



# Globalization and its impact on Migration Pattern of unorganized workers in Odisha

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## Abstract:

This text explores the intricate relationship between globalization and the migration patterns of unorganized laborers in Odisha. Globalization, defined as an increase in economic interdependence and unfettered movement of capital, goods, and services across national borders, has had a substantial impact on the dynamics of labor migration. Because of the substantial number of people employed informally in the state, Odisha offers an intriguing case study for understanding the intricate consequences of globalization on migration. The seminar delves into the multifaceted dimensions of this phenomenon, examining the socioeconomic determinants of unorganized worker migration, the ways in which globalization impacts job prospects, and the consequent impacts on the socioeconomic landscapes of both the source and destination areas. The talk will also touch on the challenges faced by migratory unorganized laborers, including issues with exploitation, poor housing, and limited access to social services. The goal of the seminar is to provide light on how globalization has affected the movement patterns of unorganized workers in Odisha by thoroughly reviewing case studies, data, and recent research. By understanding these processes, policymakers, academics, and practitioners can develop well-informed strategies to employ globalization's potential benefits for the welfare of this vulnerable workforce while limiting its negative effects.

**Key wards-** Globalization, Migration, Unorganisations, Socio economic

## Introduction:

In recent decades, globalization has emerged as a key element affecting economies, cultures, and people's lives everywhere. Its impact extends far beyond commerce and trade to include a wide range of facets of human existence, including migratory trends. An intriguing case study of how globalization has altered the dynamics of migration may be seen in the eastern Indian state of Odisha, particularly with regard to its substantial unorganized labor force.

The term "unorganized workers" describes a broad category of laborers engaged in irregular and often precarious work arrangements, ranging from domestic servants and street vendors to laborers in the construction and agricultural industries. Although they make up a substantial section of Odisha's labor population and are vital to the state's economy, these workers usually accept poor pay, little social security, and limited access to basic necessities. Odisha has seen significant changes in its economic landscape as a result of globalization, including the emergence of new industries, the integration of local markets into global supply chains, and the creation of new job opportunities. These developments have brought about economic growth and affluence, but they have also significantly changed the traditional patterns of travel among the unorganized labor force.

This essay aims to investigate the manner in which migration patterns of Odisha's unorganized laborers have been impacted by globalization. It investigates the reasons behind migration, the socioeconomic factors influencing movement, and the challenges faced by migratory laborers in the modern, globalized world. The essay will also examine how policy changes and grassroots initiatives might help foster inclusive and sustainable development by addressing the concerns and needs of migratory workers.

### **Review of Literature:**

**MP Torado (1969)** attempted to use push and pull variables to explain migration in underdeveloped nations. As such, there are two categories of migration motivations: push forces and pull factors. The push forces are things like drought, earthquakes, floods, and unemployment. Pull factors include things like the allure of city life for health, education, and development of underdeveloped communities, as well as job possibilities, training facilities, and so on, which influence migration.

**Vidyut Joshi (1987)** highlighted the appalling conditions faced by migrant laborers working on government projects in Uttarkashi, Uttar Pradesh (Tehri Garhwali Project). All labor rules, including as the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Services) act of 1979, were broken by the employment of laborers from Odisha and Bihar, including children. An ICSSR project study conducted in 1987 focused mostly on the socioeconomic circumstances of migrant workers in Ganjam district, Odisha. According to reports, both the main companies that hire them and the agencies who recruit them exploit and harass these out migrants, also known as dadan laborers.

**The National Commission on Rural Labour (NCRL) (1991)** More than 10 million circular migrants are thought to reside in India's rural areas alone. Approximately 4.5 million interstate migrants are among them. The commission made note of how many seasonal migrant laborers are employed in agriculture, on plantations, on building sites, in fishing, processing, etc. The commission conducted a thorough analysis of the operation of the migrant worker Act, closing any gaps and recommending corrective actions to enhance migrant workers' living and working conditions as well as their safety.

**ICSSR (1993)** one supported institution that studied dadan migrants was the Centre for Development Studies, Bhubaneswar. The study covered two coastal districts, Ganjam and Puri, and concentrated on the socioeconomic study of migratory laborers (dadan) from Odisha and the causes behind their migration. An accurate depiction of migrant workers in the state of Odisha could not be obtained from the survey.

**Shanthi (2006)** – “Female labour migration in India” India is the studied area, and secondary sources are used in the research. The paper's goal is to determine the rate of migration driven by employment. It has long been noticed that marriage is the primary cause of migration among women, but a recent trend has also highlighted the rise in movement among independent women against the backdrop of increased career prospects in the public sector, export sectors, etc.

**Madhav Menon (2011)** examines whether the framework of the interstate migrant law is sufficient to protect the rights of interstate migrant workers in light of the changed political and economic environment.

**Ritesh Dwivedi (2012)** explains the ongoing migration that is occurring throughout India and how it is becoming more and more important to improve living conditions. Because large migration is caused by agricultural failure, his study advised policymakers to investigate ways and means of re-establishing the relevance of agriculture in terms of livelihood. According to his research, migration cannot be completely prevented because it is a process of development.

**Ota (2015)** investigates the various outside factors influencing the material cultures of the indigenous people of Odisha. The socioeconomic conditions that migrant workers in Odisha face have been greatly illuminated by this, but the men and women who are trafficked from the region's laboring classes have not received the same attention. They used both primary and secondary data to achieve their research goals.

**Roshni Kujur (2019)** He underlined that the bulk of people living in the Bolangir district of Odisha are below the poverty line when discussing the labor movement pattern in this area. As a result, there is where the majority of migrant workers could be found. The primary causes of migration include deforestation-induced displacement, drought brought on by climate change, and a lack of alternative means of income. Migration can be divided into three basic categories: voluntary, coerced, and distress-related migration. The author claims that the third category best describes the main migration patterns in this district.

**S.K.Dash (2023)** examined how the concept of modernity as proposed by Kant aids in understanding the character of migration in modern-day India in a study titled "Migration and Modernity." This essay makes the case for separating the two modern eras and determining how they connect to migration in India in distinct ways. Too easily are the distinctions between these studies, which mainly examine migration in South Asia overall and in India specifically, disregarded?

#### **Research Objectives:**

1. To examine the role of globalization in shaping the economic opportunities available to unorganized workers in Odisha.
2. To examine the role of government policies and regulations, both at the national and local levels, in shaping migration dynamics for unorganized workers in the context of globalization.
3. To explore the experiences and challenges faced by migrating unorganized workers in Odisha, including issues related to housing, health care, and social integration.
4. To investigate the impact of globalization on the livelihoods and socio-economic conditions of unorganized workers in Odisha.

5. To evaluate the impact of forces of the global market on employment and salaries for unorganized workers in Odisha, such as trade liberalization and outsourcing.

### **Research Methods:**

This study is descriptive in nature. The vital secondary data came from a variety of sources, including the Government of India's, newspapers, periodicals, and other publications. After this data was thoroughly analyzed, judgments and deductions were drawn. This report describes a first attempt to assess the conditions of unorganized workers in Odisha, but it is subject to considerable constraints because it is based on secondary data. This study can be used as a starting point for more empirical studies and an examination of how globalization has affected the migratory patterns of Odisha.

### **Conceptual Analysis:-**

**Globalization and Migration Dynamics:** Globalization, defined as the opening up of trade, investment, and capital movements, has sparked changes in the world's economies. Globalization has brought about major changes to the labor market in Odisha, especially with regard to the movements of unorganized laborers. Since the 1990s, the Indian economy has been more liberalized. This has resulted in the growth of numerous industries, building projects, and infrastructure developments. These developments have created supply-side and demand dynamics that have driven migration over state boundaries and from rural to urban areas. Additionally, the outsourcing of labor-intensive industries and the development of technology have made it easier for workers from Odisha to relocate both domestically and internationally.

**Socio-economic Drivers of Migration:** A multitude of socio-economic variables, many of which are made worse by processes of globalization, are responsible for the migration of unorganized workers in Odisha. Rural poverty, lack of prospects for a living, landlessness, and environmental deterioration force people and families to look for work in far-off places. In addition, a lot of agricultural laborers have been forced to seek alternate livelihoods in urban areas or industrial clusters due to the agrarian crisis, which is the result of problems including water scarcity, land dispossession, and unstable market pricing. Because women and children make up a sizable share of the unorganized labor, migrant workers are even more vulnerable due to the lack of social security nets and poor access to essential services.

**Challenges Faced by Migrant Workers:** Even though migration presents economic opportunity, unorganized laborers in Odisha face many obstacles in their pursuit of a living. In industries like manufacturing, mining, and construction, where a large number of migrants work, exploitative labor practices—such as excessive hours, poor pay, and dangerous working conditions—are common. Furthermore, migrant workers are vulnerable to abuse and exploitation by employers and middlemen due to the absence of legal recognition and social protection measures. Migrant communities are further marginalized by discrimination on the basis of gender, caste, and ethnicity, which restricts their access to housing, education, and other necessities in destination locations.

**Policy Implications and Interventions:** To solve the various difficulties that Odisha's migrant workers face, a multidimensional approach involving institutional interventions, grassroots activities, and policy reforms would be necessary. Although there are still barriers to their implementation, government initiatives like the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) and the Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act are intended to regulate labor migration and provide social security. Upholding the law, expanding access to healthcare and education, and promoting inclusive urban growth are crucial for preserving the rights and dignity of migrant workers. Civil society organizations play a crucial role in providing support services, advocating for the rights of migrant workers, and encouraging community-based initiatives that enhance livelihoods and social integration.

### Scope of the Study:-

1. **Economic Globalization:** Examining the effects of economic globalization—which is defined as the opening up of markets, the development of new technologies, and the integration of economies—on Odisha's labor market dynamics. This entails examining how labor demand, salary trends, and job possibilities are shaped by globalization in various industries, especially those that hire unorganized labor.
2. **Migration Patterns:** examining the unorganized work force in Odisha's mobility patterns and trends. This means studying the migration routes, destinations, and motivations, accounting for factors such as poverty, unemployment, the distinctions between rural and urban environments, and the pursuit of better opportunities for subsistence.
3. **Socio-Economic Impacts:** evaluating the socioeconomic effects of migration on communities of migrant workers. Examining the difficulties migrant workers encounter in obtaining respectable employment, social protection, healthcare, and education is one way to do this. Another is to look at how migration affects social networks, family dynamics, and community development.
4. **Policy Responses:** assessing the policy environment and institutional solutions to address the needs and vulnerabilities of migrant workers who are not organized in Odisha. This means evaluating present policies on labor migration, social protection, and urban development and identifying any gaps or areas in which policy action is required in order to ensure inclusive growth and social justice.
5. **Future Directions:** offering suggestions to scholars, practitioners, and policymakers on how to improve the rights and well-being of unorganized workers in the context of migration brought on by globalization. This could involve recommendations for social programs, policy changes, capacity-building projects, and new lines of inquiry to address the difficulties experienced by migrant workers in Odisha and gain a deeper understanding of the situation.

### Findings:-

1. **Economic Transformation:** Odisha's economy has seen tremendous change as a result of globalization, with greater industry growth, infrastructural development, and urbanization. Urban locations offer options for employment in the informal sector, while rural areas are seeing a reduction in conventional livelihood opportunities due to economic expansion. These factors have created both push and pull forces for migration among unorganized workers.

2. **Rural-Urban Migration Dynamics:** The significant rural-urban mobility pattern among Odisha's unorganized laborers is one of the study's most notable findings. Poverty, landlessness, agricultural hardship, and the temptation of urban job opportunities in manufacturing, services, construction, and other informal sector activity are some of the elements driving this migrant influx.
3. **Inter-State and Transnational Migration:** Apart from internal migration, the phenomenon of globalization has also enabled unorganized laborers from Odisha to migrate within states and internationally. In addition to other foreign locations like the Gulf States and Southeast Asia, many migrant laborers seek jobs in other Indian states including Kerala, Maharashtra, and Gujarat. This pattern is a reflection of how labor markets are interconnected and how people are looking outside of their local communities for better pay and working conditions.
4. **Vulnerabilities and Exploitation:** Unorganized migrant laborers in Odisha frequently endure unstable working conditions, low pay, and exploitation in the unorganized sector, despite their desire for better possibilities. Their susceptibility to exploitation by employers and labor contractors is increased by their lack of access to healthcare, social security benefits, and legal protections.
5. **Social and Economic Impacts:** For migrant workers and the communities where they live in Odisha, migration has a significant social and economic impact. Remittances support household income and consumption habits, but migration also upends social and familial networks, changing community dynamics, care giving roles, and family structures. Furthermore, migrant workers' absence from their home towns may make social inequality and reliance on remittances as a coping strategy worse.
6. **Policy Challenges:** The findings highlight several policy roadblocks that need to be removed in order to respond to the needs and vulnerabilities of the migrant labor force in Odisha that is not organized. The current policies in existence usually fail to provide adequate social support, address the structural causes of migration, or defend the rights of migratory workers. It is necessary to implement comprehensive policy initiatives that prioritize the well-being and empowerment of migrant workers. These programs ought to strengthen labor rights, enhance social safety nets, and formalize the unorganized sector of the economy.

#### **Recommendations:-**

1. **Policy Reform and Implementation:** It is imperative that policy improvements address the hazards and challenges faced by migrant workers who are not organized in Odisha. This means promoting social protection programs that are expressly created to satisfy the needs of migrant workers, strengthening labor laws, and enforcing enforcement procedures. Initiatives should also be made to improve the way that the law is applied now and to increase migrant workers' access to the legal system in the event that they are abused or exploited.
2. **Formalization of the Informal Sector:** Policies should be established to formalize the informal sector, where a huge number of people labor, in order to give unorganized workers legal status, social security benefits, and access to fundamental amenities like healthcare and education. This means promoting the

- registration of unofficial firms, enhancing compliance with labor regulations, and forging partnerships between the government, businesses, and labor unions in order to ensure acceptable working conditions.
3. **Skill Development and Capacity Building:** It is possible to enable unorganized workers in Odisha to access better employment possibilities both within the state and outside of it by funding skill development programs and vocational training efforts. Through the provision of pertinent skills and competencies, these interventions have the potential to improve the individuals' employability, earning potential, and resilience to economic shocks, ultimately decreasing their dependence on unstable sources of income.
  4. **Cross-Border Cooperation and Migration Governance:** Improved cross-border collaboration and migration governance mechanisms are required, given the transnational character of migration among unorganized workers from Odisha. This involves bilateral agreements to safeguard migrant workers' rights, provide normal travel routes, and fight forced labor and human trafficking between sending and receiving regions. Regional platforms and initiatives can also be used to coordinate solutions to shared migration concerns, share best practices, and exchange information.
  5. **Community Empowerment and Social Inclusion:** In both sending and receiving regions, initiatives to strengthen immigrant communities and advance social inclusion should be undertaken. This entails promoting communication and cooperation to combat social stigma, prejudice, and xenophobia among migrant populations, local government, and civil society organizations. Furthermore, programs that support language learning, cultural interchange, and the absorption of immigrant families into the community can support social peace and cohesion.
  6. **Research and Data Collection:** To fully comprehend the migratory patterns and experiences of unorganized workers in Odisha, including their socioeconomic backgrounds, migration trajectories, and goals, more research is required. To get the opinions and viewpoints of migrant workers themselves, longitudinal studies, qualitative interviews, and participatory research techniques must be used. To support evidence-based programming and policy decisions, further efforts should be made to strengthen data disaggregation by gender, age, ethnicity, and other pertinent variables, as well as to improve data collection methods.

### **Concluding Observation:-**

The travel patterns of unorganized workers in Odisha have been altered by globalization, which poses challenges to social justice and human rights as well as chances for economic progress. In order to effectively formulate policies and interventions to serve the needs and ambitions of migrant workers, it is imperative to comprehend the intricate interplay between globalization, socio-economic forces, and migratory dynamics. In the age of globalization, Odisha can harness the potential of migration as a catalyst for equitable and sustainable prosperity by promoting inclusive development initiatives and embracing a rights-based strategy.

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