

# Editors' Note

In a world already laden with so many social, economic, and political challenges, Covid 19 came as an unexpected and unprecedented challenge that the human race had rarely faced before. The pandemic impacted the whole world and transformed and refashioned people's lives, way of living and also the state system and governance. In the same way the pandemic also impacted the migration of people at the national and international levels. It caused an unprecedented tide of reverse migration as people returned to their homes after the outbreak and lockdowns. Since migration of people directly relates to their livelihood, the pandemic, in reality, directly impacted the livelihoods and incomes of the migrants, a majority of whom belong to the underprivileged and disadvantageous section of society. Such impacts were more evident in the countries like India where a large proportion of people belong to low-income groups. In this issue of the journal, we have included majority of papers on pandemic and its impact on migration. The aim to do so is to understand the various nuances of the impact the pandemic had on migration and migrants, their struggle at the destination as well as at the source, the responses/ actions of the state and the civil society organisation.

The first paper, *Insecurity, Distress and Failed Attempts to Return: Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Cross-Border Migrants in India* by Ananya Chakraborty deals with the impact of the Covid-19 on the cross-border migrants from India's neighbouring countries like Nepal Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The paper unveils the challenges and risks that cross-border migrants took while attempting to return and the way they coped with the situation.

The second paper, *You Are not Alone! Experiences of LGBTQ+ Migrants in the UK during Covid-19 Lockdown. A Minority Stress Perspective* by Kisley Di Giuseppe is a UK-based empirical study on the vulnerable section like *LGBTQ and Migrants*. It focuses on the issues of psychological well-being that the isolation and lockdown has brought to these communities who force-migrate from their countries' of origin due to well-founded fear of persecution on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

The third paper, *Migrant Worker's Livelihood and Marginality: State and Non-state Actor's response to Pandemic Situation of COVID-19 in Indi-*

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aby Dinesh Chand is study on the Musahar Community of Uttar Pradesh based on primary data, collected through telephonic interaction with migrant workers and social workers in two slums of Mumbai in Jogeshwari and M-East Ward area. It underlines the marginality of the migrants in the state system and brings out the analytical understanding of the issues of livelihood and alternative ways to address such problems.

The fourth paper, *The Role of Government and Non-governmental Organizations in the Integration of Returned Migrants: A Case Study of the State of Kerala, India in the Context of Covid-19* by Rameesa P M, addresses one of the most affected states of India, that is Kerala, by the return migration. The paper highlights the initiatives by the government of Kerala towards the integration of returned migrants through initiatives like direct financial assistance and the 'Dream Kerala Project'. The paper also examines the long term plans towards structural changes, promote start up missions, localization of agriculture sector and small scale industry.

The fifth paper, *The Impact of Migrant Remittance on the future of Nepal's Economy* by Dinesh KC, though not directly dealing with the COVID 19 and its impact on migration deals with a very important related issues, that is Remittances. Nepal is slowly emerging as one of the top remittance receiving countries. This paper examines the impact of remittances on Nepal's future financial stability through a qualitative study. It argues with substantial evidences that there has been many unfavourable impacts of remittances on Nepal's economic stability. Remittance reduced the labor supply, investments in local industries and trade, and increased Nepal's culture of dependency on the foreign economy.

Paper 6 *The Singapore Dream! Indian diasporic mobilities and changing imageries in the Lion-city* by Jayati Bhattacharya focuses on the contemporary Indian Diaspora, their economic trajectories, socio-cultural diversities and global mindset in Singapore. It deliberates on the metaphors of mobility and identity for different generations in the lived-space of Singapore and compares the distinct layers in the Indian diasporic community. Further, It discusses the resonances, reflections and contestations in the sphere of intra-community perspectives in the interactive economic and socio-cultural space of Singapore.

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