

Tragedy of migrant labourers and some of our orphan children parents are included in this number.

Ever since Indian government announced national lock-down with four hours notice one of the major groups that got affected was the migrant workers. This migrant workers move from their villages because of lack of opportunities for their livelihood and settled in cities and earn their livelihood.

Now words cannot fully capture the problem as vividly as the media pictures that show young, old, small children and very old people in hundreds walking on the roads for hundreds and thousands of kilometres to reach their native village. The village once was dumped as a place of no opportunity now has become a place of refuge. We even seen small children and old people died on their way due to exhaustion of walking this distance with no proper food and drink. In the absence of trains and buses thousands set on foot with their families for this long journey of hundreds of kilometres.

City the place so far provided livelihood now due to covid-19 has become a life threatening place. They want to leave their shanty town to avoid death and move to their own village for safety and security knowing fully well that there may not be opportunity for livelihood.

There is a big lesson to be learnt from all of these. The government with aggressive policy of globalization and privatization has abandoned the rural economy. Education, health and employment have become the prerogative of private investors and elites who can pay for it. But ofcourse they wanted to do their businesses in cities because it is there they can make profit. Neither the government nor the private sector showed any interest in developing the rural economy. Increasing the farm profit, creating rural employment was replaced by freebies to satisfy the rural mass. The rural India has only poor education, poor infrastructure, poor health services, loss making agriculture and poorly qualified employees.

Suddenly the corona virus is now causing a reverse migration that is from cities to village. Atleast now we hope that the government should seriously focus on the rural economy with serious strategy rather than satisfying the rural people with freebies.

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