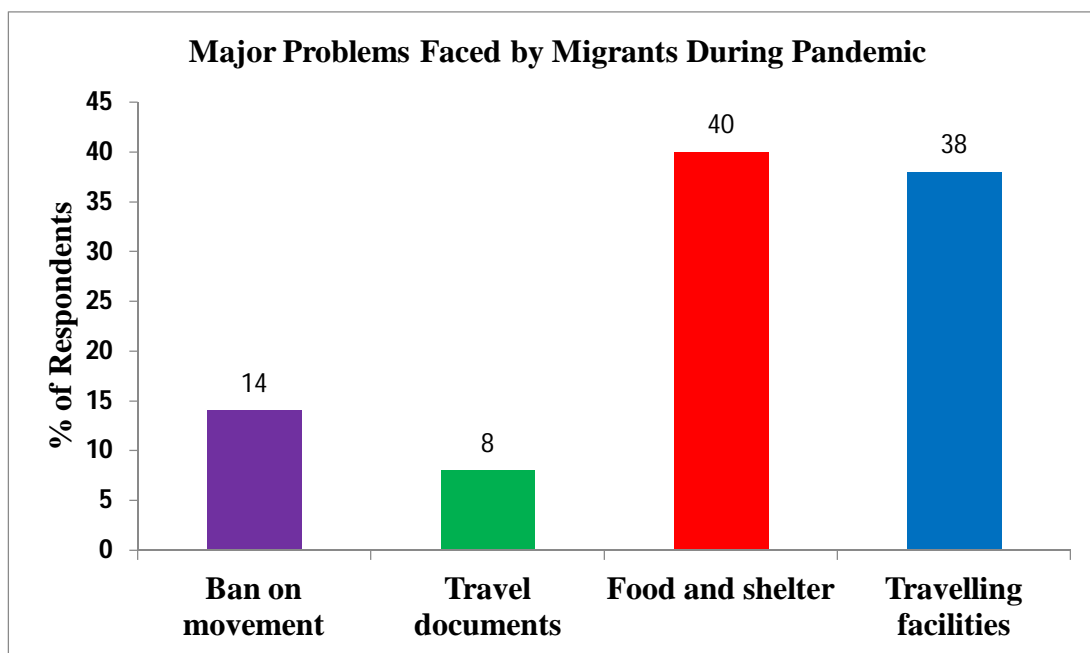
amount from migrant workers during lockdown period. Migrant eyes are full of tears. The history of each migrant worker is different. Migrant workers are human assets and require to utilize their skill. The tears in the eye of migrants indicates the serious situation they are facing whiling walking towards their native place. A well-structured questionnaire is prepared in Google Forms and circulated for data collection. Total 129 respondents filled questionnaire related to migration of workers during lockdown period. The results analysis of respondent's opinion was as follows.

Table No. 1: Main Difficulty Faced by Migrant Worker

Major Problems	Frequency	% of Respondents
Ban on movement	18	14
Documents for travelling	10	8
Food and shelter	52	40
Travelling facilities	49	38
Total	129	100

Source: Primary data

Diagram No. 1

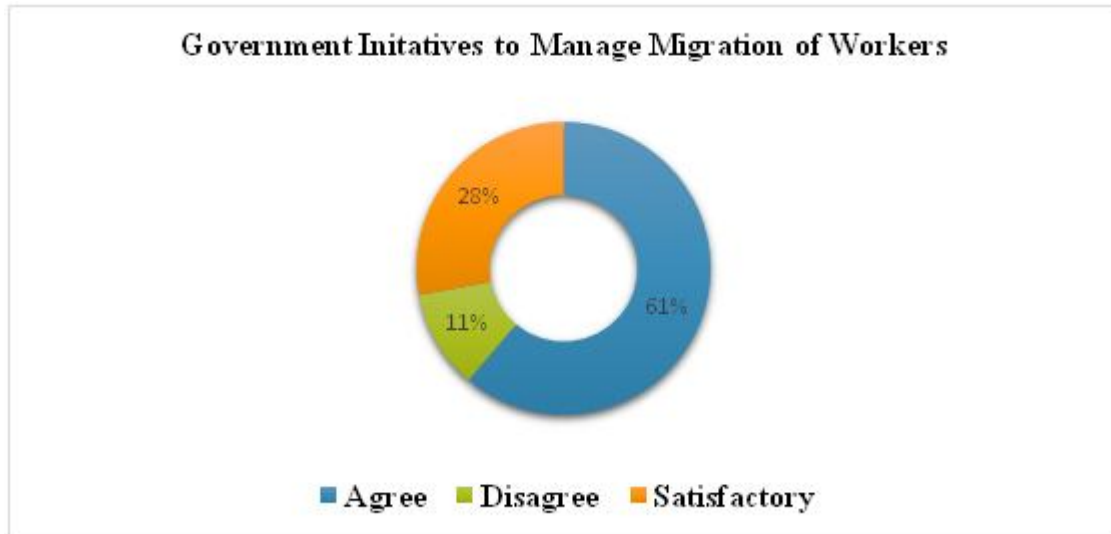


From table no. 1 and diagram, it is observed that in a said period of COVID 19 Pandemic major problem faced by workers as a food and shelter and travelling facilities.

Table No.2: Government Initiatives to Manage Migration of Worker

Response	Frequency	% of Respondents
Agree	79	61
Disagree	14	11
Satisfactory	36	28
Total	129	100

Diagram No. 2



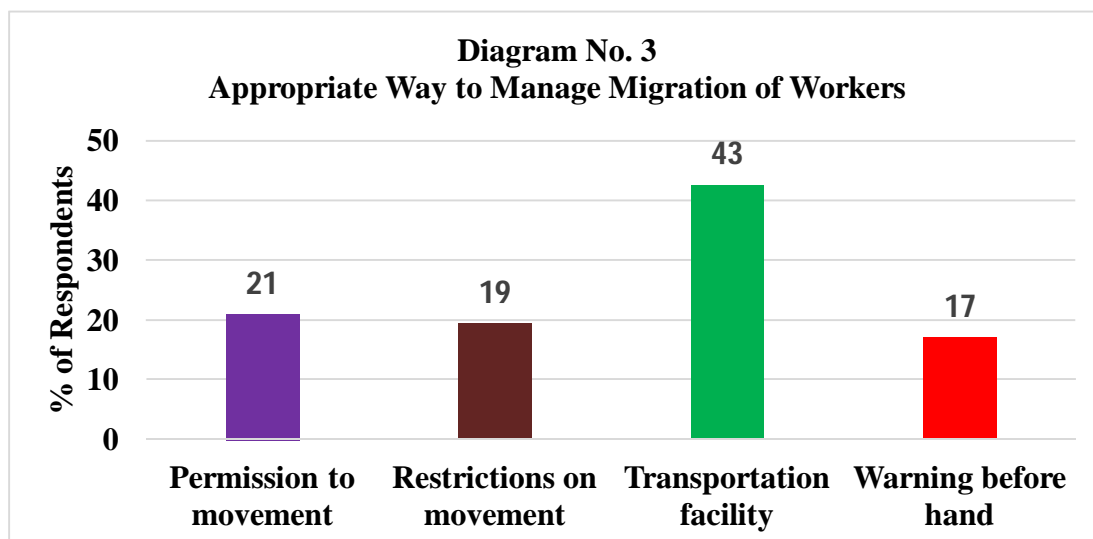
From table no. 2 and diagram, it is observed that 79 respondents agreed with appropriate initiatives taken by the Government. 36 respondents satisfactory about the government

initiatives to better administration of migration of workers. Only 14 respondents are disagreed with government initiatives.

Table No. 3: Appropriate Way to Manage Migration of Workers in Pandemic

Way to Manage Migration	Frequency	% of Respondents
Permission to movement	27	20.93
Restrictions on movement	25	19.38
Transportation facility	55	42.64
Warning before hand	22	17.05
Total	129	100

Source: Primary data



From table no. 3 and diagram, it was observed that 43 respondents suggested that Government should provide transportation facility for migrant workers at early stage of migration. 21 respondents suggested that workers should be

allowed to travel to their native place. 19 respondents agree with imposing strict restrictions on movement of workers. 17 respondents suggested that Government should require to early warning for pandemic situation

and allowed time to travelling from one place to another place.

5. Suggestions and Conclusions

5.1 Suggestions

1. From the researcher's point of view, it is suggested that issue of migration of industrial workers handled appropriately. Government requires to take initiatives to provide food, accommodation and transportation facilities to the migrating workers.
2. Receiving States collect data of migrant workers, analyse it and use for policy formulation for migrants.
3. The receiving state utilize migrant workers as an opportunity. Develop require infrastructure to provide the job to them.
4. The receiving States develop a separate department for the social welfare, training and optimum utilization skill of migrant workers.
5. The receiving States develop labour market information system that will be useful to the workers and other sectors for recruitment of workers according to their skill.

6. The receiving States is required to give assured trust of job in the State and implement aggressive plan of action for creation of job opportunities.
7. Effective implementation of migration governance in the India is essential.
8. Cooperation between the different States is urgent need for the better policy formulation regarding to migration.

5.2 Conclusions

Migrant labour force is the human asset of the nation and use it appropriate ways for economic development. The seeds of the internal and external migration are in the underutilization of available natural, financial and human resource. Migration is occurred due to unemployment, poverty, attraction of higher wage, improve standard of living, industrial development, to seek more bright future and business opportunities. COVID-19 pandemic caused reverse internal migration of workers from town to village to save the lives and not earn money or employment. The attempts of Government to control pandemic is highly appreciable. The work of various departments such as health, police, water supply, rationing and transportation is remarkable.

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