



INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH JOURNAL OF HUMANITIES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

(Peer-reviewed, Refereed, Indexed & Open Access Journal)

DOI : 03.2021-11278686

ISSN : 2582-8568

IMPACT FACTOR : 5.71 (SJIF 2021)

Issues & Challenges of Rural Migrant Labourers in Rose Farm Nurseries: Especially in the Context of Covid-19

Dr. Kavitha G. N.

Faculty, Centre for Women Studies,
Jnanabharathi Campus, Bangalore University,
Bangalore (Karnataka)

E-mail: krishna.kavitha5@gmail.com

DOI No. **03.2021-11278686** DOI Link: <https://doi-ds.org/doi/10.2021-87892787/IRJHISICPC210810>

Abstract:

The rose farm nursery industry is today seen as part of agricultural activity. Currently the industry has been running for 25 years in this part of the district employing thousands of people. The scope of this industry is increasing day by day and the number of people seeking employment is increasing. Millions of rupees are a profit making industry and capitalists' favourite industry. The industry is basically an unorganized sector, where even the wage workers are unorganized. Representative families migrate for this work from different districts of the state and from different states of the country. In this study, we try to analyze what kinds of problems and challenges such migrant workers are facing during the covid-19 situation.

Keywords: socio- economic, health, occupation, infrastructure

Introduction:

Agriculture is the main occupation of our country. The activities of agriculture originally belonged to the unorganized sector. Currently the rose farm nurseries are often seen as the sideline of agriculture. The farmer class in rural areas today is largely engaged in such activities, leaving agricultural related activities. Bangalore is today known for its improvement in the employment, economic conditions & many agricultural labourers from all over the state & across the state are engaged in such jobs in the hope of better wages & employment. Training for this work does not take into the account need for hard work. Former & poor in rural areas are migrating to crisis due to the

over crowded, under developed & natural disasters in rural areas. In our Bangalore city may have the more than 5 lakhs of migrants from different district of the Karnataka & the states of an India. They believe in wage earning per month rather than wages in the agricultural activities.

Objective of the Study:

What kind of socio-economic & health related issues does the labourers experience during the pandemic.

Limitation of the Study:

The study covers only the rural migrant's, who are settled in the Rose farm nurseries regarding the surrounded of the field.

Methodology:

The present study is a pilot study in order to fulfill the minor research work. 50 respondents were selected from five rose farm nurseries around the Ganapathihalli, Tavarekere hobali, Bangalore urban south district, Karnataka state. The purposive sampling method was used in this study. Primary data collected from participatory observation, interview methods, secondary data collected by media news, newspapers, & govt reports. I can use Descriptive research design for this study.

Analysis of the study:

The corona crisis has caused the entire world to panic today, causing the human community to face many socio-economic problems. This has affected the entire the world & its impacts on the advanced, developed & under developed countries is different impacts & implementation of the pandemic are different for men & women. It may create greater inequalities for people who are in vulnerable position such as rural migrants labourers. The plight of labourers who are looking for a career in such a situation is deplorable. Attempts have been made to explain, what kind of situations, issues & challenges they are facing in such situations.

- i. **Reasons for Migration:** 30% of the respondents were given answer for migration was unemployment. While, 16% of them were poverty & 52% of the respondents were came for migration including- search for better economic opportunities, low agricultural income, low wages, drought, natural disasters, improve the standard of living, landlessness & pay of debit.
- ii. **Status of salary:** there are 8 hours per day working, women are paid 300 Rs as per pay, monthly 7800/- Rs than compare to men . Men are taking 340 Rs per day monthly 9600/- Rs.
- iii. **Nature of work:** Women are doing the shifting the plants, pots, water supply, flucking the flowers, planting, remove the unwanted pants in field, supply the sand, mud & other related items to the field. But men are doing- praying the pesticides, soothing the soil, cleaning the field, digging the land, transfer to plants to the vehicles for the export etc..... 38% of the respondents were done this work from 6-10 years, 48% of them were from 5 years, 18% of

them were from recently joined the work.

- iv. **Food Scarcity:** In wave of corona, the Government is offering two times meals a day without the full process of middlemen. Making the situation pregnant women, elderly people & children extremely miserable. The status on going home & begging is the work of them. In some cases, civilians are not bringing them closer to home, because of corona impact with maintaining the social distance thus making for a long launch for hungry, the fasting can be seen. Migrants labourers are more vulnerable to multi nutrition. More than 80% of the families are facing the food scarcity during the pandemic impact. Without work all the food items in the houses have been emptied leading to a tipping point. The problem of money on the one hand is on other hand is corona anxiety with a job. Migrants were seen as untouchables during the corona situation. The problem is that getting a meal once a day is enough with so many people at home feeding everyone was a challenging task. The elderly of the households have faced a situation where the children & the elderly have a large share of the food available & sleep in half their empty stomachs.
- v. **Housing problem:** the housing in which the present residences was located for the sake of the house owner's pressure regarding the corona impact without transport to return to their hometown, they have to face the dilemma of not having to empty the house. There is no money to pay the rent, no job to earn money. Some people have lived in vacant lots with the plastic tarpaulins, temporary huts without the pressure of house owners. Just a few months ago, corona situation improved a bit & they were started living in a rented house again.
- vi. **Lack of Infrastructure facilities:** Migrant workers living in temporary huts, lack of proper drinking water, lighting, toilet & bathroom facilities. They kept a large amount of cooking at least once a day. They are bathing twice a week. But women have experienced a greater problems, without the toilet system, they would be in the plains & underground. They said, they lived without proper light & air contact in the temporary houses/huts.
- vii. **Health issues:** government health centres & private hospitals have allocated space for coronary infections, a condition that makes people afraid to seek treatment for common ailments. The vast majority of the respondents don't have any health related cards. The Government has been deprived of many health related privileges & programmes. These are the dominant classes describing a scenario reported on TV.
 - **Case study-1** when a pregnant women went to the check up during the corona. She was treated in a private hospitals/nursing homes, refusing to be treated in a caste, community & class setting refusing to be treated.

- **Case study-2** another incident, an elderly men suffered from coronal infinity when he went to the hospital to be hospitalized. But hospital staff refuse to admit him & they gave the reason was no space no bed in the hospital. After that elderly men died.

Those are some examples of the current state of the reality. Migrant labourers still also have such problems. Despite the diseases they are afraid to go to the hospitals due to the above situations going towards Ayurveda instead. They are suffered from malnutrition, anaemia, unborn children are also undernourished & children, infants have died. They are also mentally ill, suffering from depression, anxiety & impatience. Without water to bath & without physical hygiene, many suffer during menstruation. Many women said that, in the absence of work, the men in their families took to alcohol on the pretext of frustration & stress.

- viii. **Unemployment problem:** Migrant labourers have no job security during the corona situation. They were also unaware of the job skills & lack of education to do other jobs at the moment. Three quarters of labourers who worked in rose farm nurseries during the corona were fired only a few labourers were kept to water the rose farm nurseries plants. The nurseries had stopped exporting plants from corona. So, the industry also suffered a loss in corona. The rate of unemployment increased has migrant labourers were not allowed to work elsewhere in the surround areas. This is the worst situation of the migrant labourers. They were suffered lot of unemployment related problems during the corona.
- ix. **Violence against migrant labourers:** migrant labourers are subjected to multiple forms of violence under normal circumstances & one time in the corona situation they are more often the mentally abused the concept of social distance has negative effects on their. Increase in family violence, sexual harassment & some atrocities have been highlighted. Many of them are shrouded in influence. Domestic violence also increased in that moment.
- x. **Lack of social security:** half of the migrant families have Government issued ration card, insurance, health card, Adhar card, widow pension & senior citizen pension etc..... There are no promises to provide them with social security in this situation. The Government has grored the current situation & political turmoil.
- xi. **Gender issues:** factors such as inequality, gender discrimination in wages & work pattern, injustice, sexism, bias & gender based violence have affected the situation of labourers still today. This has resulted in an increase in the social gap as well as gender gap in the society. Gender issues directly impact on labourers especially of the women labourers, TT they were suffered a lot.

xii. **Social issues:** such as casteism, religion, inhumanity, untouchability. Some cultural & religious factors have affected on migrant labourers during the corona situation. The result of this labourers were suffered from- food scarcity, unemployment, homelessness& lack of social cooperation. Not only corona emergency even still also they were suffered from above mentioned social issues.

xiii. **Other problems:** old age people were suffered from anaemia, lungs related infections. Without a proper meal, mediations is hard to find. Along with this, the fact that the pension was not properly paid at the time of the corona situation also made them financially disabled.

Young child renmay find themselves without school, sports activities& proper nutrition. Lactating children may have a problem with coronary conditions.

Women have many problems during the menstruation. Provides food for all members of the house hold in challenging circumstances, including family management during the absence of employment. Despite the poverty in the home it has been accepted as a challenge& managed with little money management has done.

Central Government targeted programmes to ensure welfare & jobs for millions of migrants, who have returned home during the covid-19. Existing central sponsored schemes such as, MGNREGS. Government support welfare &financial plans for migrant labourers after losing their employment because of pandemic in the cities. They had migrated to under go this scheme. The programmes for migrant labourers. They can be the beneficiaries of what they have in common.

Suggestions:

1. The Government should provide special care to migrant labourers families& to provide them with basic proper amenities.
2. Provision of temporary accommodation to the homelessness labourers.
3. Supply of nutrition's food respectively.
4. Providing free service in hospitals, public places.
5. Protecting human rights during this pandemic.
6. Supporting life by providing social security.
7. Finally raising awareness of humanity in the civil society.
8. Government will provide/encourage cottage works at the home during the pandemic with financial assistances.

Conclusion:

Socioeconomic issues of migrants downtrodden are multi dimensional. Society as a whole, particularly the state Government & NGOs have bigger role to play in addressing labourers issues.

Efforts have to be made to give better social & living conditions to the migrants. The middlemen, who are exploiting the migrants have to be regulated to give financial strength to migrants. The family members role is crucial to manage to avoid migration. This way migrant labourers contributions in nation building can be multiplied & their life can be made comfortable. Some people are in a state of 'trishanku', unable to return to their original place & live here, fearing suicide in life. This is because of there are no promises. In this kind of situation one should be left with a sense of humour.

References:

News papers:

- i. Prajavani, kannada daily news paper, 12th march, 2020.
- ii. Vijayavani, kannada daily newspaper, 15th April, 2020
- iii. Deccan herald, English daily newspaper, 16th April, 2020
- iv. Kannada prabha, kannada daily newspaper, 10th may, 2020
- v. Vijayakarnataka, kannada daily newspaper, 12th may, 2020

