

MEASURING THE PROBLEMS & EMOTIONS OF URBAN-WARD MIGRANTS: A CASE STUDY OF CONSTRUCTION WORKERS IN DELHI

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ABSTRACT

Migration is the process that results in a relative change to one's abode, be it seasonally, permanently, or temporarily. It brings along a series of challenging factors ranging from emotional effects that come in addition to economic, societal, and demographic facets. This in general further enhances strong feelings both negative (such as isolation, homesickness, etc.) and positive (such as pleasure, enthusiasm, and happiness) in migrant lives. The situation worsens when lack of money is involved as one of the reasons for migration. This study in particular focuses on one such section of migrant construction workers. Typically, these workers are poor migrants, living and working in challenging situations alongside dealing with spatial segregation and separation from family. Workers occasionally travel with their families; if not, they stay and work with people who they already know or are related to them or perhaps share the same background. Leaving behind their home, family, and memories of their nativeness impacts their emotional and psychological well-being. Therefore, in this study, an effort has been made to comprehend both the positive and negative feelings that migrant construction workers experience during the course of their migratory process as an urban issue.

Keywords: Social network, Emotions and Places, Construction Workers, labor migration, informal labor market.

INTRODUCTION

According to the 2011 Indian census, migrant workers constitute about 37% of the country's total population which counts to around 45.36 crore people. Most of them are low-wage workers who work in the unorganized sector of the economy where nearly 92% of the Indian labor force is engaged. Due to a lack of arable land and other socio-economic challenges, many leave their villages and migrate to lands offering better possibilities. Migrant workers belong to the bottom layer labor force and are considered one of the weakest groups in society. This regular fare of urban issues intensifies the lifestyle of all the associated constituents of a social unit. Irrespective of the fact that they are important constituents to the backbone of the Indian economy owing to a substantial fraction of the population that migrates from rural areas to cities in search of jobs.

In comparison to native workers, they experience more issues in their daily lives. The long-term poverty, inappropriate housing, cultural differences, language barriers at the destination, lack of family support and proximity, and discriminatory behavior by locals and their poor socio-economic status make them even more vulnerable as compared to other groups. This pressure worsens their mental health apart. They remain marginalized from the native communities and are more vulnerable to threats than the native workers since they have fewer savings and significant cultural differences at the destination place. There are numerous records of differences that arise due to migration. The psychological anguish that migrant workers face is frequently attributed to a number of attributes, including financial hardships, health hazards, a lack of access to healthcare, and numerous social issues. Previous research has proved that the amount of pressure faced by migrant workers varies depending on their gender and the nature of their work. Recent advents of the pandemic further impacted the mental health of the migrant workers due to social isolation and employment uncertainty (Hasan et al 2021), (WHO, ILO). A frame of reference for the debate of protection for the welfare of migrant workers is the pursuit

of potential solutions to the problem of mental health. Social support is one of the protective aspects that may enhance the mental health of migratory workers. Social support has been shown to help immigrants and refugees with their mental health. Four categories of social support were discovered in accordance with the standard theoretical framework for social support: esteem, instrumental support, informational support, and emotional support (i.e., displays of love, trust, and empathy) (i.e., useful information for self-evaluation). These variations in social support dimensions could offer another area of attention for migrant workers' psychological well-being interventions. Irrespective of all the available information, a key insight into physiological responses has not been duly recorded for the migrant workers, especially the ones who do not have access to mobile or the internet. Hence, this study is an attempt to record, study and witness the living and working conditions alongside the psychological chain behind the co-existence of the migrant workers in the national capital of India, Delhi.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Migration amongst humans is a long-standing phenomenon that began with the survival of the human race on earth. It has an impact on both the environment and human life; as a result, one of the three fundamental components of any region's population growth, mortality and fertility are affected. Shifting from one location to another is mainly done for improved housing, nutrition, and employment. Plenty of studies have been administered in order to measure the process of migration, however, very few focus on monitoring the emotional levels of the migrant workers. (Acharya et. al., 2017), monitored the economic side, 501 construction workers were examined. Of these, 99% performed non-mechanical work, primarily as head loaders and labourers, and they were paid an average of 150 rupees per day, far below the subsistence wages even with unequal pay. More than 52% of these workers report having unfair payment practices. They instead argue that the labor market is profoundly gendered, ethnicized, caste-cized, and racialized (Adib & Guerrier, 2003; HarrisWhite, 2005; Mills, 2003; Ridgeway, 1997; Ridgeway, 2009; Ridgeway et al. 2009; Thorat & Neuman, 2012). According to a comprehensive assessment of psychological illnesses, the most common symptoms reported by migrant workers included severe depressive emotional disturbance, anxiety, poor sleep quality and alcohol or drug misuse.

At the broader theoretical level, therefore (Basnet et. al., 2019) aim to understand the Migrant workers are the worst affected and face huge challenges for their survival during the lockdown. In this context (Shahare, 2020) discuss the socio-economic, psychological challenges faced by migrant workers such as accessing food, water, shelter and other necessary requirements. India witnessed a massive crisis among migrant workers. An unfavorable work environment coupled with the pandemic played significant roles in bringing damages to people who otherwise had access to resources, thus playing an imminent harmful effect on migrant workers (Jesline, et al., 2021). Great Britain (GB; England, Scotland, and Wales 2010) offers an intriguing case study to explore this concept. The desire or capacity to stay may complicate the association between mental health requirements and high rates of internal migration. Among the population of Great Britain, there is evidence of both undesirable migration and undesired remaining (i.e., relocating when one would prefer not to) (Coulter and van Ham, 2013). Whether or not a person has recently relocated, mental health requirements are linked to the desire to migrate, but not to unwanted migration. Over the years, the Indian society has been increasingly growing leading to obsoleted urbanization. The degree of urbanization in India rose from 27.81% in 2001 to 31.16% in 2011, according to the 2011 Census of India. The two most significant causes of migration are poverty and debt. There are large disparities between the levels of development in the different Indian states, with states like New Delhi, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and Maharashtra having progressed more than Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh. Migrant workers, who make up around one-third of India's population, suffer from social isolation, a lack of access to essential amenities like education, water, sanitation,

and health, as well as long working hours, low pay, and hazardous working conditions. Amidst the city's towers, thousands of construction workers occupy roadside tents and makeshift huts. They either remain along the roadside, in a cellar, or on a building site. There is no ventilation in the sheds, and there are no amenities for water, power, toilets, sanitation, or safety. The workers frequently experience a variety of illnesses. Frequent diseases are caused by filthy water, unsanitary surroundings, and fly and mosquito-infested housing. The youngsters frequently have cholera, starvation, colds, and coughs brought on by breathing in paint fumes and cement/dust particles. Children are frequently seen playing in busy areas of construction sites, where they are also more likely to have minor mishaps.

Most people have also experienced homesickness after moving away from home. Research interest in homesickness as a psychological condition brought on by the possibility or experience of social isolation is still strong. The literature on international human resource management recognizes that adjusting to a new environment is one of the main challenges that expatriates and foreign workers face. For instance, a typology of adjustment challenges comprising four main components—individual factors, non-work variables, organizational factors, and job aspects—is identified by *Black, Mendenhall, and Oddou (1991)*. Although familial and cultural concerns take center stage, homesickness is rarely brought up.

A major part of construction workers is Seasonal Workers, even while they considerably contribute to the economy of the nation, the state, and the city, they continue to live in disadvantaged areas where they are employed. The majority of employees in India are migrant laborers who participate in informal, unstructured employment, which makes them more vulnerable (*Planning Commission, 2012*). Although there is no separate data for urban regions, estimates for several major cities give us an idea of the scope of their presence there. These figures include construction workers in both urban and rural locations. An official estimate of 5 lakh construction workers in Delhi was made in 2006. (*DDA, 2006*). In addition to being one of the most significant employers in India, the construction industry also makes a significant contribution to the country's economy. The industry contributed 8% of the country's GDP in 2011–12. (*Planning Commission, 2012*). It is believed that the Corona virus hurt India's construction sector by Rs 30,000 crore every day. This pandemic was estimated to likely reduce investment in the building sector by 13 to 30 percent, impacting employment and gross value added. Their vulnerabilities were worsened by the fact that a sizable portion of the working-age migrant population in India works in the informal sector of the economy, denying them access to social security benefits in the event that their place of employment was.

The construction worker live with no basic facilities, having long working hours and no or fewer social connection. Long working hours does not allow them to take medical treatment too. Even if they take treatment they visit the unqualified practitioner (Shaheen, 2015). Now, post the pandemic, migrant workers are experiencing great uncertainty and financial difficulty. Their living circumstances make it difficult to maintain social distance which further raised worries about the virus's potential to spread. Travel restrictions have a direct influence on employees' mobility, creating challenging circumstances and preventing them from returning to their original location which were shut down due to a lockdown. Work in and around migration during the lockdown phase were accomplished, with intimidating responses about how the migrant worker community has suffered. India, during the recent times, witnessed a rather huge crisis amongst the migrant worker community. In a similar context (P et. al., 2020) explored the major impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the female migrant workers and their families, thus, analyzing and performing qualitative interviews in the two localities in Delhi and Gurugram in the state of Haryana. Migrant workers are the worst affected and face huge challenges for their survival during lockdown. In this context (Shahare, 2020) discuss the socio-economic, psychological challenges faced by migrant workers such as accessing food, water, shelter and other necessary requirements. A formative research method comprising of iterative approach was used by conducting in-depth interviews of men and

women migrant workers residing in randomly selected 2 blocks of a slum called Madanpur Khadar JJ Colony of Delhi, India (ROY, 2021). (Thakur et. al., 2021) examine critically the economic package announced by the Indian central government to counter the challenges of lives and livelihood in the Covid-19 pandemic. By using a thorough gendered intersectional lens (Arora et. al., 2021) consists of the understanding in the living experiences of the migrant women workers working during the covid including their gendered inequality narratives. Other influential work includes (Ray, 2020), (Liem et. al., 2020). (Mandal, 2020) address the present situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, lockdowns, and its response to migrant workers, smallholder farmers, the landless workers, and daily wage laborers from the informal sectors and their livelihood crisis. A formative research method comprising of iterative approach was used by conducting in-depth interviews of men and women migrant workers residing in randomly selected 2 blocks of a slum called Madanpur Khadar JJ Colony of Delhi, India (ROY, 2021). Other influential work includes (Kusuma et. al., 2010). Within and around already-established development centers, India's economic progress and wealth have been distributed spatially during the previous 25 years. The differences between the cities and the resource-poor areas of this country in terms of economic growth, prosperity, and livelihood prospects have been increased as a result of this.

People who have gone through traumatic circumstances frequently struggle with psychological disorders and mental health challenges. Increased feelings of doubt, disappointment, worry, wrath, aggravation, burnout, and melancholy are frequently experienced by workers (*Ekpanyaskul and Padungtod, 2021*). They could also feel defeated, have trouble sleeping, and concentrate, or feel worn out. Alcohol, nicotine, or other drugs misuse may arise from such stress if it is not managed properly. Last but not least, the crisis may spark or worsen resentments, prejudice, distrust, and feelings of unfairness about access to healthcare, respectable employment, and means of subsistence, all of which are causes of potential conflict.

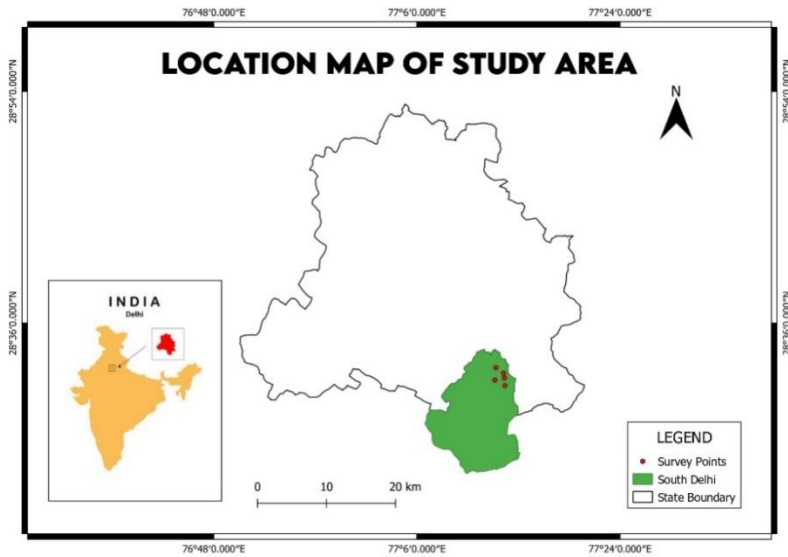
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the current study is to understand the positive and negative emotions surrounding migrant construction workers in the whole process of migration. The study has operated under the premise that employees' connections to the labor market are influenced by their social networks, but different networks have different structures and functions. Concerns about migrant workers' ability to access social networks in the job market in order to find employment in the construction sector are intertwined with a variety of background issues.

Therefore, it can be claimed that connections are essential for creating social support systems for migrant workers in the construction industry which is mostly an informal labor market. They rely on social support from their co-workers, who turn to these networks during difficult times. Almost all migrants are attached to their native place and miss the emotions attached to it but also have positive feelings for city life and see a scope of development in the city.

METHODOLOGY (STUDY AREA AND DATA SOURCES)

The broad focus of the current research project is the national capital of India, Delhi. The primary focus of the study is the district of South Delhi. Delhi is a historic city with roots in the Mughal and British eras. Beyond the remnants of the former colony, Delhi has grown significantly in recent years. It draws in migrants from neighboring states and other regions of the nation primarily due to the opportunities available aside from the major commercial hub and the fast-paced minor industries in north India.



Map 1: Location of the Study Area (South-Delhi)

In Delhi’s migrant population, the fourth-largest sector of migrant workers is in the construction industry, which employed 10% of the total workforce (260,040 employees) in 2001, compared to 6.2 and 7.8 percent in 1981 and 1991, respectively. Additionally, it was discovered that the South District of Delhi (23.1%), North West (21.6%), South West (16.5%), West (13.6%), and other districts had the highest number of construction employees (Census of India 2001). The district of South Delhi was selected for field research owing to its ever-increasing infrastructure which makes more and more construction workers succulent to the area.

The survey was carried out across ages and sex using a schedule. The stratified random sampling method (Delhi then South Delhi, male-female samples at public as well private construction sites) was used to select samples. The survey was scheduled in different sections like basic information about location and demographic data migration, known persons or networking at the site, linkages with native places, emotions, etc. The location served as the entry point for migrant workers who used to live in temporary shelters built next to construction sites and within unfinished buildings. The locations (Table:1) were chosen based on the presence of female migrant workers, which was a criterion of the study regarding the gender component of migration.

Table 1: Construction Sites and Sample of Migrant Workers, South Delhi

S. No.	Construction Site	Nature of Site	Total No. of Sample (N)
1	Metro Building	Public	18
2	College Premises	Public	13
3	Residential Building	Private	17
4	Commercial Building	Private	26
5	Residential Building	Private	12
Total			86

The construction workers were to be subjected to a planned schedule that had been prepared. Information regarding each immigrant's social network was gathered on an individual basis. Additionally, household-level data on the families of migrant construction workers have been compiled, including socio-cultural, economic, demographic, and migration-related topics.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Among all 86 samples of migrant construction workers stood at a small number of 14 females whereas the rest of the respondents (72) were male workers. This proportion indicates that the casual labor market in the construction field is mainly male dominant and there are very few female casual workers who are mostly family members of the male workers or have migrated due to marriage. They are generally unskilled and perform the role of helpers at peanut wages. The division of labor is gendered at the sites. Masonry is a male-dominated skill as are carpentry and other skilled jobs. Women do physically rigorous jobs such as carrying head-loads of bricks, sand, stone, and cement and carrying water or sifting sand. Yet their wages are comparatively very less than their male counterparts. (Table 2) records the demographic status of the studied section. Migration always remains a very selective process (*Ravenstein, 1885*). The migration of construction workers has been highly selective according to age. The youngest laborers found were 18 years old and the oldest was 51 years, 34.9% of the laborers fall in the category of 20 to 25 years of age. All the workers were between 18 to 59 years of age this indicates that the construction labor force demanded hard manual labor which can be only performed by a youthful workforce.

Table: 2 Demographic Characteristics of Migration Construction Workers

Demographic Characteristics		Percentage (%)	No. of Sample (N)
Sex	Male	83.7	72
	Female	16.3	14
Marital Status	Unmarried	23.3	20
	Married	75.6	65
	Widower / Separated	1.2	1
Age Group (years)	18 - 20	8.1	7
	20 - 25	34.9	30
	25 - 30	25.6	22
	30 - 35	14.0	12
	35 - 40	9.3	8
	40 - 45	7.0	6
	45 - 55	1.2	1
Total		100.0	86

Source: Field Survey, 2022

A great number of males in our survey were single. In the construction sectors, labor preferability is slanted toward men. According to a study from the National Sample Survey in 2007–2008, female migrants have their own set of societal problems. (Table 3) indicates the migration characteristics of the workers, thus recording the male -female ration and their state of origin.

Table 3: Migration Characteristics of construction workers According to their Background

Background Characteristics		Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)	N
Native Place of workers	Rural	97.2	92.9	96.5	83
	Urban	2.8	7.1	3.5	3
State	Uttar Pradesh	34.7	50.0	37.2	32
	Madhya Pradesh	8.3	0.0	7.0%	6
	Bihar	43.10	42.9	43.0	37
	Chhattisgarh	1.4	0.0	1.2	1
	Punjab	1.40	0.0	1.2	1
	Jharkhand	5.6	0.0	4.7	4
	Haryana	4.20	0.0	3.50	3
	West Bengal	1.4	7.1	2.3	2
Reason for migration (Push factors)	No Work Opportunities at Native place	55.6	21.4	50.0	43
	Low wage/ Income at Native place	20.8	21.4	20.9	18
	To Earn Money	8.3	0.0	7.0	6
	Family Crisis	1.4	0.0	1.2	1
	Move with family	4.2	0.0	3.5	3
	Marriage	0.0	57.1	9.3	8
	Debit Burden in family	5.6	0.0	4.7	4
	No Land/ Land Destroyed by flood	2.8	0.0	2.3	2
	Left Home due to family disputes	1.4	0.0	1.2	1
	Reason for coming to this city or destination place	better work/ Employment Opportunity	81.9	21.4	72.1
Higher wage		4.20	7.1	4.7	4
better work culture		9.7	7.1	9.3	8
move with family/Marriage		4.2	64.3	14.0	12

Duration of staying at destination place (years)	< 1 year	25.0	14.3	23.3	20
	1-2 years	16.7	21.4	17.4	15
	3-4 years	22.2	14.3	20.9	18
	5-6 years	12.5	14.3	12.8	11
	6-8 years	11.1	21.4	12.8	11
	> 8 years	12.5	14.3	12.8	11
Any known person at destination place before migration	No	38.9	57.1	41.9	36
	Yes	61.1	42.9	58.1	50
Total		100	100	100	86

Source: Field Survey, 2022

According to UNESCO, women who work as migrant laborers are paid less than their male counterparts and are also denied access to appropriate amenities and sanitation. Additionally, they do not get benefits like maternity leave or entitlements. The factors that act as push force to the migrants of Delhi are imminently no work opportunities or low wages at their place of origin ranging all the way to marriage.

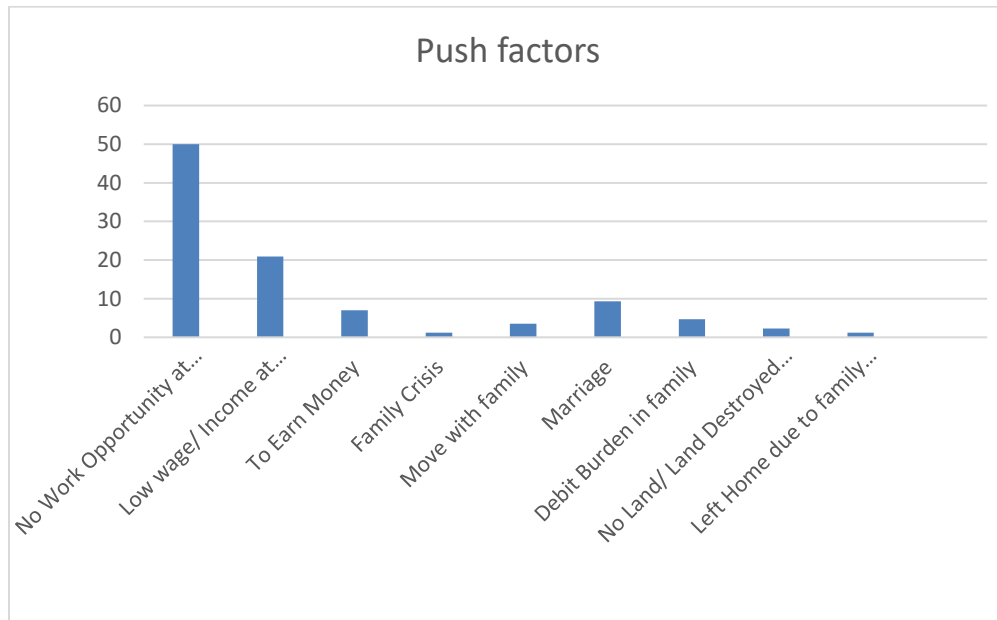


Figure 1: Push Factors for the Studied Population

Table 4: Traditional occupations of construction workers at their native places

Occupations	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)	N
Agriculture	33.3	50.0	36.0	31
Works in Field/ Agriculture Labourer	25.0	14.3	23.3	20
Daily Wage Worker	8.3	0.0	7.0	6
Cattle Rearing	1.4	0.0	1.2	1
Pottery	4.2	0.0	3.5	3
Blacksmith	2.8	7.1	3.5	3
No Tradition Occupation	25.0	28.6	25.6	22
Total	100	100	100	86

Source: Field Survey, 2022

According to the survey, the majority of migrant workers came from the rural parts of the Indian states of Bihar, particularly that of Aurangabad, Begusarai, Bhagalpur, Bhojpur and Samastipur (43%) and Uttar Pradesh (Rae Bareli, Rampur and Aligarh) (37.2%), where there were few job opportunities, especially for males, and marriage was the main driver of migration for women workers. 36% of the total sample of workers were involved in agriculture as a primary activity for their livelihood (Table 4). Undoubtedly, the main source of income in India comes from agriculture and related industries, especially in the vast rural areas. India is an agrarian nation, with around 54.6% of the labor force employed in activities related to agriculture and other related sectors (Census 2011). Women participate actively in many aspects of the agricultural and related industries. In our survey, 50% of the female respondents were also engaged in the same.

Table - 5: Characteristics of Native Place Visit among Migrant Construction Workers

Home Visits Characteristics		Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)	N
Home visits	Yes	81.9	92.9	83.7	72
	No	18.1	7.1	16.3	14
No. of Home visits (in a years)	No visits	18.1	7.1	16.3	14
	1-2 visits	59.7	85.7	64.0	55
	3-4 visits	19.4	0.0	16.3	14
	More than 4 visits	2.8	7.1	3.5	3
Occasion of home visit at native	family/ religion functions/festivals/funerals	81.4	92.3	83.3	60

place	crop planting/harvesting times	3.4	7.70	4.20	3
	when no work in city	3.4	0.0	2.8	2
	Other casual visits	11.9	0.0	9.7	7
Family member's visit at destination place	No	87.5	92.9	88.4	76
	Yes	12.5	7.1	11.6	10
Total		100	100	100	86

Source: Field Survey, 2022

While 83.7% of the workers make home visits and the majority of responders (64%) make one or two visits home during any family or religious gathering. Whereas for 11.6% of workers family members visit the place of destination (Table 5).

The decision to travel to Delhi was a key consideration. The majority of them answered that there were greater economic opportunities and a well-known individual living in Delhi, both of which served as pull factors for migration

Table - 6: Future Living Prospects among Migrant Construction Workers

Future Living Prospects Characteristics		Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)	N
Future living Prospects	Live in current city forever	33.3	50.0	36.0	31
	Return to native place	62.5	50.0	60.5	52
	live to elsewhere in India	4.2	0.0	3.5	3
Reason to live forever in current city/destination place	Better employment opportunities	54.2	57.1	54.8	17
	permanent settled	12.5	28.6	16.1	5
	Better standard of living	4.2	14.3	6.5	2
	better facilities	20.8	0.0	16.1	5
	better socio-cultural environment	8.3	0.0	6.5	2
Reason to return at native/origin place	want to Stay with family	37.8	0.0	32.7	17
	Emotionally attached / love with native place	42.2	85.7	48.1	25
	Village is better than city	13.3	14.3	13.5	7

	Ancestral property	4.4	0.0	3.8	2
	Difficult working conditions in cities	2.2	0.0	1.9	1
city where want to live in future	Mumbai	100.0	0.0	100.0	3

Source: Field Survey, 2022

As a result of their emotional attachment to their home native place, 60.5% of migrant workers desire to return there, while 36% choose to remain in the city forever due to the availability of better economic and employment chances. (Table 6). Additionally, it was visible that factors such as marital status, monthly income, the nature of one's job, and housing had a substantial impact on the environmental domain of higher quality of life. The notion is that not laborers with fairly excellent incomes have easy access to safety, a better physical environment, opportunities for leisure activities, better living conditions, access to health care, and transportation. It goes without saying that they are better off than those who work as workers in terms of housing and quality of life.

Table- 7: Work Related Issue Among Construction Workers

Work Characteristics among Workers		Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)	N
Which environment/place is suitable for your work	City / Urban areas	63.9	50.0	61.6	53
	Village	1.4	7.1	2.3	2
	Both areas Suitable	34.7	42.9	36.0	31
Happy with this job	Yes	86.1	78.6	84.9	73
	No	13.9	21.4	15.1	13
Any problem regarding to payment	Yes (delayed in payment)	66.7	64.3	66.3	57
	No	33.3	35.7	33.7	29
Feel safe at the construction site	safe	47.2	28.6	44.2	38
	sometime unsafe	33.3	64.3	38.4	33
	very risky (Hazardous/accidental)	19.4	7.1	17.4	15
Total		100.0	100.0	100.0	86

Source: Field Survey, 2022

When migrant workers move to new destinations by leaving their native places and family, they land up with new challenges such as job search, accommodation and food (initial assistance), credit in times of need, organization of work at the site, loneliness etc. Here, in the primary survey, it was found that about 90 percent of

workers faced difficulties such as cultural adaptation, language sometimes, work pressure and discrimination and other challenges.

Table-8: Problems Faced by Migrant Construction Workers

Problems Faced by Construction Workers		Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)	N
Any problems faced when you migrated to this city	Yes	90.3	92.9	90.7	78
	No	9.7	7.1	9.3	8
Types of problems faced at city	Difficulties In Adaptation	60.0	76.9	62.8	49
	Cultural & Social Problems	29.2	15.4	26.9	21
	Language Problems	10.8	7.7	10.3	8
Faced any emotional /mental problems at this city	Isolation	13.9	0.0	11.6	10
	Work Pressure	47.2	42.9	46.5	40
	Behavioural Changes	1.4	7.1	2.3	2
	All Of the Above Changes	23.6	42.9	26.7	23
	None	13.9	7.1	12.8	11
Faced any social or adjustment problem or discrimination in this city	Yes	30.6	35.7	31.4	27
	No	69.4	64.3	68.6	59
Types social or adjustment problem faced in this city	Cultural Differences	4.5	0.0	3.7	1
	Gender Discrimination	0.0	20.0	3.7	1
	Class/ Urban People Discrimination	50.0	40.0	48.1	13
	Work Related Discrimination/Issues	31.8	40.0	33.3	9
	Accommodation Related Problems	13.6	0.0	11.1	3
Total		100.0	100.0	100.0	89

Source: Field Survey, 2022

More than 80 percent like the higher wages in the city and enjoy good earnings here. The workers pointed out that the work culture is quite different from the villages. This reflects their perception of geographical places. They noted that the cities are culturally different from villages and in their free time most of the workers hang around the city or visit their known persons here (as shown in table 8).

Table -9: Migrant Construction Worker's Experience /Emotions about Work and City

Migrant Worker's Experience with Work & City		Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)	N
Like most about this city	Culture	5.6	0.0	4.7	4
	People	13.9	14.3	14.0	12
	work demand (high wage)	80.6	85.7	81.4	70
Enjoy most at the destination place	Good wages	55.6	42.9	53.5	46
	standard of life	11.1	21.4	12.8	11
	Both	33.3	35.7	33.7	29
City different from thenative place	Culturally different	44.4	28.6	41.9	36
	Open environment	12.5	14.3	12.8	11
	Work culture	38.9	42.9	39.5	34
	Urban people don't have sense of belonging to community	2.8	7.1	3.5	3
	Urban people different and mostly busy with themselves	1.4	7.1	2.3	2
Urban people attached with nature	No	81.9	71.4	80.2	69
	Yes	18.1	28.6	19.8	17
Lifestyle changed after migration	No	9.7	0.0	8.1	7
	Yes	90.3	100.0	91.9	79
Major lifestyle changes after migration	Sleep pattern	16.9	21.4	17.7	14
	Food habits	29.2	14.3	26.6	21
	Dress code	0.0	7.1	1.3	1
	Language	7.7	0.0	6.3	5
	Major lifestyle changes (more than 2-3 changes)	46.2	57.1	48.1	38
Availability of Leisure/free time at destination place	No	55.6	78.6	59.3	51
	Yes	44.4	21.4	40.7	35
spending free time at this destination place	Visit nearby places with friend e.g., park / temple	59.4	33.3	57.1	20
	Sleep	15.6	33.3	17.1	6
	Spend time with family	6.3	33.3	8.6	3
	Watch movies	3.1	0.0	2.9	1
	Household works	15.6	0.0	14.3	5

Miss the native place	So much	43.1	28.6	40.7	35
	Sometimes	54.2	71.4	57.0	49
	Can't say	2.8	0.0	2.3	2
Emotionally attachment with native place	Highly attached	62.5	50.0	60.5	52
	Partially attached	22.2	21.4	22.1	19
	Attached but no opportunities	6.9	21.4	9.3	8
	can't say	8.3	7.1	8.1	7
Total		100	100	100	86

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Most of the respondents stay away so they miss their families and villages and are very closely associated with the native places. More than 85 percent live in shelters or rented houses or stay at sites.

Table - 10: Living Arrangement of Migrant Construction Workers

Living Arrangement of Construction Workers		Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)	N
Current residence at destination place	Rented House	86.1	71.4	83.7	72
	Own House	1.4	0.0	1.20	1
	Construction Site	1.4	0.0	1.20	1
	Slum Area	11.1	28.6	14.0	12
Living arrangements	Living With Family	43.1	78.6	48.8	42
	Living Alone	29.2	7.10	25.6	22
	Living With Friends/Co-Worker/Co-Villager	27.8	14.3	25.6	22
Total		100.0	100.0	100.0	86

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Those who moved with family are currently living with them and those who migrated alone are living with co-workers or themselves. Hardly any workers prefer to stay alone, they are found in groups either at construction sites in at substandard housing areas. Sharing a rental room minimizes the cost of living in Delhi thus, a lot of migrant workers practice it.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The pandemic has provided us with a vivid illustration of how we have failed as a society by undervaluing one of the most diligent and hardworking classes and by endangering their dignity and way of life. The animosity and sense of shame felt by poor migrant workers will be a major barrier to the economy's recovery. Therefore, rather than perpetuating their status as second-class citizens, we need to start integrating migrants into mainstream culture.

The government must make sure that migrant workers are registered as soon as they enter another state and are given the Universally Valid Shramik Card/Number, regardless of whether they are traveling alone or with the assistance of a contractor. The creation of the card will assist migrant workers in accessing benefits provided by the federal government as well as assist both the federal and state governments in keeping track of the number of in-migrants entering each state. With this, the workers can be within the radius of the government, provided benefits of any government scheme for their welfare.

If we talk about marital status, it was seen that most of the female employees were married. As a result, it might be claimed that women move away with their families or other close friends for safety and support at work. The majority of workers live with coworkers to combat loneliness and keep bad thoughts at bay. These coworkers and co-villages function as one another's support systems. Yes, the maximum number of migrants have strong attachments to their natives and miss them, but they also enjoy city living and work opportunities. To overcome these urban issues associated with migration, There is a dire need for more comprehensive strategies to ensure social and economic security for these construction workers and lessen the negative effects of migration. Conditions for both work and lifestyle can be improved with the meticulous joining of hands from both government and private sectors to improve the lives of migrant workers.

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