



Special Session (SS11) on:

Dynamics of Labour Migration: Evidences from Low Developed Countries

Organizer:

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The aim and scope:

Human migration is probably as old as the history of human being itself. Labour migration is relatively recent phenomenon of last two centuries or so. Forced migration of Indian labour force to engage in the mining activities of South Africa and Plantation farming in the Caribbean countries as well as Pacific Islands is well documented. Similarly Nepali labour migration in India and Indian labour out migration in the West Asian countries and also within Indian states in recent past is well known fact. Similar streams of out migration are noticed from the African, Latin American and many other Asian countries to European and North American countries.

While there have been a number of multidimensional factors working as push factors at the origin and a number of pull factors attract the labour force in the destinations. There has been lot of changes in the labour laws; migration related laws as well as socio-political issues related to labour migration throughout the world. Social tension between the indigenous *Bodos* and migrant *Santhals* in Assam, India and *Marathis* and non-*Marathis* (*Bihari* and UP migrants) are some of the 'conflicts' between the migrants labours and the localites. In the global arena also similar events are not rare, for example the recent USA stand on migration and domestic labour problem is of similar nature.

Beyond economic factors there are several social, cultural and political aspects of labour migration too. The so called 'Maratha Pride' was the driving force behind gaining popularity of *Shiv Sena*, a cultural-political organization in Mumbai, India which was initially pro-*Maratha* sentiment to drive out migrant labour from particularly Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and also a few southern states of India. On the other hand psychological problems of the family members, particularly children and elderly parents, left behind at the destination, disturbed conjugal life of the spouses due to long period absence are some of the issues often not given adequate attention. The environment in which the migrant labours work and the hygiene and sanitary condition in which they live makes them much vulnerable. Sometimes there are uncommon diseases with which the migrants labours return to the origin are also sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) is a result of long duration separation from the family warrant thorough probe.

Not all are negative impacts that are associated with labour migration. The remittances often play important role in the raising life standard of the families with assured regular income for the destination region. Formation of fixed assets from the remittances creates conducive

environment for regular income in future are some of the positive aspects. But the recent political development and economic recession has created a deterrence to labour migration. The issues are as significant as it was ever and require research and analysis of different aspects of it. Particularly social conflict, psychological distress and vulnerability of migrant labour force need a serious probe.

The enlisted, below, sub-themes may be covered under the proposed special session:

- Agrarian Distress and Labour Migration,
- Changing Push Factors in the Region of Origin,
- Changing Pull Factors in the Destination Region,
- Globalization, Economic Transformation and Labour Migration,
- Marginalization, Casualization of Organized Sectors and Labour Migration,
- Gender issue in the context of labour migration,
- Regionalism and Labour Migration,
- Social-Political Conflict and Labour Migration,
- Rights of Migrant labours,
- Impact of Labour Out-Migration in the Source Region,
- Climate Change and Labour migration,
- Social Media and Labour Migration,
- Digital Transfer of Fund and Labour Migration

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