

Year of Publication: 2021

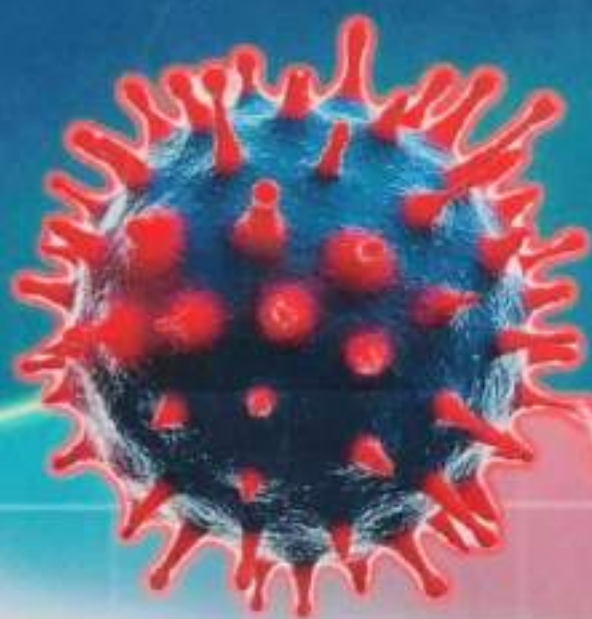
Name of the Author: Sidhartha Sankar Laha

Name of the Department: Department of Lifelong Learning & Extension

Disadvantaged Groups and the COVID-19 Crisis in India No One Left Behind



Anil Bhumali & Sujoy Kanti Ghoshal



Contents

<i>Preface</i>	v
<i>Introduction</i>	xi
1. COVID 19 and the Under-Privileged Groups of India: A Study on Morbidity, Economics and Sustainability Sugata Sen; Soumitra Kundu; Soumya Sengupta; Hillol Kumar Chakrabarti	1
2. Disadvantaged Groups and the COVID-19 Crises in India M. Thangaraj	21
3. Can MGNREGA be a Tool for Rural Livelihood Recovery after COVID-19? Sidhartha Sankar Laha	33
4. COVID-19 and India's Economic Outlook: Intensifying Challenges for its Labour Forces Sanjib Mandal	47
5. A Swot on Consequences of Lockdown on Migratory Beekeeping: West Bengal – A Case Anil Bhuimali, Sanghamitra Purkait and Manish Baidya	66
6. The COVID-19 and Physically Challenged Persons (PCPs) in India – No PCPs to be Left Behind Sujoy Kanti Ghoshal	99
7. The Plight of Migrant Labours in the Face of COVID-19 Pandemic Tulika Kar	115
8. Economic Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Disadvantaged Groups of India Tapan Kumar Ghosh and Paramita Dasgupta	133
9. Has Rural Economy given Disadvantaged Groups a Shelter during COVID-19 outbreak? Jayeeta Deshmukh	150
10. The Corona Pandemic: Effective Situation on Education in India Paromita Ray	165

x	•	Disadvantaged Groups and the Covid-19 Crisis in India: No One Left Behind	
11.		Epidemiological Prevalence of Infective Diseases and Pandemicity of COVID Debasish Pradhan, Sumita Rai, Pramanna Gurung	175
12.		Impact of COVID-19 Crisis on Disadvantaged Groups in India Priyanka Banik	182
13.		Understanding the Impact of COVID-19 on the Returnee Migrant Workers of the Tea Gardens of the Darjeeling Hills Pritten Sherpa and Bishal Rai	189
14.		Higher Education during Pandemic: A Case Study of Darjeeling District Bishal Rai	204
15.		A Look into the Nature of the Temporary Migrated Labours and the Impact on their Livelihood in the Context of Covid19 Pandemic Ankur Gupta Bhaya	218
16.		Is COVID-19 Changing Women's Lives? – A Study of the Tourism Industry in India Sumitra Naha (Das)	229
17.		India's Digital Acceleration during COVID-19 Payel Dutta	241
		<i>Index</i>	255

Can MGNREGA be a Tool for Rural Livelihood Recovery after COVID-19?

Sidhartha Sankar Laha

Introduction

In rural areas, major livelihood activities are irregular mainly due to seasonal fluctuations in agriculture and allied activities. This leads to periodic withdrawal from the labour force, especially by the marginal labourers, who shift back and forth between what is reported as domestic and gainful work. Many workers migrate to other parts of the country in search of work. Lack of alternate livelihoods and skill development are the primary causes of migration from rural areas.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), the single largest government sponsored scheme aimed at providing employment and reducing migration, if properly leveraged can provide some support to the labours who have returned to villages. This is possible only when communities and field staff have the capacities to plan for their villages and are aware of the provisions made under the act for the most vulnerable sections of the society.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, India is facing a severe challenge of unemployment and reverse migration. Migrant workers are heading back to their native places in the hope of sustaining themselves better than they would be able to manage in hostile living conditions in host locations with limited work opportunities. Most migrant workers are daily-wage earners, and the absence of work for extended periods makes it difficult to afford the high cost of living in urban areas. Added to this is the uncertainty around the timelines for normalization of the current situation.

The COVID-19 outbreak and government-led measures to contain it are having widespread effects on rural economies across the world. This disease is affecting all aspects of rural society, both directly when people from rural communities fall ill, but also because of the social distancing restrictions that are in place to limit the progress of the disease. It is affecting household incomes and rural businesses in every sector

11. Minati, S. (2013). MGNREGA and Financial Inclusion – An Inter-District Analysis of Odisha. *IOSR Journal Of Humanities And Social Science (IOSR-JHSS)*, Volume 14, Issue 2.
12. Navneet, S. (2015). "MGNREGA: Its Implication in India." *International Journal of Science Technology & Management, Volume No.04, Special Issue No.01.*
13. Padma, D. (2015). "MGNREGA and Rural Distress in India." *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Invention, Volume 4 Issue 8.*
14. Panda, B. &Umdor, S (2011), *Appraisal and Impact Assessment of MGNREGA in Assam.* North-Eastern Hill University. (n.d.).
15. Rajendra, N., Sakina, D., & Rajesh, G. (2018). *Analysis of Payment Delays and Delay Compensation in NREGA Findings across Ten States for Financial Year 2017-18.*
16. Ramesh, C., & Srivastva, S. (2014). "Changes in the Rural Labour Market and Their Implications for Agriculture." *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 49, No. 10, pp. 47-54.
17. Roshni, P. (2017). "MGNREGA and Its Role in Rural Development." *International Journal of Scientific and Research Publications, Volume 7, Issue 11.*
18. Sanjoy, S. (2013). "Rural Poverty Alleviation Programmes: A Study Of Mgnrega In Manipur." *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Invention, Volume 2 Issue 9.*
19. Smt.Pushpa, S. (2014). "Implementation and Impact of MGNREGA on Agriculture Produces." *SSARSC International Journal of GeoScience and Geo-Informatics, Volume 1, Issue 1.*
20. Sudarshan, Ratna M. (2011): "India's National Rural Employment Guarantee Act: Women's Participation and Impacts in Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, and Rajasthan", Research Report Summary 06, Institute of Development Studies. (n.d.).
21. Tanisha, E., KV, R., Bhaskar, S., SS, R., Bhaskar, R., Ajay, B., Rajeev, S. (2013). "Agricultural and Livelihood Vulnerability Reduction through the MGNREGA." *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 48, No. 52, 94-103.

Worldwide Circulation through Authorspress Global Network

First Published in 2021

by

Authorspress

Q-2A Hauz Khas Enclave, New Delhi-110 016 (India)

Phone: (0) 9818049852

E-mail: authorspressgroup@gmail.com

Website: www.authorspressbooks.com

Disadvantaged Groups and the Covid-19 Crisis in India:

No One Left Behind

ISBN 978-93-90891-47-4

Copyright © 2021 Editors

Concerned authors are solely responsible for their views, opinions, policies, copyright infringement, legal action, penalty or loss of any kind regarding their articles. Neither the publisher nor the editors will be responsible for any penalty or loss of any kind if claimed in future. Contributing authors have no right to demand any royalty amount for their articles.

Printed in India at Thomson Press (India) Limited

The pandemic COVID-19 is an unprecedented challenge to human civilization. The whole world has been going through a massive crisis mainly medically as well as economically. No exception in India. The COVID-19 has seriously affecting health and disrupting the livelihood and overall wellbeing of people in India. However, the situation is exacerbating for the informal worker during the COVID-19 crisis. Indian working class people including migrant workers have faced a sharp rise in severe unemployment due to severe economic lockdown. The situation of women workers is more vulnerable. In the education sector, the student community, particularly, those who are economically backward, has been affected very badly. This crisis is disproportionately impacting Physically Challenged Persons. In India, PCPs are normally disadvantaged socially and economically. However, the situation has been changing. The whole world has been fighting against this COVID-19 crisis together. The book "DISADVANTAGED GROUPS AND THE COVID-19 CRISIS IN INDIA: NO ONE LEFT BEHIND" has pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on socio-economic conditions of the people, especially to informal workers, the poor, and the marginalized sections of the society in India. Overall, this volume is an academic attempt to deepen the discourse on the impact of the current pandemic COVID-19 and the responses to COVID-19 under the critical principle of leaving no one behind.

Profile of Contributors:

1. **Sugata Sen**, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Panskura Banamali College (Autonomous), West Bengal.
2. **Soumitra Kundu**, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Narasinha Dutt College, West Bengal.
3. **Soumya Sengupta**, Faculty, Department of Computer science, Panskura Banamali College (Autonomous), West Bengal.
4. **Hillol Kumar Chakrabarti**, Former Professor, Department of Economics, University of North Bengal, West Bengal.
5. **M. Thangaraj**, Former Professor, Department of Economics, University of Madras, Chennai.
6. **Sidhartha Sankar Laha**, Associate Professor, Department of LL&E, University of North Bengal, West Bengal.
7. **Sanjib Mandal**, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Raiganj University, West Bengal.
8. **Anil Bhunia**, Vice-Chancellor, Raiganj University, West Bengal.
9. **Mrs. Sanghamitra Purkait**, Research scholar, Department of Geography, Diamond Harbour Women's University, West Bengal.
10. **Manish Baidya**, Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, Kaliyaganj College, West Bengal.
11. **Sujoy Kanti Ghoshal**, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, St. Joseph's College, West Bengal.
12. **Tulika Kar**, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Chachol College, West Bengal.
13. **Tapan Kumar Ghosh**, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Ananda Chandra College, West Bengal.
14. **Paramita Dasgupta**, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Ananda Chandra College, West Bengal.
15. **Jayeeta Deshmukh**, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Presidency University, West Bengal.
16. **Paromita Ray**, Guest Faculty, Department of Sanskrit, Raiganj University, West Bengal.
17. **Debasish Pradhan**, Librarian (Associate Scale), St. Joseph's College, West Bengal.
18. **Sumita Rai**, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, St. Joseph's College, West Bengal.
19. **Pramanna Gurung**, Librarian, Mink Degree College, West Bengal.
20. **Priyanka Banik**, State Aided College Teacher (SACT), South Calcutta Girls' College, West Bengal.
21. **Bishal Rai**, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, St. Joseph's College, West Bengal.
22. **Pritten Sherpa**, Ph. D Scholar, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
23. **Ankur Gupta Bhaya**, Assistant Teacher of Economics, Ghogomali High School, West Bengal.
24. **Sumitra Naha (Das)**, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Siliguri Mahila Mahavidyalaya, West Bengal.
25. **Payel Dutta**, State Aided College Teacher (SACT), Asansol Girls' College, West Bengal.



AUTHORS PRESS
Publishers of Creative & Scholarly Books

ISBN 978-93-90891-47-4



9 789390 891474

₹ 1200 | \$ 45