

CHAPTER 9: IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON LABOUR

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INTRODUCTION

On 24 March 2020, at 8 p.m., the Prime Minister of India announced a nationwide lockdown, which was to be implemented after merely 4 hours. It was a sudden announcement, without any preparatory guidelines, or roadmap, addressing even elementary concerns of support for those whose livelihoods had been threatened; this accounted for more than 90% of the workforce in the country's unorganized/informal segments, including daily wage workers, of which a significant share consisted of migrant workers. By all accounts, it was the world's most draconian 'shock and awe' COVID-19 lockdown, where masses in general and an overwhelming majority of workers were left to their own fate. It was this 'betrayal' of the regime that resulted in the unprecedented, tragic and desperate mobility of hundreds of thousands of utterly vulnerable workers, whose jobs had suddenly disappeared and who had been abandoned by the state. This was the context of a large-scale defiance of the lockdown by the migrant workers, starting barely 3 days after the announcement of the lockdown and widely captured by the media. The images of distress and exodus of workers, clutching their meager belongings, often carrying children and elderly on their shoulders and backs and trudging hundreds and thousands of kilometers', determined to somehow reach their 'home', were reported both in the print and visual media for several weeks for the subsequent period.

LITERATURE REVIEW

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. Thousands of them then began walking back home, with no means of transport due to the lockdown. In response, the Central and State Governments took various measures to help them, and later arranged transport for them. 198 migrant workers died due to the lockdown, with reasons of road accidents.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study uses data from the conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), India for the period July 2020. The PLFS (Periodic Labor Force Survey) data provide the socio-economic and demographic information for a sample of 101 households comprising 287 individuals in rural and urban areas across some cities. The primary focus of the survey is to provide information on the economic activity status of all household members including their occupation and industry of work. This dataset also enables us to look at the status of workers from multiple perspectives such as enterprise type, location of work and social security benefits. The occupation codes are available at three-digit level based on National Classification of Occupations (NCO) and the industry of work codes are available at five-digit level based on National Industrial Classification (NIC). The information on non-farm workers in the working age (15–59 years) is based on their usual principal and subsidiary status of work. Sample weights provided in the dataset are used to derive population estimates.

FINDINGS

S.NO*	Unemployed	labour suffered	Total
1Male	25	5	30
2Female	17	3	20

Source: Primary source (ground level research)

This research reveals that the labor suffered during this pandemic. Most of them become homeless and they have no money to eat. They are not get any work during this pandemic by which the most of labour family get unemployed.

Government provides daily essential to maids or labor. Government provides labor, labor or lower people how to survive in this pandemic situation. Government provides some facilities to domestic workers in this pandemic situation like “PRADHAN MANTRI JAN DHAN YOJANA”. An announcement by the Government, those domestic workers who had Jan Dhan account got Rs 500 per month. The resident welfare associations (RWA) have mandated that domestic workers work only in one household, with entry time restrictions to housing societies, while requiring the domestic workers to manage masks, hand sanitizers and other protective material from their own money.

SUGGESTIONS

Most homes rely significantly on domestic workers for their daily cooking, cleaning, and caretaking requirements, especially in urban and semi-urban areas around the country. There is no current statistics on the actual number of domestic workers in India, however according to the National Sample Survey, many people, mostly women, are employed as domestic workers by private houses. However, because these ladies are unable to work due to the lockout, their bosses are wasting no time in making them feel disposable. Many of these people have lost their employment, many have gotten pay cuts for March salary and may not receive any in April, and a small number are still being forced to work, particularly in rural regions.

- Keep your hands away from your eyes.
- If you're unwell, stay at home.
- Frequently touched surfaces and items should be cleaned and disinfected.
- Ensure that the workplace is clean and sanitary.

CONCLUSION

This study endeavors to give a convenient examination of the work market with an attention on distinguishing the impact of COVID-19 pandemic actuated lockdown and the ensuing stoppage. We recognize different gatherings of laborers in the work market who might be to a great extent unaffected, the individuals who might be presented to higher gamble (particularly following social removing) and the people who might be the weakest arrangement of laborers in the pandemic situation. The key focus points are as per the following.

In the first place, in the fallout of the lockdown and with social removing being the standard, the chance of telecommuting or distant areas will be quite possibly the most wanted qualities of the laborer. Ladies have higher offer than men in such occupations and they are to a great extent gathered in metropolitan regions. We additionally observe that a few occupations are more hazardous than others with regards to openness to human connection. Close to half of the workforce is utilized in high-chance and medium-risk occupations. Contingent upon the piece of laborers by the gamble level of their positions, certain businesses are more impacted than others. Involving the last two deciles as intermediary for unfortunate families, we view that as of provincial and of metropolitan non-ranch laborers can be ordered as defenseless, with no good work. The vast majority of them are either independently employed or relaxed specialists and to a great extent with next to no friendly security.

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