



Poverty

Work and Employment Community



Gender Community

Solution Exchange for the Work and Employment Community

Solution Exchange for the Gender Community

Consolidated Reply

***Query: Inputs for Research in Urbanization-Migration Nexus in South Asia – Examples; Referrals***

Compiled by [Warisha Yunus](#) and [Malika Basu](#), Resource Persons

Issue Date: 29 December 2014

---

From [Sunil Kumar](#), London School of Economics and Political Science, London, United Kingdom

Posted 16 April 2014

Dear Members,

Asia's urban population is predicted to double between 2000 and 2030 which presents policymakers, international development organisations and civil society with diverse and complex development challenges. Despite country-specific drivers underpinning these trends, a blue-print policy approach is often adopted to address the challenges of urbanisation and migration in areas such as poverty, informal labour markets, housing and basic services. Moreover, policies and programmes, by and large, seem to address these challenges in isolation; for example, treating urbanisation and migration, housing and livelihoods as distinct and unrelated entities.

The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) has received funding from the Department for International Development (DFID), UK to undertake research on the urbanisation-migration nexus in South Asia (covering Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan). **The primary object of this project is to investigate the dialectical relationship between contemporary forces emanating from urbanisation and the new opportunities these forces give rise to, for internal labour migration.** Members can get an overview of this project at <ftp://ftp.solutionexchange-un.net.in/public/gen/cr/res14041401.pdf> (PDF; Size: 346KB)

Dr Sunil Kumar (Principal Investigator) and Dr Melissa Fernandez (Senior Research Officer) are responsible for this research project, which conceptualises urbanisation and migration as a fluid dialectic: on the one hand, urban economic growth and consumption fuels a demand for labour and, on the other, declining and precarious rural livelihoods make labour vulnerable to new urban

demands. Thus, the aim of our project is to study a number of 'new' urbanisation forces and forms supporting contemporary rural to urban as well as small-town to urban migration; and how the working poor are negotiating these relationships in uncertain and potentially adverse urban environments.

We are currently in the process of conducting a critical literature review. To facilitate our ongoing work, we request members of the Work and Employment Community and the Gender Community to kindly respond to the following:

- Share with us any literature - especially grey literature – case studies or examples of how contemporary forces of urbanisation are giving rise to new forms of labour migration e.g. contract labour in construction or recruitment agents in labour for domestic work
- Provide information on any policy initiatives - from the state, international development organisations or the voluntary sector - addressing or aiming to address issues relating to the dialectical relationship between urbanisation and migration
- Provide us with contacts in government, international development organisations and the voluntary sector who would be interested in the outputs of this research (due for completion-end March 2015)

This research project aims to produce policy insights for governments and civil society in each of the five countries studied, as well as international development organisations (e.g. DFID, ILO and the ADB) in the region as a whole. The information provided by members will enhance the project by the inclusion of information beyond the site specific studies in each of the five south Asian countries.

We shall acknowledge the contributions made by members in our final report. In addition, we shall provide members with links to outputs as and when they become available. We look forward to your valuable inputs.

---

### Responses were received, with thanks, from

1. [Ombeer S. Tyagi](#), Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), New Delhi
2. [Debraj Bhattacharya](#), Institute of Social Sciences (ISS), Eastern Regional Centre, Kolkata
3. [Indrani Mazumdar](#), Centre for Women's Development Studies (CWDS), New Delhi
4. [Kedareswar Choudhury](#), Darabar Sahitya Sansad (DSS), Khurda, Orissa
5. [Amrita Sharma](#), Center for Migration and Labour Solutions (CMLS), Udaipur, Rajasthan
6. [Meera Shenoy](#), Youth4Jobs, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
7. [Supriti](#), Independent Consultant, Bengaluru, Karnataka
8. [Ramanath Nayak](#), National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), New Delhi
9. [Sunil Kumar](#), London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), London,
10. [Ashima Sood](#), Independent Researcher, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
11. [Mani A. Nandhi](#), Jesus and Mary College, New Delhi \*

\* *Offline Contributions*

*Further contributions are welcome!*

---

[Summary of Responses](#)  
[Comparative Experiences](#)  
[Related Resources](#)  
[Responses in Full](#)

---

## Summary of Responses

Members shared information for this research project that aims to study a number of 'new' urbanisation forces supporting rural to urban migration and how the working poor are negotiating and coping within this potentially adverse urban environment. The importance of understanding the pattern of economic growth and the overall economic policy regime and its implications for migration, urbanization, employment and labour relations cannot be underscored enough, noted the members.

Recognizing that the rural to urban migration is an inevitable socio-economic reality in transition economies such as India that have vast populations no longer able to secure a meaningful livelihood from their limited rural resources, members pointed the invisibility of Gender in macro data. One of the unfortunate result has been an established and persistent practice of using only male migration as the indicator in development oriented analysis of migration. Their responses on the specific queries are given below.

**Literature:** Some of the case studies/reports shared by members on **internal migration** in India are [Migration from Rural Bihar](#) and [Migrants and their Children in Urban Kolkata](#). Both reports also contain **discussion on migration trends in India** in general.

Further, members shared reports on research projects on **gender and migration in India** - [Gender and Migration: Negotiating Rights in India](#) and the project's key findings was published as [Migration and Gender in India](#). Further, members shared a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) compendium of [Workshop Papers](#) on internal migration in India.

A member shared about a book **Urban Poverty Alleviation in India: Volume I & II** that presents an analysis of all urban poverty alleviation programmes initiated in India since independence until 2000. It projects urban poverty figures and suggests ways to deal with it. Further members shared about a paper **Making the Connection between Informal Self-Employment and Temporary Migration: Lessons from the Cycle Rickshaw Sector** in a book [Urbanization in Asia: Governance, Infrastructure, Environment](#) that specifically discusses about urban governance questions arising out of seasonal and commuter forms of migration. It is based partially on field research on the cycle rickshaw sector in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, India. Members also shared an economics working paper [How Does Relationship-based Governance Accommodate New Entrants?](#)

Further, members shared about an approach paper [Intervention in Monitoring the Rights of Migrant Children](#) prepared for the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR). Members also shared about various field studies that have been undertaken by [Aajeevika Bureau](#), an organization working to alleviate the sufferings of the seasonal migrants that provide rich insights into largely undocumented and invisible streams of seasonal migrants in India.

**Initiatives** addressing or aiming to address issues relating to the dialectical relationship between urbanisation and migration that can be used as successful and replicable models for any kind of policy initiatives are given below:

- Aajeevika Bureau was formed with the idea of transforming migration into a more positive opportunity by providing a host of services and solutions to migrant workers and their families. Aajeevika Bureau services are intended to serve the more vulnerable segments of migrant workforce such that they are able to improve their incomes, security and stability both in labour markets as well as in their rural homes. Through a network of field based **Shramik Sahayata evam Sandarbh Kendra-s** (Workers Support and Resource Centers), Aajeevika Bureau provides a range of services to migrants and their households. These services include registration and photo ID, skill training and placement, legal aid, collectivization, social security, financial services and family support.
- As part of **Jeevika, Bihar Rural Livelihoods Project**, which works for creation of self-help groups, strengthening their capacities and livelihoods, low cost community owned Migration Resource Centre for Bihar migrants have been set up to provide them with support along with skill training as **migration support** had to be an integral part of the skilling strategy.
- **Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE)** is highly concerned about the large scale migration within country. The largest carrier is the train. So they are collaborating with the Railways to keep a track of the migration and efforts are on to intervene if it is distress migration, trafficked by scrupulous labour contractors.

**Contacts:** Members suggested names of various organizations and individuals that may be interested in the outcomes of this research. Some of them are Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT), Mumbai, Aajeevika Bureau, Udaipur; SHRAM (a project of Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai and Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU); Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD); United Nations' Children Fund (UNICEF); Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI); IMPACT Partners in Development, New Delhi.

## Related Resources

### *Recommended Documentation*

From [Amrita Sharma](#), Centre for Migration and Labour Solutions (CMLS), Aajeevika Bureau, Udaipur, Rajasthan

### **Aajeevika Working Papers and Research Reports**

Working Papers and Research Reports; by Aajeevika Bureau; Permission Required: No.

Available at <http://www.aajeevika.org/research-and-publication.php>

*Offers a pool of studies and research products developed with the efforts of Aajeevika's field teams with a focus on migration across diverse field locations.*

From [Debraj Bhattacharya](#), Institute of Social Sciences (ISS), Eastern Regional Centre, Kolkata

### **Why I Left My Village - A Study on Migration from Rural Bihar**

Report by Sachindra Narain and Debraj Bhattacharya; Institute of Social Sciences (ISS) and Delegation of the European Union in India; Permission Required: No.

Available at <ftp://ftp.solutionexchange-un.net.in/public/emp/cr/res-060614-03.pdf> (PDF 3584 KB)

*Documents the increasing unprofitability of agriculture, ineffectiveness of MGNREGS and the pathetic condition of migrants in urban areas with no social security net.*

### **Children of Migrant Poor in Kolkata - A Study on Human Development Perspectives**

Report; by Institute of Social Sciences (ISS), UNICEF, Government of West Bengal, CINI Asha, Don Bosco Ashalayam and ERMS Planning Services

Available at <ftp://ftp.solutionexchange-un.net.in/public/emp/cr/res-060614-04.pdf> (PDF 1414 KB)  
*With a focus on the children of migrant poor in Kolkata, this report documents the plight of the migrants with little scope to get vocational training and become skilled workers.*

From [Indrani Mazumdar](#), Centre for Women's Development Studies (CWDS), New Delhi

### **Workshop Compendium - National Workshop on Internal Migration and Human Development in India**

Workshop Papers - Vol II; by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNESCO, Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) and Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT); New Delhi; India; October 2012; Permission Required: No.

Available at [http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/FIELD/New\\_Delhi/pdf/Internal\\_Migration\\_Workshop\\_-\\_Vol\\_2\\_07.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/FIELD/New_Delhi/pdf/Internal_Migration_Workshop_-_Vol_2_07.pdf) (PDF 1907 KB)

*A compendium of workshop papers on internal migration in India, it brings out its features, trends and policy challenges.*

### **Gender and Migration in India**

Article; by Indrani Mazumdar, N Neetha, Indu Agnihotri; March 9, 2013; Economic and Political Weekly; New Delhi; Permission Required: No

Available at <ftp://ftp.solutionexchange.net.in/public/emp/cr/res-16041401.pdf> (PDF 190 KB)

*This paper presents a sketch of the key findings of a research project on Gender and Migration at the Centre for Women's Development Studies.*

### **Urban Poverty Alleviation in India: Volume I & II (from [Supriti](#))**

Book; by Supriti, Sharon Barnhardt and Ramesh Ramanathan; Ramanathan Foundation; Bangalore 2002

Available at [http://books.google.co.in/books/about/Urban\\_Poverty\\_Alleviation\\_in\\_India.html?id=G14DSQAACAAJ&redir\\_esc=y](http://books.google.co.in/books/about/Urban_Poverty_Alleviation_in_India.html?id=G14DSQAACAAJ&redir_esc=y)

*Presents an analysis of all urban poverty alleviation programmes initiated in India since independence until 2000.*

### **Monitoring the Rights of Vulnerable Migrant Children (from [Ramanath Nayak](#), National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), New Delhi)**

Approach Paper; by Dr. Ramakanth Nayak; NCPCR; New Delhi; Permission Required: No.

Available at <http://ncpcr.gov.in/showfile.php?lang=1&level=2&&sublinkid=297&lid=736>

*An outcome of NCPCR's direct interventions on the subject through field visits, complaints redressal, the paper documents the migrant issues with a focus on their children.*

From [Ashima Sood](#)

### **Making the Connection Between Informal Self Employment and Temporary Migration: Lessons from the Cycle Rickshaw Sector**

Chapter in a Book; by Ashima Sood; Independent Researcher

Available at [http://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007%2F978-81-322-1638-4\\_4](http://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007%2F978-81-322-1638-4_4)

*Drawing on field study of cycle rickshaw rental market in Bilaspur, it highlights the role of urban informal markets in providing much-needed services to underserved populations.*

### **How Does Relationship-based Governance Accommodate New Entrants? Evidence from the Cycle Rickshaw Rental Market**

Working Paper; by Ashima Sood; Independent Researcher

Available at [http://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007%2F978-81-322-1638-4\\_4](http://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007%2F978-81-322-1638-4_4)

*Illustrates the incorporation of new agents into market exchange under conditions of informal contract governance using a case study of the cycle-rickshaw rental market.*

From [Warisha Yunus](#)

### **Migration, Gender and Social Justice - Connecting Research and Practice Networks**

Policy Brief by Indu Agnihotri, Indrani Mazumdar and Neetha N. Pillai; International Development Research Centre (IDRC); Permission Required: No.

Available at [http://www.iss.nl/fileadmin/ASSETS/iss/Documents/Research\\_and\\_projects/IDRC-MGSJ/PB-08\\_INDIA-with\\_credits.pdf](http://www.iss.nl/fileadmin/ASSETS/iss/Documents/Research_and_projects/IDRC-MGSJ/PB-08_INDIA-with_credits.pdf) (PDF; 1060 KB)

*Highlights how the lack of attention to women's migration results in incomplete understanding and lack of acknowledgement of their specific needs and vulnerabilities.*

### **Poverty, Household Strategies and Coping with Urban Life: Examining 'Livelihood Framework' in Dhaka City, Bangladesh**

Research Paper; Shahadat Hossain, Bangladesh e-Journal of Sociology, January 2005.

Available at: <http://bangladeshsociology.org/BEJS%20-%202012.1.1-%20Shahadat.pdf>

*Explains how poor cope with urban life through their household strategies in reference to livelihood framework; reveals their economic and social vulnerability.*

From [Malika Basu](#)

### **Urbanization and Development in Asia: Multidimensional Perspectives**

Book; Edited by Jo Beall, Basudeb Guha-Khasnabis, and Ravi Kanbur; Oxford University Press; June 2012

Available at [http://www.wider.unu.edu/publications/books-and-journals/2012/en\\_GB/Urbanization-development-Asia/](http://www.wider.unu.edu/publications/books-and-journals/2012/en_GB/Urbanization-development-Asia/)

*Provides an understanding of what urbanization means for human development through questions such as the synergies between globalization, urbanization, and migration etc.*

### **Searchlight South Asia**

Newsletter; prepared by Intelicap for the Rockefeller Foundation; Vol. 4, Issue 2; November 2012

Available at <http://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/media/download/4eb3cda9-6375-401b-bbc9-6dec7cb6deb0>

*Tracking urban poverty trends in India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan, this newsletter presents articles on Urbanization from a gendered perspective.*

### **Urbanization and Migration: An Analysis of Trend, Pattern and Policies in Asia**

Paper; by Amitabh Kundu; Human Development Research Paper; UNDP, April 2009

Available at [http://rrojasdatabank.info/HDRP\\_2009\\_16.pdf](http://rrojasdatabank.info/HDRP_2009_16.pdf)

*Presents an overview of urbanization and migration process in Asian countries at macro level since 1950s, including making projections till 2030.*

### **Urbanization, Migration, and Exclusion in India**

Article for India in Transition (IiT); by Preeti Mann; Appears on the website of the Center for the Advanced Study of India (CASI), University of Pennsylvania; July 30, 2012

Available at <https://casi.sas.upenn.edu/iit/mann>

*Suggests that if India aspires to be an equitable society it will have to ensure the inclusion and integration of the poor migrants into its urbanization agenda.*

## **Recommended Contacts and Experts**

From [Ramanath Nayak](#), National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), New Delhi

**Dr. Rabindra Kumar, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi**  
[rabindrakumar2@gmail.com](mailto:rabindrakumar2@gmail.com);

*Associate professor at IGNOU, His areas of specialization are Indian Society, Social Development, Social Exclusion, Dalit Studies, Political Sociology and Rural Sociology.*

**Dr. Naved Jamal, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), New Delhi**  
[navedjamal@gmail.com](mailto:navedjamal@gmail.com)

*Assistant professor at JMI, his research interests are human rights, minorities, social inclusion and inclusive policy.*

**Dr. Manish Sabharwal, IMPACT Partners in Development, cation**  
[manish.subharwal@impactpartner.org.in](mailto:manish.subharwal@impactpartner.org.in)

*Head of IMPACT, he has several years of experience in programme development including M&E for projects on youth development, health, nutrition migration, human trafficking etc.*

### ***Recommended Organizations and Programmes***

From [Debraj Bhattacharya](#), Institute of Social Sciences (ISS), Eastern Regional Centre, Kolkata

#### **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Delhi**

73 Lodi Estate, New Delhi 110003; Tel: 91-11-24690401; Fax: 91-11-24627521;  
[newdelhi@unicef.org](mailto:newdelhi@unicef.org); <http://www.unicef.org/india/>

*Works for the ensuring children's rights including children of migrants; uses quality research and implements innovative interventions that address the situation of children.*

#### **Centre for Women's Development Studies (CWDS), Delhi (From [Indrani Mazumdar](#))**

25, Bhai Vir Singh Marg, Gole Market, New Delhi 110001; Tel: 91-11-23365541; Fax: 91-11-23346044; [cwds@cwds.ac.in](mailto:cwds@cwds.ac.in); <http://www.cwds.ac.in/research.htm>

*The CWDS works on contemporary problems and new questions demanding investigation, including gender and migration.*

From [Kedareswar Choudhury](#), Darabar Sahitya Sansad (DSS), Khurda, Odisha

#### **Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT)**

Sir Dorabji Tata Trust and the Allied Trusts, Bombay House, 24, Homi Mody Street, Mumbai 400001; Tel: 91-22-66658282; Fax: 91-22-22045427; [sdtt@sdtatatrust.com](mailto:sdtt@sdtatatrust.com);  
<http://www.dorabjitatatrust.org/>

*Supports NGOs working on the issue of migration under their Migration and Urban Poverty portfolio, to make migration safe, informed and empowered.*

#### **Strengthen and Harmonize Research and Action on Migration (SHRAM), Maharashtra**

Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Gen. A. K. Vaidya Marg, Goregaon (E), Mumbai 400065; [anchor@shram.org](mailto:anchor@shram.org); <http://www.shram.org/aboutShram.php>; Contact S. Chandrasekhar; Associate Professor

*An online knowledge community on migration in South Asia, it is a searchable repository of research in the field, make available datasets on migration and facilitate researchers.*

**Aajeevika Bureau, Rajasthan (from [Kedareswar Choudhury](#), Darabar Sahitya Sansad (DSS), Khurda, Odisha and [Amrita Sharma](#))**

2, Paneri Upwan, Street No.3, Bedla Road, Udaipur; Tel: 91-294-2454092;  
<http://www.aajeevika.org/index.php>; Contact Amrita Sharma; Coordinator; [cmls@aajeevika.org](mailto:cmls@aajeevika.org)



*Works to provide lasting solutions to economic & socio-legal problems of migrant workers by creating replicable models offering services and security both at source and destination.*

From [Ramanath Nayak](#), National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), New Delhi

#### **America India Foundation (AIF), Delhi**

C-17 Green Park Extension, New Delhi 110016; [info@aif.org](mailto:info@aif.org); <http://aif.org/about/about-aif/>

*The Learning and Migration Programme (LAMP) of AIF was initiated to facilitate the retention of children of migrants in schools enabling them to finish their schooling.*

#### **Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE), Delhi**

Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi 110001; <http://labour.gov.in/content/>; Contact Smt. Gauri Kumar; Secretary; Tel: 91-11-23710265; [secy-labour@nic.in](mailto:secy-labour@nic.in)

*Collaborating with the Railways, inter alia, to keep a track of the migration and efforts are on to intervene if it is distress migration, trafficked by scrupulous labor contractors.*

#### **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), Delhi**

5th Floor, Chanderlok Building, 36 Janpath, New Delhi 110001; Tel: 91-11-23478200; Fax: 91-11-23724026; <http://ncpcr.gov.in/index1.php?lang=1&level=0&linkid=12&lid=44>; Contact Mr. V. S. Oberoi; Chairperson; Tel: 91-11-23478203; [cp.ncpcr@nic.in](mailto:cp.ncpcr@nic.in)

*Works on the principle of universality and inviolability of child rights and its policies define priority actions for the most vulnerable children.*

#### **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Delhi** (From [Indrani Mazumdar](#), Centre for Women's Development Studies (CWDS), New Delhi and [Ramanath Nayak](#), National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), New Delhi)

UNESCO House, B-5/29, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi 110029; Tel: 91-11-26713000; Fax: 91-11-26713001; [newdelhi@unesco.org](mailto:newdelhi@unesco.org); <http://en.unesco.org/countries/india>

*A specialized UN agency, it is working a lot on internal migration especially from the rural to urban areas in India.*

#### **JEEVIKA: The Bihar Rural Livelihoods Project, Bihar** (From [Meera Shenoy](#), Youth4Jobs, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh)

Vidyut Bhawan, Annexe- II, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor (Southern Wing), Bailey Road, Patna - 800001; Tel: 91-612-2205981; Fax: 91-612-6452349; [info@brlp.in](mailto:info@brlp.in); [www.brlp.in](http://www.brlp.in)

*A poverty alleviation programme of the Government of Bihar, it focuses on institution & capacity building, microfinance, livelihoods and support to migrants.*

### **Recommended Communities and Networks**

#### **National Coalition for Security of Migrant Workers (NAC-SOM)** (from [Malika Basu](#))

<http://www.mazdooradda.com/pages.php?page=22>; [info@mazdooradda.com](mailto:info@mazdooradda.com). Contact Dr. Anjali Bhaskar Borhade; Tel: +91-253-262 9939; [foundation.disha@gmail.com](mailto:foundation.disha@gmail.com)

*A network of civil society organizations, workers associations, researchers & activists, it is committed to work for the rights and a dignified life for the millions of migrant workers.*

### **Related Consolidated Replies**

#### **Social Security and Policy Framework for Internal Migrants in India, from Debraj Bhattacharya, Institute of Social Sciences (ISS), Kolkata (Examples; Advice). Work and Employment Community, Solution Exchange India,**

Issued 24/10/2014. Available at

[http://in.one.un.org/img/uploads/SolEx\\_FTP/emp/cr\\_se\\_emp\\_06061401.pdf](http://in.one.un.org/img/uploads/SolEx_FTP/emp/cr_se_emp_06061401.pdf) (PDF; 231 KB)



*Seeks successful examples of social security measures taken nationally and internationally to improve the condition of internal migrants for including in the internal migration policy.*

**Role of Gram Panchayats in Supporting Migrant Workers, from Debraj Bhattacharya, Institute of Social Sciences (ISS), Kolkata (Experiences; Advice). Decentralization Community and Work and Employment Community, Solution Exchange India,**

Issued 30/08/2012. Available at <ftp://ftp.solutionexchange.net.in/public/decn/cr/cr-se-decn-emp-30082012.pdf> (PDF; 678 KB)

*Seeks successful experiences of Gram Panchayats helping the migrant workers before they leave and efforts made by state governments to ensure safety of migrants.*

**Return Migrants' Access to NREGS, from Seeta Prabhu and Prema Gera, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), New Delhi (Experiences; Examples). Community Name, Location,**

Issued 30/09/2009. Available at <ftp://ftp.solutionexchange.net.in/public/emp/cr/cr-se-emp-20070901.pdf> (PDF; 90 KB)

*Seeks experiences on return migrants accessing NREGS & examples of NREGS utilizing the skills of the return migrants for selection of activities and their livelihood promotion.*

---

## Responses in Full

**Ombeer S. Tyagi, Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), New Delhi**

This is an interesting subject. I did a project on **Status and Dynamics of Rural Employment** where I looked into the pull and push factors that worked to create shifts in livelihood/labour movements between farm and non-farm sector in India. I understand this subject has relevance to my study. More details about the study can be accessed through my book available [here](#).

---

**Debraj Bhattacharya, Institute of Social Sciences (ISS), Eastern Regional Centre, Kolkata**

It is good to know that DFID and LSE are showing interest in internal migration in South Asia. Institute of Social Sciences ([www.issin.org](http://www.issin.org)) has recently conducted two studies on **internal migration in India**.

The first is on **Migration from Rural Bihar** and the second on **Migrants and their Children in Urban Kolkata**. The first report was supported by the European Union Delegation to India and the second by UNICEF, West Bengal. I am attaching both reports for your reading and also for other members of the community.

Both reports also contain **discussion on migration trends in India** in general. The report on Kolkata has a chapter which reviewed the literature on India and the report on Bihar has an extensive discussion carried out via Solution Exchange (Decentralization and Work and Employment Community) on different aspects of internal migration in India.

---

**Indrani Mazumdar, Centre for Women's Development Studies (CWDS), New Delhi**

With reference to your research project on Urban-Migration nexus, perhaps you are aware that the Centre for Women's Development Studies (CWDS) New Delhi had undertaken a research project on **Gender and Migration in India**. A summary of the project's key findings was published in

Economic and Political Weekly in March, 2013, which I have [attached](#). A larger report (available on the CWDS' website) is also [attached](#).

Further, a UNESCO compendium of workshop papers on internal migration in India may be useful for you and is available at [http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/FIELD/New\\_Delhi/pdf/Internal Migration Workshop - Vol 2 07.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/FIELD/New_Delhi/pdf/Internal_Migration_Workshop_-_Vol_2_07.pdf). Of course the attachments and links refer to migration trends and patterns in general rather than the urban situation in particular.

May I say that the special focus on contract labour that is referred to in the overview of your project is a particularly relevant area of research, although I do feel that the importance of understanding the pattern of economic growth and the overall economic policy regime and its implications for migration, urbanization, employment and labour relations cannot be underscored enough.

For India, National Sample Survey (NSS) data does not provide any evidence of an increase in employment oriented migration rates among women and in fact shows a particular increase in rates of migration for marriage. I'm sure you are aware of the stagnant trend in Female Work Participation Rates (FWPR) in urban India, and it does not appear that urbanization necessarily opens up opportunities for women's employment - given that urban FWPR is half that of rural FWPR.

---

**[Kedareswar Choudhury](#), Darabar Sahitya Sansad (DSS), Khurda, Orissa**

I work with a local NGO in Odisha on migration issues. We are funded by Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT), Mumbai under their Migration and Urban Poverty portfolio. Over 20 NGOs are working on the issue trying to make the migration safe, informed and empowered. As the primary findings from states like Odisha, Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh etc. show - around 50 to 60% of the households from rural areas migrate either seasonally or permanently. There are state specific data available with these NGOs.

You may contact the following organizations:

- Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT), Mumbai
- Aajeevika Bureau, Udaipur; it has pioneered the approach and strategy
- SHRAM - a project of Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai; it has tried to bring together the information from all these efforts

---

**[Amrita Sharma](#), Center for Migration and Labour Solutions (CMLS), Udaipur, Rajasthan**

I work with **Aajeevika Bureau**, a public service organization working on the issue of **seasonal labor migration in India**. Aajeevika is headquartered in Udaipur and works with seasonal migrants, specifically in the south Rajasthan-Gujarat corridor. We recognize that rural to urban migration is an inevitable socio-economic reality in transition economies such as India that have vast populations no longer able to secure a meaningful livelihood from their limited rural resources. Aajeevika Bureau was formed with the idea of transforming migration into a more positive opportunity by providing a host of services and solutions to migrant workers and their families. Aajeevika Bureau services are intended to serve the more vulnerable segments of migrant workforce such that they are able to improve their incomes, security and stability both in labour markets as well as in their rural homes. Through a network of field based **Shramik Sahayata evam Sandarbh Kendra-s** (Workers Support and Resource Centers), Aajeevika Bureau provides a range of services to migrants and their households. These services include registration and photo

ID, skill training and placement, legal aid, collectivization, social security, financial services and family support. For more information you could visit our website [www.ajeevika.org](http://www.ajeevika.org)

In response to your query, I would like to share that Aajeevika has undertaken a wide range of field studies on migration patterns and issues surrounding the lives of seasonal migrants. These studies have been carried out by our field teams and while the purpose behind them is informing our own action/intervention, they also provide rich insights into largely undocumented and invisible streams of seasonal migrants in India. You may access these studies at <http://www.ajeevika.org/research-and-publication.php>. While some of the studies are in Hindi, most studies are available in English.

Further, Aajeevika has been working closely with more than **30 civil society organizations** in creating a wider community of migration practitioners. Aajeevika co-hosts a **Center for Migration and Labor Solutions (CMLS)**, along with Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, which provides the technical and knowledge support in incubation of migration services in India. This network is spread across 10 states of India and would be interested/benefit from the studies undertaken by you. I am attaching a list with names of organizations and their contact details [here](#).

We, at Aajeevika Bureau are happy to learn of your research initiative and would like to wish you the very best.

---

**[Meera Shenoy](#), Youth4Jobs, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh**

We have set up a low cost community owned Migration Resource Centre for Bihar migrants. There are some unusual features of this:

- The initiative is part of **Jeevika, Bihar Rural Livelihoods Project**, which works for creation of self-help groups, strengthening their capacities and livelihoods.
- I support them for skilling youth for jobs since there are limited job opportunities in Bihar. I realized that **migration support** had to be an integral part of the skilling strategy. In India, government works in silos. Skilling is done by one department and Migration by another - this has policy implications
- On a pilot basis, we decided to set up one in Gurgaon where youth mobilized through job fairs or trained youth were placed in the apparel factories. Apparel industry is one of the largest employment generators and also has high attrition rates. So if this helps reduce attrition, it will be win-win for the youth and industry
- A progressive employer gave us sufficient space to set this up in his factory. I told him that there could be work related issues which would arise but he felt this would give genuine feedback and improve his work practices! This was inaugurated by the Chief Minister three months back.
- A **comprehensive strategy** has been drawn up. But the work is slowly evolving. For example, we found wives who migrated with husbands wanted to do something - so tailoring classes are planned. Getting gas connection seems to be top of their challenges. Since many do not have age certificates, dentists who determine age charge high rates. So a panel of dentists is getting formed. The look and feel of the centre is to make migrant youth comfortable. Since Jeevika is a government project, convergence on issues important to migrants like ID card etc. will be relatively easier.

Systematic research is needed in this area to help the government develop a comprehensive and inter-related policy.

---

**[Supriti](#), Independent Consultant, Bengaluru, Karnataka**

This work may be of some use to you:

**Urban Poverty Alleviation in India: Volume I & II**

Supriti, Sharon Barnhardt and Ramesh Ramanathan  
Ramanathan Foundation, Bangalore, 2002

It presents an analysis of all urban poverty alleviation programmes initiated in India since independence until 2000. It projects urban poverty figures and suggests ways to deal with it.

---

**Ramanath Nayak, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), New Delhi**

With reference to your query, following is my response point-wise:

- *Any literature - especially grey literature – case studies or examples of how contemporary forces of urbanisation are giving rise to new forms of labour migration e.g. contract labour in construction or recruitment agents in labour for domestic work:*

I had developed an approach paper **NCPCR's Intervention in Monitoring the Rights of Migrant Children** for the Commission. Link is <http://ncpcr.gov.in/showfile.php?lang=1&level=2&&sublinkid=297&lid=736>. Also **America India Foundation** has worked in Gujarat and Odisha on the issue. Further you can refer to the **UNESCO** India's seminar 2012 and also 2013 of which compendium has been published.

- *Information on any policy initiatives - from the state, international development organisations or the voluntary sector - addressing or aiming to address issues relating to the dialectical relationship between urbanisation and migration:*

**Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE)** is highly concerned about the large scale migration within country. The largest carrier is the train. So they are collaborating with the Railways to keep a track of the migration and efforts are on to intervene if it is distress migration, trafficked by scrupulous labour contractors.

- *Contacts in government, international development organisations and the voluntary sector who would be interested in the outputs of this research (due for completion-end March 2015):*
  - Dr. Rabindra Kumar, Associate Professor, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), [rabindrakumar2@gmail.com](mailto:rabindrakumar2@gmail.com)
  - Mr. Rajeev Roy, Consultant, Ministry of Women and Child Development-UNICEF, Email: [royrajiv02@gmail.com](mailto:royrajiv02@gmail.com)
  - Dr. Naved Jamal, Assistant Professor, Jamia Millia Islamia, [navedjamal@gmail.com](mailto:navedjamal@gmail.com)
  - Dr. R. S. Tiwari, Retired Labour Commissioner, [irawit2004@yahoo.com](mailto:irawit2004@yahoo.com)
  - IMPACT Partners in Development - Dr. Manish Subharwal [manish.subharwal@impactpartner.org.in](mailto:manish.subharwal@impactpartner.org.in), Dr. Sajay Gupta, CEO, [sanjay.gupta@impactpartner.org.in](mailto:sanjay.gupta@impactpartner.org.in); Mobile: 9818181600.

Please feel free to get back if you have any query.

---

**Sunil Kumar, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), London, United Kingdom**

I am writing to thank: Debraj Bhattacharya (Institute of Social Sciences (ISS), Eastern Regional Centre, Kolkata); Indrani Mazumdar (Centre for Women's Development Studies –CWDS, New Delhi); Kedareshwar Choudhury (Darabar Sahitya Sansad, Khurda, Orissa); Amrita Sharma (Center for Migration and Labour Solutions – CMLS, Udaipur, Rajasthan); Meera Shenoy (Youth4Jobs, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh); Supriti (Independent Consultant, Bengaluru, Karnataka); and Ramanath Nayak (National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), New Delhi) for their valuable contributions.

I will get in touch with them independently to follow up on specifics. Since the query is still open, I look forward to more valuable contributions.

---

**Ashima Sood, Independent Researcher, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh**

I wanted to bring to your attention my paper **"Making the Connection Between Informal Self-Employment and Temporary Migration: Lessons from the Cycle Rickshaw Sector"** in Sridhar, Kala Seetharam, Wan, Guanghua (Eds.) Urbanization in Asia: Governance, Infrastructure, Environment (Springer 2014). It speaks specifically about urban governance questions arising out of seasonal and commuter forms of migration. It is based partially on field research on the cycle rickshaw sector in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, India.

Also this economics working paper may be relevant: <http://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/37424/>.

---

**Mani A. Nandhi, Jesus and Mary College, New Delhi \***

I have worked on the financial practices of urban migrants - with reference to cycle rickshaw pullers in Delhi. It is very shortly coming out as a book and is under printing process. If it is of interest, I will give the link once it is published.

---

***Many thanks to all who contributed to this query!***

*If you have further information to share on this topic, please send it to Solution Exchange for the Work and Employment Community in India at [se-emp@solutionexchange-un.net.in](mailto:se-emp@solutionexchange-un.net.in) with the subject heading "Re: [se-emp][se-gen] Query: Inputs for Research on Urbanization - Migration Nexus – Examples; Referrals. Additional Reply."*

***Disclaimer:*** *In posting messages or incorporating these messages into synthesized responses, the UN accepts no responsibility for their veracity or authenticity. Members intending to use or transmit the information contained in these messages should be aware that they are relying on their own judgment.*



Copyrighted under Creative Commons License "[Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 2.5](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.5/)". Re-users of this material must cite as their source Solution Exchange as well as the item's recommender, if relevant, and must share any derivative work with the Solution Exchange Community.



Solution Exchange is a UN initiative for development practitioners in India. For more information please visit [www.solutionexchange-un.net.in](http://www.solutionexchange-un.net.in)

---

