

COVID 19 & Migrant Labourers

Acc to NSSO migrant popⁿ in 2019 was 45 cr out of which 6 cr are interstate labour migrants. NITI Aayog's

Policy document on migrant labour (2021) estimates their economic contribution to 10% of GDP

Acc to MHA 1st COVID wave lockdown saw distress reverse migration of more than 1.2 cr workers and it resulted in 971 deaths during these journeys.

created following issues for the migrants:

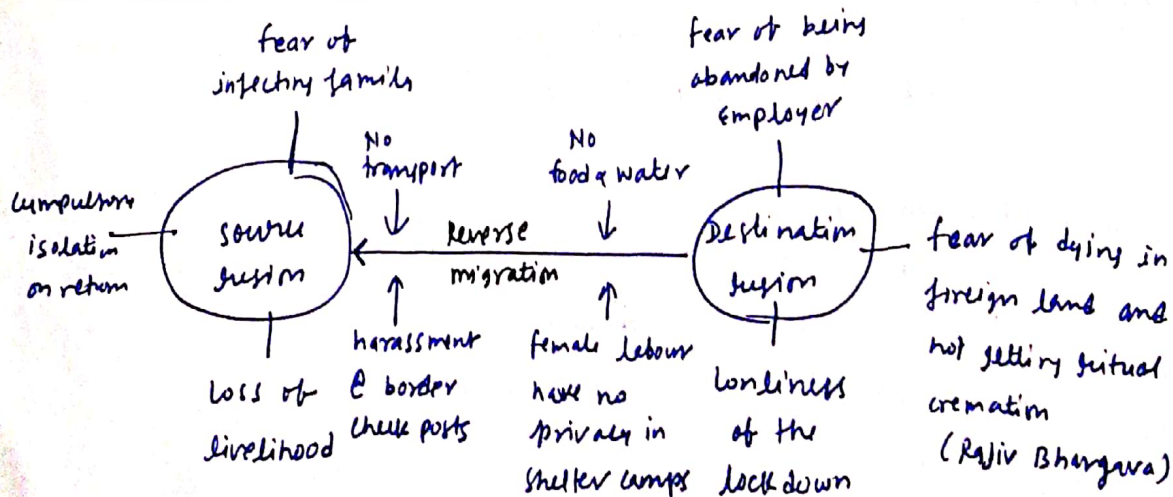
① Socioeconomic issues

1.1 lack of access to food, sanitation & health facilities.

1.2 ostracized by upper sections as unsanitary slums associated with more likelihood of being carrier of virus.

1.3 ILO estimate → 45% became jobless and post lockdown 22% decrease in wages

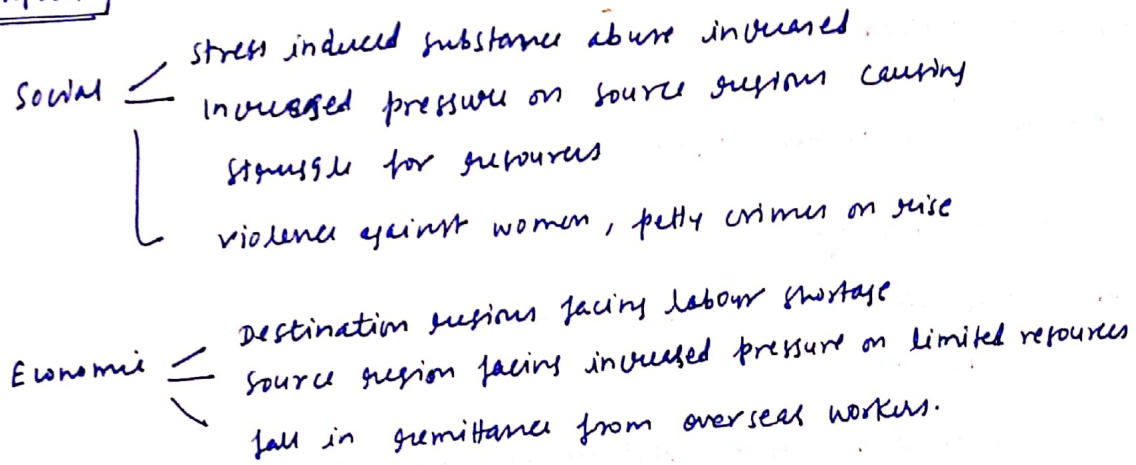
② Psychosocial issues



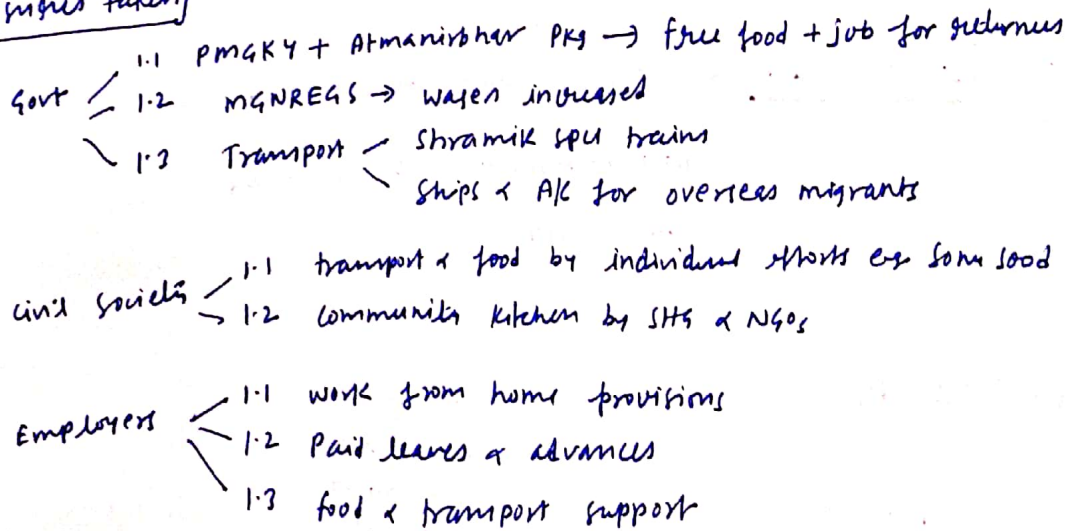
② Political Administrative Issues

- 3.1 outgroup treatment - invisible to Urban local governments.
- 3.2 Nativism - reservation for locals eg. HR
- 3.3 Xenophobia - exodus from J&K

Impact



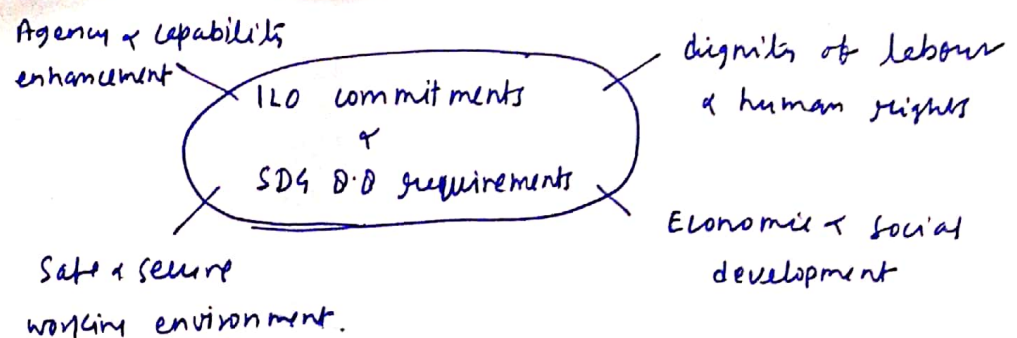
Measures taken



Structural measures

- 1.1 transferable ration card
- 1.2 minimum ~~wage~~ ^{wage} law
- 1.3 ARHS $\rightarrow$ rental housing

way forward

- ① 
 - Agency & capability enhancement
 - ILO commitments & SDG D.D. requirements
 - dignity of labour & human rights
 - Economic & social development
 - Safe & secure working environment.
- ② focus on dev priorities in source & destination regions.
- ③ provision of minimum universal social security
 - ↳ universal registration & issuance of portable smart social security cards
- ④ Institutional
 - ↳ Inter State migration council — for credible data & coordination b/w states
 - ↳ Commission for migrant labourers — for welfare & grievance redressal

the wellbeing of migrant labourers should not be seen from narrow lens of interests of source & destination regions. their wellbeing is necessary as they are the very thread weaving Bharat & India together into a vibrant colorful fabric.

same topic in ethics

- ↳ Antyodaya — founding father's vision
- ↳ Left man standing
- ↳ for the conscience

- ↳ Utilitarian perspective
- ↳ Deontological perspective