

# COVID-19 a nightmare to unorganized workforce in Delhi and NCR

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**Abstract :** The Universal Pandemic as declared by WHO on spread of COVID-19 to would wide and put a great challenge for all the countries whether poor or rich, Developed or underdeveloped economies. The Virus so infected more than 1.2 Million people worldwide and took apx more 65k lives.

The Spread of virus has become a stiff challenge for countries with poor health infrastructure and developing or underdeveloped economies. The virus is having transfers from one human being to another one having 14 days incubation period, which makes it more challenging.

In its origin country China and having its epicenter in Wuhan, which was locked down for more 2 months to stop the spread the virus and the same practice is now being practiced all over the world.

In India we are currently going through a lockdown of 21 days, which gave a lot of challenges to many sections of society. The most challenging has it been for daily workers, Adhoc Job holders, etc

In This paper I have studied the problems and income loss of labourers in Delhi and NCR.

**Key words** Covid-19, G-20, Lock down, CoV, Adhoc, NCR, Pandemic, Income loss, Labour migration, Coronavirus.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases. A novel coronavirus (nCoV) is a new strain that has not been previously identified in humans. A pneumonia of unknown cause detected in Wuhan, China was first reported to the WHO Country Office in China on 31 December 2019. The outbreak was declared as public health emergency of international concern on January 31 exactly after a month when it was reported from Wuhan China. After the declaration of public health emergency and international community was asked for US \$ 675 Million to help poor countries having poor health infrastructure to deal with the newly originated from Wuhan China.

The WHO gave lot many guidelines on health-related issues and various infrastructure maintained by rich as well as poor countries. There were many packages decided by various countries and also the contribution by G-20 to meet various challenges because of COVID-19. The USA decided to contribute \$ 2.7 trillion for various challenges like health care infrastructure development to meet the demand, food and shelter for people getting effected, insurance for medical and paramedical staff etc. India is not behind in decisioning to release Rs 1.70 lacs crore for said development to meet the challenge of covid-19.

In India we are currently going through a lockdown of 21 days, which gave a lot of challenges to many sections of society. The most challenging has it been for daily workers, Adhoc Job holders, etc

## II. The Labour of Delhi and NCR feeling the heat of COVID-19 even not infected with it

Total Estimate of daily labourer in Delhi and NCR are around 14.50 lacs (Apx) which comprises of migration from various states like UP, Bihar, MP, Punjab, Rajisthan, Gujrat, West Bangal, Orissa etc. Due to Lock down on 24<sup>th</sup> of March 2020 as announced by our Prime minister Shri Narendra Modi, which led to many problems for labourers in Delhi and NCR. The announcement was made much early than expected, hence people were not ready mentally or physically for it and were left with no choice other than accept it.

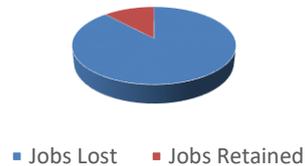
Since most of them are daily wagers and had left with no choice as lock down was observed very strictly. The wages earning avenues went on closure with all of a sudden and the fixed cost like rent for stay in delhi and NCR, food, and other expenditure remained constant. Hence they were forced to leave the area and return to their native places, which are UP, Bihar, MP, Punjab, Rajisthan, Gujrat, West Bangal, Orissa etc which are apx 170 to 1200 kms away from Delhi and NCR. Hence the journey starts here but the bigger question was how to go or to travel such a huge distance? The most heart touching point was when they started moving on their foot with language to their native place to cover 170 kms to 1200 kms with no or minimum money left in their pockets. Some of the labourers said they started their journey on single bottle of water, Carrying their children, bags and any other belongings they could manage to bundle up, they walked in a steady flow of thousands from the National Capital Region (NCR) to their homes in Uttar Pradesh and beyond.

At the Ghazipur border, they huddled close together, only some with masks, aware of the coronavirus threat that had led to an unprecedented 21-day lockdown of the country and taken away their jobs, but helpless to do anything about combating the infection. A group of migrant workers walk to their native places amid the nationwide complete lockdown, on the NH24 near Delhi-UP border in New Delhi, Friday. The Labourers are yet to reach their homes as they have been held up by the centre Govt and state govt. not to enter their family and villages as they have to be under quarantine for 14 days outside their village for which state and centre Govt have developed more than 28k shelters for them and there is food arrangements done by these govts.

**III. Field research Conducted:** The interview was conducted of 50 labourers in Delhi and NCR at the exit borders of Delhi and Haryana and got the result as under

| Heads of Concern | No. of Individual lost and retained their Job | % Age | Revenue loss |
|------------------|---|-------|--------------|
| Jobs Lost        | 44  | 88%   | 21750        |
| Jobs Retained    | 6   | 12%   | 2650         |

The Cart Shows %age of unorganised Labour lost their job and jobs retained



The filed research was done in Delhi and NCR and have selected 50 responded from all field as per their expertise. Have see and analyzed apx 44 persons out of 50 have lost their Job and 6 respondents were off from their jobs due to lockdown.

#### IV. Revenue loss due to Lock down of unorganised labourers or daily wage earners

**Total Unorganized labour in Delhi and NCR are 14.50 Lacs (Apx)**

| Heads of Interest | No. of Individuals lost and retained their Job | Revenue loss |
|-------------------|--|--------------|
| Jobs Lost         | 44   | 21750        |
| Jobs Retained     | 6  | 2650         |

**Daily revenue lost by the unorganized labourers in Delhi and NCR per day.**

| Total Unorganized labourers in Delhi and NCR are 14.50 Lacs |                |              |               |                  |
|---|----------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| Heads of Interest   | No. of Persons | Revenue loss | Average Wages | Revenue lost/day |
| Jobs Lost   | 44             | 21750        | 494.32        | 630750000        |
| Jobs Retained   | 6              | 2650         | 441.67        | 76850000         |
| <b>Total</b>  |                | <b>24400</b> |               | <b>707600000</b> |

**Note for 21 days lock down:** Per day income loss of unorganized labourers in Delhi and NCR is Apx 70.76 Cr. Since this lockdown is for 21 days and apx loss will be around 21 Days\*70.76 Cr = **Rs 1486.00 Cr.**

Total income loss of these unorganized labourers in these 21 days could be around Rs 1486.00 Cr., which is 70.76 Cr in a day.

**Note for 90 days lock down:** If this lockdown stretches to 90 days, if this virus has not been contained and total to this section will be around Rs 70.76\* 90 days= **Rs 6368.40** Cr, which is huge loss to this sector (unorganized sector) and is considerable portion of Delhi and NCR GDP.

#### V. Recommendations

- 1) Govt needs to take immediate and swift action to help these labourers to come back to their workplace
- 2) Immediate financial help is required for their sustainability.
- 3) Medical aid must be available to them and their family for free.
- 4) Free transportation is required for them to come back to their work locations.

#### VI. References

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## VII. Conclusion

India is a fast-growing economy and is highly dependent on cash economy or unorganized sector, as we know we have more than 90% of work forces working in this segment. The step taken by our Prime minister on 8th of November 2016 has made our economy more sensitive to risk associated with recession at macro level. From 2008 to 2010, we call It a grand recession, and Indian economy got lesser shocks than other economies and entire credit was given to cash economy. The economy like ours needs lot of preparation prior to such step like demonetization and implementation of GST and Complete lock down of all the factors of economy. More than 90% of our employment is getting generated from unorganized sector and is associated with Real estate, Shop establishments, Road construction etc so we need to have proper planning based on intensive filed research or market survey for such steps.

A single life is important, and we can't afford to take a step where even a single individual loses his/her life. There have many markets got vanished or disappeared from system and when asked where they went, and answer used to be their home as there is no work left for them.

Now last but not the least, from 2016-18 we lost 50 Lakh jobs due to demonetization and more than 90% jobs we lost in unorganized sector and now the coronavirus is playing a negative by killing the income avenues of unorganized sector mostly unorganized labourers.

I wish and all my prayers goes to all who lost their life worldwide and praying for those who are infected with this virus for their soon recovery. Praying to Almighty to stop its further spread and stop it here and bring back the normalcy worldwide as it was before.

