

SHRAM KO NAMAN

[Shram Ko Naman](#) is a collective effort of the Centre for New Economics Studies to interpret and understand the impact of the current crisis on India's working class. This is a Special Digital Newsletter prepared by representatives of all CNES Teams who contributed towards *Shram Ko Naman*.

Write to cnes.jgu@gmail.com for submissions. Click [here](#) to access the authors' guidelines.

ARTICLES

THE LOOMING DEBT CRISIS AND ECONOMIC PACKAGES IN EMERGING MARKETS

This article presented by [Samarth Gupta](#), highlights the financial vulnerabilities that have emerged due to COVID-19 pandemic. The unemployment crisis being an impending threat to the economy, the article concludes that developing economies are expected to reconstruct with an inward-looking approach in order to increase their welfare spending and fiscal flexibility.

[SNEHAL SREEDHAR](#) PRESENTS A BRIEF
MACROECONOMIC ANALYSIS ON THE EFFECTS OF
THE COVID CRISIS ON THE LABOR MARKET

Maintaining Order with the Ordinance

In the midst of disappearing worker rights, Advaita Singh underscores the chaos and retaliation exhibited from trade unions.



SOURCE: <https://m.economictimes.com/thumb/msid-76184779,width-1200,height-900,resizemode-4,imgsize-213225/crisis.jpg>

In her article 'Politics behind the migrant crisis between Nepal and India', [Vanshika Shah](#) brings to light the political stances of the two countries and their ignorance to the stranded workers on the borders. She talks about the political differences that need to be put behind in order to resolve the immediate migrant crisis.

ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE TO THE MIGRANTS

"What remains hidden is the fact that many such rural dwellers are victims of environmental injustice and more often than not are driven out of their homes due to its consequences."

Through her article, Vanshika Mittal explores notions of crop failure and the push and pull factor that leads to migration in the first place.

[Shrrijiet Roychowdhary](#) presents a short interview with Mr Anil Singh, a security personnel working in a private security providing organization around the state of Gujarat. The interview reflects on the hardships laborers are facing due to the current COVID-19 crisis.

Through her article [Violent Spaces](#), Prerna Vij discusses the impact of the lockdown on the laborers. The lockdown failed to take into account the unprecedented labour crisis indicating onto the idea that Migrant laborers are in and of itself a category that is extremely exploited.

PHOTO ESSAYS

PHOTOGRAPHS BY:

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TEXT BY:

Advaita Singh

[MAY 2020](#)

The Shramik





JUNE 2020
Masked Heroes



JULY 2020 -1
Sacred Steps



JULY 2020 -2
Bitter Sweet Days

Volume 2 Issue IV (July, 2020)

Special Journal Issue on Shram Ko Naman: UNDERSTANDING THE PLIGHT OF A WORKING CLASS

Any attempt to understand and address the issues associated with the labour force would turn futile, lacking the clarity of certain concepts. There are concerns about the growing informalisation of employment on one hand. This needs to be distinguished from what the informal sector generally means. On the other hand, the concept of informality itself seems quite incoherent. Multiple states and organisations resort to multiple approaches in interpreting informality ranging from size to irregularity to maintenance of credible financial account(s) separating production activity from other activities of the owner, nature of activity, etc. Further, as also acknowledged by National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector, there is a need to make unambiguous classifications among formal employment, informal employment, formal elements of informal employment and informality of formal employment. Hence, a clear and coherent definition of these concepts is a fundamental requisite for dissecting the complex issue of labour.

INFOSPHERE

A) Vol. I Issue V(May)

Understanding The Unemployment Scenario Across Emerging Economies:

Reflections From China, Turkey, South Africa

Understanding the structural composition of the rising unemployment scenario in context to India, this Issue expands its line of inquiry to the unemployment scenarios in three of the major emerging nations in different regions of the global economic landscape: China, South Africa and Turkey. Broader points of focus are: The nature of the employment landscape, the gendered context of unemployment and employability concerns

B) Vol. 1 Issue VI (June)

Broken Markets: Reflections From India's Labor Landscape (Part I)

This issue focuses on the fragmented nature of India's labour market by emphasising on three important aspects: The nature and form of migrant work in India, the state of worker unions in India and the concerns of child labour, bonded labour and issues of workplace safety.

EPISODE 10

**IMPACT OF THE CORONAVIRUS LOCKDOWN
ON LABOUR**

Mr. Bankat Mandhania is a director at Ashtech India, India's leading fly ash processor and exporter. He has been involved in India's construction and infra industry for the last three decades. In this episode, he discusses the damage brought to the labor market, where millions of laborers are unemployed and displaced. Mr. Mandhania presents us with the ground reality of the situation laborers are in today and what the future might hold.



EPISODE 11

**COVID-19 CRISIS AND WOMEN
FARMERS**

Ms. Gargie Mangulkar is the national coordinator of Makaam (Mahila Kisan Adhikar Manch). Makaam is an informal forum that aims to visibilise women farmers and create and secure rights over productive livelihoods. In this episode, she provides the listeners with an insight on the unequal rights and recognition of women farmers in India. She talks about the impact of climate change and the Covid-19 crisis on the livelihoods of the women farmers and the work Makaam is doing to solve the same.



SAMVAAD

A. AN ETHNOGRAPHIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE MIGRANT LABOUR CRISIS AND ITS ECONOMIC IMPLICATION

MR. ABHIJIT MUKHOPADHYAY- a senior fellow at Observer Research Foundation, whose focus areas are monetary economy and political economy of finance. He has extensive experience in economic and policy research, academia, business school training, and academic administration.

In this discussion Mr. Abhijit highlights the plight of the migrant workers and its economic impact using an ethnographic method. This gave space to nuances in the existing discussion by making the narrative more personalised.

B. UNDERSTANDING THE GENDERED IMPACT OF THE CRISIS

DR. NITYA RAO - a field level practitioner, researcher, trainer and teacher with close to 35 years of experience. She has worked extensively in the field of gendered land relations, agriculture, food and nutrition security, adaptation to climate change, migration and livelihood, education and intra-household relations. She has also published a book titled "Good Women do not Inherit Land: Politics of Land and Gender in India".

DR. GEETI DAS - an assistant professor of political science at Jindal School of International affair. Her work focuses on institutional change, infrastructures, the state, urban politics and gender and sexuality under globalisation. Her dissertation, From Mental Disorder to Emotional Data: Epistemic Power over Sexual Politics received the 2019 Frieda Wunderlich Memorial Award for outstanding dissertation by an international student.

This discussion sheds light on the women and the transgender community workers in lieu of the lockdown. Often seen as the 'vulnerables within the vulnerable', the audience gets an insight into the situation that these communities are currently facing and what we can expect going forward from here.

C. APATHY OF THE STATE TOWARDS MIGRANT WORKERS

MS. PATRALEKHA CHATTERJEE - a Delhi based journalist, photographer and author focusing on development issues. Some of the publications that have carried her work are The Atlantic, BBC.com, British Medical Journal, Chicago Tribune, The Economic Times, The Hindu amongst many more. She is an experienced media trainer with focus areas interlinking health, environment degradation, human rights, migration and nutrition.

MR. JADUMANI MAHANAD - professor is trained in political sciences. He submitted a PHD titled Ambedkar's Idea of Good Society : Philosophy, Ethics and Buddhism. He has also published in peer-reviewed journals and edited books.

The discussion explores the possible reasons behind the migrant workers being abandoned in terms of the political clout in the pandemic. It also discusses the model implemented in Kerala in detail as the panelists speak on the aspects of improvement for the country in view of the crisis prolonging in itself.

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