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**FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCE**

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**IMPACT OF COVID – 19 ON RURAL MIGRANT LABOURERS IN TAMIL NADU**

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**ABSTRACT**

The Survival of human beings has been highly complicated in day to day parlance. In order to find better livelihood, human beings are moving one place to another place. The main causes for migration of rural people due to unemployment where they live. Several studies clearly indicate that the rural migration acute unemployment in rural areas was the main cause of rural urban migration. The agrarian society fell down crisis during the plan periods except first five year plan. Narayanamoorthy rightly pointed out that the failure of agriculture due to monsoon failure, lacking of government policies (specifically minimum support price for cost of crop cultivation) rather than technological fatigue. The present study will be carried out of impact of Covid-19 on rural migrant labourers in Tamil Nadu. The Government of Tamil Nadu and Central Government was announced lockdown 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020 with a view of prevent the Corona virus spread. As a result the migrant labourers are marching to their native place for safe and livelihood settlements in rural areas. This study will be focused on urban out migration may be arouse due to the Covid- 19 pandemic. The metropolitan city, urban, semi urban centres and industrial corridors are lockdown as a results of wage earners, workers, labourers, employers and employees are vacate to resettle their native of rural villages. Further the study want to notify that low level of testing facilities increases the Covid-19 pandemic spread to community spread which will cause jobless, income less people does not pay for the three month rental in urban centres. The above said reasons for crucially influenced their basic life of the migrant labours. Hence the migrants' labours moved towards their native place. The Covid – 19 pandemic diseases was identified in Wuhan, China. It will be spread of searching of better job as well as scope of good income earner of migrant labourers may spread the pandemic disease throughout world.

**INTRODUCTION**

The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates informal employment worldwide to consist of 2 billion workers, or 62per cent of all workers. Informal employment constitutes 90per cent of workers in low-income countries, 67per cent in middle-income and 18per cent in high-income countries. Further, women tend to be more exposed to informality in low- and lower-middle-income countries, which makes them more vulnerable to economic shocks (ILO 2020).

Many domestic workers had suffered a pay cut in March and received no pay in April. A survey of 80 domestic workers from Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Gujarat was conducted by the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad between 24 April and 1 May 2020. Though interviews were conducted in the middle of the lockdown, 25per cent of the women were continuing to work. The mean and median salary in the last month before



the lockdown, February, was around Rs 4,000–5,000. In March, 24per cent of the respondents received no salary at all and 44per cent received a salary cut even though they had worked for most of the month. The positive aspect was that 13 respondents (16per cent) reported getting an advance for their April salary ranging from Rs 500 to Rs 8,000. On average, the advance was close to Rs 4,000. This meant that in the absence of social security cover and access to credit, the domestic workers were dependent on their employers making them more vulnerable.

Jeemol Unni (2020) reveals that the future remains unknown for most informal workers and enterprises. So far, the government was only anticipating a slowdown in growth of the economy due to the pandemic. However, the first admission of a recession was when the Reserve Bank of India announced on 22 May 2020 that the country is going into negative growth. As economic activity is not likely to revive soon, the demands of the trade unions seem very relevant. The Central Trade Unions demanded that the workers be assured wages for the entire lockdown period and direct cash transfer of Rs 7,500 to non-income tax paying households, including unorganised labour force, for at least three months. The situation is indeed frightening

Sakthi concludes that the failure of Indian side where a prior strategy dealing with migrants, employees in informal sector, and livelihood options for daily wage earners, migrant workers was completely missing (Ganguly et al, 2020). There was an absence of appropriate preparation before the first declaration of the nationwide lockdown on 24 March, 2020 thereby resulting in discrimination among rural migrants, overall health and well-being of rural migrants deteriorated in absence of any measures taken by the government. These rural migrants were facing social pressure of poverty, loss of livelihood, stigmatisation and were alienated by the countrymen left alone on roads to meet their fate where many of rural migrants lost their lives. Although the Government initiatives were taken which came very late and many migrants had to lose their lives while going back home. The truth is that rural migrants are very important and vital part of our economy without which both rural and urban areas will not be able to sustain.

## **OBJECTIVES**

1. To understand the problems faced by rural migrants in Tamil Nadu,
2. To examine the urban to rural migrants during Covid – 19 in Tamil Nadu and
3. To suggest remedial measures to improve their standard of living and rescue the problems of Covid-19 in Tamil Nadu economy

## **METHODOLOGY**

The study was carried out resettled urban migrants in rural areas. The migrants of sample were chosen **Snow Balling Technique** of rural out migrants during Covid-19. The study has identified one person to one person through resettled rural people of Tamil Nadu.



## RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

The following table clearly brings out that the clarities of who are migrants in rural to urban centres. After that the Covid -19 spread results inverse direction of urban to rural resettled human being.

**Table 1.1: Distribution of Sample Respondents in Tamil Nadu**

Sl. No.	Categories of education	Urban Employment	Opinion of Migrants to Settlement	
			Rural	Urban
1	Primary School	217 (43.40)	90	127
2	High School	123 (24.60)	47	76
3	Higher Secondary	147 (29.40)	63	84
4	Graduates	13 (2.60)	2	11
Total		500 (100)	202	298

**Source:** Field Data

It is inferred that out of 500 rural migrants, they want to resettled after Covid-19, in urban centres 298 sample respondents remaining of them stay to their native place in rural areas. Therefore, the researcher has found that the urban centres are always attracting to the rural people in Tamil Nadu. Further the study has notifies that the most of the migrants are vulnerable people of low level of educated as well as better employment position in urban centres.

## CONCLUSION

The study concludes that the migrants are facing numerous problems during the Covid-19. At the junction the rural migrants are always seeking better employment and better infrastructure of urban centres. The unemployment in rural areas persists. So that, the rural people has forced out in rural areas and settled in urban centres. The researcher has suggested that the both region have concentrate and avoid urban slums.

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