

REPORT ON

National Webinar on “Covid – 19 Impact on Migrant Labour in India”

Department of Economics

National Webinar Series on “Covid – 19 Impact on Migrant Labour in India” was conducted by the Department of Economics on 31st August, 2020 from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm.

The session was spearheaded by the Convener Dr. A. Lakshmi, Head Department of Economics, Co-convener’s Dr. B. MadhuriSmitha & Dr. K. B. RatnaKumari, Department of Economics, UCW. Chief Patron Prof. A. Roja Rani, Principal, UCW, welcomed all the participants and the eminent speakers of the webinar. Patron Dr. M. Kavitha, Vice-Principal, UCW, also welcomed the speakers and talked few words about the webinar.

The first speaker of the session was prof. B. Sudhakar Reddy, Professor & Chairman Board of Studies, Joint Director, Directorate of Academic Audit, Osmania University. He began his talk by saying how the ongoing pandemic situation has impacted the lives of migrant labour in India. He has clearly spoke about migration and its impact on the Indian economy. Human migration is one of the most important aspect of social sciences throughout the human history. They have migrated to improve their standard of living. According to World Bank, 2016 statistics India’s ranks 1st with 72.2 billion dollars with remittance receiving countries in the world. It greatly contributes to the introduction of poverty and increasing household income. Urbanisation, increase in demand for labour, employment, pull and push factors are the major reasons for migration. Documentation & Identity are the major problems of migrants. Lack of information leading to exploitation of migrant labour. He also mentioned about Inter State Migrant Worker’s Act. The impact of Covid-19 & migrant workers, the spread of corona worldwide is attributed to migration and mobility of the people. The medical professionals largely believed that the control of this infectious disease is possible through immobility, lockdown and social distancing. Due to this the migrant labourshadbecame more vulnerable. They lost their food and shelter.

They began walking back to their native places. Sir has given some suggestions to move out of this situation.

The second speaker of the session was Dr. M. Ramulu, Faculty member in the Department of Economics, Programme Coordinator NSS & Coordinator, ETI, Osmania University. He began his talk by stressing the role of inequalities which are leading to major sufferings in the society and their severe impact on the poor. After 1991 migration is boosted. Major causes for this are industrialization, service sector, urbanization etc. 8-10 crore people were migrated irrespective of scale. Sir has told that demonetization is one of the factor which caused migration. He said that the unorganized and informal sector people were severely affected. Lockdown has led to job loss, poverty and starvation. The most affected were the vulnerable sections of the society like migrant labourers. Government at the initial stage has not taken immediate steps to protect them. 300-400 people died. Supply side and demand side destructions affected the migrant labours. Modi government then released 1.7 lakh crore immediately to provide facilities to migrant labours. Special arrangements were done to move migrant labours back to their own places. He also mentioned about GareebKalyanyojana. Government has initiated so many schemes to help them. He has concluded his talk by mentioning some suggestions to move out of this situation and how we can improve the growth of the Indian economy.

The session has ended with a very informative questions and answers.