

Impact of Covid 19 On Poor and Migrant Labourers of India

Pritam Chatterjee¹ Megha Chatterjee²

¹(Department Of Economics, Sarojini Naidu College For Women, India)

²(Department Of Economics, Sarojini Naidu College For Women, India)

Abstract: *The internal migrant workers in India, despite being highly vulnerable in terms of physical and mental health, have remained the backbone of the Indian economy. The main idea of this paper is impact of covid 19 on poor and migrant labourers of India. This paper discussed some of the important issues regarding the effect of epidemics like Covid-19 on the migrant population and also a comprehensive analysis of Poverty of India. It mentioned what is the concept of migrant workers in India. We also analyse the rate of unemployment of different states of India. We can see that the unemployment rate of urban area is quite higher than rural area. Besides, this paper told about the number of migrants of different state of India and also showed a bar diagram in this context. Here we used two types of statistical tools. One is power regression and another is descriptive statistics. By the method of regression, we compares the scenario of poverty growth rate of both 2011 and 2021 with respect to population data of India's different states, where we can easily see that the growth rate of poverty is quite higher in 2021 than 2011. From this we can conclude that this pandemic has worsened the condition of migrants as well as poor people. On the other hand, descriptive statistics analysis said about the migrants of different states. After analysing those result, our conclusion is that the sudden outbreak of the covid-19 pandemic has adversely affected the society, economy and agriculture and thus have significantly challenge achieving the target of eradicating poverty in India.*

Keywords- *Migrant Labour, Economy, Poverty, Development, Covid 19*

Date of Submission: 26-08-2021

Date of Acceptance: 10-09-2021

I. INTRODUCTION:

Coronavirus, a special type of harmful virus. Scientists first identified a coronavirus in 1965. It causes common cold symptoms like fever, runny noses etc. Some of the coronaviruses infected animals, including bats, camels and cattle. But how did SARS-CoV-2, the new corona virus that causes covid-19, came into existence?

However, it remains unclear exactly how the virus came and rapidly spread to human beings. There are different viewpoints about origin of SARS-CoV-2. Experts said that SARS-CoV-2 originated in bats, though there is not sufficient evidence regarding this matter. Scientists suspects that Wuhan's open market is the 'Culprit' area from where the virus rapidly spread. The place is so congested where customers buy fresh meat and fish, including animals that are killed on the spot. Crowded conditions can let viruses from different animals swap genes. Wuhan, however, is home of the Wuhan Institute of Virology, a leading world center for research on coronavirus. So the possibility that the SARS2 virus had escaped from the lab could not be ruled out. Two reasonable scenarios of origin were on the table

The first cases of Covid 19 reported in December 2019 at Wuhan, a city in the Hubei province of China. Gradually SARS-CoV-2 spread both inside and outside China, it infected people who have no direct contact with each other. It is started to spreading in US and around the globe. On 11th March 2020 World Health Organisation (WHO) declared covid-19 a pandemic that occurs when a disease that people aren't immune to spread across large regions. The most common way that this illness spreads is through close contact (within around 6 feet) with someone who has the infection. The disease is most contagious when a person's symptoms are more severe. However, it is possible for someone without symptoms unknowingly spread the virus. Few months later, the virus gradually becomes so deadly so that the death tolls increasing rapidly. Most of the countries have confirmed cases of covid 19 (It is important to note that covid-19 is new, and research is still ongoing. There may also be other ways that new coronavirus can spread).

However, India Reported the first confirmed case of the coronavirus infection on 30th January, 2020 in the State of Kerala. The affected had a travel history from Wuhan, China. Gradually, new cases were started being reported in multiple cities such as New Delhi, Maharashtra, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Patna, West Bengal and so on. West Bengal has reported its first positive case of coronavirus as a student who returned from UK, tested positive. First death due to coronavirus in India was reported in Karnataka on 12 March, 2020.

Due to covid-19 pandemic in India it was ordered a 14-hour voluntary public curfew on 22 March, 2020 followed by a 21 days nationwide lockdown evening of 24 March 2020 by our Honourable Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi. The objective behind this movement is to limiting movement of the entire 138 crore population of India as a preventive measure against the covid-19 pandemic in India (Although the lockdown was not properly planned). Experts stated that the lockdown had slowed the growth rate of pandemic by 6 April to a rate of doubling every six days and by 18 April to a rate of doubling every eight days. As the end of the first lockdown period, state governments and other advisory committees recommended to extend lockdown because conditions were worsen.

This lockdown can cause a bad effects of poor people and migrant labourers. Entire transportation system were stopped due to the lockdown. So, different migrant labourers trapped in different cities. They wanted to come back to their hometowns and villages so they could be with their families but they couldn't. Most of the state's government, however, not even managed a minimum transport for them. The plight of migrant labours in India during lockdown has shown fault lines not only in the economy but in the society too. The pandemic has worsened the condition of migrants in India as it has put the severe challenges to poverty eradication programmes and increasing the income of farmers. The police behaves rudely to this poor migrant labourers.

The incident have shown a spotlight the plight of millions of poor Indians who migrate from villages to cities in search of livelihood- and how the lockdown has left them stranded away from home, with no jobs or money. One critic said the mismanagement of the migrant crisis and the treatment of its poorest citizens during the pandemic could be India's shame.

For a nation that managed to cut poverty sharply from 2011 to 2019, the coronavirus pandemic in 2020 came as a rude shock. India witnessed one of the sharpest drops in GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth rate among emerging economies due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The poor bore the brunt of the economic contraction that India saw last year. As part of the study, Pew Research estimated that the number of poor people- with income less than \$2(Rs 150) or less in a day- in the country increased from 6 crores to 13.4 crores. Therefore, the number of poor people increased in India by almost 7.5 crores last year.

The vast majority of India's population fall into the low income tier, earning about Rs. 150 to 700 per day. Pew's projections suggest this group shrank from 119.7 crore to 116.2 crore per day, with about 3.5 crore dropping below the poverty line. The middle income group is likely to have decreased from almost 10 crore to just 6.6 crore, while the richer population who earn more than Rs. 1500 a day also fell almost 30% to 1.8 crore people. A large section of rural residents could cushion the blow of pandemic-driven economic disruption due to food grain via the Public Distribution System (PDS). The urban poor's access to such ration, however, was minimal, according to the report compiled by Hunger Watch. The report, released 6 May, 2021, showed that on average, urban respondents reported a 15% point worse condition than their rural counterparts across all important parameters. Things were much worse for socially vulnerable groups such as households headed by single woman, households with people having disabilities, transgender people and old people with caregivers. In this paper, our objective is to analyse the impact of Covid 19 in India's poor people and migrant labourers.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Sahni & Rawal (2020) explained in their paper about the new covid-19 disease and the response of India to covid-19. They also explained about migrant labourers in India, the plight of rural migrants in India and India's poverty profile. Besides, they stated about the issues and impact of covid-19 on rural migrants and about the government initiatives in this case. In view of its statement they used the World Bank data for India's poverty profile and data of Ministry of Finance, GOI and Press Release for government initiatives.

Ranjan (2021) explained the impact of covid-19 on migrant labourers on India and China in his paper. This paper compares the plight of migrant labourers of both India and China in the current pandemic situation to contextualises the causes of this misery in the broader framework of land reform and capability to absorb them in rural economy in both countries. Here agricultural income and poverty alleviation are also explained. In this paper he used NABARD (2018) data for the income of rural household of India and China. Besides, his used data sources is from Lok Sabha (2015), Ministry of Finance (2017), National Bureau of Statistics, China (2019) etc.

Khanna (2020) discussed some of the important issues regarding the effect of epidemics like covid-19 on the migrant population. His focus is on predicted global recession and the impact of this recession on workforce. The migration and employment conditions in India and the future policies are also explained here. For Percent distribution of migrant workers by type of migration and percentage of migrant workers in India by occupation he used Census (2011) data. He used Periodic Labour Force Survey (2017-2018) data and report of Mehrotra and Parida (2019) for explaining different employment generation of India and data of SARVEKSHANA (2019) for stating the situation of employment in India now.

Rajan et. al(2020) explained about the internal migration in India and women migrants and pertinent challenges. Mental health crisis of migrants and their social security provisions are stated in this paper. They proposed some suitable measures to better managing the future of internal migration. For this paper they used the data of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, ILO, National Commission for Women (2020), The Hindu (2020) etc.

Azeez E P et. al (2020) stated the Indian migrant women workers' experience of the covid-19 pandemic. Besides they discussed the compromise in different areas of their lives and captivity and burden of responsibility. They also explained about the emotional geographies of covid-19 and the insufficient support from government and other sources. However, they used data from UNICEF, The Hindu (2020), ILO (2020), UN Women (2020), among others.

Singh (2020) explained that how covid-19 effected on rural economy in India. He explained the overview of the economy, the health infrastructure of India, theoretical linkages of covid-19 and the economy, Indian agriculture and issues and challenges. He also described the future challenges and policy options. For this article he collected data from WHO, Central Statistical Organisation, NITI Ayog, World Bank. Besides, He used Food and Agricultural Organistaion and National Crime Bureau of India's data.

As Covid-19 is still going on, research is also going on. In this paper, our focus is on impact of covid- 19 and its consequences on migrant labourers as well as poor peoples of India.

III. IMPACT OF COVID-19 IN INDIA:

The corona virus disease (covid-19) pandemic, which originated in the city of Wuhan, China, has quickly spread to various countries, with many cases having been reported worldwide. So far, more than 212 countries and territories have confirmed cases of SARS CoV-2 infection. On January 30, 2020 afternoon when Kerala's Health Minister K.K.Shylaja made an announcement that the first novel coronavirus infection in India (from the state of Kerala). Victim is a medical student from Wuhan, none could have imagined it was just the beginning of a long innings with a lesser known virus. Gradually, Cases began climbing in India as people began returning home from abroad.

In April, 2020 Dharavi, the largest slum in India, situated at Maharashtra, was a covid-19 hotspot. By the end of April, there were as many as 491 positive cases with a doubling period of 18 days. In May, the area saw 1,216 cases with over 56 deaths. Like Maharashtra New Delhi, Gujrat, West Bengal etc. were reported to be so many positive cases.

Out of 32 states and 8 union territories in India, 26 states and 6 union territories reported covid-19 cases. Additionally, the health ministry identified 130 districts as hotspot zones or red zones (if a particular district has over 15 cases, then it will be considered a hotspot, and be classified as a red zone), 284 as orange zones (For districts whose COVID-19 cases are below 15 and don't seem to be increasing at present, they will be labelled orange zones) and 319 as green zones (Green zones will be the districts with zero COVID-19 cases) as of May 4th, 2020. As of May 8th, 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) had documented 56,342 (approx.) positive covid-19 cases in India. This is still ongoing and the covid-19 cases is increasing in India regularly [As of June 2021 India's covid-19 caseload now stands above 2.5 crores (approx.)].

However, India, with a population of more than 1.34 billion-the second largest population in the world, face some difficulty to control the transmission of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 among its population. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of India has raised awareness about the recent outbreak and has taken necessary actions to control the spread of covid-19. The central and state governments are taking several measures and implementing several wartime protocols to achieve this goal. Moreover, the Indian government implemented a 55-days lockdown throughout the country that started from March 24th, 2020, to break the transmission chain of the virus.

A damaging impact on an economy as large as India's caused due to a total lockdown was eminent. Long time lockdown resulted in the job losses, specifically those Indian society's lower economic strata. Several households terminated their domestic help services- essentially an unorganised monthly-paying job. So, unemployment climbed up to 23.5% in April 2020 and remained at 21.7% in May. This was possibly a result of a decrease in demand as well as the disruption of workforce faced by companies. Furthermore, this caused a GVA loss of more than 9% for the India economy that month. But according to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) data, the unemployment rate was recorded at 6.9% in February 2021 which is better than last year. But by 23rd May, it increased to 10.63% and 14.73%, marking an unprecedented level in rural and urban unemployment level respectively.

On the other hand, in 2020, covid-19 has also exposed the vulnerability of urban casual workers, many of whom are migrant labours. In most urban units, the jobs are linked with accommodation at workplace and the unemployment may have forced those workers to leave their shelters as well. With no other alternatives, they are forced to return their hometowns or villages in desperation. With limited data available on inter-state

migration and employment in informal sectors, it is difficult to figure the numbers of migrants who lost jobs and accommodation during the pandemic and returned homes. However, using different available data sets, they are at least 5 million or possibly much higher, as per Indian Labour Organisation's (ILO) rapid assessment.

These migrant workers demanded to the respective governments to arrange transport to send them back as all public transports were suspended due to lockdown. In the western st Gujarat, hundreds of textile workers protested in Surat city, demanding passage home. A day later, there was outrage in the capital, Delhi, when several hundred migrants were discovered living under a bridge along the Yamuna river. The river here resembles a sewer and the bank is strewn with rubbish.

In this condition, a large number of the migrants and their families- disappointed and helpless- began undertaking their journeys on foot. Media reports said around 238 people died undertaking these journeys. Analysis of this data shows that the reasons for migrant workers' deaths during their homeward journeys include: heart attack, stomach pain, blood vomiting, exhaustion, dehydration, hunger, breathlessness, among others.

The problem of migrant workers may not be entirely unique to India, but the sheer scale- there are more than 40 million migrant labourers across the country- makes it difficult to provide relief to everyone.

IV. DEFINITION OF MIGRANT LABOURERS IN INDIA

"Directly employed, self-employed also 'migrant workers' under Modi govt's new definition", 23 July 2020

The Narendra Modi government has decided to expand the definition of 'inter-state migrant worker' to ensure that no one gets left out of the social security net in the future..

The definition will now include all workers whose monthly family income is less than Rs 18,000, and who go to another state and get directly employed or self-employed.

...The 1979 law defines a migrant worker as one who is recruited by or through a licensed contractor in one state for employment in an establishment in another state.

It also defined an 'inter-state migrant worker' as any person who is recruited by an employer or a contractor in one state for employment in an establishment situated in another state.

Then, on 20 July, the panel further recommended the inclusion of self-employed migrant workers in the definition...

Lakhs of migrant workers lost their livelihoods when the factories and businesses they worked in shut down, and in the absence of money, shelter and food, the workers started leaving for their homes in faraway villages, mostly on foot.

The government intervened after facing flak and announced relief packages offering free foodgrains, but the aid did not reach many, as they were not registered in any official records.

V. METHODOLOGY AND DATA

In this project,our objective is to analyse Impact of covid 19 on migrant labourers of India.For this purpose,our primary objective is to analyse the statewise migrant workers details.As per Ministry of Labour database,we are able to form a statewise picture of migrant workers details(See table 1)

Coronavirus pandemic brought the economy of India to a halt over the past one year, and numerous people have lost their jobs, especially women. A recent study in Delhi found that in eight months, the unemployment rate in the national capital increased by 17%, with about 83% of women respondents choosing to permanently opt out of participating in the workforce. A similar trend has been observed throughout the country, and this at a time when the participation of women was already declining in the workforce with each passing year.

As per Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) estimates, between mid-2016 and early 2020, the female labour participation rate, which is the percentage of women working out of all women falling in the working age, fell from 16.4% to about 11%. And now, it has been estimated that this number might have further been pushed this figure down to 9% due to the pandemic.

To look into the Unemployment scenarios,we are collecting Data from Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)databases.Our time period is January 2020 to May 2021.To analyse the worsening impact of unemployment, we want to analysethemonthwise (From Jan-20 to May-21)and statewise unemployment data of India.Lastly,we analyse, with the help of a table aggregate rural and urban employment rate.Monthwise unemployment results are also analysed graphically(As it is very difficult to include each month's unemployment rate in a graphical representation,we are graphically analysed overall unemployment rate of India(Including Rural and Urban-as shown by chart 2)We are also analysed statewise population and poor peoples(percentage of people under BPL) as our project is based on migrant labours as well as poor peoples of India.Lastly,a regression analysis is done to compare the poverty situation in India in 2011 and 2021.Also a Descriptive Statistics analysis is done to understand the overall scenario of migrant labourers in India

Table-1-Statewise List of Migrant Workers

STATE	NUMBER OF MIGRANT WORKERS
CHHATTISGARH	10.86L
KERALA	2.87L
MAHARASHTRA	2.01L
TAMIL NADU	1.93L
TELANGANA	1.84L
ANDHRA PRADESH	1L
RAJASTHAN	92883
KARNATAKA	88852
ODISHA	56622
HARYANA	48195
GUJARAT	47566
UTTAR PRADESH	36421
ASSAM	25926
DELHI	20783
JHARKHAND	16616
UTTARAKHAND	9650
MADHYA PRADESH	9621
TRIPURA	8201
NAGALAND	7762
BIHAR	7719
GOA	7678
HIMACHAL PRADESH	5541
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	3057
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS	2472
PUNJAB	2040
PUDUCHERRY	2031
WEST BENGAL	1867
MIZORAM	768
MEGHALAYA	1864
CHANDIGARH	1199

Source-Ministry Of Labour Data

Analysis-Immigrants are potentially in a more vulnerable position in the labour market due to their generally less stable employment conditions and lower seniority on the job. Studies also suggest that discrimination strongly increases in times of a slack labour market, while networks of contacts- of which migrants have fewer- become more relevant for finding a job..

Now consider the following Table.While the focus has been on big metropolitan centres in the country with regard to the issue of migrant workers being stranded as a result of the covid-19 pandemic, Ministry of Labour data shows that Chhattisgarh has the largest number of such workers, followed by Kerala and then Maharashtra. Mizoram has lowest number of Migrant Workers.

According to the data released by the Chief Labour Commissioner(CLC), which falls under the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment, over 26 lakhs migrant workers are present in 33 states and union territories. The preliminary data released by the CLC following a rap from the Central Information Commission accounts for 26,17,218 migrant workers spread across the country.

Chhattisgarh has the maximum number of workers at 10.86 lakhs, followed by Kerala at 2.87 lakhs, Maharashtra at 2.01 lakhs, Tamil Nadu at 1.93 lakhs, Telangana at 1.84 lakhs and Andhra Pradesh at one lakh. A majority of the labourers, as much as 46%, are in migrant clusters. Around 43% are living in in-situ facilities at their workplaces and 10% of them are in relief camps or shelter homes.

Kerala has the maximum number of workers (1.34 lakhs) in relief camps or shelter homes, and another 1.07 lakh workers in the state are accommodated in-situ at their workplaces. Over 45,000 workers in the state live in migrant clusters.Maharashtra has over 21,000 workers in relief camos, while 1.30 lakh are accommodated at their workplaces. Over 30,000 workers in the state are in migrant clusters. In Andhra Pradesh, over 11,000 workers are in relief camps and shelter homes, with over 80,000 accommodated at their workplaces and over 8,000 others living in migrant clusters.In Chhattisgarh, a vast majority of the workers (8.6 lakhs) live in migrant clusters, and only 4,018 are in relief camps or shelter homes. Around 2.2 lakhs workers in the state are living in-situ at their workplaces. Telangana again has very few workers who are in relief camps or shelter homes (1,291) compared to those who are sheltered at their workplaces (over 89,000) or living in migrant clusters. As per the data for Tamil Nadu, no worker has been accommodated in relief camps. Over 1.39 lakh workers are living at their workplaces and over 54,000 are in migrant clusters.

These data (Table 1) can be represented graphically by the following bar diagram as shown in the next page.

Chart-1-Statewise List of Migrant Workers

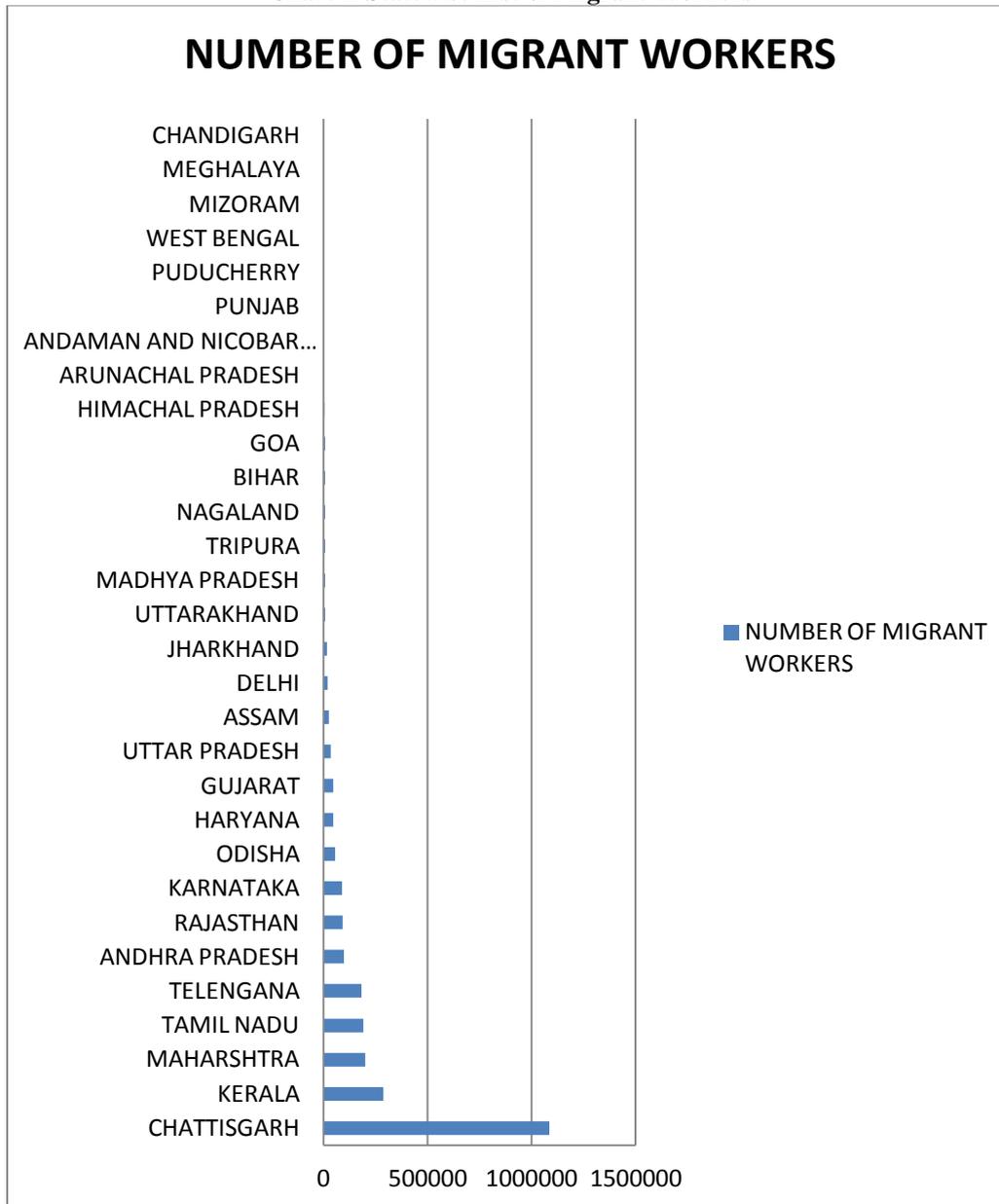


Table-2.1-Statewise Unemployment Rate(From Jan to May 2020)-

States	Jan 20	Feb 20	Mar 20	Apr 20	May 20	Jun 2020
Andhra Pradesh	5.5	5.8	5.8	20.5	17.4	3.3
Assam	4.7	4.4	4.8	11.1	9.6	0.6
Bihar	10.6	10.3	15.4	46.6	46	17.8
Chhattisgarh	9.7	8.4	7.5	3.4	10.5	14.2
Delhi	22.2	14.8	17	16.7	42.3	18.2
Goa	8.9	2.8	5.2	13.3	21.2	10
Gujarat	5.5	6.4	6.7	18.7	12.1	3.2
Haryana	20.3	25.8	25.1	43.2	29	26.7
Himachal Pradesh	16.8	16.8	18.8	2.2	26.9	13.5
Jammu & Kashmir	21.1	20.8	15.5	NA	18.7	17.9
Jharkhand	10.6	11.8	8.2	47.1	59.2	20.9
Karnataka	2.9	3.6	3.5	29.8	20	8.4
Kerala	5.3	7.6	9	17	17.9	9.7
Madhya Pradesh	4.1	4.6	2.2	12.4	22	6.5
Maharashtra	5	4.7	5.8	20.9	15.5	9.2
Meghalaya	1.7	3.6	1.6	10	5.9	1.1
Odisha	1.9	3.1	13.1	23.8	11.4	3.8

Puducherry	0.6	1.8	1.2	75.8	58.2	4.2
Punjab	11.1	11	10.3	2.9	28.3	16.6
Rajasthan	11	15.2	11.9	17.7	15.7	14.4
Sikkim	NA	NA	23.6	2.3	24.5	4.5
Tamil Nadu	1.6	2.1	6.4	49.8	33.2	12.2
Telangana	5.5	8.3	5.8	6.2	14.7	10.6
Tripura	32.7	28.4	29.9	41.2	21.5	21.7
Uttar Pradesh	7.6	9	10.1	21.5	20.4	9.5
Uttarakhand	5.5	5	19.9	6.5	8	8.6
West Bengal	6.9	4.9	6.9	17.4	17.4	7.3
India	7.2	7.8	8.8	23.5	21.7	10.2

Source-CMIE Database

Analysis-Consider the following table as stated above. The source of the data is from Center for Monitoring Indian Economies (CMIE) databases. These data highlights the statewise unemployment rate from Oct 2019 to May 2021. Note that, we are considering only three months of 2019 because our objective is to show the unemployment rate of India just before covid 19 hits. From the Table 2.1., we see that, specially two months of 2020 that is April and May the unemployment rate was very high in overall India. As, Lockdown was declared from 24th March 2020 and the whole month of April and May the strict lockdown was followed in every state many workers including migrant workers were unemployed in that time. From the Table 2.1, we revealed that the highest unemployment rate had occurred in the Union Territory, Puducherry. In April, 2020 and May 2020 the unemployment rate was 75.8% and 58.2% respectively. But Puducherry recovered from Covid-19 pandemic very fastly and in June 2020, it was drastically fallen into 4.2%. Similar stories in case of other states, too. In other states also the unemployment rate was very high in April and May 2020. In the states like Delhi, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Tripura the unemployment rate was near 50% in the month of April and May of 2020. In West Bengal, Unemployment Rate was same in both April as well as May 2020. If we consider the overall India in these two months of 2020 the unemployment rate was 23.5% and 21.7% respectively.

Table-2.2- Statewise Unemployment Rate (From Jul to Dec 2020)-

States	Jul-20	Aug 20	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20
Andhra Pradesh	8.3	7	6.4	6.6	6	6.7
Assam	3.8	5.5	1.2	3	4	7.6
Bihar	12.8	13.4	11.9	9.8	10	12.7
Chhattisgarh	10.3	5.6	2	6.7	3.4	7.2
Delhi	20.3	13.8	12.5	6.3	6.6	7.6
Goa	17.1	16.2	15.4	10.9	15.9	13.2
Gujarat	1.8	1.9	3.4	4	3.9	3
Haryana	24.2	33.5	19.3	27.3	25.6	32.5
Himachal Pradesh	24.3	15.8	11.4	13.5	15.9	7.9
Jammu & Kashmir	10.9	11.1	16.2	16.1	8.6	16.6
Jharkhand	7.6	9.8	9.3	11.8	9.5	12.4
Karnataka	4	0.5	2.4	1.6	1.9	1.4
Kerala	7.1	11	5.9	3.9	5.8	6.5
Madhya Pradesh	5.1	4.7	3.9	3.3	4.3	4
Maharashtra	3.9	6.2	4.5	4.2	3	3.9
Meghalaya	2.1	3.7	4.3	4.6	1.1	6.6
Odisha	1.9	1.4	2.1	2.2	1.7	0.2
Puducherry	15.5	5	10.9	6.2	2.2	2.7
Punjab	9.2	11	9.6	9.8	7.6	4.4
Rajasthan	15.8	17.5	15.3	24.1	18.5	28.2
Sikkim	4.5	12.5	5.7	0.9	1.9	0.7
Tamil Nadu	6.8	2.6	5	2.2	1.1	0.5
Telangana	5.4	5.8	3.3	2.9	1.6	7
Tripura	18.2	27.9	17.4	11.6	13.1	18.2
Uttar Pradesh	5.6	5.8	4.2	3.8	5.2	14.9
Uttarakhand	12.4	14.3	22.3	9.2	1.5	5.2
West Bengal	6.8	14.9	9.3	10.2	11.2	6
India	7.4	8.3	6.7	7	6.5	9.1

Source-CMIE Database

Analysis-Now consider the Table 2.2. We can see that from June 2020 the most of the states of India slowly recovered from covid as well as unemployment. After the recovery the unemployment rate of overall India was 10.2% in June 2020. Haryana's Unemployment level reaches 32.5% in December 2020. Kerala's

unemployment rate fluctuating from June to December 2020, same as Jharkhand, West Bengal etc. Rajasthan registered 28.2% unemployment rate in December 2020. Most of the states unemployment rate changes month by month due to covid 19 case load.

Table-2.3-Statewise Unemployment Rate(From Jul to Dec 2020)-

States	Jan 21-21	Feb 21-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21
Andhra Pradesh	4.5	3.7	5.9	4.9	13.5
Assam	1.5	1.6	1.1	0.2	0.1
Bihar	10.5	11.5	14.6	11.5	13.8
Chhattisgarh	6.4	6	2.7	3	8.3
Delhi	12.5	8	9.4	27.3	45.6
Goa	16	20.6	22.1	25.7	20.6
Gujarat	3.2	3.2	2.2	1.8	2.3
Haryana	17.6	26.3	27.6	35.1	29.1
Himachal Pradesh	11.6	15.6	14.2	11.1	7.8
Jammu & Kashmir	21.9	14.2	9.5	11.4	12.1
Jharkhand	11.3	12.2	12.8	16.5	16
Karnataka	3.3	2.5	1.2	2	5.3
Kerala	5.5	4.3	5.9	7.5	23.5
Madhya Pradesh	6.2	2	1.5	1.4	5.3
Maharashtra	3.8	3.8	3.5	5.5	5.7
Meghalaya	3.3	3.8	1.3	1.4	6.5
Odisha	3	2.5	1.6	1.9	7
Puducherry	7.6	5.8	1.4	2.7	24
Punjab	8.1	7.2	7.3	5.3	8.8
Rajasthan	17.7	25.6	19.7	28	27.6
Sikkim	0	4.3	1.7	1.8	4.2
Tamil Nadu	4	4.8	3	2.3	28
Telangana	4.3	5.6	3.7	5	7.4
Tripura	18.1	11.1	13.9	17.3	20
Uttar Pradesh	4.9	4.1	4.1	6.3	6.9
Uttarakhand	4.5	4.7	3.3	6	5.5
West Bengal	5.2	6.2	7.5	7.6	19.3
India	6.5	6.9	6.5	8	11.9

Source-CMIE Database

Analysis-Now consider Table 2.3. In February 2021 when the covid-19 second wave came then again unemployment rate was high to May 2021 in many states as per the data of CMIE. Note that, these times there is no Nationwide lockdown. Different states announce local restrictions depends upon their case load. As the second wave of covid-19 affected the states like Delhi, Haryana, Tripura etc. and here the lockdown was quite stricter than others so here the unemployment rate quite higher than other states. From Table 2.3, we can see that, Delhi's unemployment rate was greater than other states that is 45.6% in May 2021. But as the unemployment rate of other countries was not increased so the overall unemployment rate was not increased as compared to 2020. The overall unemployment rate of India was 11.9% in May 2021.

Table-2.4-Overall Unemployment Rate of India-

Month	Unemployment Rate (%)		
	India	Urban	Rural
May-21	11.9	14.73	10.63
Apr-21	7.97	9.78	7.13
Mar-21	6.5	7.27	6.15
Feb-21	6.89	6.99	6.85
Jan-21	6.52	8.09	5.81
Dec-20	9.06	8.84	9.15
Nov-20	6.5	7.07	6.24
Oct-20	7.02	7.18	6.95
Sep-20	6.68	8.45	5.88
Aug-20	8.35	9.83	7.65
Jul-20	7.4	9.37	6.51
Jun-20	10.18	11.68	9.49

Source-CMIE Database

Analysis-Now consider Table 2.4. We discuss about the data of rural and urban unemployment rate percentage of India from June 2020 to May 2021 as per CMIE. Here we can see in the table that rural unemployment rate is lower than urban unemployment rate. From the recent data of CMIE of May 2021 the urban unemployment rate was 14.73% whereas rural unemployment rate was 10.63%.

Experts and economists said the opening of rural economy, good progress of the monsoon and a robust sowing season is aiding a pick up in employment in rural India. The progress of Monsoon in India is satisfactory with the current covering the entire south and eastern India and progressing to North India. Aroop Mitra, a professor of Economics at the Institute of Economic Growth in New Delhi said that rural India is picking up because of good agriculture activity following a normal monsoon, and an oversupply labour market is catching up to any work available.

But urban areas will take time to revive, experts said. “The unlocking will slowly absorb people in urban areas but there is a fear factor due to rising covid-19 cases. We have to live with the situation in cities for few more months,” said Mitra. In urban areas, the numbers may be growing slowly but one must realize that the long term job prospect and formal job creation will take time, he said. “The equilibrium is low in urban areas-less demand due to several factors including mass migration and less workforce participation. Don’t rejoice, these numbers are not indicating the revival in economy. It will take time,” Mitra added.

As we said earlier mass migration is an important cause for unemployment in urban areas. People migrate from rural areas in large groups when there is drought or when any other unfavourable conditions occur. A city or town can ill-afford to provide employment opportunities to all of the migrated people, thus, causing mass unemployment.

Table 2.4 can be represented by the following line diagram

Chart-2-Monthwise Percentage Rate of Overall Unemployment Rate of India

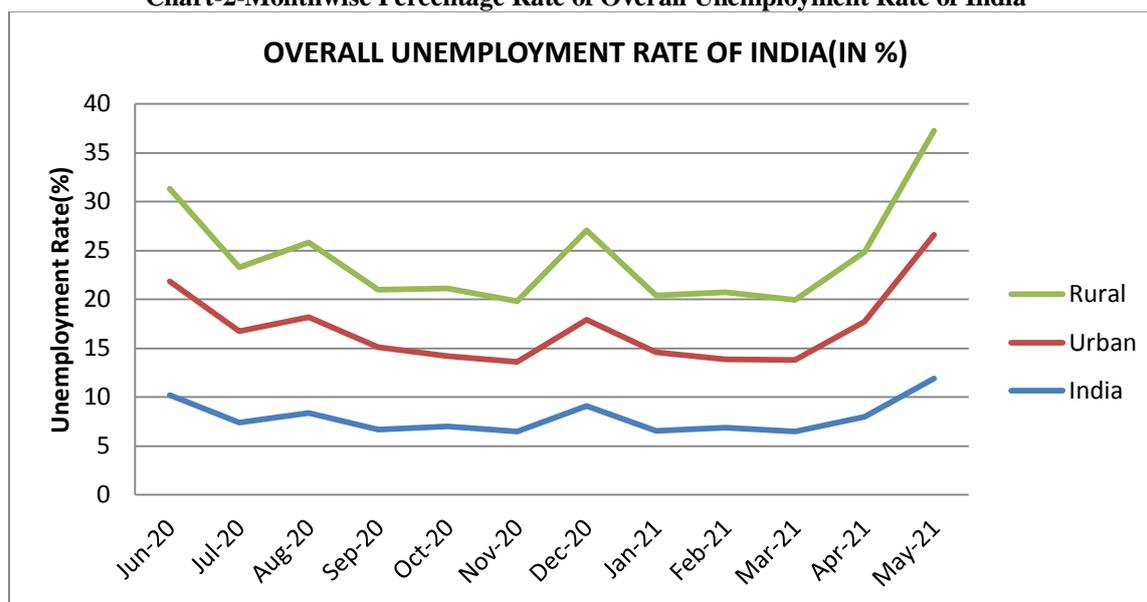


Table-3-India's Poverty Details-

STATE	TOTAL POPULATION(AS PER CENSUS 2011)	2021 ESTIMATES	% OF PEOPLE UNDER BELOW POVERTY LINE	TOTAL NO OF POOR PEOPLE(APPROXIMATELY- IN CRORES)
Uttar Pradesh	19,98,12,341	24 Crores	29.43	7.0632
Maharashtra	11,23,74,333	12.43 Crores	17.35	2.156605
Bihar	10,40,99,452	12.70 Crores	33.74	4.28498
West Bengal	9,12,76,115	10 Crores	19.98	1.998
Madhya Pradesh	7,26,26,809	8.70 Crores	31.65	2.75355
Tamil Nadu	7,21,47,030	7.85 Crores	11.28	0.88548
Rajasthan	6,85,48,437	8.25 Crores	14.71	1.213575
Karnataka	6,10,95,297	6.83 Crores	20.91	1.428153
Gujarat	6,04,39,692	6.43 Crores	16.63	1.069309
Andhra Pradesh	4,95,76,777	5.44 Crores	9.2	0.50048
Odisha	4,19,74,218	4.69 Crores	32.59	1.528471
Telangana	3,50,04,000	3.98 Crores	21.92	0.872416
Kerala	3,34,06,061	3.60 Crores	7.05	0.2538
Jharkhand	3,29,88,134	3.92 Crores	36.96	1.448832
Assam	3,12,05,576	3.60 Crores	31.98	1.15128
Punjab	2,77,43,338	3 Crores	8.26	0.2478
Chhattisgarh	2,55,45,198	2.98 Crores	39.93	1.189914
Haryana	2,53,51,462	2.85 Crores	11.16	0.31806
Delhi	1,67,87,941	1.90 Crores	9.91	0.18829
Jammu & Kashmir	1,22,58,433	1.38 Crores	10.35	0.14283
Uttarakhand	1,00,86,292	1.14 Crores	11.26	0.128364

Himachal Pradesh	68,64,602	75 Lakhs	8.06	0.06045
Tripura	36,73,917	42 Lakhs	14.05	0.05901
Meghalaya	29,66,889	34 Lakhs	11.87	0.040358
Manipur	28,55,794	32 Lakhs	36.89	0.118048
Nagaland	19,78,502	23 Lakhs	18.88	0.043424
Goa	14,58,545	16 Lakhs	5.09	0.008144
Arunachal Pradesh	13,83,727	15.92 Lakhs	34.67	0.0551253
Puducherry	12,47,953	14.32 Lakhs	9.69	0.0138567
Mizoram	10,97,206	12.55 Lakhs	20.4	0.0255
Chandigarh	10,55,450	11.69 Lakhs	21.81	0.0255177
Sikkim	6,10,577	7 Lakhs	8.19	0.005733
Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	5,86,956	6.20 Lakhs	39.31	0.0243722
Andaman & Nicobar	3,80,581	4.2 Lakhs	1	0.00042
Ladakh	274,289	2.90 Lakhs	10.35	0.0030015
Lakshadweep	64,473	74151	2.77	0.00020498

Source-Census 2011 and Wikipedia

Analysis- In this table we can analyze about the total population of different states of India and the poverty picture of those states of India. We can see from this table is that Uttar Pradesh has the maximum population in India. As we all know the literacy rate of Uttar Pradesh is more lower than the other states. So the population is very high. But the poverty rate is not that high in this rate. The poverty rate is 29.43%. Now we can see in the table the poverty rate of Chattisgarh is the highest which is 39.93% whereas the population of this state is only 2.98 crores, which is very painful for our Country. Like Chattisgarh, there are some other states like Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand, Manipur have above 30% poverty rate. But on the other hand, some states Like Kerala, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab have the under 10% poverty rate, which is admirable.

Now consider the Union Territories of India. As we can see that Lakshadweep, is the lowest populated place of India, whose population is only 74,151. So its poverty rate, is also very low but not the lowest, which is 2.77%. The lowest poverty rate belongs to Andaman & Nicobar, 1% as per the data. But among the union territories of India Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu has the highest poverty rate, 39.31.

Population of Union Territories like Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu are naturally lower than different States of India. But still the poverty rate of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu and Chattisgarh is almost same. So we can say that as per the population the poverty rate is very high of these union territories which should be controlled by the government of these union territories.

Actually the poverty rate should be controlled in many states. Every States be like Andaman and Nicobar. For this the government should take many initiative.

1. Details Of Migrant Labour In India-A Descriptive Statistics Analysis:

Here we have done a descriptive statistics on the basis of the number of migrant workers of different states of India. Descriptive statistics are brief descriptive coefficients that summarize a given data set, which can be either a representation of the entire or a sample of population. Descriptive statistics are broken down into measures of central tendency and measures of variability. Descriptive statistics are useful for providing basic information about variables in dataset.

From this statistics table we have seen,

- In average, there are 85011.13 migrant labourers in these 30 states.
- The value of median that is 13133 indicates that the middle number of migrant labourers based on the sample we use are 13133 labourers.

- From the value of the standard deviation that 202903.3, we can know that the sample values that we use are spread far enough from the mean value.
- The maximum value of the descriptive statistics is 1086000, that means the highest number of migrants is 10.86 lakhs in state of chattisgarh.
- The minimum value is 768 which means lowest number of migrants is 768 in the state of Mizoram.
- The value of sum, that is,2550334, indicates the total number of migrant labourers based on our data used is 25 lakhs 50 thousand 3 hundred thirty four(nearabout 26 lakhs)

In our data the number of migrants of some states and union territories like Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli etc, are unavailable. So, these data are not included. In our results.Details analysis are shown by a table(see next page).The analysis is done by using Microsoft Excel.

Table-4-DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS ANALYSIS TABLE-

<i>No. of migrant workers</i>	
Measurement	Value
Mean	85011.13
Standard Error	37044.91
Median	13133
Mode	#N/A
Standard Deviation	202903.3
Sample Variance	4.12E+10
Kurtosis	21.85825
Skewness	4.449644
Range	1085232
Minimum	768
Maximum	1086000
Sum	2550334
Count	30

2. Comparison between Statewise Poverty Scenario of India in 2011 and 2021-A Power Regression Analysis

In statistics, regression analysis is used to estimate the relationships between two or more variables. Regression analysis helps to understand how the dependent variable changes when one of the independent variables varies and allows to mathematically determine which of those variables has an impact.

Mathematically, a linear regression is defined by the following equation:

$$Y = a + bX + u$$

Where X and Y is the independent and dependent variables respectively. a is the Y intercept, b is the slope of the regression line and u is the random error term.

But,in our analysis,we are using power regression whose generalised form is

$$Y = aX^b \dots\dots\dots(i)$$

Taking log both side and consider both X and Y take two values

$$\log Y_1 = \log a_1 + b \log X_1 \dots\dots\dots(1)$$

$$\log Y_2 = \log a_2 + b \log X_2 \dots\dots\dots(2)$$

In our analysis we compare the population and poverty growth rate data of 2011 and 2021. As, we are considering population and poverty growth rate, not total population and total number of poor people so we can consider the log value for both 2011 and 2021 estimates (note that, 2021 estimates are approximat measurements because 2021 census is not yet done.) So, here our two equations for 2011 and 2021 are respectively,

Where Y_1 is the poverty growth rate for 2011, X_1 is the population growth rate for 2011, Y_2 is the poverty growth rate for 2021 and X_2 is the population growth rate for 2021.

Here random error term is not considered as it will be zero.

R² and Adjusted- R² Analysis for both 2011 and 2021:

The R² of the regression is the fraction of the variation in the dependent variable that is accounted for (or predicted by) the independent variable. It is the coefficient of determination which is used as an indicator of the goodness of fit. It shows how many points fall on the regression line. The R² value is calculated from the total sum of squares, more precisely, it is the sum of the squared deviations of the original data from the mean.

On the other hand adjusted R² is the R² adjusted for the number of independent variable in the model.

However, there is one difference between R² and the adjusted R². R² assumes that every single variable the variation in the dependent variables. The adjusted R² tells the percentage of variation explained by only the independent variables that actually affect the dependent variables.

As we can see in our output in 2011 the value of R² and adjusted R² is 0.91249303 and 0.909841304 respectively.91.24% (approx.) of the growth rate of poverty is explained by the independent variable population growth rate.

On the other hand, in 2021 the value of R² and adjusted R² is 0.917429046 and 0.915000488 respectively. 91.74% of the growth rate of poverty is explained by the independent variable population growth rate.

So, we can say that due to covid pandemic, in 2021 the poverty growth rate is quite higher than 2011. The analysis is done by using Microsoft Excel.

2.1. Regression Result(For 2011)-

SUMMARY OUTPUT					
<i>Regression Statistics</i>					
Multiple R	0.955245011				
R Square	0.91249303				
Adjusted R Square	0.909841304				
Standard Error	0.329972069				
Observations	35				
ANOVA					
	<i>df</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>MS</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Significance F</i>
Regression	1	37.46754268	37.46754	344.1128	5.03269E-19
Residual	33	3.593091692	0.108882		
Total	34	41.06063438			
<i>Coefficients</i>					
	<i>Standard Error</i>	<i>t Stat</i>	<i>P-value</i>	<i>Lower 95%</i>	
Intercept	-1.762766167	0.428103354	-4.11762	0.000241	-2.633748989
Population Growth Rate	1.132852712	0.061069311	18.55028	5.03E-19	1.008606263

2.2. Regression Result(For 2021)-

SUMMARY OUTPUT					
<i>Regression Statistics</i>					
Multiple R	0.957825164				
R Square	0.917429046				
Adjusted R Square	0.915000488				
Standard Error	0.314953844				
Observations	36				

	<i>df</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>MS</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Significance F</i>
ANOVA					
Regression	1	37.47295349	37.4729535	377.7671	5.45E-20
Residual	34	3.372661404	0.09919592		
Total	35	40.84561489			
	<i>Coefficients</i>	<i>Standard Error</i>	<i>t Stat</i>	<i>P-value</i>	<i>Lower 95%</i>
Intercept	-1.995677522	0.422893805	-4.7190985	3.96E-05	-2.8551
Population Growth Rate	1.166124656	0.059997469	19.4362309	5.45E-20	1.044195

VI. CONCLUSION:

During the covid-19 related lockdown in India, we all witnessed the horrible conditions of millions of migrant workers walking hundreds of kilometres to reach back to their native villages- jobless and without any financial security. A few months later, we heard stories of real estate developers hiring chartered flights to ferry back workers. It shows how the urban-centric economy of India is dependent on low-paid migrant workers. The government took short-term measures like starting special labour trains, providing food, organizing interim relief in the form of ‘Garib Kalyan Rozgar Yojana’ guaranteeing rural employment for 125 days in government infrastructure projects.

But there are more structural challenges faced by the migrant workers. Due to very little regulation of India’s informal sector, even with a job, there is zero guarantee of decent working or living conditions for an estimated 72 to 110 million migrants. Many of these workers earn much lower income than the market rates, which often fails to meet educational, health, housing and nutritional needs of the entire family adequately. So, there are three critical and inter-related areas where collaboration between the private sector, government and non government organization (NGOs) could assist in making the best use of India’s demographic advantage and achieve sustainable development – particularly, the elimination of poverty in the next decade.

In other countries like the urban Hukou system of China today provides numerous social security benefits to migrant workers, including health insurance, retirement allowances, unemployment insurance, maternity benefits, work insurance and housing fund, provided by the employer. In India, we can also develop a Hukou-like system in alignment with the federal structure of the country and implement it through a collaborative approach of NGOs, businesses and government.

There is a need to analyse how to reduce distress migration of farmers and agricultural workers from villages. A fundamental change is required through the amendment of land tenure rules to facilitate long-term leasing of land to the corporate sector while protecting the rights of the small farmers. It will go a long way in attracting private sector investment for improving rural infrastructure. The private sector could buy back the power generated, and the NGOs could provide training and maintenance support. The entire process would generate adequate rural green employment and significantly increase the income of farmers.

Technology creates new high skilled jobs. It is an area where NGOs could join hands with the government and businesses to train migrant workers with relevant skills and get them employed. Like the way we are prioritising earliest candidates for covid-19 vaccines, the same way the migrants could be identified who have the risk of losing jobs due to technological disruption. Co-funded models between government and employers or co-funding pre-competitive coalitions of businesses as well as special tax incentives would help in bridging financial gaps.

At last but not the least, migrant workers in India could become the key to India’s development in next decade. For that purpose, we need to augment the short-term measures taken by the government and private sectors with more strategic policies. Such decisions will also go a long way in India achieving the Principle 8 of UN Sustainable Development Goals that states, “ Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.”

REFERENCES

- [1]. Azeez E P .Negi D P et.al(2020), “*The impact of COVID-19 on migrant women workers in India*”-Eurasian Geography and Economics Vol 62,Issue 1 PP-93-112
- [2]. <http://labourbureau.gov.in/>
- [3]. <https://censusindia.gov.in>
- [4]. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/26-lakh-migrant-labourers-stranded-across-33-states-preliminary-govt-data/articleshow/76206443.cms?from=mdr>
- [5]. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Indian_states_and_union_territories_by_poverty_rate
- [6]. <https://www.cmie.com>

- [7]. <https://www.livemint.com>
- [8]. Irudaya Rajan S. Sivakumar P.Srinivasan A (2020), “*The COVID-19 Pandemic and Internal Labour Migration in India: A Crisis of Mobility*”- The Indian Journal of Labour Economics 63:1021-1039
- [9]. Khanna. A(2020), “*Impact of Migration of Labour Force due to Global COVID-19 Pandemic with Reference to India*”- Journal of Health Management 22(2) PP-181-191
- [10]. Ranjan. R (2021), “*Impact of COVID-19 on Migrant Labourers of India and China*”- Critical Sociology Vol 47(4-5) PP-721-726
- [11]. Sahni. S .Aulakh R (2020) , “*Impact of COVID-19 on Rural Migrants in India*”'- Kalpaz Publications, New Delhi
- [12]. Singh.B P(2020), “*Impact of COVID-19 on Rural Economy in India*”- Munich Personal RePEc Archive Paper No. 100530, posted 20 May 2020

Pritam Chatterjee. “Impact of Covid 19 On Poor and Migrant Labourers of India.” *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Invention (IJHSSI)*, vol. 10(09), 2021, pp 55-69. Journal DOI- 10.35629/7722