

# Survey on Migrant Workers: A Study on their Livelihood after Reverse Migration due to Lockdown

(All India Report)



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## Contents of the Reports

Emergence of Covid-19, shutdown of the economic activities, extinct of livelihood of the migrant workers, insufficiency of the local administration to provide food and shelter to the migrant workers and to reduce the uncertainties for their future, and the fight of the migrant workers to reverse back to their Native Place has been well researched by many institutions and documented by the Press and Media. But the story of real plight of the migrants begins after they reach their Native Places.

“Survey on Migrant Workers: A Study on their Livelihoods after Reverse Migration due to Lockdown” has been carried out by the ISS&RF during July-August 2020. More than 6% migrants reached their Native Place one month or two before the first lockdown was announced and more than 90%, by the end of the last phase of lockdown. At the time of survey, most of the migrants were stable at their Native Place for more than two months. This intervening period was sufficient for the State Governments announced schemes and programs for the migrants to fructify, cash assistance and ration under PDS to have hundred percent coverage, restructuring of employment generation programs like MNREGA to achieve its objective of work as per demand, and skill mapping of the migrants and arrangement for alternate source of livelihood to start generating income for the migrants.

Survey on Migrant Workers conducted by the ISS&RF unfurls the plight of the Migrants in their Native Place, insufficiency of source of livelihood and Government interventions, and the dilemma of the Migrants whether to return to Place of Migration or continue to suffer at the Native Place. Recommendations and Policy Imperatives briefed in the Report, the Foundation hopes, will be handy for the Government and Policy Makers.

This is the second telephonic survey-based study conducted by the ISS&RF as part of their response to the emerging socio-economic problems with the hard statistics. “Old and Poor in the time of Covid-19 Pandemic in India – A case study of Old Age Pensions Scheme” conducted in June 2020 was limited to the old and poor in Odisha. The present study goes beyond and covers six Migrant States of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal which could combine to represent the migrants approximate to all India scenario.

All India Report leads another six State Reports, one each for the States covered and surveyed. The Reports are the result of combined efforts of each and all the members of the Foundation. Concept paper on the study, survey instruments, survey management, database creation, data processing, all these have been done inhouse, by the members themselves. Shri Amitabha Panda for the Report on West Bengal and Chhattisgarh, Shri Inderjeet Singh for the Report on Uttar Pradesh, Dr. A. K. Choubey for the Report on Bihar, and Shri Srikara Naik for the Report on Odisha deserve special mention for their initiative and willingness to work as State Coordinators and to bring out the State Reports. Shri Rakesh Kumar Singh with the sharpest computer mind has been instrumental in data processing and analytical table generation. The Foundation records his contribution for the successful completion of the Study. At the last but not the least, Foundation thanks Dr. N. K. Sahu for taking lead in finalizing the recommendation and policy imperative part of the Study and editing a few State Reports. Foundation also thanks Shri A. K. Srivastava to voluntarily agree to edit all India Report and to provide his valuable inputs without which, it would have not been in the shape, the present Report is.

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# Survey on Migrant Workers: A Study on their Livelihood after Reverse Migration due to Lockdown

## (All India Report)

### Background and Objectives of the Survey

1.1 The spread of novel Corona Virus Disease, popularly known as COVID-19 is having a very lasting impact, especially on the economy of almost all the countries across the globe, including India. In the initial stage, in order to prevent further spread of the disease through physical contact and also to build infrastructure for treatment of patients, at the initial stage, many countries including India took recourse to the method of lockdown resulting in closure of all economic activities. In India, the first phase of lockdown was from 25 March 2020 to 14 April 2020, second phase up to 3 May 2020, the third phase, up to 17 May 2020 and finally the fourth phase, from 18 to 31 May 2020. Thus, the lockdown lasted for a period 68 days. The lockdown so imposed resulted in an unprecedented disruption of the economic activities and livelihood of the workers, especially those, who had migrated to other places away from their Native Places in search of livelihood. These workers suffered very heavily, as all of a sudden, there was total closure and extinct of their means of livelihood. Loss of income, food shortage and uncertainty of future left them with no option but to return to their Native Places.

1.2 The obvious question is what happened to their sources of livelihood in their Native Places after they returned. Government of India and respective State Governments had announced some assistance including cash transfers to these migrants both in the Place of Migration as well as in their Native Places to mitigate their plight due to lockdown. Government of India also identified 116 districts having more than 25000 migrants and have started a Mega Skill Development and Employment Opportunities Programme with a targeted investment of Rs. fifty thousand crores in these districts. Have these assistances reached the migrants or they are mulling to re-migrate to their Place of Migration, in the hope that they have employment opportunities in the Place of Migration.

1.3 The focus of this study is mainly on the livelihood aspects of the reverse migrants in their Native Places. Keeping in view the difficult time of Covid-19, present study is based on a telephonic survey of the reverse migrants. Main objectives of the study are as follows:

- Reasons for reverse migration,
- Availability of livelihood and employment opportunities in the Native Place vis-a-vis at the Place of Migration,
- Dependency vis-à-vis the earning capacity of migrants,
- Availability of government intervention/assistance/schemes to create alternative livelihood opportunities for these workers in their Native Places, and
- Whether or, not the migrants are willing to return to Place of Migration and the reasons thereof.

1.4 Keeping in view the newly announced Mega Skill Development and Employment Opportunities Programme, the survey also attempted to map the skills of these reverse migrants which were their source of livelihood in the places of migration and which could be indicators for State authorities for appropriate intervention and creation of employment opportunities locally.

## Sample Design and Sample Selection

2.1 The Survey was conducted in six migrants dominated States viz. Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal which have majority of workers, working in other places and who returned to their Native Places due to lockdown. Samples of districts, blocks, Gram Panchayats (GPs) for the survey were selected on random basis. For this purpose, each selected State was divided into Commissionerate / Revenue Divisions and one district was selected on random basis from each Commissionerate/ Revenue Division for the survey. In case of Uttar Pradesh, Commissionerate/ districts lying in western Uttar Pradesh were left out with the obvious reasons that these districts provide livelihood to the migrants from other States including other districts from Uttar Pradesh rather their inhabitants migrating to other States as workers. From selected districts, 20 Gram Panchayats (GPs) were selected through systematic sampling which ensured that large number of blocks in the districts got represented. For selection of Gram Panchayats, frame of Local Government Directory was used. It has the directory of Gram Panchayats with LGD Code, State Code, State, District, Block, Local Body, Name of Secretary and Contact number of Secretary amongst other fields. Five migrants were selected from each GP. It was expected that every GP would have the village-wise list of reverse migrant families with the name of migrants, date of return, mode of journey, state and place from where he/she has returned, and contact number, which could be collected telephonically from the respective GPs. It was therefore a two-stage telephonic survey was planned, in the first stage respective GP Secretary/Panchayat Executive Officer (PEO) were telephonically requested for the details of the reverse migrants which was used as the frame for selection of sample migrants. It was ensured that migrants are selected in such a way that each of the villages within the Gram Panchayat gets represented. However, there were some difficulties in getting the list of the migrants from all GPs and there was lack of response too from some of the migrants. In those cases, substitution was made at the level of Gram Panchayats and migrants too. The detail information was collected telephonically from the selected migrants, in the second and final stage of survey.

2.2 At all India level, as stated earlier, Study has covered six States of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. From Uttar Pradesh, 9 districts have been selected and from other States, 5 districts each were selected. The sample, therefore, covers 438 Gram Panchayats and 2917 migrants. As such on an average 6.66 migrants have been selected from each of the selected Gram Panchayats. A list of districts and number of selected Gram Panchayats and number of migrants, has been given in Table-1.

Table-1  
Distribution of Selected Gram Panchayat and Migrants in Selected Districts

State/ All India	Districts	No. of Gram Panchayats (GP) Selected	No. of Migrants Selected	Average no. of Migrants per GP
All India	34 districts	438	2917	6.66
Bihar	5 districts	90	470	5.22
	Aurangabad	10	104	10.40
	Begusarai	11	110	10.00
	Patna	6	48	8.00
	Saharasa	21	108	5.14
	Samastipur	42	100	2.38
Chhattisgarh	5 districts	99	500	5.05
	Bilaspur	28	100	3.57
	Dantewada	15	100	6.67

	Jashpur	20	100	5.00
	Mahasamund	19	100	5.26
	Rajanandgaon	17	100	5.88
Jharkhand	5 districts	35	195	5.57
	East Singhbhum	4	27	6.75
	Garhwa	6	39	6.50
	Giridih	8	40	5.00
	Godda	11	64	5.82
	Simdega	6	25	4.17
Odisha	5 districts	99	497	5.02
	Bhadrak	20	97	4.85
	Ganjam	18	100	5.56
	Kendujhar	21	100	4.76
	Malkangiri	20	100	5.00
	Puri	20	100	5.00
Uttar Pradesh	9 districts	58	795	13.71
	Ambedkar Nagar	5	42	8.40
	Baharaich	6	61	10.17
	Banda	11	103	9.36
	Barabanki	18	89	4.94
	Basti	18	100	5.56
	Jalaun	10	100	10.00
	Jaunpur	20	100	5.00
	Mau	20	100	5.00
	Pratapgarh	17	100	5.88
West Bengal	5 districts	57	460	8.07
	Hooghly	7	70	10.00
	Jalpaiguri	10	99	9.90
	Malda	9	98	10.89
	Purulia	12	103	8.58
	South 24 Parganas	19	90	4.74

2.3 The survey process as already mentioned in Para 2.1 has two phases. The first phase involved collection of a list of migrants with contact numbers from the selected GPs of sample districts and the second phase, inquiry from selected reverse migrants, through telephonic contact. First phase of Survey was an uphill task despite contact numbers of Gram Panchayat's Secretary/ CEO available through the database on Directory of Local Self Government. Either the contact numbers were incorrect, or the Secretaries/CEOs refused to provide the list. It is not that they have not compiled the list, but they fear that there would be problem if they share the list. It was later on, learnt that such list has been made with contact number of the migrants for variety of the purposes viz. i) quarantine of the migrants and for providing cash assistance, ii) as part of collecting information on skills of the migrants for creation of skill based employment opportunities in the State, and, iii) for preparation of ration card for the migrants who did not possess it earlier. Such List is available with block development and district panchayat officers, but nobody wanted to share the list. It was an arduous task to persuade the Gram Panchayats Secretaries and even the officers at block and district level to part it for the Survey. Phase-1 of the Survey took more than a month entirely due to non-availability of the list of migrants in public domain.

2.4 Date of survey for different States may be seen in Table-2. The survey was conducted during 30 June 2020 to 15 August 2020. Reference date of survey may be taken as 31 July 2020.

Table-2  
State wise Start and Completion Date of Survey

State	Start of Survey	Completion of Survey	State	Start of Survey	Completion of Survey
Bihar	12 July	28 July	Chhattisgarh	30 June	28 July
Jharkhand	7 July	1 August	Odisha	5 July	21 July
Uttar Pradesh	12 July	15 August	West Bengal	14 July	30 July

2.5 The schedule contains two parts, Part-I, the GP level schedule and Part-II, the migrant level schedule. Part-I is based on the response of GP secretary and serves for the preparation of frame of migrant families in the gram panchayat. Part-II schedule is divided into three sections viz., identification particulars, livelihood in the Place of Migration and livelihood in the Native Place after return. Identification particulars include month and week of return, place of migration, duration of stay in Place of Migration and number of persons dependent on the migrant. Livelihoods sections dwell on source of livelihood, economic activity, average monthly income, reasons of reverse migration, Government assistance received and reasons for willingness to return/non-return to Place of Migration after the lockdown is eased out and skill possessed by the migrants. Schedule is placed at Annexure-1 in the end of the Report.

### Findings of the Survey

3. Head of the migrant family is the respondent for the survey. In the Report, the migrant, migrant head, and self, have been used interchangeably in the same context and sometimes migrant connotes migrant family at the Place of Migration too. Migrants at the Place of Migration have families at the Place of Migration as well as at the Native Place and therefore at many places, part of families at the Place of Migration has been used to denote the members with the head of migrants at the Place of Migration. All the tables and analysis have used the words “All India” which means the results based on six migrant States surveyed. As these States are major States as far as migrants are concerned, the results based on these States may be rightly, called as all India results. Findings of the survey based on the analysis of the survey data are given in the following paragraphs:

#### 3.1 Reverse Migrants Alone Versus with Part of Family, Married Versus Unmarried, Young Versus Middle Aged and Head of the Migrants Male Versus Female – Profile of Migrants

3.1.1 Lockdown and reverse migration have revealed the composition of migrants. Most of the migrants, as large as 80.63% of the migrant families had been alone at the Place of Migration, 38.74%, as single alone and 41.89%, as married alone. Migrants with part of families constitute for less than one fifth of the total migrant families, single unmarried leading such families in 4.08% cases and the married one, in 15.29% families. Table-3 presents composition of migrants and percentage share of female heads, all India and State wise. Composition of migrants at all India level may also be seen in Chart-1

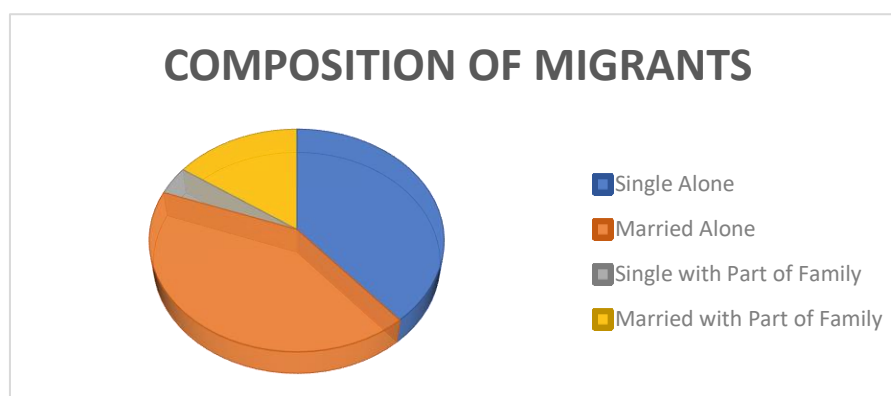


Table-3  
Composition of Migrants and Percentage Share of Female Heads

State/ All India	% of Migrants				
	Single Alone	Married Alone	Single with Part of Family	Married with Part of Family	% Female heads
BIHAR	31.06	41.49	5.32	22.13	4.47
CHHATTISGARH	41.00	27.60	6.80	24.60	8.80
JHARKHAND	35.38	50.77	7.69	6.15	1.54
ODISHA	51.51	45.47	1.01	2.01	2.82
UTTAR PRADESH	32.33	42.89	3.52	21.26	2.14
WEST BENGAL	42.83	48.48	2.61	6.09	1.30
ALL INDIA	38.74	41.89	4.08	15.29	3.60

3.1.2 State wise differentials are visible, Odisha is distinctly different, generally leaving the families behind in the Native Place, with almost 97% migrant families, migrating alone and from that more than 51% as single un-marrieds. West Bengal follows it with 91.31% migrant families moving alone but here more are married alone 48.48%. Jharkhand is at third place with 86.05% migrants migrating alone at the Place of Migration. Migrants from Chhattisgarh, in comparison of other States, migrate with family and has the highest percentage of such families, 31.40%. It also has the highest percentage of migrants married and with part of families, 24.60%. In this aspect of migration, married and with part of family, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have similar composition and rank second and third after Chhattisgarh with 22.13% and 21.26% migrants, respectively. West Bengal has the least share of migrants after Odisha, just 8.70% moving with part of family. Jharkhand has the highest percentage of married alone migrants from the State, almost 51%.

Chart-1



3.1.3 Distribution of males and females as head of migrant families is skewed, female heads are just 3.60%. It is on expected lines, as a matter of working class and mostly in urban areas. Among States, Chhattisgarh leads the female leadership with 8.80% of such families, Bihar follows with 4.47%. West Bengal with negligible 1.30% and Jharkhand at 1.54% are not comfortable with female leadership and participation as migrants.

3.1.4 As regards young population, the average age of migrants in different categories of alone and married, single and with part of family has been shown in Table-4. Average age of the migrant heads is just 28.69 years, singles alone and with part of family with average age of 23.14 and 23.17 years,



respectively. Marrieds have their average age as 32.31 and 34.47 years, respectively. Thus, marrieds with part family are two years older to the marrieds migrating alone. What could this mass of migrant youths, migrating at far off places imply? Young and married, just 32.31 years old, but do not have scope of employment locally to maintain their families and thus they move away to, far off places in search of job, leaving their brides at home. Migration of workers in such large scale and in young age is an important indicator for authorities at the State and Central levels to take suitable action for creation of opportunities for employment locally. Meanwhile reports are there that reverse migrants from migrant States have started returning back to the Place of Migration in large scale in spite of risk of corona, precisely because they have no source of income in their Native Places to maintain their families. Female heads of migrants at all India level have a bit higher average age of 29.41 years.

Table-4  
Average and Median Age of Migrant Heads at the Place of Migration

State/All India	Average Age (Years)						Median (Years) Total Migrants	
	Single Alone	Married Alone	Single with Part of Family	Married with Part of Family	Total	Female	Total	Female
BIHAR	21.98	32.61	22.36	33.84	29.04	32.67	27.00	32.00
CHHATTISGARH	22.04	33.14	22.88	35.26	28.42	25.84	25.00	23.00
JHARKHAND	23.17	32.19	21.93	32.25	28.22	36.33	26.00	35.00
ODISHA	25.57	32.64	32.00	40.30	29.14	29.50	27.50	28.50
UTTAR PRADESH	22.15	31.78	22.21	33.63	28.66	31.59	26.00	28.00
WEST BENGAL	23.17	32.07	25.75	37.00	28.39	34.33	26.00	37.00
ALL INDIA	23.14	32.31	23.17	34.47	28.69	29.41	26.00	27.00

3.1.5 State wise distribution generally has same pattern. However, Odisha exhibits a different structure with the migrants in higher age group, single alone having 2.43 point percentage higher to national average and singles with part family and marrieds with part family having almost 9 and 6 percentage point higher to national average. However, it may be noted that Odisha has just 3% migrants with part families and therefore we may not be sure, about the pattern. Their overall average age of 29.14% testify the similarity with other States.

3.1.6 All the States surveyed have female migrants with higher age than the age of average migrant head except for Chhattisgarh wherein female heads of migrants are younger, rather youngest with average age of just 25.84 years. Chhattisgarh has maximum female heads of migrants across the States surveyed. Median age of migrant heads and female heads have been computed for all the States surveyed. It is found that median age of migrant heads is just 26 years and female heads, just 27 years. Again, on this measure of central tendency too, Chhattisgarh migrants are the youngest with median age of 25 years and the female heads therefrom are the youngest with 23 years median age. Odisha has the highest median age of 27.50 years while West Bengal has the highest median age of 37 years for its female heads.

### 3.2 Dependency of Families at the Place of Migration and at Native Place on the Young Shoulder of Head of Migrants, the Earning Lot

3.2.1 As expressed in the last para, reverse migrants in more than 80% cases, migrate and had been alone at the Place of Migration and therefore a thin and smaller family size was expected at the Place of Migration. But what about the size of family and dependency on migrants at Native Place. Lower migrant labour dependency gives freedom for and promotes economic growth while higher migrant labour dependency decreases the economic growth. Table-5 presents State wise average family size of

migrants at the Place of Migration and Native Place. Truly, at the Place of Migration, the family size is just 1.56 and the average earning members in the family is 1.12. In comparison to this the family size of the migrants at the Native Place is staggering high at 5.49, of which average earning members are just 1.26.

Table-5  
Average Family Size of Migrants at the Place of Migration and Native Place

State/All India	% of Migrants					
	Place of Migration			Native Place		
	Average Size of Earning Members	Average Dependents Size	Average Family Size	Average Size of Earning Members	Average Dependents Size	Average Family Size
BIHAR	1.12	0.87	1.99	0.79	3.18	3.97
CHHATTISGARH	1.38	0.51	1.88	1.26	4.12	5.38
JHARKHAND	1.07	0.10	1.17	1.22	4.53	5.75
ODISHA	1.00	0.02	1.02	1.62	3.63	5.25
UTTAR PRADESH	1.09	0.69	1.78	1.41	5.37	6.77
WEST BENGAL	1.05	0.08	1.12	1.13	3.96	5.08
ALL INDIA	1.12	0.44	1.56	1.26	4.23	5.49

3.2.2 Average family size in States differ considerably though they exhibit similar pattern. Bihar has the highest average family size of migrants as 1.99 and the highest average dependents size of 0.87 at the Place of Migration. Bihar is closely followed by Uttar Pradesh with family size of 1.88 at Place of Migration. Odisha has the least family size of 1.02 closely followed by West Bengal and Jharkhand which have family size of 1.12 and 1.17, respectively. We know that 97% migrants from Odisha are alone at the Place of Migration.

3.2.3 Dependency Ratio at the Place of Migration and Native Place have been presented in Table-6. Dependency ratio i.e. number of dependents per earning member at the Place of Migration is 0.39 and at the Native Place, it is 3.35, a point difference of 2.96, and both the places taken together, as the dependents in the Native Place do depend on migrant earning member, the dependency ratio is 1.96.

Table-6  
Dependency Ratio of Migrants at the Place of Migration and Native Place

State/All India	Dependency Ratio		
	Place of Migration	Native Place	Total
BIHAR	0.78	4.02	2.12
CHHATTISGARH	0.37	3.28	1.76
JHARKHAND	0.10	3.73	2.03
ODISHA	0.02	2.24	1.39
UTTAR PRADESH	0.64	3.80	2.43
WEST BENGAL	0.07	3.51	1.86
ALL INDIA	0.39	3.35	1.96

3.2.4 State differentials in dependency ratio are apparent. Bihar has maximum dependency ratio of 0.78 at Place of Migration and again maximum ratio of 4.02 at Native Place and as usual, Odisha has the least dependency ratio of 0.02 at the Place of Migration and least dependency ratio of 2.24 at

Native Place. Dependency ratio in Place of Migration and Native Place taken together finds maximum dependency of 2.43 for Uttar Pradesh and the least, 1.39 for Odisha.

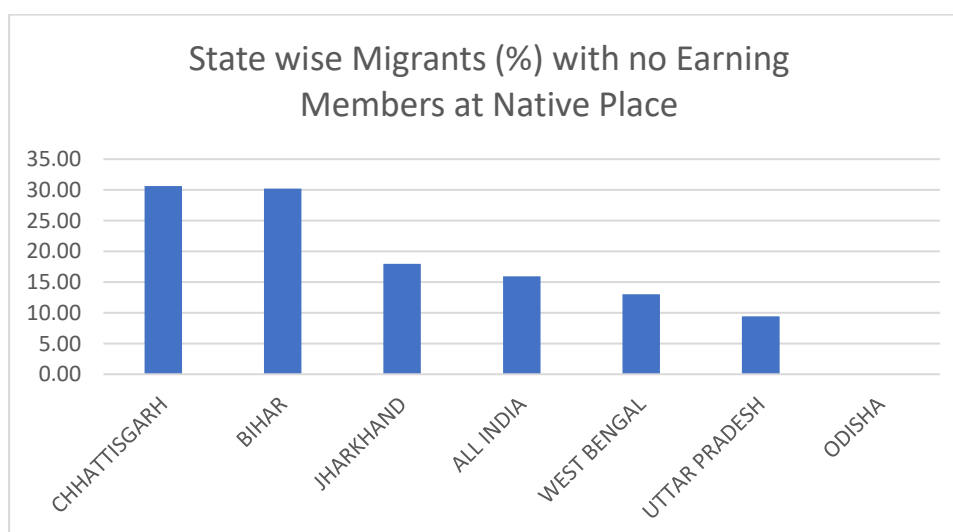
3.2.5 Dependency of families in the Native Place which do not have any earning member and therefore fully depend on the migrants, have been analysed and found that almost 16% migrants do not have any earning members in their families at Native Place. Migrants are only the bread earners and a migrant family on an average, supports as large as 4.57 family members and a migrant supports 4.00 family members on an average. Number of dependents at Native Place who are dependent on an earning migrant is called as migrant labour dependency ratio. Table-7 presents such distribution of migrants with family at Native Place without earning members in Native Place. Percentage of migrants with no earning members may also be seen at Chart-2.

Table-7  
State wise Distribution of Migrants with Family at Native Place without Earning Members

State/ All India	% of Migrants whose family at Native Place do not have Earning Members	Only Migrant Earning Members - Dependency	
		Per Migrant family	Per Migrant Earning Member
BIHAR	30.21	3.81	3.36
CHHATTISGARH	30.60	4.82	4.05
JHARKHAND	17.95	4.26	3.39
ODISHA	-	-	-
UTTAR PRADESH	9.43	6.00	5.70
WEST BENGAL	13.04	4.08	3.77
ALL INDIA	15.94	4.57	4.00

3.2.6 Thus, at all India level per migrant family, there are 4.57 dependents at the Place of Migration and Native Place taken together. States differ widely in this aspect of dependency. Chhattisgarh has highest percentage, 30.60 of such migrants, closely followed by Bihar with 30.21% migrants. On the other hand, Odisha does not have such migrants. Uttar Pradesh has 9.43% of such migrants and West Bengal, 13.04%. As far as dependency is concerned, Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of dependents of 6.00 followed by Chhattisgarh with 4.82%. Bihar the least 3.81% migrants preceded by West Bengal with 4.08%.

Chart-2



### 3.3 Quarantine and Migrants, Status of Family Members Far Behind than the Head of Migrants

3.3.1 Survey inquired about the institutional quarantine of the migrants at the Native Place after return. Quarantine was the protocol followed by all the State Governments. Table-8 presents the status of quarantine of the migrants. As such it is found that 93.11% migrants head at all India level got quarantined, while the percentage of other family members quarantined is far less, just 67.93%.

Table-8  
State wise Status of Quarantine of Migrants at Native Place

Percentage Migrants Quarantined							
State/all India	BIHAR	CHHATTIS GARH	JHAR KHAND	ODISHA	UTTAR PRADESH	WEST BENGAL	ALL INDIA
Self	99.57	100.00	97.95	100.00	75.47	100.00	93.11
Others	95.46	67.65	75.76	8.33	46.01	85.96	67.93

3.3.2 State wise status of quarantine differs considerably. Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and West Bengal have complete quarantine for migrant heads, Bihar and Jharkhand are closer to complete quarantine. Uttar Pradesh has just 75.47% head of the migrants quarantined. Case of other members of the family at Place of Migration is different, Bihar has the highest quarantine 95.46% followed by West Bengal 85.96% and Jharkhand 75.7%. Uttar Pradesh has the least quarantined migrants, just 46.01%, of-course Odisha has 8.33%, thanks to 97% migrants from the State migrating alone and thus being head of migrants.

3.3.3 It may be noted that in most of the cases, the list of migrants given by GPs or otherwise obtained contained, mostly the migrants quarantined. It was difficult to catch the migrants without quarantine as they feared to reveal it. Therefore, the status of head of the migrants as tabled above must be on higher side.

### 3.4 Duration of Stay in Place of Migration from 6 Months to More than Seven Years

3.4.1 Survey counted the duration of stay at Place of Migration from the time the migrants moved to the Place of Migration, continuously lived therein, to the date they reversed back due to the onslaught of covid19 and the resultant lockdown. Temporary leave of two months or less (at Native Place) out of continuous stay at the Place of Migration has been considered as part of stay at Place of Migration. Corona, lockdown and reverse migration has affected the migrants in the harder way, on one side plucking their plan to stay at Place of Migration for some, within six months of their arrival and on the other side, uprooting lot of them after years of stay and livelihood with one stroke. Table-9 presents duration of stay at Place of Migration in different range of periods of stay.

Table-9  
State wise Duration of Stay at Place of Migration by Different Ranges of Stay

Duration of Stay at the Place of Migration								
State/ All India	Up to 6 Months	7 to 12 Months	1 - 2 Year	2 - 3 Year	3 - 4 Year	4 - 5 Year	5 - 6 Year	>= 7 Years
BIHAR	0.43	0.85	17.66	13.40	11.28	9.15	7.02	40.21
CHHATTISGARH	48.80	13.80	17.00	6.60	2.60	1.60	2.40	7.20
JHARKHAND	32.82	7.69	17.95	15.38	10.77	3.08	4.10	8.21
ODISHA	5.23	5.63	10.87	22.33	16.70	8.05	9.66	21.53
UTTAR PRADESH	4.65	1.64	10.57	14.59	9.94	9.18	9.31	40.13

WEST BENGAL	62.61	13.48	11.74	3.91	1.30	0.43	1.30	5.22
ALL INDIA	22.66	6.55	13.54	12.72	8.74	5.90	6.21	23.69

3.4.2 Migrants with 7 years and more of stay at Place of Migration constitute 23.69% while those with less than six months of stay, 22.66% and less than one year of stay at 29.21%. More than one fourth of migrants spent 1-3 years while more than one-fifth have spent 3-6 years at the Place of Migration. States have wide difference in the pattern of stay at Place of Migration. West Bengal migrants in general, have short stay at Place of Migration, migrants with less than six months stay constituting 62.61% and less than one-year staggering 76.09% of the total migrants from the State. Long stay migrants are the least with just 5.22% staying for seven years and more. West Bengal is followed by Chhattisgarh with 48.80% migrants having short stay of less than six months and 62.60%, less than one year. Long stay migrants from this State is paltry 7.20% for stay of seven years and more. Jharkhand has similar pattern of short stay, however with less visibility. Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Odisha are on the other extreme. Bihar has migrants with long stay at Place of Migration, 40.21% staying for seven years and more and with just 1.28% short stayers of less than one year. Uttar Pradesh follows Bihar with 40.13% long stayers of seven years and more and just 6.29% short stayers of less than one year.

### 3.5 Lockdown, Meagre Government facilities at Place of Migration after Lockdown and Migrants Quick to Reverse Migrate

3.5.1 First lockdown started on 25 March 2020 with restrictions imposed for weeks together. Economic shutdown started the miseries of the migrants as daily earners. Many of them waited and waited to unlock, to get facilities from the State of Migration to survive and finally started journey back to Native Place. Survey counted the stay at Place of Migration after lockdown from the date of first lockdown to the month and week, the migrants arrived at their Native Place. Migrants who returned in February and March just before the first lockdown started, are part of the Survey as the Covid-19 was looming large much before the first lockdown declared. Survey was carried out in July and August 2020 and the migrants kept on coming till July-August. As per the statistics coming up from the survey, majority of the migrants 35.69% stayed at the Place of Migration for 7-8 weeks after first lockdown while 14.54% of the reverse migrants reversed within one week of first lockdown and 20.85% within two weeks. Since public or any other transport facilities were not available during the short period after lockdown, the migrants must have made their own arrangements for return travel to their Native Places, particularly from the neighbouring States of migration. On the other hand, 2.30% migrants took more than 13 weeks to take decisions to reverse migrate. Incidentally, as large as 6.21% migrants returned before the lock down started. Table-10 presents State wise duration of stay of the migrants at the Place of Migration after lockdown in different ranges of duration of stay.

Table-10  
State wise Duration of Stay at Place of Migration after Lockdown by Different Ranges of Stay

Duration of Stay at Place of Migration after Lockdown (in Weeks)										
State/ All India	1	2	3	4	5 - 6	7 - 8	9 -10	11 - 12	>= 13	Before the Lock down
BIHAR	12.34	6.17	-	1.06	10.21	47.66	3.83	6.60	4.26	7.87
CHHATTISGARH	19.00	12.40	9.20	3.00	12.80	26.00	6.40	6.60	1.20	3.40
JHARKHAND	6.15	8.21	4.10	1.03	10.77	37.95	9.74	13.33	3.08	5.64
ODISHA	10.46	7.04	4.23	3.02	12.27	24.75	17.10	7.44	4.63	9.05

UTTAR PRADESH	17.61	2.01	2.14	3.40	7.67	49.43	14.59	1.51	0.13	1.51
WEST BENGAL	14.57	5.65	2.61	0.87	3.70	21.09	18.26	18.04	2.39	12.83
ALL INDIA	14.54	6.31	3.57	2.33	9.32	35.69	12.14	7.61	2.30	6.21

3.5.2 State wise distribution has similar pattern with some extremes. Chhattisgarh was quick to take decisions and 31.40% migrants returned within two weeks and another 9.20% within three weeks of first lockdown. Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and Odisha follow Chhattisgarh with almost 22% migrants in each of the States returning within three weeks. West Bengal has the distinction with reverse migration of 12.83% migrants coming back just before the lockdown closely followed by Odisha with share of such migrants as 9.05%. Uttar Pradesh has majority of migrants 64.02% staying after lockdown from 7-10 weeks followed by Bihar at 51.49%.

3.5.3 Section 3.8.1 discusses in detail, the distribution of migrants by source of livelihoods in the Place of Migration. Here we analyse the duration of stay of migrants at the Place of Migration after first lockdown with the sole purpose that whether the source of livelihood they are engaged has any effect on their early move out from the Place of Migration. Table-11 presents percentage of migrants with source of livelihood, staying at the Place of Migration for two weeks and less and for four weeks and less. As per the Table, at all India level, 27.05% migrants reversed to the Native Place within 2 weeks and 32.94%, within 4 weeks of lockdown. The figures are at odd with those presented in Table-10 as the period before lockdown has been added here. A comparison of four sources of livelihood in the Place of Migration suggests that the exodus of migrants to Native Place was maximum for casual labour in non-agriculture followed by salaried and wage earners, self-employed in non-agriculture and casual labor in agriculture in that order during the same period. Covid19 and the lockdown prompted exodus from casual labour in non-agriculture during the same period, by 6.46 and 6.95 percentage points higher than the average. Obviously, the economic shutdown affected more the non-agriculture sector and the casual labors.

Table-11  
Source of Livelihood wise Duration of Stay at Place of Migration after Lockdown

Duration of Stay at Place of Migration after Lockdown by Source of Livelihood										
Source of Livelihood	Self-Employed in Non-Agri		Salaried and Wage Earners		Casual Labor in Agriculture		Casual Labor in Non-Agri		Total	
Duration (weeks)	<=2	<=4	<=2	<=4	<=2	<=4	<=2	<=4	<=2	<=4
BIHAR	-	-	28.33	28.33	-	-	25.66	27.14	26.38	27.45
CHHATTISGARH	25.00	33.33	40.91	50.00	8.57	17.14	39.24	52.41	34.80	47.00
JHARKHAND	-	-	23.38	28.57	11.11	11.11	6.67	13.33	20.00	25.13
ODISHA	28.57	57.14	26.06	32.45	16.67	50.00	29.41	35.29	26.56	33.80
UTTAR PRADESH	16.39	20.22	19.75	26.82	-	-	35.29	37.82	21.13	26.67
WEST BENGAL	54.55	54.55	27.81	31.88	-	-	44.53	46.88	33.04	36.52
ALL INDIA	19.07	23.72	24.51	30.01	8.91	18.81	33.51	39.89	27.05	32.94

3.5.4 State wise distribution of differences, in respect of effect of shutdown on the two sectors, agriculture and non-agriculture and three categorization of occupation viz, casual labor, salaried and wage earner and self-employed is evident in all the States except Bihar where the shutdown affected all the migrants equally. In Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, the percentage point difference between casual labor in non-agriculture and all India average for 4 weeks period was more than 10 and for 2 weeks, more than 14% and 11.5% respectively. Jharkhand has trend opposite to all India average. Here the effect was more on salaried and wage earners in comparison to casual labour in non-agriculture. It

may be pointed out here that Jharkhand has migrated more migrants as salaried and wage earners than as casual labors in agriculture or non-agriculture (Section 3.8 and Table-19).

3.5.5 Whether the State Governments and local administrations facilitated stay of the migrants at the Place of Migration or simply left them to their fate, despite restricting them to move out. Migrants had been contributing to the economic growth of the Place of Migration and the prosperous rural hinterland but what they got in return, the forced moveout from the Place of Migration. State Governments in the Place of Migration initiated many schemes afterwards, tried to stop the migration due to fear of spread of corona virus and for revival of their economy, but too late and too little. Some of the migrant State Governments also announced for certain reliefs to their native migrants but whether it reached to the migrants. We have tried to collect data on loans for agriculture and non-agriculture purposes, cash assistance under Jan-Dhan, ration rice, wheat, and dal under public distribution scheme (PDS), priced and free and host of other schemes/ accounts, but almost nothing got reported. Table-12 presents the percentage of migrants who availed the Government assistance. Some of the assistance like agriculture loan, free LPG Cylinder, Assistance under Kisan Credit Cards could not be availed by any of the surveyed migrants and therefore not included in the Table.

Table-12  
Percentage of Migrants Availing Government Assistance under Different Schemes at  
the Place of Migration

Government Assistance to Migrants During Lockdown Period at the Place of Migration									
State/ All India	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1- Non agriculture loan, 2- Cash assistance through Jan-Dhan Account, 3-PDS Wheat with price, 4-PDS Rice with price, 5-PDS Dal with price, 6-PDS Wheat free, 7-PDS Rice free, 8-PDS Dal free, 9- Other cash assistance									
BIHAR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CHHATTISGARH	0.20	-	-	-	-	-	0.80	-	1.20
JHARKHAND	-	-	-	4.10	2.56	0.51	1.03	-	17.44
ODISHA	-	-	0.80	0.60	-	-	0.60	0.60	-
UTTAR PRADESH	-	0.13	0.63	0.63	0.38	8.55	8.68	4.91	0.25
WEST BENGAL	-	-	-	-	-	1.30	8.70	6.30	0.43
ALL INDIA	0.03	0.03	0.31	0.55	0.27	2.57	4.04	2.43	1.51

3.5.6 Notable assistance in terms of free rice was received by 4.04% of the migrants and free wheat and dal by less than 2.57% of the migrants. States have some variations, depending on the Place of Migration and its administration. Bihar did not receive any thing and Chhattisgarh almost nothing. Migrants from Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal did avail free rice, wheat, and dal. Jharkhand was better with 17.44% migrants having received cash assistance, probably State Govt of Jharkhand intervened and provided the assistance at the Place of Migration to its migrated inhabitants.

### 3.6 Return to and Stay at Native Place and Government Facilities Limited to PDS and Free Ration

3.6.1 Survey was conducted sometimes in July and August 2020 and It collected data on the duration of continued stay of Migrants at Native Place after their return and the Government support they had, to sustain their livelihoods. Most of the surveyed migrants, to the extent of 92.39% are in the Native Place for more than 5 weeks and 68.68%, for more than 9 weeks. Table-13 presents duration of stay of the reverse migrants at their Native Place in different ranges of duration of stay.



Table-13  
State wise Duration of Stay at Native Place after Return by Different Ranges of Stay

Duration of Stay at Native Place after Return (in Weeks)									
State/ All India	1	2	3	4	5 - 6	7 - 8	9 -10	11 -12	>= 13
BIHAR	2.77	1.49	2.55	3.19	4.26	21.70	34.04	4.26	25.74
CHHATTISGARH	0.60	2.40	2.40	2.00	5.60	18.60	17.80	15.80	34.80
JHARKHAND	1.03	0.51	1.54	4.62	10.77	12.31	29.23	16.92	23.08
ODISHA	3.62	2.21	2.82	4.63	18.91	20.52	14.69	11.67	20.93
UTTAR PRADESH	-	-	0.13	0.25	1.64	2.01	40.88	25.79	29.31
WEST BENGAL	-	1.30	3.48	6.96	18.04	21.09	12.61	3.26	33.26
ALL INDIA	1.23	1.27	1.99	3.12	8.88	14.88	26.12	14.06	28.45

3.6.2 State wise distribution of stay at the Native Place as on date of survey reveals that almost one-third migrants from Chhattisgarh and West Bengal are at the Native Place for 13 weeks and more, while from Uttar Pradesh 96%, and from Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, more than 65% migrants are at the Native Place for more than 11 weeks. As on date of survey in the months of July-August, reverse migration almost stopped in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal while migrants from Odisha and Bihar continued to some extent.

3.6.3 As per the press reports, Govt support started with the cash assistance deposited in their Jan-Dhan account and/ or cash provided immediately after the institutional quarantine as part of their quarantine. Survey results reveal that almost all the migrants were quarantined, or we can say that the survey mostly covered the migrants who were quarantined. But does the Government assistance extended to all the migrants or just to whom who had bank accounts or who were smart enough to ask for their entitlements. Some of the migrants were waiting at the time of inquiry for such assistance to reach their account. Survey reveals only 8.50% migrants received deposits in their Jan-Dhan account and another 15.26% received other cash assistance, almost nil had assistance in their Kisan Credit Cards. Table-14 presents extent of Government Assistance available at Native Place under Different Schemes other than Ration under PDS.

Table-14  
Percentage of Migrants Availing Government Assistance at Native Place under Different Schemes other than Ration under PDS

State/ All India	Agriculture loan	Non agriculture loan	Cash asst. Kisan Credit Card	Cash asst. Jan Dhan Account	Free LPG Connection /Cylinder	Old Age Pension	Other cash asst.
BIHAR	-	-	-	28.09	-	-	-
CHHATTISGARH	0.40	1.20	1.00	1.40	4.40	-	-
JHARKHAND	-	-	-	5.13	-	-	-
ODISHA	-	-	-	11.07	-	-	63.38
UTTAR PRADESH	0.13	1.13	0.13	5.53	4.03	0.13	15.22
WEST BENGAL	-	-	-	-	2.61	-	1.96
ALL INDIA	0.10	0.51	0.21	8.50	2.26	0.03	15.26

3.6.4 State wise distribution reveals its own differences and the policies of respective State Governments and administrations. Maximum percentage of migrants 28.09%, who got the deposits in Jan-Dhan account belong to Bihar. West Bengal has no deposits in Jan-Dhan account and only 1.96% migrants have other cash assistance. It is preceded by Chhattisgarh where just 1.40% migrants got deposits in Jan-Dhan account. On this count Odisha migrants are the largest beneficiaries with 11.07% migrants getting deposits in Jan-Dhan account and 63.38% receiving other cash assistance. Uttar Pradesh is another notable State which had 20.75% migrants getting cash assistance either through Jan-Dhan account or otherwise or both. In addition to cash assistance. Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal had some assistance for new LPG connections.

3.6.5 In the preceding para we have analysed the beneficiaries, now let us analyse the amount of cash assistance, ration or free, LPG per migrant availing the assistance. Table-15 presents this aspect of benefits state wise.

Table-15  
Average Amount of Assistance per Migrant Availing Government Assistance at Native Place  
under Different Schemes other than Ration under PDS

State/ All India	Agriculture loan	Non agriculture loan	Cash asst. Kisan Credit Card	Cash asst. Jan-Dhan Account	Free LPG cylinder	Old Age Pension	Other cash asst.
BIHAR	-	-	-	1021.21	-	-	-
CHHATTISGARH	22500.00	47500.00	21200.00	785.71	14.20	-	-
JHARKHAND	-	-	-	1450.00	-	-	-
ODISHA	-	-	-	518.18	-	-	1968.25
UTTAR PRADESH	2500.00	7974.44	25000.00	863.64	14.19	500.00	1011.57
WEST BENGAL	-	-	-	-	14.20	-	888.89
ALL INDIA	15833.33	23784.67	21833.33	892.34	14.20	500.00	1686.29

3.6.6 As per the Survey results shown in Table-15, average cash assistance received under Jan-Dhan account per migrant comes out to be ₹892.34 and other cash assistance, ₹1686.29. Amount of Old age pension per migrant is ₹500.00 and free LPG cylinder of 14.2 KG. State wise distribution reveals that Jharkhand has given ₹1450, the highest per migrant assistance under Jan-Dhan account, while Odisha gave the lowest ₹518.18. Other per capita assistance is highest in Odisha ₹1968.25 and lowest in West Bengal ₹888.89. Assistance under other schemes have been left un-analysed as there are only a few migrants who availed the assistance under such schemes.

3.6.7 As far as PDS ration is concerned, many migrants across the surveyed States received PDS ration whether free or minimally priced, to be specific 39.49% migrants got wheat free or priced, 73.60% got PDS rice free or priced and 46.11% got PDS dal free or priced. In fact, 6.99% migrants had free and priced both sort of PDS wheat and 16.87% and 2.67% rice and dal, respectively. State wise percentage of migrants availing PDS ration priced or free or both has been presented in Table-16.

Table-16  
Percentage of Migrants Availing Ration under PDS Priced and Free at Native Place

State/All India	PDS Ration with Price			PDS Ration Free			PDS Ration Priced or Free or Both			Rice or Wheat *
	Wheat	Rice	Dal	Wheat	Rice	Dal	Wheat	Rice	Dal	
BIHAR	48.30	48.30	48.30	-	4.47	2.34	48.30	50.21	50.64	50.21

CHHATTISGARH	-	97.80	1.20	-	1.80	0.80	-	97.80	2.00	97.80
JHARKHAND	5.64	39.49	18.46	-	91.79	91.79	5.64	92.82	92.82	92.82
ODISHA	5.43	37.02	6.24	0.20	32.39	20.93	5.63	43.06	26.96	43.06
UTTAR PRADESH	59.25	60.00	18.24	43.65	53.08	48.55	77.23	79.75	61.38	80.13
WEST BENGAL	-	-	-	59.13	85.43	63.91	59.13	85.43	63.91	87.17
ALL INDIA	25.23	49.85	15.26	21.25	40.62	33.53	39.49	73.60	46.11	73.98

\* Rice or Wheat and Priced or Free

3.6.8 Every State provided PDS ration to the migrants, mostly due to the names of the migrants persisting in the rolls of the PDS ration card of the families at the Native Place. The inquiry was meticulously carried out to find the ration received by the migrants in their names. Many States have the policies of providing rations free as well priced. Rice is the most popularly distributed ration in all the six States. On this count Chhattisgarh is the foremost where 97.80% migrants received PDS rice either priced or free, closely followed by Jharkhand 92.82%, West Bengal 85.43%, and Uttar Pradesh with 75.22%. Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal had the benefits to 72.70% and 59.13% migrants getting wheat price or free, respectively. Wheat is not popular item of PDS ration in Chhattisgarh. Odisha has just 43.06% migrants, the minimum amongst States surveyed, who got rice and just 5.63% who got wheat. As far as PDS dal is concerned, Jharkhand has benefitted 92.82% migrants, West Bengal healthy, 63.91% and Uttar Pradesh 56.98%. On other extreme, Chhattisgarh has just 2% migrants getting benefitted with PDS dal. Normally the migrants got PDS dal free except in Bihar where 48.30% migrants got priced dal while just 2.34% had free dal. Table-16 provides average amount of PDS ration per migrant who availed the assistance.

### 3.7 Variety of Reasons why the Migrants Returned to Native Place, some Specifically due to Danger of Covid19, others simply for No Work in the Place of Migration

3.7.1 Survey enlisted seven reasons for reverse migration, viz. no work in the Place of Migration, shortage of money to survive, danger of covid-19 in Place of Migration, evacuated by landlord, desire to be with family at the Native Place, normally return during agriculture season and others and inquired from the migrants to assign multiple reasons in order of priority for reverse migration. The Survey inquiry of the first priority reason reveals that almost 59.86% migrants returned as they had no work in the Place of Migration, 9.50% had shortage of money and a healthy count of 29.55% had the fear of Covid-19 in the Place of Migration. No evidence found of return due to desire of migrant to be with family at the Native Place or the normal return during agriculture season. Table-17 presents the distribution of the first order reasons for reverse migration. Chart-3 shows distribution of first priority reasons for reverse migration at all India level.

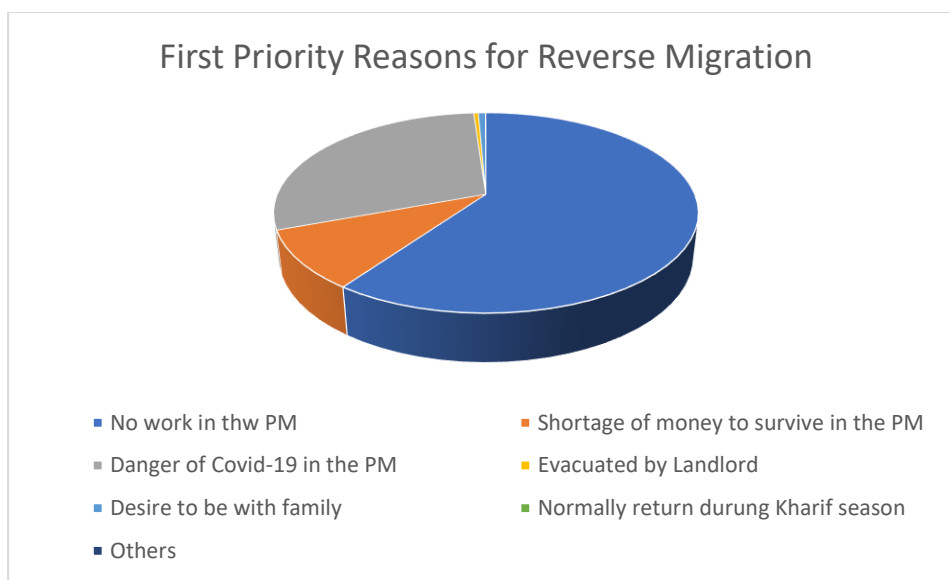
Table-17  
Distribution of Migrants First Priority Reason (% to Total Migrants) for Reverse Migration

State/ All India	No work in the Place of Migration	Shortage of money to survive	Danger of Covid-19 in the Place of Migration	Evacuated by Land-lord	Desire to be with family at the Native Place	Others
BIHAR	74.26	14.04	11.70	-	-	-
CHHATTISGARH	96.60	-	3.20	-	-	0.20
JHARKHAND	63.59	15.90	20.51	-	-	-
ODISHA	56.74	1.41	40.44	0.40	1.01	-
UTTAR PRADESH	63.90	20.63	13.21	1.26	1.01	-
WEST BENGAL	-	1.96	96.74	-	1.30	-

ALL INDIA	59.86	9.50	29.55	0.41	0.65	0.03
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3.7.2 State wise distribution follow the national pattern with some differences. Chhattisgarh had 96.60% migrants assigning no work in the Place of Migration as first reason for reverse migration. Bihar had 74.26% migrants, Uttar Pradesh, 63.90% and Jharkhand, 63.59% opting for such reason for reverse migration. West Bengal is peculiar as majority of the migrants 96.74% had the fear of Covid-19 as first reason for reverse migration. Danger of Covid-19 was favored as first reason for Odisha also by 40.44% migrants, followed by Jharkhand by 20.51% and Uttar Pradesh 13.21%. Shortage of money to survive is the first reason for reverse migration for Uttar Pradesh 20.63%, Jharkhand 15.90%, and Bihar 14.04%.

Chart-3



3.7.3 In Table-18, above, cross distribution of first and second reasons of reverse migration at all India level has been made and analysed. As per the analysis 60.48% migrants opting for first reason as no work at

Table-18  
Cross Distribution of First and Second Priority Reasons of Reverse Migration

First Reason	Second Reason	No work in the Place of Migration	Shortage of money to survive	Danger of Covid-19 in the Place of Migration	Evacuated by Landlord	Desire to be with family at the Native Place	Normally return during Kharif season	Others
No work in the Place of Migration		-	60.48	34.77	2.29	2.46	-	-
Shortage of money to survive		46.21	-	51.62	1.81	0.36	-	-
Danger of Covid-19 in the Place of Migration		37.70	33.99	-	1.62	25.99	-	0.70
Evacuated by Landlord		-	75.00	25.00	-	-	-	-
Desire to be with family at the Native Place		31.58	15.79	52.63	-	-	-	-

Normally return during Kharif season	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total (2nd Priority)	15.74	46.67	26.17	2.02	9.19	-	0.21

the Place of Migration assign shortage of money to survive as second reason. Similarly, amongst the migrants opting for shortage of money as first reason, 46.21% opted for no work at the Place of Migration. This reveals the inter-connection between two reasons. Migrants who opted for fear of Covid-19 at the Place of Migration as first reason also opted for no work in the Place of Migration and shortage of money to survive as second reasons in 71.69% cases. In total 46.67% migrants opted for shortage of money for survival as second reason of reverse migration. On the basis of first and second reasons taken together, we can clearly say that no work in the Place of Migration is at top with 75.59%, shortage of money to survive is second with 56.15% and danger of Covid-19 is at third with 55.71% migrants indicating them as either first or second priority. Reasons other than these three have been assigned as first reason by 1.09% migrants only and therefore no further analysis is carried out.

### 3.8 Economically Active Migrants, Income as per Expectation, Better Livelihood at Place of Migration

3.8.1 The migrants were forced to leave out the Place of Migration due to lockdown and unprecedented economic breakdown. It is true that, majority of them had the reasons of reverse migration as no work and shortage of money to survive. They used to support their families at the Place of Migration as well at Native Place through the livelihood, they had at the Place of Migration. But what was the source of livelihood which bound them with the Place of Migration has also been analysed in this Study. The Survey finds out that most of the migrants were either salaried and wage earners 50.50% or the casual workers 41.62%. A moderate percentage of 7.37% migrants were self-employed in non-agriculture activities. Amongst the casual workers, only a small percentage point of 3.46% were casual workers in agriculture activities. Table-19 presents the distribution of migrants according to the sources of livelihood at the Place of Migration.

Table-19  
Distribution of Migrants by Source of Livelihood at the Place of Migration

States/ All India	Self Employed in Agriculture	Self Employed in Non-Agriculture	Salaried and wage earner	Casual worker			No Economic Activity
				Total	In agriculture	In non-agriculture	
BIHAR	-	-	25.53	73.40	1.28	72.13	1.06
CHHATTISGARH	0.20	2.40	4.40	93.00	14.00	79.00	-
JHARKHAND	-	1.03	78.97	20.00	4.62	15.38	-
ODISHA	-	1.41	75.65	22.94	2.41	20.52	-
UTTAR PRADESH	0.75	23.02	60.50	15.35	0.38	14.97	0.38
WEST BENGAL	-	2.39	69.57	28.04	0.22	27.83	-
ALL INDIA	0.24	7.37	50.50	41.62	3.46	38.16	0.27

3.8.2 State wise distribution of source of livelihood at the Place of Migration has same pattern except for a couple of States. Salaried and wage earner migrants are in highest percentage from Jharkhand

78.97% followed by Odisha 75.65%, West Bengal 69.57%, and Uttar Pradesh 60.50%. These States have comparatively lesser percentage of casual workers, maximum 28.04% in West Bengal and minimum 15.35% in Uttar Pradesh. Chhattisgarh and Bihar have more casual workers and less salaried and wage earners. Chhattisgarh has 93.00% casual workers and Bihar, 72.63%. Besides these two occupations, self-employed in non-agriculture is maximum 23.02% in Uttar Pradesh, almost nil in Bihar and negligibly small in other States. Casual workers in agriculture are in sizeable percentage of 14.00 in Chhattisgarh.

3.8.3 Self-income, family income (includes self-income) and per capita monthly income of the migrants at the Place of Migration have been analysed. Table-20 presents these incomes State wise. Average Monthly self-income of the migrants across the States surveyed at all India level comes out to be ₹ 13682.99, family income ₹ 14752.69 and per capita income at the Place of Migration is ₹ 9504.83.

Table-20  
State wise Self Income, Family Income and Per Capita Income at the Place of Migration

States/ All India	Average Self-Income Head of Migrants (₹ )	Average Family Income (₹ )	Average Per Capita Income (₹ )
BIHAR	13792.55	15415.96	7765.81
CHHATTISGARH	13190.50	16008.00	8496.82
JHARKHAND	13230.10	13696.77	11714.34
ODISHA	16941.85	16966.00	16566.01
UTTAR PRADESH	12670.42	13476.54	7659.54
WEST BENGAL	12516.30	12969.57	11539.65
ALL INDIA	13682.99	14752.69	9504.83

3.8.4 State wise distribution of monthly self-income and family income is similar. There is not much difference across the States surveyed. Odisha has the highest self-income of ₹ 16941.85 and the highest family income of ₹16966.40. West Bengal, on the other side, has the lowest self-income of ₹12516.30 and lowest family income of ₹12969.57. However, per capita monthly income divides States surveyed clearly in two parts. Odisha with the highest per capita income of ₹16566.01, Jharkhand with per capita income of ₹11714.34 and West Bengal with ₹11539.65 form one category. Uttar Pradesh with the lowest per capita income of ₹7659.54, Bihar with per capita income of ₹7765.81 and Chhattisgarh, with per capita income of ₹8596.82 form another category. Per capita income differs only because of varying family size of migrants at the Place of Migration.

3.8.5 Source of Livelihood wise self-income has been presented in table-21. It does not vary much across different occupation categories. Salaried and wage earners earn on an average ₹ 14141.38 per month followed by self-employed in non-agriculture with ₹ 13300.47 while casual worker in non-agriculture gets ₹ 13315.43 per month. Self-employed in agriculture have the monthly income of ₹ 18142.86 but it is based on only a few migrants and casual workers in agriculture have the least income of ₹ 10876.26. A few migrants who do not have any economic activities based on their principal occupation, gets ₹5875 per month.

Table-21  
Source of Livelihood wise Distribution of Monthly Self-Income of the Migrants at the Place of Migration

States/ All India				Casual worker	
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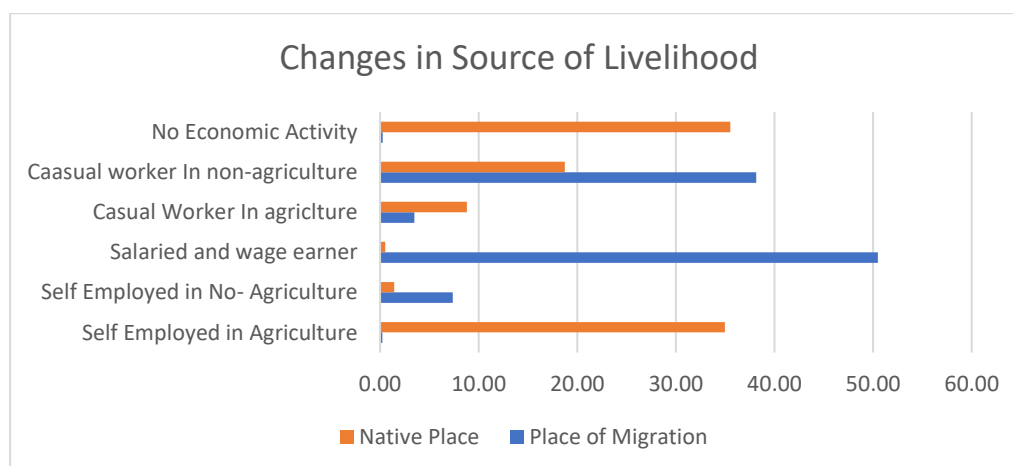
	Self Employed in Agri-culture	Self Employed in Non-Agri-culture	Salaried and wage earner	Total	In agr-culture	In non-agri-culture	No Economic Activity
BIHAR	-	-	13991.67	13786.96	13000.00	13800.88	9400.00
CHHATTISGARH	15000.00	13229.17	11636.36	13259.14	11200.03	13624.05	-
JHARKHAND	-	19000.00	13658.25	11243.59	7944.44	12233.33	-
ODISHA	-	18500.00	17802.39	14007.89	11083.33	14351.96	-
UTTAR PRADESH	18666.67	13799.73	12695.19	10376.23	8333.33	10427.73	-
WEST BENGAL	-	12454.55	12474.38	12625.58	7000.00	12669.53	-
ALL INDIA	18142.86	13900.47	14141.38	13057.66	10876.26	13315.43	5875.00

3.8.6 State wise distribution has slight difference in occupational income. Odisha has the highest income of ₹ 17802.39 for salaried and wage earners, highest income of ₹ 14351.96 for casual worker in non-agriculture and almost highest income of ₹ 18500.00 for self-employed in non-agriculture. Jharkhand has highest income of ₹ 19000.00 from self-employed in non-agriculture. Bihar has the highest income of ₹ 13000 for casual worker in agriculture. On the other hand, self-employed in non-agriculture carries lowest income of ₹ 12454.55 for West Bengal, salaried and wage earner carries lowest income of 11636.36 for Chhattisgarh, casual worker in agriculture, lowest income of ₹ 7000 for West Bengal and casual worker in non-agriculture, lowest income of ₹ 10427.73 for Uttar Pradesh.

### 3.9 Migrants Either No Economic Activity or Engaged in Family Agriculture Activities with almost No Income, Hopes Belied at Native Place

3.9.1 Migrants have returned to Native Place with hope but crumbling to get adjusted in agriculture, family occupation with crowded manpower and too small holdings to accommodate. This is the occupation which never accommodated them in the past but now forced to embrace. More than 60% migrants are at Native Place for more than two months. Such a long stay in Native Place is considered a reasonable length of time to plan and arrange for alternate employment opportunities by the native State Governments, for migrants in the Native Place. Still they have not got any reasonable work beyond agriculture despite a lot of murmuring of alternative source of income to arrange for migrants from the Governments. Chart-4 shows the changes in percentage of migrants in different source of livelihood at the Place of Migration and Native Place.

Chart-4





3.9.2 We have enlisted a few more categories of occupation at the Native Place which were not available at Place of Migration. We have added farming and livestock/poultry/ fisheries and other agri-based/ forest based activities in broad category of self-employed in agriculture, and agriculture labour, MNREGA/Public works and others in broad category of casual workers to finetune the sources of livelihood. Now the shocks, 34.59% migrants have no economic activity or work to get engaged, salaried and wage earners which was major source of livelihood at the Place of Migration now involves just 0.51% migrants, casual worker in non-agriculture (MNREGA /public works and others), the second major source of livelihood at the Place of Migration involves 18.75% and self-employed in non-agriculture simply involves 1.44% migrants. MNREGA was supposed to be restructured and broadened to include the migrants and their skills but has given along with other public works, an employment to just 3.53% of the migrants. Even the occupation of agriculture labour does not support more than 8.81% reverse migrants. Of-course 35.89% migrants got involved as self-employed in agriculture but only 4.25% in livestock, poultry, fisheries and other agri-based/ forest-based activities, again the hopes belied. Table-22 presents distribution of migrants by source of livelihoods at the Native Place.

Table-22  
State wise Distribution of Migrants by Source of Livelihoods at Native Place

States/ All India	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1-Self Employed in Agriculture: Total, 2-Farming, 3-Livestock/Poultry/Fishery/Other Agri-based/Forest based activities, 4-Self Employed in Non-Agriculture, 5-Salaried/wage earner, 6-Casual worker: Total, 7- Agriculture labor, 8-MNREGA/Public works, 9-Other casual works, 10-No economic activity/ no work										
BIHAR	53.40	53.40	-	2.34	-	40.21	12.98	-	27.23	4.04
CHHATTISGARH	27.80	24.60	3.20	0.40	1.20	54.00	12.60	1.40	40.00	16.60
JHARKHAND	60.00	59.49	0.51	0.51	-	8.72	-	-	8.72	30.77
ODISHA	49.30	29.18	20.12	1.01	0.20	2.82	0.60	0.40	1.81	46.68
UTTAR PRADESH	32.08	31.19	0.88	1.01	-	21.76	12.58	7.17	2.01	45.16
WEST BENGAL	8.70	8.70	-	3.26	1.74	30.65	6.52	8.04	16.09	55.65
ALL INDIA	35.89	31.64	4.25	1.44	0.51	27.56	8.81	3.53	15.22	34.59

3.9.3 State wise distribution of source of livelihood engagement of migrants depicts the same story. West Bengal has the highest percentage of 55.65% migrants with no economic activity/ work, followed by 46.68% migrants in Odisha and 45.16%, in Uttar Pradesh. On the other hand, Bihar has the minimum percentage 4.04% of unemployed migrants and Chhattisgarh, just 16.60%. Self-employed in agriculture has the highest percentage of 60.00% in Jharkhand followed by 53.40% in Bihar. West Bengal has the least number of self-employed migrants 8.70%. Odisha has the highest percentage of migrants 20.12% involved in livestock, poultry, fisheries and agri-based/ forest-based self-employment. Bihar, Chhattisgarh, and Uttar Pradesh have 12-13% migrants involved as agricultural labour while Jharkhand and Odisha have almost nil. MNREGA/ Public works involve 7-8% migrants in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal with other States having negligible percentage of migrants in this source of livelihood. Jharkhand has highest percentage of 40.21% casual labors in non-agriculture while Odisha and Uttar Pradesh have less than 2% such migrants.

3.9.4 Survey did not intend to find out the occupancy of the migrants in the economic activities they were involved, but it aimed to see the status of the casual workers in terms of quantum of work they get and collected data on the average number of days in a week, the casual workers got the work and whether the wage received by them, he thought, was minimum wage rate or more/less than minimum

wage rate. Table-23 presents availability of work in a week to casual workers and whether the wages received by them are as per the minimum wages.

Table-23  
Occupancy of Casual Worker and Wages as per Minimum Wage Rate at Native Place

State/All India	Average number of workdays in a week	Percentage of Migrant Casual Workers with Minimum Wage Status		
		Got Minimum Wage	Got less than Minimum Wage	Got more than Minimum wage
BIHAR	4.07	31.72	42.47	25.81
CHHATTISGARH	5.92	7.75	72.48	19.77
JHARKHAND	3.65	29.41	17.65	52.94
ODISHA	3.36	75.00	8.33	16.67
UTTAR PRADESH	3.86	79.89	14.94	5.17
WEST BENGAL	3.78	34.48	55.17	10.34
ALL INDIA	4.59	35.61	47.47	16.92

3.9.5 It is deplorable to find that the casual worker at Native Place was worker just for the name sake of work, 4.59 days occupancy per week on an average and 47.47% migrant casual workers getting wages less than the minimum wage rate. State wise distribution of casual workers occupancy and wages differ considerably. Casual workers in Chhattisgarh have maximum work, for 5.92 days in a week followed by Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal in that order from 4.07 to 3.78 days per week, Odisha has the least but only a few migrants were involved as casual workers. As far as minimum wages are concerned, Jharkhand reported 52.94% casual workers getting more wages than minimum wages. Uttar Pradesh had 85.06% migrants getting minimum wages or more than that while Chhattisgarh had the worst scenario with 72.48% migrant casual workers getting less than minimum wages. West Bengal had 55.17% casual worker migrants getting less than minimum wages.

### 3.10 Shift from Non-Agriculture to Agriculture and Loss of Income in the Native Place

3.10.1 Due care was taken in the Survey to enquire of the monthly income of the migrants at the Native Place without adding the income of the family members in the Native Place who had been dependent on him and now support him for livelihood. Data on income of the self-employed in agriculture may not be comparable as it was difficult to segregate the income of the migrants in most of the cases from their families income at the Native Place and in majority of cases despite their involvement they did not have measurable income. Table-24 presents average monthly self-income, family income and per capita income of the migrants in Native Place. As per the survey results presented in the table, average monthly self-income has reduced to ₹ 2045.25 and the per capita monthly income at the Native Place, to paltry amount of ₹ 1446.37. Uttar Pradesh has the minimum self-income of ₹ 713.92 and Bihar has the maximum in States surveyed i.e. ₹ 4803.40.

Table-24  
State wise Monthly Self Income, Family Income and Per Capita Income at Native Place

State/All India	Average Monthly Self-Income (₹ )	Average Monthly Family Income (₹ )	Average Per Capita Income (₹ )
BIHAR	4803.40	5194.89	2616.93

CHHATTISGARH	3150.40	3720.60	1974.84
JHARKHAND	790.51	846.41	723.90
ODISHA	1223.64	1236.72	1207.56
UTTAR PRADESH	713.92	805.96	458.65
WEST BENGAL	1608.56	1791.17	1593.69
ALL INDIA	2045.25	2305.03	1446.37

3.10.2 This paragraph compares the direction of shift of occupation of migrants from Place of Migration to Native Place and the resultant change in income of the migrants. It dwells more on the major sources of livelihood at the Place of Migration i.e. self-employed in non-agriculture, salaried and wage earners and casual labour in non-agriculture and the changes forced to adopt other occupation at the Native Place. Table-25 presents the cross distribution of migrants by source of migration at the two places, Place of Migration and Native Place at all India level.

Table-25  
Cross Distribution of Migrants by Source of Livelihood at Place of Migration and Native Place

Sources of Livelihood	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<i>1-Self Employed in Agriculture: Total, 2-Farming, 3-Livestock/Poultry/Fishery/Other Agri-based/Forest based activities, 4-Self Employed in Non-Agriculture, 5-Salaried/wage earner, 6-Casual worker: Total, 7- Agriculture labor, 8-MNREGA/Public works, 9-Other casual works, 10-No economic activity/ no work</i>										
Place of Migration	Native Place									
1	28.57	28.57	-	-	-	28.57	28.57	-	-	42.86
4	34.88	32.56	2.33	1.40	-	22.33	13.02	3.72	5.58	41.40
5	37.00	29.80	7.20	1.49	0.61	17.31	6.31	4.28	6.72	43.58
6	34.93	33.86	1.07	1.32	0.49	40.94	11.04	2.64	27.27	22.32
7	23.76	18.81	4.95	0.99	0.99	34.65	4.95	5.94	23.76	39.60
8-9	35.94	35.22	0.72	1.35	0.45	41.51	11.59	2.34	27.58	20.75
10	12.50	12.50	-	12.50	-	25.00	-	-	25.00	50.00
Total	35.89	31.64	4.25	1.44	0.51	27.56	8.81	3.53	15.22	34.59

3.10.3 Salaried and wage earners at the Place of Migration have been the most sufferer, 43.58% became unemployed, 17.31% casual labor and 34.88%, forced self-employed in agriculture, only the negligibly small 0.61% are still salaried and wage earners. Self-employed in non-agriculture as source of livelihood at the Place of Migration is the next in line on suffering, 41.40% became unemployed, 22.33%, casual worker mostly as agriculture labor and 34.88% in forced self-employed in agriculture, only a small fraction of 1.40% self-employed in non-agriculture remains in their occupation. Casual worker in non-agriculture are comparatively better but must have changed their skill-based occupation, of this lot 20.75% became unemployed, 34.94% self-employed in agriculture and a good percentage of 27.58 still in non-agriculture as casual labor.

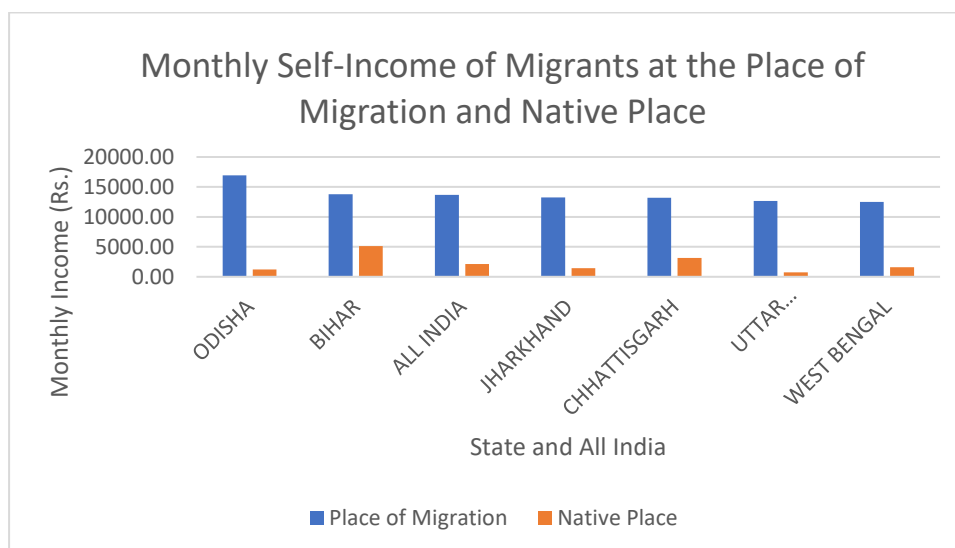
3.10.4 The Survey has brought out the loss in self income at all India level, as an outcome of reverse migration. Monthly self-income has gone down massively from at the Place of Migration to Native Place with a fall by 85.05%, higher fall for salaried and wage earners, by 87.80% followed by self-employed in non-agriculture with the fall of 86.29%. Monthly salary of casual labor in non-agriculture, despite the MNREGA at the Native Place declined by 56.87%. Self-income in agriculture also declined,

declined massively wherever applicable but no analysis has been carried out for this occupation as source of livelihood as self-employed are quite small at Place of Migration and income at Native Place is short of not measurable. Table-26 depicts the percentage fall/decline of self-income of the migrants from Place of Migration to Native Place. Chart-5 is pictorial representation of monthly self-income of the migrants at the Place of Migration and Native Place.

Table-26  
Percentage Fall of Self-Income of Migrants from Place of Migration to Native Place

Decline of Self-Income (in %) or Negative Growth of Self Income						
State/ All India	Total	Self- Income IN Agriculture	Self Employed Non- Agriculture	Salaried and Wage Earners	casual Labour in Agri	Casual Labour in Non- Agriculture
BIHAR	65.03	-	-	-	57.44	60.84
CHHATTISGARH	76.12	95.55	99.80	51.98	59.47	50.72
JHARKHAND	94.02	-	95.91	89.02	-	57.39
ODISHA	92.76	-	86.27	93.09	59.40	60.22
UTTAR PRADESH	94.16	100.00	100.00	100.00	61.50	63.88
WEST BENGAL	87.15	-	83.24	-	56.81	42.60
ALL INDIA	85.05	89.78	86.29	87.80	62.49	56.87

Chart-5



3.10.5 State wise changes in the monthly self-income suggests similar pattern. Uttar Pradesh has the maximum loss of income, by 94.16% followed by Jharkhand 94.02%, Odisha, 92.76% and West Bengal, 87.15%. Bihar has comparatively least loss, still by 65.03% in self-income and Chhattisgarh, by 76.12%. In case of loss of income for self-employed in non-agriculture, Uttar Pradesh suffered loss by 100%. In addition, it has the 100% loss for salaried and wage earners too. Chhattisgarh is another State where loss of income for self-employed in non-agriculture is almost 100%. In case of casual labor in non-agriculture, maximum loss 63.88% is for Uttar Pradesh followed by Bihar and Odisha, each by more than 60%. West Bengal suffered the least in this category of occupation by 42.60%.

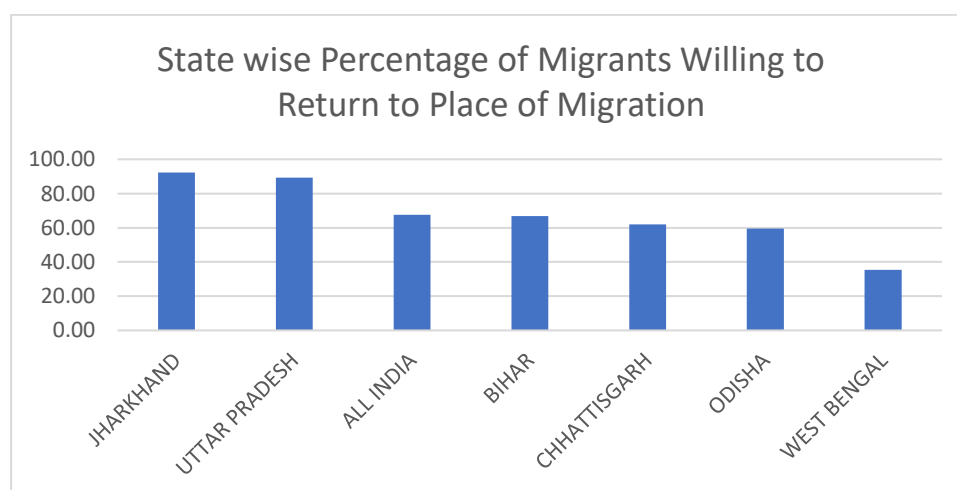
### 3.11 Government Facilities not Satisfactory, Employment Dismal, Income Dwindling, Economy getting better in Place of Migration whether Migrants wants to Return Back

3.11.1 It has been observed that the migrants have started returning to the Place of Migration. A set of questions and their answers, whether the migrants want to return and if yes why, multiple options in order of priority, clearly brings out the story that the conditions despite the State Govt assurance is not favorable to the migrants at Native Place. Survey finds 67.64% migrants desiring to return to the Place of Migration and amongst them, most of the migrants 40.90% assign the first reason for return as “Employment opportunities in Place of Migration”. Beyond this belief, another 33.15% favors “Employer’s willingness to give employment on same or more wages”. Sizeable percentage of migrants 23.37% are willing to go back because they have “No employment in Native Place”. Thus, there is pull factor for 74.03% migrants and push factor for 23.37% migrants. Table-27 presents distribution of migrants willing to return by their first reasons of willingness. Chart-6 shows the State wise percentage of migrants willing to return to place of migration.

Table-27  
Distribution of Migrants Willing to Return and their First Priority Reason (% to Migrants Willing)  
for Willing to Return

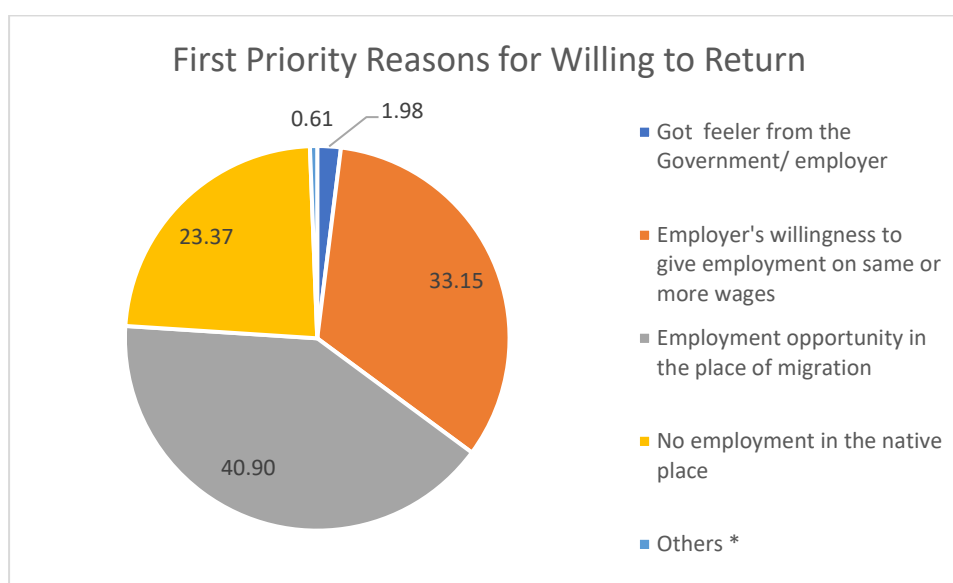
States/All India	Willing to return (% to total migrants)	First Reasons for Willing to Return (as % to Willing Migrants)				
		Got feeler from the Govt./ employer	Employers willing to give employment on same or more wages	Employment opportunity in the Place of Migration	No employment in the Native Place	Other
BIHAR	66.81	1.59	81.21	13.38	3.82	-
CHHATTISGARH	62.00	0.32	-	98.71	0.97	-
JHARKHAND	92.31	13.33	25.00	41.11	20.56	-
ODISHA	59.56	1.01	15.20	48.31	35.47	-
UTTAR PRADESH	89.31	0.42	41.69	31.13	25.07	1.69
WEST BENGAL	35.43	1.84	7.98	12.88	77.30	-
ALL INDIA	67.64	1.98	33.15	40.90	23.37	0.61

Chart-6



3.11.2 State wise distribution has sizeable difference in willingness to go back and the first reason as the push and pull factors. In Jharkhand, the highest percentage of migrants, whooping 92.31% wants to go back and amongst them 98.71% see employment opportunity therein, push factor is tremendous. There may be employment opportunity in the State, but they do not count it, only a fraction says the reason of return as no employment in the Native Place. Uttar Pradesh, the next State from where 89.31% migrants desire to return to Place of Migration, but the reasons are not only favorable employment opportunities but also the belief/whisper that employer's willingness to give employment on same or more wages. They also have the reasons of no employment in Native Place for 25.07% migrants. Bihar at the third place, 66.81% migrants willing to return but mostly due to pull factor, 96.18% seeing employment opportunities, employers willing to give employment on same or more wages at place from where they reverse migrated, only 3.82% says the first reason as no employment in the Native Place. West Bengal is clearly at opposite horizon, only 35.43% migrants willing to return to Place of Migration and amongst such migrants, whooping 77.30% says the first reason to go back because they do not have employment opportunity in the Native Place. Odisha is moderate with 59.56% migrants willing to return to Place of Migration and amongst them, 63.51% attributes pull factor as the first reasons but 35.47% also say the reason as push factor. Chart-7 is the pictorial representation of first priority reasons of migrants willing to return to Place of Migration at all India level.

Chart-7



3.11.3 This analysis also draw attention to the perceived demand of migrants in Place of Migration and the employers willingness to give employment on same and more wages, majority of migrants 81.21% from Bihar willing to return have given the reason for Employers willing to give employment on same or more wages and from Uttar Pradesh 41.69% of willing migrants say so.

3.11.4 Table-28 presents cross distribution of first and second reasons of willing to return for the migrants who are willing to return to Place of Migration at all India level. As per the analysis, the migrants assigning the most dominant reason "Employment opportunity in the Place of Migration" mostly say "No employment opportunity in the Native Place" to the extent of 76.46%, and 23.05% assign strong pull factors "Got feeler form the Govt/employer and the willingness of employer to give employment as second reason".

Table-28

Cross Distribution of First and Second Reasons for Willing to Return to Place of Migration

First Reason	Second Reason	Got feeler from the Government/ employer	Employer's willingness to give employment on same or more wages	Employment opportunity in the Place of Migration	No employment in the Native Place	Others
Got feeler from the Government/ employer		-	58.97	28.21	12.82	-
Employer's willingness to give employment on same or more wages		22.36	-	56.05	20.67	0.92
Employment opportunity in the Place of Migration		9.67	13.38	-	76.46	0.50
No employment in the Native Place		6.77	41.27	51.09	-	0.87
Others		83.33	8.33	-	8.33	-
Total		13.46	16.30	31.03	38.50	0.71

3.11.5 Survey has also analysed the percentage of migrants who are not willing to return to Place of Migration and the reasons of not willing to return in multiple option in order of priority. At all India level, only 32.36% migrants are not willing to return and a majority of 67.90% of such migrants assign “Afraid of covid19 in the Place of Migration” as first reason of non-return. A sizeable percentage of 20.87% such migrants assign “Less likely to get the work in the Place of Migration” as first reason of not willing to return. Strangely, only 4.24% such migrants find “Employment opportunity in the Native Place” as first reason of not willing to return. It clearly depicts the employment situation at the Native Place. Now Covid-19 has started engulfing the rural areas across the migrants State, we do not know what would be the reason now post survey for not willing to return? Table-29 presents distribution of migrants not willing to return by their first reasons of non-willingness.

Table-29

Distribution of Migrants Not Willing to Return and their First Priority Reason (% to Migrants Not Willing) for Not Willing to Return

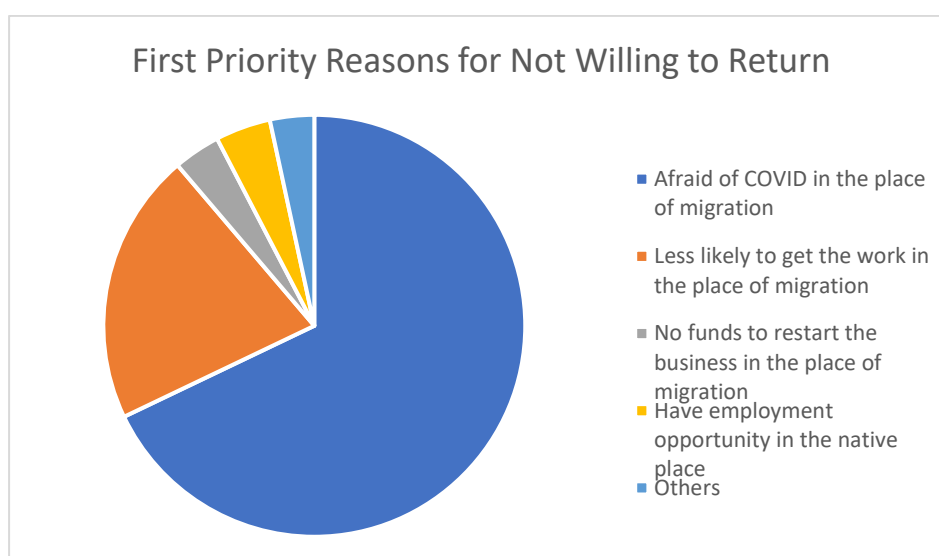
State/ All India	Not willing to return (% to Total Migrants)	Reasons for Not Willing to Return (as % to Migrants Not Willing to Return)				
		Afraid of COVID-19 in the Place of Migration	Less likely to get the work in the Place of Migration	No funds to restart the business in the Place of Migration	Have employment opportunity in the Native Place	Others
BIHAR	33.19	27.56	49.36	18.59	3.21	1.28
CHHATTISGARH	38.00	60.00	34.21	0.53	-	5.26
JHARKHAND	7.69	53.33	26.67	13.33	6.67	-
ODISHA	40.44	78.61	-	-	13.43	7.96
UTTAR PRADESH	10.69	69.41	15.29	2.35	8.24	4.71



WEST BENGAL	64.57	87.21	12.79	-	-	-
ALL INDIA	32.36	67.90	20.87	3.60	4.24	3.39

3.11.6 State wise distribution of migrants not willing to return and their reasons for has wide differences. West Bengal where 64.57% migrants are not willing to return assigns “Afraid of Covid-19 in the Place of Migration” by 87.21% such migrants as first reason, and the rest assigns “Less likely to get the work in the Place of Migration”. None of them are ready to say that they have employment opportunities at the Native Place. Odisha with 40.44% migrants not willing to return, 78.61% such migrants assign the same reason ie. afraid of Covid19 as first reason, however 13.43% also says that they have employment opportunity in Native Place. Chhattisgarh, after West Bengal is another State which is not ready to assign first reason for not willing to return to availability of employment opportunities at the Native Place. Chart-8 shows the distribution of first priority reason of migrants who are not willing to return at place of migration at all India level.

Chart-8



### 3.12 Popular Places of Migration, the Livelihood Sources

3.12.1 Survey collected details of the States, districts, and blocks/towns where the migrants had been for their livelihood and from where they reversed back to their Native Place. Ten States have been identified simply by the majority number of migrants which adopted them as Place of Migration. Such States, in order of percentage of migrants across the migrants states viz. Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Kerala account for 78% of the migrants. Maharashtra alone accounts for 20.40%, Gujarat 14.10% and the next six States each with more than 5% migrants. Andhra Pradesh and Kerala account for 4.18% and 3.87% respectively. From out of the rest, 16.15% migrants had Place of Migration within the six migrant States itself termed here as migrant States under the Survey. Table-30 presents the distribution of migrants by their State Place of Migration and Table-31 presents similar distribution by Migrant States as Place of Migration. Chart-9 is pictorial representation of share of migrants in ten dominant place of migration.

Table-30  
Distribution of Migrants by Major State Place of Migration

State/ All India	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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1-Maharashtra, 2-Gujarat, 3-Haryana, 4-Telangana, 5-Tamil Nadu, 6-Delhi, 7-Rajasthan, 8-Karnataka, 9-Andhra Pradesh, 10-Kerala										
BIHAR	8.84	11.79	29.26	2.32	0.21	6.95	18.74	0.63	0.84	2.95
CHHATTISGARH	20.20	7.60	0.20	14.20	2.60	0.20	1.00	6.80	13.00	0.20
JHARKHAND	30.77	13.85	5.13	6.67	8.72	4.62	0.51	4.10	1.54	2.56
ODISHA	6.64	21.93	0.60	15.90	19.32	0.20	0.60	12.27	6.84	3.42
UTTAR PRADESH	33.96	21.51	6.04	0.50	0.75	10.57	3.27	1.13	1.38	0.38
WEST BENGAL	19.57	2.39	3.70	4.35	6.96	5.87	5.87	7.39	1.09	15.87
All India	20.40	14.10	7.46	6.78	5.65	5.30	5.17	5.10	4.18	3.87

Chart-9

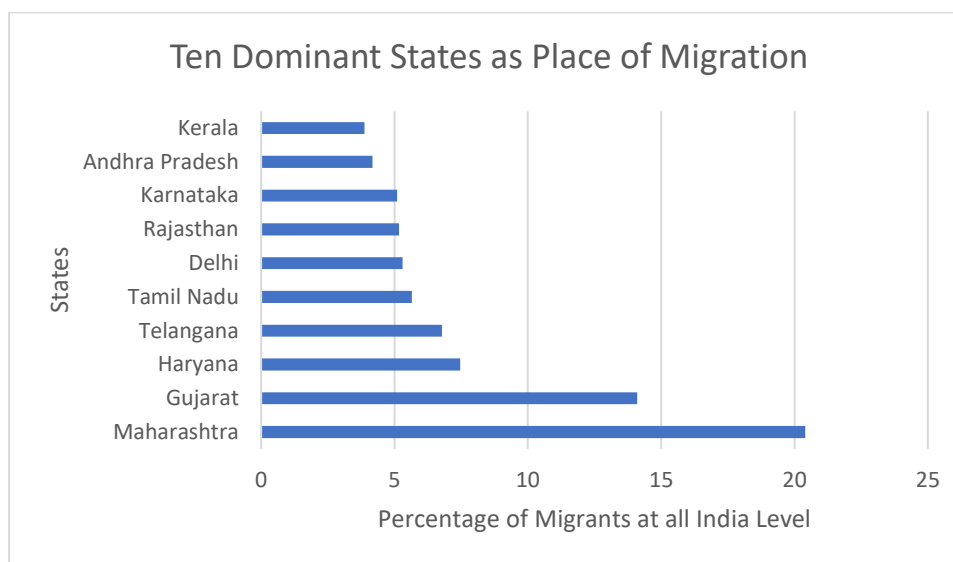


Table-31

Distribution of Migrants by Migrant State Place of Migration

State/All India	BIHAR	CHHATTISGARH	JHARKHAND	ODISHA	U.P.	W.B.	Migrant States	Total
BIHAR	1.05	-	1.26	0.84	6.95	4.00	14.11	96.63
CHHATTISGARH	0.40	4.60	1.80	5.80	13.00	-	25.60	91.60
JHARKHAND	1.54	1.03	0.51	7.18	5.64	4.10	20.00	98.46
ODISHA	0.20	0.60	0.40	0.20	0.40	8.45	10.26	97.99
UTTAR PRADESH	0.63	0.25	0.00	0.13	11.19	0.38	12.58	92.08
WEST BENGAL	1.30	0.22	5.00	2.61	1.74	8.04	18.91	91.96
Grand Total	0.75	1.06	1.40	2.09	7.12	3.73	16.15	94.15

3.12.2 At State level, there are variations depending on the proximity of States with State Place of Migration. Bihar migrants first choice is Haryana 29.26% and then Rajasthan 18.74%, for them Gujarat and Maharashtra come at third and fourth places. Chhattisgarh prefers Maharashtra at first place by 20.20% migrants followed by Telangana 14.20% and Andhra Pradesh 13% and even Uttar Pradesh 13%, which itself is migrant State. Jharkhand migrants first choice of Place of Migration is usual Maharashtra with 30.77% migrants, followed by Gujarat 13.85%, then comes Telangana 8.72% and at fourth place is migrants State Odisha 7.18%. Odisha first choice is Gujarat 21.93% followed by Tamil Nadu 19.32% and Telangana 15.90% and Karnataka 12.27%. Uttar Pradesh preferred Place of Migration is Maharashtra with 33.96% migrants followed by Gujarat 21.51%, Delhi 10.57%, and Uttar Pradesh itself 11.19%. West Bengal choice is Maharashtra 20.39%, followed by Gujarat 14.10%, Uttar Pradesh 7.12%, and Haryana 7.46%.

### 3.13 Skills Possessed by Migrants but Availability of Employment Opportunities at Native Place not Satisfactory

3.13.1 As a part of the survey the respondent migrants were also asked regarding specific skill they possessed. This information was considered necessary keeping in view the Mega Skill Development and Employment Opportunities Programme with a targeted investment of Rs. fifty thousand crores, that the Government has recently announced for 116 districts having more than 25000 migrants. This information regarding skill can be indicators for State authorities for appropriate intervention for skill training and creation of employment opportunities in the Native Places. It may be noted that the skill so revealed by the migrants are not necessarily the area in which they might be working in places of migration, but the areas of their interest and based on the skills they possess. Response received in this regard from migrants has been presented in Table-32.

3.13.2 A set of 25 skills have been identified and presented in the decreasing order of possession by number of migrants across all the States surveyed. Non agriculture labor and helper are the dominant skill possessed by 26.13% migrants. It comprises of the migrants having all type of skills and experiences as factory worker, company labour, truck loader and unloader, construction labour and beldar, waiter, stone break labor, cable labor, coolie, and all sort of helpers. This skill is followed by three professional skills viz. construction, tiles and pipe cutting work possessed by 9.70% migrants and iron work, welding and fabrication possessed by 6.09% and mason, by 5.45%. migrants. Construction, tiles and pipe cutting work includes Mistry, Raj Mistry, Fitter, Road Mistry, Bridge Mistry, Marble cutting etc. Iron work, welding and fabrication includes Centering, Fitting, Weidler, Rod work, cement work, and fabrication work. Between these professional skills, some of the migrants identified them as unskilled 6.09%, primarily in the States of Odisha and Uttar Pradesh. These must be working as non-agriculture and agriculture labour, however due to inexperience, they might be calling them as unskilled.

3.13.3 Skills as machine operator, farming, cooking, and food services, driving and tailoring, all are professional services form next five categories of skills possessed by migrants in the country. Cooking and food services cover cooking and making of all sort of food stuff, panipuri seller and chat vendor have been segregated and separately categorised as their impressive number as sort of skill possessed by Uttar Pradesh migrants. Machine operator covers all sort of mechanics, crane operator, milling machine, AC mechanic, window mechanic, tower mechanic, oil machine, motor repairing mechanic etc. Next five skills having migrants from 1.70% to 2.83% includes shop keeper and salesman, and professional like textile work, goldsmith, carpenter, and painter.

Table-32  
Distribution of Migrants in States Surveyed by the Skills Possessed by them

Sr.	SKILL	BIHAR	CHHATTI SGARH	JHARKHAND	ODISHA	UTTAR PRADESH	WEST BENGAL	Grand Total
1	NON-AGRICULTURE LABOR/ HELPER	37.39	52.98	28.30	2.21	28.46	8.36	26.13
2	CONSTRUCTION, TILES, PIPE CUTTING WORK	1.28	40.43	2.52	9.05	1.21	3.64	9.70
3	IRON WORK, WELDING AND FABRICATION	5.98	1.06	3.14	16.50	1.21	7.82	6.09
4	UNSKILLED	-	-	-	9.66	16.64	-	6.09
5	MASON	-	-	15.09	1.01	1.61	20.55	5.45
6	MACHINE OPERATOR	2.35	1.06	5.03	14.89	4.97	13.82	5.17
7	FARMING	1.07	-	13.21	14.89	2.15	0.18	4.14
8	COOKING AND FOOD SERVICE	2.56	0.85	0.63	5.43	1.74	6.36	3.26
9	DRIVING	5.34	0.43	3.77	4.43	4.16	1.09	3.26

10	TAILORING	2.35	0.43	1.89	4.02	4.56	3.09	3.08
11	SHOP KEEPER AND SALESMAN	9.40	0.43	3.14	-	3.62	0.36	2.83
12	TEXTILE WORK	2.78	-	4.40	-	2.68	6.55	2.80
13	GOLDSMITH	-	-	-	-	0.13	12.36	2.44
14	CARPENTER	2.99	0.21	0.00	0.20	3.89	1.27	1.84
15	PAINTER	2.35	-	0.63	0.60	3.76	0.91	1.70
16	PANIPURI SELLER AND CHAT VENDOR	0.85	-	-	-	5.37	-	1.56
17	ELECTRIC WORK	-	0.64	2.52	2.41	2.28	1.27	1.52
18	HOSPITALITY AND HOTEL SERVICE	0.21	-	3.77	1.81	0.40	4.00	1.45
19	SUPERVISOR/ MANAGER	2.35	-	0.63	3.62	0.94	0.55	1.42
20	SECURITY GUARD	5.77	-	0.63	-	0.40	0.36	1.17
21	TECHNICIAN	2.78	-	-	1.61	0.13	0.18	0.81
22	SMALL BUSINESS	0.43	-	-	0.20	2.42	-	0.74
23	COMPUTER OPERATOR	0.00	0.21	1.89	3.02	0.13	-	0.71
24	VEGETABLE AND FRUIT SELLER	2.99	-	-	-	0.54	0.18	0.67
25	PLUMBER/ FURNITURE WORK	0.85	-	-	0.20	0.54	0.91	0.50
	Rest of Skills	7.91	1.28	8.81	3.62	6.04	6.18	5.45

3.13.4 State wise skills possessed by migrants have been analysed. Top five skills possessed by migrants in Bihar are non-agriculture labor and helper 37.39%, shopkeeper and salesman 9.40%, Iron work, welding, and fabrication 5.98%, security guard 5.77% and driving 5.34%. It seems that the migrants from Chhattisgarh may be categorised in two skills viz. Non agriculture labor and helper 52.98% and Iron work, welding, and fabrication 40.43%, other skills are possessed by small fraction of migrants. Jharkhand migrants have top skills as Non agriculture labor and helper 28.30%, mason 15.09, farming 13.21, machine operator 5.03% and, textile work 4.40%. Odisha is different of the lot, it has the skills of professionals and has small fraction of non-agriculture labour and helper. Its skills extend over Iron work, welding and fabrication 16.50, machine operator 14.89, farming 14.89, construction, tiles and pipe cutting work 9.05 and cooking and food services 5.43%, of-course it also has 9.05% of migrants as unskilled. Uttar Pradesh is dominated by non-agriculture labor and helper 28.46, unskilled 16.64, panipuri seller and chat vendor 5.37%, machine operator 4.97%, tailoring 4.56%, and driving 4.16%. West Bengal is another State like Odisha where the skills are not dominated by non-agriculture labor and helper and yes, even a small fraction of migrants do not categories them as unskilled. It has dominant skills as mason 20.55, machine operator 13.82%, goldsmith 12.36%, non-agriculture labor and helper 8.36% and iron work, welding, and fabrication 7.82%.

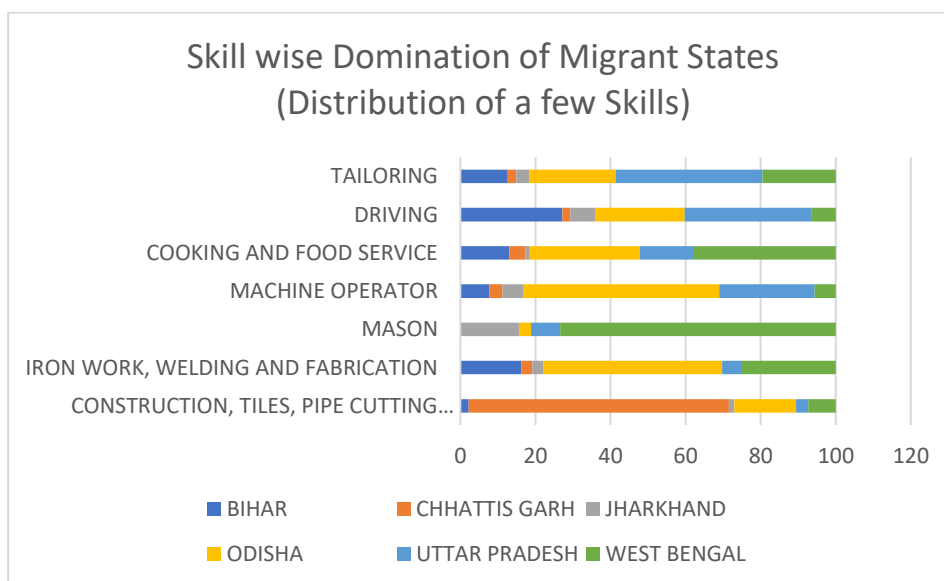
3.13.5 Table-33 presents State wise distribution of skills possessed by migrants in the States surveyed showing the dominance of migrant States over specific skills. Chart-10 is pictorial representation of skill wise domination of migrant States in a few chosen dominant skills.

Table-33  
Distribution of Skills Possessed by the States Surveyed

Sr.	SKILL	BIHAR	CHHATTIS GARH	JHARKHAND	ODISHA	UTTAR PRADESH	WEST BENGAL
1	NON-AGRICULTURE LABOR/HELPER	23.71	33.74	6.10	1.49	28.73	6.23

2	CONSTRUCTION, TILES, PIPE CUTTING WORK	2.19	69.34	1.46	16.42	3.28	7.30
3	IRON WORK, WELDING AND FABRICATION	16.28	2.91	2.91	47.67	5.23	25.00
4	UNSKILLED	-	-	-	27.91	72.09	-
5	MASON	0.00	0.00	15.58	3.25	7.79	73.38
6	MACHINE OPERATOR	7.75	3.52	5.63	52.11	25.35	5.63
7	FARMING	4.27	-	17.95	63.25	13.68	0.85
8	COOKING AND FOOD SERVICE	13.04	4.35	1.09	29.35	14.13	38.04
9	DRIVING	27.17	2.17	6.52	23.91	33.70	6.52
10	TAILORING	12.64	2.30	3.45	22.99	39.08	19.54
11	SHOP KEEPER AND SALESMAN	55.00	2.50	6.25	-k	33.75	2.50
12	TEXTILE WORK	16.46	-	8.86	3.80	25.32	45.57
13	GOLDSMITH	-	-	-	-	1.45	98.55
14	CARPENTER	26.92	1.92	-	1.92	55.77	13.46
15	PAINTER	22.92	-	2.08	6.25	58.33	10.42
16	PANIPURI SELLER AND CHAT VENDOR	9.09	-	-	-	90.91	-
17	ELECTRIC WORK	-	6.98	9.30	27.91	39.53	16.28
18	HOSPITALITY AND HOTEL SERVICE	2.44	-	14.63	21.95	7.32	53.66
19	SUPERVISOR/ MANAGER	27.50	-	2.50	45.00	17.50	7.50
20	SECURITY GUARD	81.82	-	3.03	-	9.09	6.06
21	TECHNICIAN	56.52	-	-	34.78	4.35	4.35
22	SMALL BUSINESS	9.52	-	-	4.76	85.71	-
23	COMPUTER OPERATOR	-	5.00	15.00	75.00	5.00	-
24	VEGETABLE AND FRUIT SELLER	73.68	-	-	-	21.05	5.26
25	PLUMBER/ FURNITURE WORK	28.57	-	-	7.14	28.57	35.71

Chart-10



3.13.6 Non-agriculture labor and helper skills are dominantly possessed by the migrants from Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar. Chhattisgarh contributes more than one third of the skills and Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, each contributes more than 23% migrants, Chhattisgarh with 63.94% of all the migrants having skill of construction, tiles, pipe cutting work dominates in this category of skills. Iron, welding, and fabrication is dominated by Odisha 47.67%, followed by West Bengal 25.00%. Unskilled worker migrants are basically from Uttar Pradesh 72.09% and the rest from Odisha 27.91%. Mason are basically from West Bengal 73.38% followed by Jharkhand 15.58%. Machine operators are from Odisha 52.11% and Uttar Pradesh 25.35%. Migrants involved in farming or with skills of farming are from Odisha 63.25%. Cooking and food service skills are majorly from West Bengal 38.04% and Odisha 29.25%. Skill of driving auto/taxi etc. are with Uttar Pradesh 33.70% and Bihar 27.17%. Tailoring is from Uttar Pradesh 39.08% and Odisha 22.98% and West Bengal 19.54%. Shopkeeper and salesman from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, textile works and goldsmith from West Bengal, carpenter and painter from Uttar Pradesh, panpuri seller and chat vendor from Uttar Pradesh, hospitality and hotel service from West Bengal, security guards and technicians from Bihar, small business skills are from Uttar Pradesh and computer operator from Odisha, vegetable and fruit sellers from Bihar and plumber and furniture work divided into West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

### Summary and Conclusions

4. Based on the analysis of survey results as given in Section 3 on different issues relating to migrants, summary conclusions and discussions are drawn in this paragraph.

#### 4.1 [Survey Design and Sample Size](#)

4.1.1 Survey on Migrant Workers is a telephonic survey conducted in two phases, the first to get the list of contact details of migrants in the selected Gram Panchayats and the second to solicit information from the selected migrants. Survey design involves 34 districts, one from each Commissionerate randomly taken across six migrant States, viz. Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal, 20 Gram Panchayats from each of the district through systematic sampling and 5 migrants from each of the Gram Panchayats. [Section 2.1, 2.2]

4.1.2 List of migrants was available with block development and district panchayat officers. Gram Panchayats had compiled the list for various purposes. Despite availability of contact number of Gram Panchayat Secretaries and the Block and District Level Panchayat officers, it was an arduous task to persuade the Gram Panchayats Secretaries and even the officers at block and district level to part it for the Survey. Phase-1 of the Survey took more than a month entirely due to non-availability of the list of migrants in public domain. [Section 2.3]

4.1.3 The survey was conducted during 30 June 2020 to 15 August 2020 with reference date of survey as 31 July 2020. [Section 2.4]

4.1.4 The schedule contains two parts, Part-I, the GP level schedule and Part-II, the migrant level schedule. Part-I is based on the response of GP secretary and serves the preparation of frame of migrant families in the Gram Panchayat. Part-II schedule is divided into three sections viz., identification particulars, livelihood in the Place of Migration and livelihood in the Native Place after return. [Section 2.5]

#### 4.2 [Profile of the Migrants](#)

4.2.1 Most of the migrants, as large as 80.63% of the migrant families, were at the Place of Migration, 38.74%, as single alone and 41.89%, as married alone. Migrants with part of families constitute for less than one fifth of the total migrant families. Odisha is distinctly different than other States, generally

leaving the families behind in the Native Place, with almost 97% migrant families migrating alone. [Section 3.1.1]

4.2.2 Median age of migrant heads and female heads are just 26 years and 27 years, respectively. Amongst the migrant States surveyed, Chhattisgarh migrants are the youngest with median age of 25 years and the youngest female heads, with median age of 23 years. Odisha has the highest median age of 27.50 years while West Bengal has the highest median age of 37 years for its female heads. Migration of workers in such large scale and in young age is an important indicator for authorities at the State and Central levels to take suitable action for creation of opportunities for employment locally. [Section 3.1.6]

4.2.3 Dependency ratio i.e. number of dependents per earning member at the Place of Migration is 0.39 and at the Native Place, it is 3.35, a point difference of 2.96, and both the places taken together, the dependency ratio is 1.96. Almost 16% migrants do not have any earning members in their families at Native Place. In such cases, migrants are only the bread earners and a migrant family on an average, supports as large as 4.57 family members and a migrant supports 4.00 family members. [Section 3.2.3, 3.2.5]

#### 4.3 [Migrants and their Livelihood at the Place of Migration](#)

4.3.1 Most of the migrants at Place of Migration were either salaried and wage earners at 50.50% or the casual workers at 41.62%. Salaried and wage earner migrants are in highest percentage from Jharkhand at 78.97%, followed by Odisha at 75.65%, West Bengal at 69.57%, and Uttar Pradesh at 60.50%. Chhattisgarh and Bihar have more casual workers and less salaried and wage earners. Chhattisgarh has 93.00% casual workers and Bihar, 72.63%. [Section 3.8.1]

4.3.2 Average Monthly self-income of the migrants across the States surveyed at all India level is ₹ 13682.99, family income, ₹ 14752.69 and per capita income at the Place of Migration, ₹ 9504.83. Odisha has the highest self-income of ₹ 16941.85 and per capita income of ₹ 16566.01. Uttar Pradesh has the lowest per capita monthly income of ₹ 7659.56 and Bihar, ₹ 7765.81. [Section 3.8.3, 3.8.4]

4.3.3 Migrants with 7 years and more of stay at Place of Migration constitute 23.69% while those with less than six months of stay, 22.66% and less than one year of stay at 29.21%. West Bengal migrants in general, have short stay at Place of Migration, migrants with less than six months stay constituting 62.61% of the total migrants from the State. Bihar has migrants with long stay at Place of Migration, 40.21% staying for seven years and more. [Section 3.4.2]

#### 4.4 [Migrants, Govt Assistance at the Place of Migration after Lockdown and the Reasons to Reverse](#)

4.4.1 Majority of the migrants 35.69% stayed at the Place of Migration for 7-8 weeks after first lockdown while 14.54% of the reverse migrants reversed within one week of first lockdown and 20.85% within two weeks. Incidentally, as large as 6.21% migrants returned before the lock down started. [Section 3.5.1]

4.4.2 Chhattisgarh was quick to take decisions and 31.40% migrants returned within two weeks and another 9.20% within three weeks of first lockdown. West Bengal has the distinction with reverse migration of 12.83% migrants coming back just before the lockdown closely followed by Odisha with share of such migrants as 9.05%. [Section 3.5.2]

4.4.3 A comparison of four sources of livelihood in the Place of Migration suggests that the exodus of migrants to Native Place (within two and four weeks) was maximum for casual labour in non-agriculture followed by salaried and wage earners, self-employed in non-agriculture during the same period. Obviously, the economic shutdown affected more the casual workers. [Section 3.5.3]



4.4.4 State Governments in the Place of Migration initiated many schemes afterwards, tried to stop the migration due to fear of spread of corona virus and for revival of their economy, but too late and too little. Some of the migrant State Governments also announced for certain reliefs to their native migrants but whether it reached to the migrants. Notable assistance in terms of free rice was received by 4.04% of the migrants and free wheat and dal by less than 2.57% of the migrants. [Section 3.5.6]

4.4.5 The Survey inquiry of the first priority reason for reverse migration reveals that almost 59.86% migrants returned as they had no work in the Place of Migration, 9.50% had shortage of money and a 29.55% had the fear of Covid-19 in the Place of Migration. No evidence was found of return due to desire of migrant to be with family at the Native Place or the normal return during agriculture season. West Bengal is peculiar as majority of the migrants at 96.74% had the fear of Covid-19 as first reason for reverse migration. Danger of Covid-19 was favored as first reason for Odisha also by 40.44% migrants. [Section 3.7.1]

#### 4.5 [Migrants, their Livelihood and Govt Assistance at Native Place](#)

4.5.1 At the Native Place, 34.59% migrants have no economic activity or work to get engaged, salaried and wage earners which was major source of livelihood at the Place of Migration now involves just 0.51% migrants, casual worker in non-agriculture (MNREGA /public works and others), the second major source of livelihood at the Place of Migration involves 18.75% and self-employed in non-agriculture simply involves 1.44% migrants. [Section 3.9.2]

4.5.2 West Bengal has the highest percentage of 55.65% migrants with no economic activity/ work, followed by 46.68% migrants in Odisha. On the other hand, Bihar has the minimum percentage 4.04% of unemployed migrants and Chhattisgarh, just 16.60%. Self-employed in agriculture has the highest percentage of 60.00% in Jharkhand. West Bengal has the least number of self-employed migrants 8.70%. [Section 3.9.3]

4.5.3 Average monthly self-income at Native Place has reduced to ₹ 2045.25 and the per capita monthly income at the Native Place, to paltry amount of ₹ 1446.37. Uttar Pradesh has the minimum self-income of ₹ 713.92 and Bihar has the maximum amongst States surveyed i.e. ₹ 4803.40. [Section 3.10.1]

4.5.4 Most of the surveyed migrants, to the extent of 92.39% are in the Native Place for more than 5 weeks and 68.68%, for more than 9 weeks. Survey reveals only 8.50% migrants received deposits in their Jan-Dhan account and another 15.26% received other cash assistance, almost nil had assistance in their Kisan Credit Cards. Maximum percentage of migrants 28.09%, who got the deposits in Jan-Dhan account belong to Bihar. West Bengal has no deposits in Jan-Dhan account and only 1.96% migrants have other cash assistance. [Section 3.6.1,3.6.3]

4.5.5 At the Native Place, 39.49% migrants got wheat free or priced, 73.60% got PDS rice free or priced and 46.11% got PDS dal free or priced. Chhattisgarh is the foremost where 97.80% migrants received PDS rice either priced or free, closely followed by Jharkhand 92.82%, West Bengal 85.43%, and Uttar Pradesh with 75.22%. [Section 3.6.7]

4.5.6 MNREGA was supposed to be restructured and broadened to include the migrants and their skills but has given along with other public works, an employment to just 3.53% of the migrants. Even the occupation of agriculture labour does not support more than 8.81% reverse migrants. Of-course 35.89% migrants got involved as self-employed in agriculture but only 4.25% in livestock, poultry, fisheries and other agri-based/ forest-based activities, again the hopes belied. [Section 3.9.2]

4.5.7 Casual worker at Native Place was worker just for the name sake of work, 2.23 days occupancy per week on an average and 47.47% migrant casual workers getting wages less than the minimum wage rate. State wise distribution of casual workers occupancy and wages differ considerably. Casual workers in Chhattisgarh have maximum work, for 4.63 days in a week. [Section 3.9.5]

#### 4.6 [The Suffering, Loss of Income and Reasons to Return to Place of Migration](#)

4.6.1 Monthly self-income has gone down massively from at the Place of Migration to Native Place with a fall by 85.05%, higher fall for salaried and wage earners, by 87.80% followed by self-employed in non-agriculture with the fall of 86.29%. [Section 3.10.4]

4.6.2 Survey finds 67.64% migrants desiring to return to the Place of Migration and amongst them, most of the migrants 40.90% assign the first reason for return as “Employment opportunities in Place of Migration”. Beyond this belief, another 33.15% favors “Employer’s willingness to give employment on same or more wages”. Sizeable percentage of migrants 23.37% are willing to go back because they have “No employment in Native Place”. Thus, there is pull factor for 74.03% migrants and push factor for 23.37% migrants. [Section 3.11.1]

4.6.3 In Jharkhand, the highest percentage of migrants, whooping 92.31% wants to go back and amongst them 98.71% see employment opportunity therein, push factor is tremendous. West Bengal is clearly at opposite horizon, only 35.43% migrants willing to return to Place of Migration and amongst such migrants, whooping 77.30% says the first reason to go back because they do not have employment opportunity in the Native Place. [Section 3.11.2]

4.6.5 At all India level, only 32.36% migrants are not willing to return and a majority of 67.90% of such migrants assign “Afraid of covid19 in the Place of Migration” as first reason of non-return. Strangely, only 4.24% such migrants find “Employment opportunity in the Native Place” as first reason of not willing to return. It clearly depicts the employment situation at the Native Place. Now Covid-19 has started engulfing the rural areas across the migrants State, we do not know what would be the reason now post survey for not willing to return? [Section 3.11.5]

4.6.6 West Bengal where 64.57% migrants are not willing to return assigns “Afraid of Covid-19 in the Place of Migration” by 87.21% such migrants as first reason, and the rest assigns “Less likely to get the work in the Place of Migration”. None of them are ready to say that they have employment opportunities at the Native Place. [Section 3.11.6]

#### 4.7 [Place of Migration and Skills Possessed by Migrants](#)

4.7.1 Ten States identified based on majority number of migrants which adopted them as Place of Migration, in order of percentage of migrants across the migrants states viz. Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Kerala account for 78% of the migrants. Maharashtra alone accounts for 20.40%, Gujarat 14.10%. [Section 3.12.1]

4.7.2 Bihar migrants first choice is Haryana 29.26% and then Rajasthan 18.74%. Chhattisgarh prefers Maharashtra at first place by 20.20% migrants followed by Telangana 14.20% and Andhra Pradesh 13% and even Uttar Pradesh 13%, which itself is migrant State. Jharkhand migrants first choice of Place of Migration is usual Maharashtra with 30.77% migrants, followed by Gujarat 13.85%. Odisha first choice is Gujarat 21.93% followed by Tamil Nadu 19.32% and Telangana 15.90%. Uttar Pradesh prefers Place of Migration as Maharashtra with 33.96% migrants followed by Gujarat 21.51%, Delhi 10.57%, and Uttar Pradesh itself 11.19%. West Bengal choice is Maharashtra 20.39%, followed by Gujarat 14.10%, Uttar Pradesh 7.12%. [Section 3.12.2]

4.7.3 Non agriculture labor and helper are the dominant skill possessed by 26.13% migrants. Construction, tiles and pipe cutting work is possessed by 9.70% migrants and iron work, welding and fabrication possessed by 6.09% and mason, by 5.45%. migrants. Between these professional skills, some of the migrants identified them as unskilled 6.09%, primarily in the States of Odisha and Uttar Pradesh. These must be working as non-agriculture and agriculture labour, however due to inexperience, they might be calling them as unskilled. [Section 3.13.2]

4.7.4 Non-agriculture labor and helper skills are dominantly possessed by the migrants from Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar. Chhattisgarh with 63.94% of all the migrants dominates in the skill of construction, tiles, pipe cutting work. Iron, welding, and fabrication is dominated by Odisha 47.67%. Unskilled worker migrants are basically from Uttar Pradesh 72.09%. Mason are basically from West Bengal 73.38% and machine operators, from Odisha 52.11%. [Section 3.13.4]

### Recommendations and Policy Imperatives

5. Lockdown due to the Pandemic Covid19 resulted in unprecedented disruption of the economic activities and loss of jobs and thus, large scale reverse migration of the workers to their native places. Government have announced many schemes to mitigate the adverse effects of shutdown on the poor people including the migrants. By May,2020 end, a relief package of Rs. 1.7 lakh crore was announced to assist the poor including the migrants to mitigate their plights due to lockdown. Benefits extended through the package were in terms of cash transfers and food security, besides creation of alternative employment opportunities in the native places. Very soon it became a part of special Economic and Comprehensive Package of ₹ 20 lakh crore and *AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan* with long term measures for supporting poor including migrants. Government of India also identified 116 districts having more than 25000 migrants and have started a Mega Skill Development and Employment Opportunities Programme with a targeted investment of rupees fifty thousand crores in these districts. The Government decided in March 2020 for free distribution of 5 kg food grains per person and one kg of pulses per household under PM Garib Kalyan Yojana for 3 month to 80 crore poor beneficiaries including migrants covered under the National Food Security Act to ensure food security to the poor during lockdown. The free ration is over and above the 5 kg of subsidized grain per month, which has also been increased to 7 kg per month for the corresponding 3 months. Migrant workers not covered under National Food Security Act and without ration card in State/UT were made eligible for the benefit of free ration. Besides there were cash payments for ₹ 500 for three months if an adult woman in the household has a Jan-Dhan yojana account. Some of the State Governments started special assistance schemes for registration of the migrants and free food grains supply to them.

Survey was conducted in the month of July-August 2020. By that time most of the migrants under survey were more than two months old in their Native Places. Government Assistance should have gone to them in major way and impact of the assistance should have been felt substantially by then. Survey attempted to look into the extent to which, implementation of economic measures and the assistance provided have benefitted the migrant workers. Conclusions and policy imperatives drawn based on the survey results are as follows:

5.1 [Migrants Data in Public Domain for Researchers and Analysts](#): Covid-19 pandemic have reinforced the need for and the importance of compiling data of migrants. Such a database helps in effective administration of various government interventions. Almost all the migrant States have prepared the database on migrants, including information regarding their skill sets and contact details etc. through the *Panchayati* system. National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is also having the database with its National Migrant Information System (NMIS). However, the database is not in public domain. Migrant Survey conducted by the Foundation suffered initially as the selected /sample

village panchayats were hesitant to share the database/information, which was required for the purpose of the study. Availability of such a data base in public domain is essential, especially for research institutes to analyze and provide insights on the migrant movement and employment scenario, which ultimately could also be the inputs for designing suitable intervention measures by the government as and when necessary. During exigencies like mass reverse migration of workers during lockdown, the data base could be handy to encourage public participation to help and mitigate the plights of migrants. [Section 2.3]

5.2 [Creation of Employment Opportunities Locally](#): Migrants across the States have been found to be young, just of 26 years median age and nearly 42% of them have been found as married and alone at Place of Migration. Dependency factor/ratio of the migrants at the place of migration and native place taken together is almost 3. There are 16% migrant families in the Native Place who solely depend on migrant earning members and in such cases dependency factor is 4. The limited economic opportunities that had driven the exodus of migrants to the place of migration over the years have shrunk further in the native place. Migrants engaged in livestock, poultry/fishery, and other forest based/ agri-based activities are just 4.25%, salaried and wage earners abysmally low at 0.51% and non-agriculture casual work as 15.22%. Migration of workers in such large scale and in young age with large dependency is an important indicator for authorities at the State and Central levels to take suitable action for creation of opportunities for employment locally. [Section 3.1.1, 3.1.4, 3.2.3, 3.2.4, 3.9.2]

5.3 [Facilitation Package for Return of Migrants to Place of Migration](#): The migrants, without work and uncertainty of future, have no option but to depend on their families for sustenance in the native place. Their income at the native place has gone down drastically by more than 85%. Compared to their income in the place of migration. Without work in the native place, they are desperate to go back to the place of migration despite risk of corona virus. It is obvious as simple economic considerations demand this. As the Governments tried to facilitate their return to native place, it must facilitate their return to the place of migration and their workplace with a reasonable financial package. The benefit of such a package would be felt, after some gaps, in the native place and in their families too when the remittances start coming to the native place. [Section 3.10.4]

5.4 [Skill Mapping and Database Management at District Level](#): Government of India and the migrant States have started/ completed skill mapping of the migrants with the purpose to provide skill-based employment in the native place. It is welcome. But it should be at all India level and for the place of migration too. Most of the skills indicated by the workers appear to be construction based and required mostly in urban areas. Since these skills cannot be a source of sustainable livelihood for the migrants in their native places/ rural areas, it may be appropriate for state authorities to identify and maintain the skill-wise list of workers, district-wise in their website, which may be used by users both in government and private sectors to draw skilled workers from, as and when required. Skill improvement training may also be provided to the willing workers, which could help them to command better wage in places of migration. [Section 3.13.2]

5.5 [Creation of Industrial and Commercial Base More Important than Skill through Training](#): Skill mapping based on survey results identified almost one-third migrants as non-agriculture labour/helper and unskilled workers and 21.24% migrants in the profession like construction/ tiles/ pipe cutting, iron work, welding and fabrication, masons, and mechanics. Demand for such skills is just not enough in native States. Initiatives like Mega Skill Development and Employment Opportunities Programme would be of little utility under such environment. Any attempt to impart skill through training and preparing them to get employed (self or by others), therefore may be a risky and costly affair. It is

better that States work towards diverse industrial and commercial base which is expected to create and widen scope for more employment opportunities, both directly and indirectly. Once the base is created and developed, they can get adjusted locally and subsequently the gradual demand of skill development may be addressed within the job carried out. [Section 3.13.2]

5.6 [Migrants treated as Special Group for Govt Facilitation](#): Migrants may be treated as a special group and all the facilities, such as EPF, ration card, insurance, and other safety net etc. be provided to them by the local Government at the place of migration. Lesson learnt from the Covid-19 regarding miseries of workers, extinction of source of income of migrants and the Government facilities made available at the place of migration after 'lockdown' should be handy to guide government interventions to meet exigencies, if any, in future. As per the survey results, cash assistance through Jan-Dhan and other schemes was limited to only 1.54% of migrants and PDS extended to less than 5% migrants. The Government facilities/assistance may be made universal irrespective of the place of work of the migrants. [Section 3.5.5]

5.7 [Universalization of PDS and One Nation One Card](#): Despite the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and the Government notification to supply free food grains to migrants for two months at the rate of 5 kg per migrant labour and 1 Kg chana per migrant family, many migrants have not been found covered under NFSA. They are still without ration card and for many other reasons including leakage could not receive the assistance at the native place. Only 74.95% migrants received rice or wheat or both, free or priced. Many migrants did not receive free dal or chana. There are some inconsistencies in distribution of PDS rice and dal free of cost to the eligible migrants, The PDS needs to be strengthened and implementation made smooth and transparent. State authorities may look into these inconsistencies and address the problem if not done so far. [Section 3.6.7]

5.8 [MNREGA Needs Scaling Up as Major Source of Livelihood](#): Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) has given employment to only 8.81% migrants, though more than 35% migrants found without any work at the native place. Basic goal of MNREGA has been the creation of employment opportunities on demand driven basis. However, it appears that neither the scope nor the existing capacity of MNREGA has been increased to meet this goal. It needs to be scaled up. [Section 3.9.2]

5.9 [Timely and Quick Payment through Bank Accounts](#): A cash assistance was planned to be provided to each of the migrants after the completion of institutional quarantine on return to their native places in all the migrant States. The survey results reveal that only 8.50% migrants got the assistance through Jan-Dhan account and 15.26% through other ways. There could be variety of reasons. Non availability of bank accounts, delay in transferring the payment in bank accounts are the prime reasons. Any plan for direct benefit transfer needs not only proper targeting but also making the banking service available to all such beneficiaries. [Section 3.6.3]

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Part-I Schedule

# Migrant Workers: A Study on their Livelihood after Reverse Migration due to Lockdown

State.....

District.....

Block.....

Gram Panchayat.....

Sample No..... Date of Survey.....

Respondent Gram Panchayat (GP) Secretary					
Sl. No.	Question	Response			
1	Name and designation of GP Secretary	Name	designation	Mobile no.	
2.	Approximate population of the village panchayat				
3.	Number of families/migrants which/who returned to the villages under the GP due to lockdown	Name of Village	No of families	Number of members	
		1.			
		2.			
		3.			
		4.			
4.	Name and mobile nos. of the migrant worker / head of the returned families from each village of the GP	Sr	Village	Name	Mobile
		1.			
		2.			
		3.			
		4.			
		5.			
		6.			
		7.			
		8.			
		9.			
		10.			
		11.			
		12.			
		13.			
		14.			
		15.			

Select 5 migrants for Part-II Schedule

Part-II Schedule

**Migrant Workers: A Study on their Livelihood  
after Reverse Migration due to Lockdown**

State.....

District.....

Block .....

Gram Panchayat.....

Schedule No.....

Date of survey.....

Respondent : Head of Migrant Family						
S No	Question	Response (To be given in codes/amount/ values)				
<b>1</b>	<b>Identification Particulars</b>					
1.1	Name of the migrant, age (years) and sex (male/female)	name:				
		age:		sex		
1.2	When did you return to the Native Place? Month/week	month		Week		
1.3	Place of migration from where you returned? State/ district and block (in case of rural) and town (in case of urban area)	State				
		District				
		Block/Town				
1.4	Whether married or single? married-1, single-2					
1.5	Whether family or part thereof was with you in the place of migration? Alone-1, With/part of Family-2					
1.6	Size of family / dependent members in family in Native Place and in place of migration, including self and other earning member(s) (Earning Member(s)-EM, Dependent-D)	Item		EM		D
		Place of migration				
		Native Place				
1.7	For how long you had been in the place of migration	Years		Months		
1.8	Were you / your family quarantined after return? Yes: 1; No: 2	Self		Others		
<b>2</b>	<b>Livelihood in the Place of Migration</b>					
2.1	Your main occupation in the place of migration? Self-Employed: In Agriculture-1, Non-Agriculture-2; Salaried and Wage Earners-3, Casual Workers: In Agriculture-4, Non-Agriculture-5, No economic activity-6					
2.2	Average monthly income in place of migration before lockdown (indicate family income if you have earning member (s))	of Self: ₹				
		of Family ₹				
2.3	<b>Reasons for Reverse Migration:</b> No work in the place of migration-1, Shortage of money to survive-2, Danger of covid19 in the place of migration-3, Evacuated by landlord-4, Desire to be with family at the Native Place-5, Normally return during kharif season-6, No economic activity-9. • If multiple reasons, please indicate in order of priority	1	2	3	4	5
<b>3.</b>	<b>Livelihood in the Native Place after return</b>					
3.1	Livelihood opportunities/ economic activity in Native Place: self-employment in agriculture: Farming-1, Livestock/ Poultry/ Fisheries/ Other Agri-based/Forest based Activity-2, Self-Employment in Non-Agriculture-3, Salaried/ Wage Earner-4, Casual Worker: Agriculture Labor-5, MGNREGA/Public Works-6, Other Works-7, No economic activity-9 • In case of mixed activities, write two activities by major time of engagement	<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>		



3,2	Average monthly Income in Native Place after reverse migration and Quarantine, in case less than 30 days actual income in the period (indicate family income if you have earning migrant members). In case of self employed in 3.1, and no income accrued 0 may be entered as income.	of self: ₹	
		of Family ₹	
3.3	If casual worker in Native Place after return (either in agriculture on non-agriculture)	Average number of days you get work in a week	
		Whether you get wage at Minimum Wage Rate (MWR) (At MWR-Y, More than MWR -M, Less than MWR -L)	
3.4	Government assistance received as migrant family in place of migration after the lockdown and native place after quarantine (PDS- with ration Card on payment at subsidized rate) At Native Place relates to the head of the migrant and his part family which returned to Native Place and limited to the assistance due to covid-19	Facilities /Assistance	In Place of Migration
		Agriculture loan (₹ )	In Native Place
		Non agriculture loan (₹ )	
		Kisan Credit Card (₹ )	
		Jan Dhan Account (₹ )	
		Gas Connection (Kg)	
		PDS Wheat (Kg)	
		PDS Rice (Kg)	
		PDS Dal (Kg)	
		Wheat free (Kg)	
		Rice free (Kg)	
		Dal free (Kg)	
		Old Age Pension (₹ )	
		Other cash assistance (₹ )	
3.5	Would you like to return to place of migration? Yes:1; No:2		
3.6	If yes, reasons?	1	2
	Got a feeler from the Government/ employer		
	Employer is ready to give employment on the same or more wages		
	Have employment opportunity in the place of migration		
	There is no employment in the Native Place		
	Others (Please specify)		
	• If multiple reasons, please indicate in order of priority		
3.7	If no, reasons	1	2
	Afraid of COVID in the place of migration		
	Less likely to get the work in the place of migration		
	No funds to restart the business in the place of migration		
	Have employment opportunity in the Native Place		
	Others (Please specify)		
	• If multiple reasons, please indicate in order of priority		
3.8	Two skills in the order of employability you have in which you can be engaged in the Native Place	Skill-1	Skill-2



## Inferential Survey Statistics and Research Foundation

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Statistical Support to Informed Decision Making

Since 2019

### About Inferential Survey Statistics and Research Foundation

Inferential Survey Statistics and Research Foundation (ISS&RF). ISS&RF is a not-for-profit institution incorporated in 2019 under Section 8 of the Companies' Act, 2013, engaged in independent statistical survey and high-quality research in the areas of survey methodology, quantitative analysis, training, and related fields of applied statistics.

The ISS&RF is formed by a group of highly spirited, well-informed retired officers of Indian Statistical Service, Indian Economic Service, Subordinate Statistical Service and other services, each having led the statistical systems across the Ministries/ Departments of the Government at senior level for several decades. It has the expertise of statisticians, economists, information technology professionals and subject field experts. It aims to provide survey and research-based support, to Government, Industries, Private Institutions, and the people at large, to make better decisions in the interest of them and the society. In this endeavor, it utilizes the expertise of its members and latest technological development in the field of statistical surveys to optimize the cost and reduce the time in bringing out the survey results. The ISS&RF will also utilize the services of other retired and skilled statisticians, economists, and survey personnel as well as experts well versed with various subjects.

Study has been carried out by the Inferential Survey Statistics and Research Foundation. The study has the contribution from Dr. B. B. Singh, Chief Executive Officer for all India Report and Jharkhand State Report, Shri Amitabha Panda, Director for West Bengal and Chhattisgarh State Reports, Shri Inderjeet Singh, Director for Uttar Pradesh State Report, Dr. A. K. Choubey, Founder Member for Bihar State Report and Shri Srikara Naik, Member for Odisha State Report. Database Management and Table generation has the contribution from Shri Rakesh Kumar Singh, Member, ISS&RF.

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	<p>biostatistics. He has number of research papers in reputed journals, participated in various conferences dealing with statistical methodology and delivered lectures and conducted training on small area estimation, survey design and management, monitoring and evaluation and database management with applications of GIS.</p> <p>During his ten years long tenure in Field Operations Division of NSSO, he worked in the Regional Offices across the country in North, Central and North East Zones. In the Headquarters, he was instrumental in introducing Urban Frame Survey using mobile/ web applications and bringing out significant improvement in data quality under socio economic surveys and compilation of returns under web based annual survey of industries. In the Town and Country Planning Organisation, he was involved in the development of first ever district plan of Bharatpur based on GIS and developed several computerized systems for monitoring of urban development schemes. Dr. Singh has been the Indian representative to the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geo Spatial Information constituted by the UNSD.</p>
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	foundation level changes in collection, compilation, dissemination and publication of official statistics. He authored five Economic Survey of Chhattisgarh and conducted 6 <sup>th</sup> Economic Census in the State.
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	Services provided by Krishi Vigyan Kendra and other e-governance projects for Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
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