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Reverse Migration: A State Potential

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Abstract

The onset of the Covid-19 pandemic saw our national dailies extensively chronicle the miseries that came with the mass exodus of migrant workers within India; arguably the only one after the Partition. So who were these people who overnight became all too visible to us? They were, and they are, our fellow nationals, India's huge labour force in what is called the 'unorganized sector'. Indeed, their hardships are beyond imaginable; the authors, however, analyze for the un contemplated/overlooked silver linings of this predicament. Through a political, economic, social, technological, environmental, legal, and ethical lens, the authors put across how this unique migration can rather prove to be beneficial for both the migrants and the states. From a rise in inclusive developmental models within the states to reduced stress on urban resources, from successfully restoring migrants' lost dignity to alleviating their self-esteem and being near their loved ones; the advantages are sustainable and manifold. Contrary to what has been assumed, we look into Reverse Migration as an opportunity to capture.

Keywords: *Migration, Migrant Crisis, COVID-19, Pandemic, Government Policies, Analysis*

1.0 Introduction

Since time immemorial humanity has been on the move. In the present day, some set out in search of better opportunities while others yearn for a better lifestyle or simply away from local conflicts, natural disasters, or human rights violations. More than long international hauls, domestic relocation is precisely what migration today is all about.

Rural to urban migration, being one of the aspects of migration, derives its historical precedence from the Lewis Model of 1954. A key prediction of the Lewis model was that rural-urban migration would be primarily driven by the existence of surplus labour in rural areas along with the expanding opportunities of employment for such labour in urban areas. As the modern sector expanded, it attracted underemployed workers from rural areas who would migrate to urban areas in the expectation of higher urban earnings relative to their earnings in rural areas (Dubey, A., Palmer-Jones, R., & Sen, K. 2006).

However, both anthropological evidence accumulated over the past several decades and village studies on rural-urban migration suggests that in the South Asian context, social and cultural norms influence the patterns of migration from villages to cities and that households that find themselves in surplus-labour situations may not necessarily migrate first from a given rural setting (Connell et al. 1976, de Haan and Rogala 2002).

Large-scale migration instigated by greater and greener fields of economic growth is to a great extent a fantasy, as the majority of the migration is for subsistence and endurance and falls under the citatory of distress migration. In terms of India, states like Odisha, Rajasthan, MP, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, largely eastern UP, parts of Maharashtra and Gujarat see a large outflow of migrants to urban destinations. It is vital to note that these are also the regions that almost always confront chronic drought, have deforested landscapes, and devastated agro-ecologies that bear the brunt of inefficient execution of government assistance as well as schemes in the arena of agriculture services of soil and water conservation.

This sterile development does more harm than good. It further substantiates the continued existence of poor resource bases and assets of the migrants which has emphasized oppression that sustains serious monetary hardship and flourishes with “social segregation” the abuse of poor people, the landless, or the castes at the ‘bottom’ of the social hierarchy.

It is in this setting that we have to comprehend the universe of ranchers, workers, and the travellers who, today, write the universe of the transients. The pauperization of the environments of that world has prompted the formation of conditions where work is being bridled in the most unjust way by the rising capitalist framework today. The idea of such a cycle should at that point lead to a significant political and cultural emergency, where the building of urbanization, driven by an economy riding on obligation, may wobble. Perhaps, this is why we see a reverse migration today as the ‘destination’ an opportunity to capture. However, what is the situation in the ‘destination’?

Taking a cue from this question, the authors try to analyze for a solution that takes labourers back home for good. Through a PESTELE analysis, we focus light on how “reverse migration” would rather be seen as a silver-lining of the mass exodus in India that followed the Covid-19 pandemic.

The paper focuses on how coming back home, which is often seen in a bad light in terms of migration, can rather be an opportunity for both the state and its labourers for equitable development. Perhaps, there exists a symbiotic relationship between both which can accentuate the need for a state-level development and its inhabitants in general.

2.0 Background

To understand the various nuances of reverse migration, let us first direct our attention towards the inadequacies and push and pull factors that led to the phenomenon of rural to urban migration in the first place and how it has changed over time.

Beginning during the 1990s, Indian society/economy has seen an agrarian emergency that has spread unevenly over the nation. One alarming appearance of this emergency is that in excess of 300,000 farmers have committed suicide, as per official assessments from the National Crime Records Bureau in India (Sainath 2015). This suicide phenomenon began during the 1990s when India left on a drive to liberalize its agriculture. Liberalization, in the Indian context, meant connecting Indian agriculture to the larger world economy, as well as dismantling multiple support structures that Indian farmers had won from the Indian state through their movements.

This has generated a massive momentum of migration over the last two decades in India. In the mid-1990s, about 70% of the Indian population was still directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture while the fastest growing sectors in India were services and manufacturing, mainly in urban spaces (India: Issues and Priorities for Agriculture, 2012). By far most farmers and agrarian labourers (in those territories where the troubling phenomena has been widespread) have tended to integrate into the casual and unstable areas of the urban economy. This in-migration has been met with a profound employment crisis in otherwise quickly developing urban spaces. What this has implied is that migration stays transient, footloose, and uncertain. The travellers need to choose from an arrangement of working choices in agricultural and non-agricultural sectors to squeeze out an unsafe occupation.

In conjunction with the agrarian crisis described above and from various micro-studies on Indian labour, there is a proliferation of insecure labour, i.e. workers now perform highly seasonal and fragmented labour. Spatially, many of these migrants are either housed in the inner-city slums or in the new squatter settlements that come up on the fringes of the Indian cities. (Rao, S., & Vakulabharanam, V. (2018))

Data on migration has always been a point of concern. This can be inferred from the fact that the only available source on migration data in India dates back to the one published in the Census and the **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)** survey of 2011. Hence, these almost-a-decade old figures are musty, especially in times when the migration trends are highly volatile. However, given the limitations, Census 2011 is the only reliable data available; based on the entire population.

Table 1: Total Share of Migrants in Total Population

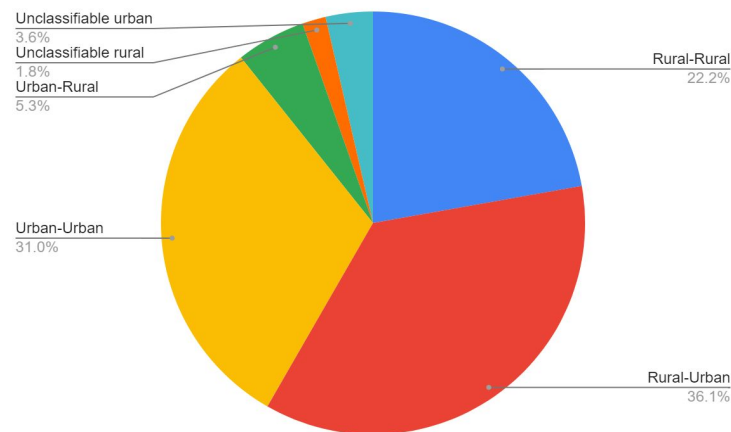
	2011 (in crores)	Share of migrants (%)
Total Population	121.09	-
Total Internal migrants	44.99	37.2
Inter-State Migrants	5.43	12.1

Calculated from D2 table based on the last residence; Census 2011

Table 1 shows that the total number of internal migrants (domestic migration; human migration within a nation-state) in India stood at a staggering 44.99 crores, constituting 37.2 % of the total population. On further bifurcation, the total number of migrations that took place from one state to another was 5.43 crore. There's no reason for us to deny the fact that these numbers have only gone uphill over the years. The Economic Survey 2017 had brought new evidence to indicate that Indians are much more mobile than it was generally believed. More importantly, there seems to have been an upsurge in mobility for economic reasons in the recent decade across states.

Chart 1 is indicative of the fact that the Rural to the Urban channel of migration remains dominant. More than 36% of the total migrants shift to urban areas for reasons discussed in the later sections. This is to say that migration has hugely been very urban-centric.

Chart 1: Stream of Migration



Calculated from D2 table based on the last residence; Census 2011

Table 2 showcases the top 5 states as per net immigration. Maharashtra, with 9.1 million migrants, stood at the top, followed by Delhi and Gujarat; all with high Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). In these states, migrant workers serve as an army of labour at the destination centres constituting a significant share of their total population in 2011.

Table 2: Top 5 States as per Net In-Migration

States	Total In-Migrants (in millions)	Total Population of the State (in millions)	% share of In-migrants
Maharashtra	9.1	112.3	8.1
NCT of Delhi	6.3	16.7	35.9
Gujarat	3.9	60.4	6.5
Haryana	3.6	25.3	14.2
Punjab	2.5	27.7	9

Calculated from D2 table; Census 2011; Population figures: <https://www.census2011.co.in/states.php>

On the flip side, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are the top states under net out-migration. Table 3 shows that nearly 12.3 million and 7.5 million people migrated out of these states respectively.

Table 3: Top 3 States of Net Out-Migration

States	Net-Out Migration (in millions)
Uttar Pradesh	12.3
Bihar	7.5
Rajasthan	3.8

From D2 table; Census 2011

These patterns of rural-urban migration have reasons of their own. Table 4 shows that apart from family reasons, work/employment constituted 24.7% of all the reasons. This further points out the fact that migration has significantly been driven due to disparities in regional developments. Lack of employment and educational opportunities in states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar drives the people out of their home states to states which are comparatively doing well, like Maharashtra and Delhi.

Table 4: Reasons for migration

Reasons	Persons	%
Work	1,34,20,989	24.7
Family	3,24,55,607	59.8
Education	7,44,015	1.4
Others	76,44,138	14.1
Total	5,42,64,749	100.0

Calculated from Table D3, Census 2011

Thus, the pattern of inter-state migration along with the reasons for the same collectively point towards the regional disparities within the country- lack of employment opportunities and stagnating rural economy in the home states. This has also been supported by (Sikdar, Mishra, 2020, p. 9) who argued that ‘interstate migration’ of the males for employment (as well as of females), is still very much linked with the underdevelopment, poverty, spatial disorganization, regional disparities, social inequalities, rural stagnation, rural neglect and unbalanced regional development over national space.

It is imperative to note that Migration by choice is understandable (such in the case of family reasons), but has serious repercussions if it is forced, as is the case with a large number of migrant workers. This phenomenon of forced migration is often known as Distress Migration. Because of the lack of adequate skills and literacy, these migrants are often employed in the informal sector. The data stated above collectively point out the magnitude under which distress migration is prevalent.

- Devoid of critical skills, information, and bargaining power, migrant workers often get caught in exploitative labour arrangements that force them to work in low-end, low-value, hazardous work, and informal market jobs in key sectors in urban destinations.
- The urban communities were based on the hard work and exploitation of migrant workers, yet they never entered the cognizance of the architects; all things being equal, they are considered part of the problem in cities. The political class overlooks them since they don't count as votes, particularly in the case of inter-state migrants. Due to their mobile nature, they don't find any place in the manifestos of trade unions. They go through their entire day on worksites and quietly sneak into perilous shelters around evening time, without the metropolis even noticing them.

Hence, it is imperative to believe that migration in India has its inherent disadvantages; most of which are magnified due to the pandemic situation. It is beyond question that this calls for an urgent redressal. Forced Reverse Migration, as an unprecedented consequence of the situation, calls for policies that alleviate conditions back home.

Having looked at the reasons and factors associated with migration closely, let us delve into the details of the structural changes that might be required to encourage migrants to stay put in the rural pockets and to break free from the vicious, exploitative cycle of migration.

3.0 Inadequacies in Government Policies to facilitate distress of Reverse Migration

a. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

The MGNREGA was initiated with the objective of "enhancing livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year, to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

- As a preventive measure, the budget allocation under MGNREGA increased for 2020-21 by 40,000 crore over. However, around 9%-11% of the budgetary allocation will be used to first pay off the pending dues from last year.
- No increase in the number of days of fixed employment has been announced. Only 7.3% of the total households employed could avail the mandated 100 days of work in 2019-20.
- Lack of sustainability- the actual work provided as a percentage of the total household demand decreased since it peaked in 2011-12 (99%) to 93% in 2013-14 and decreased even sharply to 88% in 2019-20.

b. Garib Kalyan Rojgar Yojna (GKRJ)

According to the initial pronouncement: "The program, aimed at boosting livelihood opportunities in rural India and creating durable infrastructure along with boosting employment opportunities."

The government laid down a 50,000 crore relief package as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, to provide one-time employment opportunities for 125 days, for migrants who returned to 116 districts of six states—Bihar (32 districts), Uttar Pradesh (31), Madhya Pradesh (24), Rajasthan (22), Odisha (4) and Jharkhand (3).

Indeed the policy does wonder in providing immediate relief through opportunities in Panchayat Bhawans, Anganwadi centres, national highway works, railway works, and water conservation projects. However, it fails to cater to the grave nature of the situation.

- The government will not invest extra funds in this scheme and will merely divert the funds already in the flow under 12 ministries.
- It is implemented in 116 districts of six states, leaving behind prominent states like Chhattisgarh and West Bengal outside its ambit.
- It's believed to have been laid out as a political move; to create the short-term illusion among the migrants, a ploy for the Bihar elections.
- Why is there a need for a new scheme when MGNREGA is already in existence? How is employment under GKRJ guaranteed if the same workers are being denied work under MGNREGA, with no additional flow of funds?

Consequently, we see a lack of sustainability attached to the policies given out by the government. Having looked at the reasons and factors associated with migration closely, let us delve into the details of the structural changes that might be required to encourage migrants to stay put in the rural pockets and to break free from the vicious, exploitative cycle of migration

4.0 PESTELE Analysis

4.1 Political

Inadequacies in existing policies	Recommendations
Inadequacies in MGNREGA and Garib Kalyan Rojgar Yojna (Refer 3.0)	Instantaneous measures that the government could take will be to carry out an effective universal public distribution system which would ensure food and nutrition security also, and free rations can be instituted for a protracted period to the working poor. Cash transfers to informal workers over an extended period of time would also provide income support.

	<p>> The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) could act as an employer of the last resort and a significant coping mechanism for the poorest households. For all its shortcomings, MGNREGA is an on-ground institutional mechanism that is well-penetrated into rural India, currently covering 13.67 crore households. The local government needs to generate more employment under MGNREGA. During the period of 2011-12 MGNREGA starved of funds due to excess demand. There is a need for more infusion of funds under this scheme. As per many experts, the current stimulus might not be enough. With migrants coming back, households might require more than 100 days of work. The reverse migration should be considered as an opportunity as a skill is coming back; the skill needs to be utilised to develop the rural areas and the adjacent small cities. Thus, in order to leverage the full potential of MGNREGA, several measures including removing restrictions on the types of works allowed under the scheme by widening its scope and coverage, giving work to those without work cards to assimilate returning migrant workers, lifting the roof of 100 days of work for every family,</p>
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	<p>clearing pending dues, expanding the spending and paying the recommended national minimum wage of 375 to labourers could be executed so more comprehensive and extended usage of social safety nets and public employment programs would thus be able to help balance out the livelihoods of the rustic poor in these uncertain times.</p> <p>(ii) Long term measures</p> <p>> During times of transformation, governments need solid establishments that can be built by laying unambiguously set, thoroughly examined, and unchanging rules and guidelines from an early period, that are well-publicized.</p> <p>The first step towards restructuring the rural pockets would be establishing strong administrative and political institutions. Given that the migrants have a lack of agricultural resources and formal education but have acquired a specific skill set while working in urban areas like driving, plumbing, etc., the government can closely work with self-panchayats in the villages and conduct skill-mapping and categorise them into groups and create a huge database for the government which can be used to identify and provide adequate help through targeted employment opportunities and employment-oriented programs.</p>
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	<p>These employment opportunities can be created by bringing industrialisation and infrastructural development into these villages which would also help generate additional non-agricultural jobs in the future by serving as a lucrative investment opportunity and therefore, economies of scale that has already been achieved in the urban areas and now can take this next wave of economic development further inside India.</p> <p>>The absence of infrastructural facilities and extensive chain of middlemen in the agrarian sector prompts the distressed circumstance of the farmers and they eventually move to the next sector for employment. The development of agricultural marketing techniques and supply chains can improve the returns to the farmers which in turn might lead to increased rural demand. The increased demand can in turn lead to the development of other sectors and employment generation. The small cities lack proper infrastructural amenities like public transport, the development of urban facilities in these areas can help in generating significant employment opportunities. The infrastructural development in the small cities will attract investments in these areas which will lead to further employment generation. (Roy Choudhury & Joarder, 2020, p. 143)</p>
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	<p>The phenomenon of reverse migration and the sustained rural employment model highlighted above will also help overcome the political exclusion of migrants. Now that the migrants don't have to shift back and forth due to cyclic unemployment and can be provided employment opportunities in their native places, they can be also actively included in the political process which further incentivises political institutions to engage with them and cater to their needs ensuring their well-being further.</p>
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4.2 Economic

Rural-Urban Imbalance as an issue	Recommendations
<p>The shrinkage of the economy and the phenomenon of reverse migration point to and question the worth of the economic growth measured by a high gross domestic product growth increased per capita income and city-centric development. On the off chance that a negative economic shock crossing somewhat beyond three months can pull the poverty rate to what it was 15 years back, it isn't superfluous to question the manner of speaking of growth and development that we have known about throughout recent years.</p>	<p>(i) Rural-urban linkages</p> <p>THREE-LEVEL RURAL-URBAN PARTNERSHIP LINKAGES</p> <p>Rural-urban partnership linkages can be made a reality by establishing a three-tier network.</p> <p>(a) Rural Growth Areas</p> <p>A reliable resource and market surveys can provide expert socio-economists with the basis to suggest the most appropriate size and location of growth areas that facilitate easy access and communication between the</p>

<p>(<i>Dealing with the New Poor and Reverse Migration</i>, n.d.) Tragic as it is, this open door must be utilised to address a significant issue tormenting India. Economic growth in India has been skewed towards a few major centres, giving up huge pieces of the nation. Massive populace places, for example, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are the biggest source of migrants, who go to urban cities in Delhi, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Kerala, in search of opportunity. This model which constantly concentrates development in only a couple of territories is particularly unsustainable in India, given the immense cultural variety and social disparities. (2020)</p> <p>Dr Nanjundappa, Deputy Chairman of the Karnataka State Planning Board communicated concern when he said: “rural development is as yet a non-starter in the State even following fifty years of Independence...” He stressed that there was still a bias towards urban areas in the growth policies and cautioned that such growth policies would only increase the gulf between the poor and the rich and the rural and urban areas. The present technocratic strategy should be replaced by a strategy that allocates importance to the human component of development.</p>	<p>different settlements that constitute one rural growth area but also between different growth areas and urban centres.</p> <p>(b) Rural Growth Centres</p> <p>The cores of development zones will be development focuses that have two-way economic associations with neighbouring towns just as with urban and rural providers and markets. Growth Centres are intended to provide formalised services for the population residing in villages in the vicinity of the different growth centres. This will enable villagers to have easy admittance to the different facilities they need without moving to somewhere else looking for pay.</p> <p>(c) Urban Centres</p> <p>Cities will have a growing volume of network linkages with rural partners, suppliers and buyers. The resulting increasing rural incomes will through the multiplier effect also raise demand for urban-produced goods and will therefore also increase urban employment opportunities. (Epstein, 2003, p. 446)</p> <p>The government can use this crisis of reverse flight of migrant workers as a trigger to redraw a regionally-progressive, more balanced plan for development and industrialization.</p>
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<p>The growing concern over the expected enormous urban growth has led Governments and International Agencies to reduce their support for rural development in general and the rural poor in particular. "The extent of official development help going to agribusiness has tumbled from around 20% in the last part of the 1980s to around 12 per cent today. Help to agriculture from worldwide financial institutions has followed a similar path... Aid significantly more than public venture goes excessively to nations—and progressively to non-rural areas—where a large portion of the poor don't live or work."(Kedir, 2003, p. 667).</p> <p>There seems to be a tiny realisation at present among policy-makers that by neglecting the urgent needs of rural populations, they foster the rapid urban expansion, which they now consider the major problem on the development horizon.</p> <p>There exist of course numerous different options whereby a government can encourage rural development and at the same time ensure an increasing Gross National Product (GNP) growth rate.(Epstein, 2003, p. 446)</p> <p>So far rural and urban sectors have competed for access to limited public and private resources.</p>	<p>In India, 60% of the rural population is in 20% of the total 600,000 villages many of which are close to one another and to towns making an inclusive development model more conceivable</p> <p>(ii) Other recommendations</p> <p>> In order to re-draw a regionally-progressive and rural-centric plan for development and industrialisation, we have to incentivise investments directed in the spread of industrial activity and development in rural areas and therefore create, multiple thriving economic corridors that include ecosystems of large and small enterprises, educational institutions, innovation labs that seek to capitalise on the geographic, demographic and economic assets of that region.</p> <p>> With the right infrastructure and operationalisation of accessible utilities, these towns can ingest the nearby working-age populace, which in any case moves outside or stays jobless. This makes a comprehensive development model more possible.</p> <p>> A deliberate shift away from the continuous expansion of existing over-burdened economic urban hubs towards creating new ecosystems surrounding various rural areas is required which can pull in working-age populations</p>
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Yet the two sectors can complement each other and thereby create mutual benefits and reduce rural and urban poverty levels. The creation of network relations between farm households, agro-based processing enterprises and small domestic industrial enterprises in rural areas by creating a spider- web of rural growth areas and growth centres can create the off-farm work income-earning opportunities that will encourage villagers to remain in their native places rather than uproot themselves and migrate to cities in search of employment. Just as global linkages encourage Western businesses to shift increasing proportions of their activities to low labour cost countries so can developing countries urban manufacturers of small goods benefit from lower rural labour costs by subcontracting productive processes to rural areas. Such urban-rural industrial linkages will lower production costs and will also relieve rural producers from worries about how to market their products; marketing has proved to be the major problem facing rural entrepreneurs.

from nearby towns and villages that have returned to their native place owing to the phenomenon of reverse migration. A planned effort is required between the central and state governments just as the private area to make a blueprint for a future-state model for each such corridor and finally, rapid prioritisation of infrastructure and diverse capacity-building investments to develop these rural ecosystems and integrate them into the national economy. There are other benefits that will ensure more environmentally-responsible growth, better and a wider spread of renewable sources of energy, and faster unlocking of the promising consumer markets that exist in rural and semi-urban India.

> Rural economic corridors must have an elevated place for small and medium enterprises, which are crucial to creating a comprehensive system, and driving sustained development of a region. Finally, as governments play the catalytic role, the private sector itself needs to come forward and make some bets on under-utilised regions. (Dandekar, Ghai, 2020, p. 29)

<p>The decentralisation of small goods production will raise living standards in rural areas, discourage urban migration; this will considerably reduce the rate of urban growth. Similar rural-urban partnership linkages have already been successfully implemented in parts of South East Asia.</p>	<p>This can finally help the migrants to break out from the vicious cycle of irregular informal employment they get from migrating into the urban areas and not get stuck at income just ensuring their bare minimum existence and finally enjoy ‘reasonable’ standards of living instead of conventional ‘basic’ standards of living.</p>
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4.3 Social

Social exclusion of migrants	Social benefits of reverse migration
<p>The different plans for urbanisation have led to employment generation in the metropolitan areas leading to the influx of migrant workers but all urban planners have missed taking account of the migrant workers as part of the city due to which the migrants are put at the lowermost level of the social hierarchy; marginalised and kept at the fringes of society and perpetual victims of social exclusion leading to disastrous consequences for collective bargaining, security, and entitlements of the labouring migrant classes. Their urban employers on grounds of nature of education, expertise, productivity, class and caste background victimise them.</p>	<p>Maslow's hierarchy is a five-level model of human needs, often portrayed as various hierarchical levels inside a pyramid. Needs lower down in the hierarchy should be fulfilled before people can go to needs higher up. From the bottom of the hierarchy upwards, the needs are physiological, safety, love and belonging, esteem, and self-actualisation.</p> <p>As has been illustrated in the paper so far, the migrants were caught in fulfilling their physiological and safety needs due to the exploitative nature of migration that they couldn't actually advance in Maslow's hierarchy of needs from the basic needs to social needs.</p>

<p>People will be excluded from society even if they can vote and have constitutionally protected human rights, but lack the financial and human capital. In this respect, pursuing social inclusion would also require reducing poverty and enabling decent jobs which will be provided with major overhauling of governance and economic structure that aim to build a more inclusive rural development model.</p>	<p>Owing to the reformed political and economical institutions we discussed above and an aim of providing them a regular stream of income by employment generation within rural areas, people could actually advance in the hierarchy from basic needs to needs of having a social standing in the society and fulfil their belongingness and esteem needs and the closer they are to self-actualisation, the more is the propensity of them contributing more to the economy and the society as a whole.</p> <p>-The migrants of different class backgrounds find themselves between the two cultural patterns-the internalised the culture of the place of origin [rural area] and the culture of the place of destination to be internalised (urban area) causing a clear conflict and social conflict between the two while such friction is avoided when these migrants will work in their native places. (<i>Social Impact of Migration, Regional Economic Performance, Migration Perspective</i>, n.d.)</p>
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4.4 Technological

Problem	Recommendations
<p>During this process of economic development and industrialisation, society becomes more technologically complex, more productive, and more affluent. Rapid industrialisation and modernisation in rural areas will lead to a shift from manufacturing that is typically labour intensive to use more capital and technology per labourer, therefore, a start off a virtuous cycle of education, innovation, and productivity growth. (Naudé, Nagler, 2015, p. 17) Technological innovation will be prominent in all of the structural shifts mentioned. For instance, labour productivity will be stagnant without increases in the capital and technological intensity of production, because factor accumulation is subject to decreasing returns to scale. Demographic changes are facilitated by new technologies in housing, construction, transport, energy, communication, and health, as well as the environmental impact, among others. Technological innovation consequently will have an impact on economic, social, and environmental dimensions and can contribute towards social inclusive development. (Naudé, Nagler, 2015, p. 17)</p>	<p>To ensure inclusive development and integrated technological innovation whose benefits accrue to the migrants who've returned to their native places, we'll have to further train them through vocational and on-job training so that they can become a part of skilled labour force and database created through skill-mapping of these migrants can also be accessed to give them targeted training and prepare them for specific employment opportunities based on their already existing skill set.</p>

4.5 Ethical

Ethical repercussions of migration	Countering the repercussions with reverse migration
<p>In the overall context of the migration in the pre-COVID times, what needs to be understood is the manner in which the subordination, exploitation, and control of labour take new forms that are a combination and an ingenious adaptation of the older forms of control and bondage contextualised to new conditions of capitalism. It is important to fathom the proliferation of 'remnants' of older established structures to more readily comprehend measures internal to the new state of capitalism. The core of labour bondage draws upon older forms of enslavement, in this manner counterbalancing the conviction proliferated by capitalism that it is based on free labour. Instead, it would be worthwhile to develop a perspective that offers useful insights into the realities of the institutionalisation of labour vulnerabilities through an adaptive system of labour exploitation. Mapping the universe of the unorganised poor in India plainly shows that capitalism isn't dissolving this network of social establishments yet reconfiguring them gradually, unevenly and in an extraordinary variety of ways (Harriss-White, Gooptu, 2001, p. 106).</p>	<p>In such a context, we need a charter of the rights of the working population across the board that ensures the right to livelihood, food, security, and above all dignity of labour. Such a charter should become the guiding principle in the post-coronavirus phase of India's polity and economy implementation of which can be facilitated as people return to their native places via reverse migration (Dandekar, Ghai, 2020, p. 29)</p>

It is in this setting that the term 'neo-bondage' recommended by Jan Breman is more fitting as it catches the experience and destiny of footloose labour attached to a pattern of production that is occasional and works in various manners like a blend of cutting edge payments and deferred payments (Dandekar, Ghai, 2020, p. 29).

Breman locates the continuation of this practice in the on-going rebuilding of capital and proposes that the rise of neo-bondage is firmly associated with the reinforcement of the casualisation, informalisation of business and mirrors the expanded monetisation of ware trades and of social connections (Dandekar, Ghai, 2020, p. 29).

In present-day times, particularly after liberalisation, there is a change to subjugation that is more rooted in the immobile status of the structures of capital.

Labour is being harnessed in a most unfair way by the arising capitalist framework today. The idea of such a cycle should at that point, unavoidably, lead to a significant political and cultural emergency, where the structure of urbanisation, driven by an economy riding on debt, may totter.

4.6 Legal

Legal oopholes for migrants and their causes	Covering the loopholes through reverse migration
<p>Since the majority of these migrants were working in the unorganised sector and thus, were a part of the informal sector, they could not get protection under the current system of labour laws due to the lack of a definite pattern of employer-employee relations in their specified occupation or basic rights and standards like complete employment security, decent income, and comprehensive social security, including provident fund, gratuity, bonus, health coverage, life insurance, accident coverage, maternity benefits, paid leaves, financial assistance for the education of their children, etc were not available to these migrants; this was another key factor in the creation of a vicious, ill-treating cycle of meagre income and irregular unemployment (Jatav, Jajoria, 2020, p. 21).</p> <p>The idea of providing comprehensive social security benefits to unprotected workers has still remained an unsolved task for the government due to a number of reasons, from administrative and financial limitations, and scattered and biased nature of social security legislation in the country, to inadequate information available on the unorganised sector and lack of data.</p>	<p>Now owing to the COVID-19 crisis, the mobility of labour has come to a standstill and because of reverse migration, the migrants are staying put in their native rural areas making obtaining information and categorisation easier by the principle of decentralisation where self-panchayats can help furnish central government data and statistics by collecting data from all sections of the workforce staying put in their native rural areas and thus come up with a universal and comprehensive social security to all sections of the workforce (including casual labourers as well as the self-employed comprising most of the unorganised employment) by integrating the various existing social security legislations into one.</p>

<p>Legislators believed that the implementation of standard labour laws to this segment of workers was impracticable (Marshall, 2014, p. 287).</p> <p>One of the major roadblocks in implementing an inclusive social security benefits system was difficulty in the identification of beneficiaries, accurate categorisation of workers across socio-economic groups, and lack of information available considering the limitations in the existing system of socio-economic data collection and dynamic mobility of unorganised labour.</p>	
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4.7 Environmental

<p>Environmental degradation due to migration</p>	<p>Reducing further deterioration via reverse migration</p>
<p>Urban areas are becoming highly congested because of high population density resulting in the non-availability of fresh and clean air deteriorating the quality of lives of migrants further. Additionally, the areas within the cities and towns (urban areas) without civic and basic amenities called slums that sprout due to influx of people into urban areas and shortage of housing facilities for them are inhabited by rural migrants owing to the paucity of resources due to exploitative nature of the informal sector.</p>	<p>The phenomenon of reverse migration has forced people to leave the slums in urban areas and move back to their native place where housing settlement is better than slums and therefore the environmental degradation caused by them is also reduced resulting in better standards of living for the migrants themselves (Singh, Shandilya, 2012, p. 68).</p>

<p>Slums are overcrowded and lack civic amenities like light, water supply, drainage, roads, toilets and medical facilities are reduced in numerous ways. These areas without proper water supply dispose of their waste in an unplanned manner which pollutes air and water causing diseases like typhoid, cholera, enteric fever and gastroenteritis.</p>	
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5.0 Conclusion

Migration has done more harm than good. People move out for reasons that are inherently flawed and born out of distress conditions. This traps them in a vicious cycle of exploitation, and stagnant personal and financial growth. Reverse Migration can be captured as an opportunity to bring rural-development as a long-standing problem to the mainstream. The people who came back can be made to participate in a paradigm that facilitates sustainable rural development. Understanding the PESTELE nuances of the rural-development model as a derivative from Reverse Migration can pave the way for better living conditions for the migrants as well as, a better state in general.

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