

2014

THEIR OWN COUNTRY

A PROFILE OF LABOUR MIGRATION
FROM RAJASTHAN



Centre for Migration and Labour Solutions (CMLS), Aajeevika Bureau
Supported by Sir Dorabji Tata Trust and Allied Trusts

Over the din of India's fast paced growth story, the saga of rural migration still struggles to be heard.



Aajeevika Bureau brings together a document which throws light on migrant workers' lives. A first of its kind, the report conclusively contributes to the country's migration narrative with facts, figures and findings, and creatively blends statistical data with ethnographic engagement and theoretical critique. It draws from primary grassroots studies that focus on migrants' lives, ideas and aspirations in order to pave the way for an informed policy response on seasonal migration in Rajasthan.

WHY BE CONCERNED?

Seasonal migrant workers are at the bottom of Rajasthan's socio-economic pyramid. Despite their large numbers and contribution to the health of the economy, they remain a constituency which is politically invisible and denied decent work and living conditions.

- 70% migrant workers have no social protection
- 63% migrants do not possess any bank account
- 68 % workers report facing legal disputes at work which go unreported
- 29% of migrant workers do not possess any form of identification

The violation of their basic human rights ought to be corrected urgently to make Rajasthan a more equal and inclusive state.

What does the report offer?

- Estimation of the size of the migrant work force from Rajasthan
- Major destinations and source areas of migrant labour
- Occupational characteristics of key migrant groups
 - Recruitment systems
 - Incomes and remittances
 - Living and working conditions of workers
 - Existing vulnerabilities and challenges
- Glimpse into the political economy of migration
- Recommendations for policy formulation to address migrant workers' constitutional rights

THE MIGRANT MILLIONS

46% of rural households in Rajasthan¹ have one or more members migrating for work, seasonally.

5.8 m people migrate seasonally from rural Rajasthan in search of work, comprising ~8% of the state's population.

Marginalised groups from SC and ST households dominate seasonal migration
(SC – 0.92 persons per household, ST – 0.84 persons per household)



¹ A seasonal migrant worker is defined as one employed in the unorganised, informal labour market, engaged for 3 months or more at a work destination, away from his/her native rural block.

WHO MIGRATES?



Majority of the seasonal migrant workforce in Rajasthan is poorly educated, is unskilled and comes from disadvantaged social and economic groups.

78% of seasonal migration comprises of single male migrants, 20% are family migrants

67% of the seasonal migrants are in the age group of 18 – 30 years

50% of the migrant labour force comprises unskilled workers; high proportion among SC (61%) and ST (57%) communities



- 88 % of seasonal migrant population comprises of men
- 23 % illiterate, another one-third with primary education
- 43 % are inter-state migrants
- Key work sectors – construction, transportation (head-loading), mining, hotel and hospitality
- Average wages – Rs. 242 per day

- 12 % of seasonal migrants from Rajasthan are women
- 54 % from ST and SC households
- 92 % illiterate
- 94 % are intra-state workers
- Key work sectors – construction, agriculture, and brick-kilns
- Average wages – Rs. 135 per day

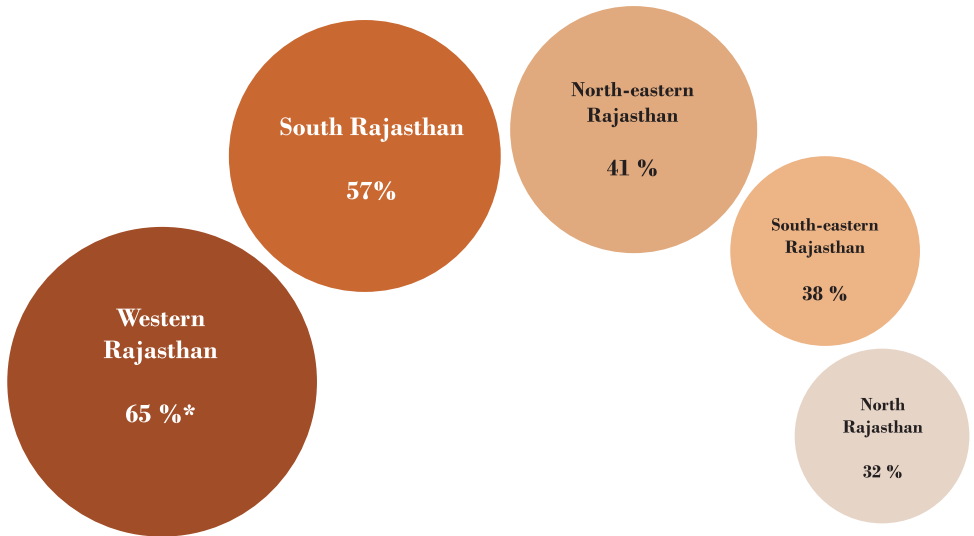


In pursuit of what do they migrate?

Migrants from Rajasthan earn monthly wages worth Rs. 5060 on an average. Migration is the major source of cash income for 83% of migrant households

WHERE DO THEY MIGRATE FROM?

Largest migrant sending districts – **Jodhpur, Barmer, Dungarpur and Udaipur**



* Proportion of migrant households out of total rural households

WHERE DO THEY MIGRATE TO²?

➤ Gujarat accounts for 51 % of inter-state migration

➤ Maharashtra is the second most popular destination

➤ Ahmedabad, Surat, Mumbai comprise the three key inter-state city destinations

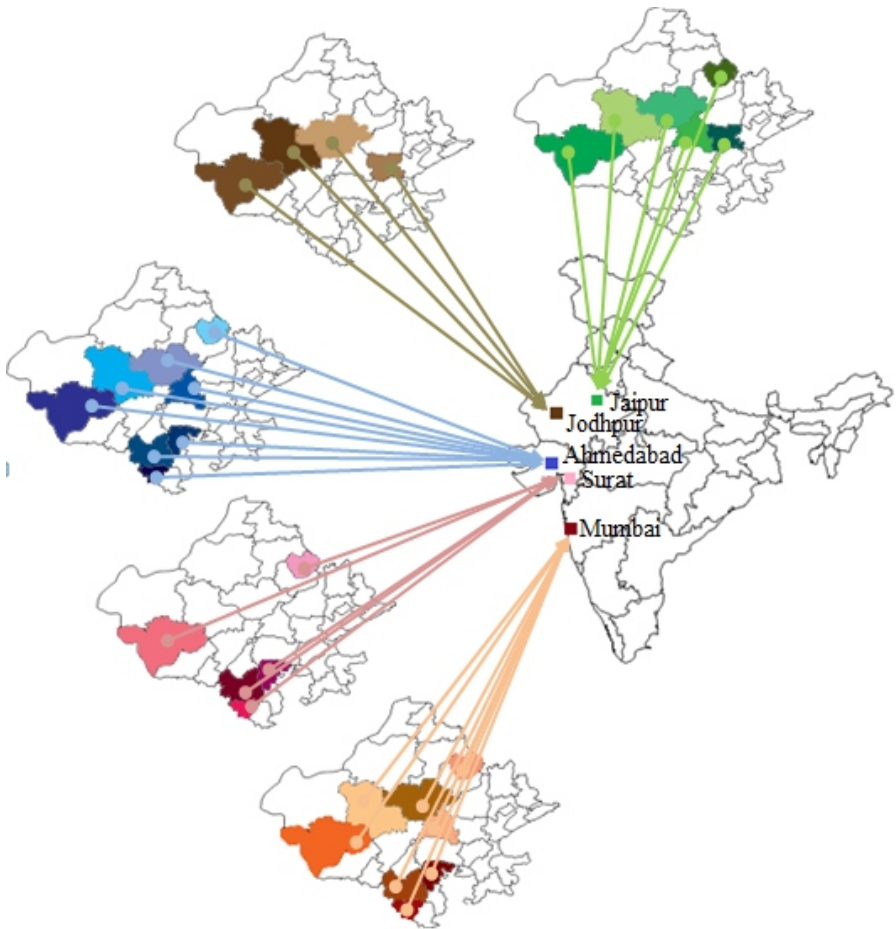
➤ Jaipur and Jodhpur are major intra-state work destinations.

41 %

Inter-State
Migrants

²For the given 10 study locations

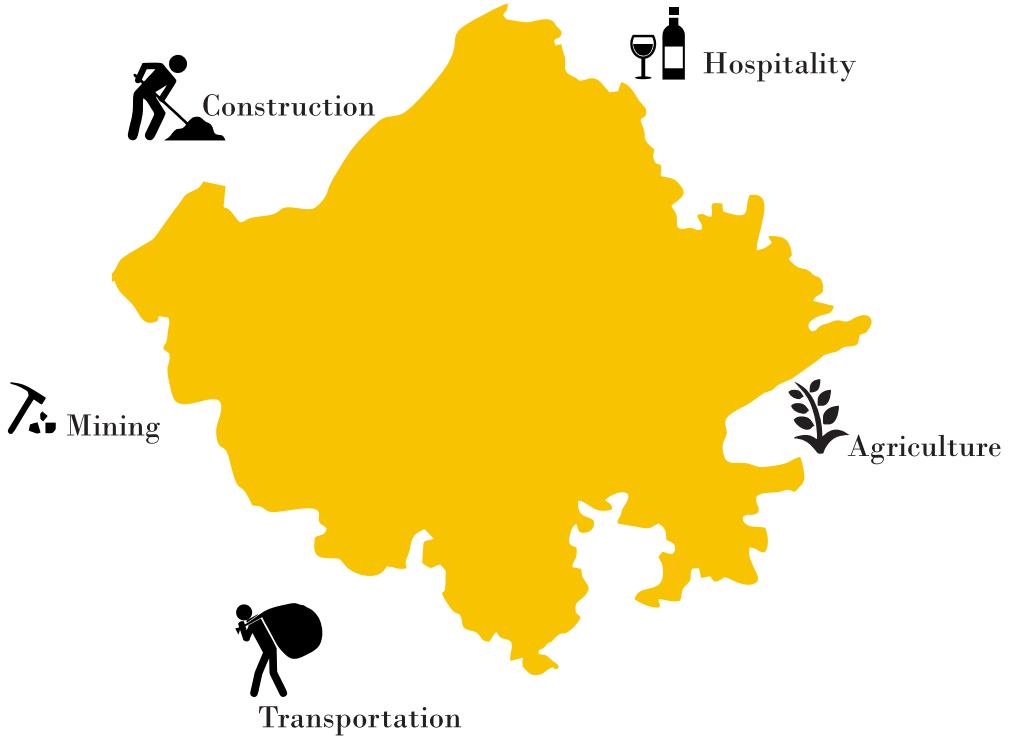
MAPPING MIGRANT JOURNEYS



Top five work destinations and sending districts

■ Dungarpur	■ Chittorgarh	■ Udaipur	■ Tonk	■ Jodhpur
■ Chittorgarh	■ Dungarpur	■ Chittorgarh	■ Jhunjhunu	■ Barmer
■ Udaipur	■ Udaipur	■ Dungarpur	■ Barmer	■ Ajmer
■ Barmer	■ Nagaur	■ Barmer	■ Ajmer	■ Nagaur
■ Ajmer	■ Barmer	■ Jhunjhunu	■ Nagaur	
■ Nagaur	■ Jhunjhunu		■ Jodhpur	
■ Jodhpur	■ Ajmer			
■ Jhunjhunu	■ Jodhpur			

WHERE DO THEY WORK?



Did you know?

- 🔨 Mogiya community from south Rajasthan is commonly found making and selling Plaster of Paris statues, across India
- 🔨 Ice-cream lorries named Mewar, Sanwariya are all manned by migrants from Rajsamand and Chittorgarh districts of Rajasthan
- 🔨 Women migrants from Baran migrate with their families to work as magicians

CRITICAL CHALLENGES FOR SEASONAL MIGRANT WORKERS

Identity and Access to Services

- ✚ Absence of identification proof and documentation - adversely affects access to entitlements including PDS, financial services, and more
- ✚ Absence of any political status and voice at their destinations – remain largely unserved and unattended

- ✚ Low and uncertain wages, unstable jobs, no social security, no legal aid and even bondage in several work sectors
- ✚ Limited avenues to upgrade skills – hence early stagnation, involuntary and early return

Skills, Wages and Social protection

Increased health risks

- ✚ Overcrowded dwellings with poor sanitation and water – migrants at high risk of contracting infectious diseases, including tuberculosis
- ✚ Prevalent occupational hazards and increased risk of HIV/AIDS
- ✚ Poor access to state health services such as RSBY and JSY, especially inter-state migrants

- ✚ Impact on families left behind – coping with exclusion and an aggravated lack of access to services
- ✚ Children migrating with parents are deprived of education, immunization, and early child care – tend to join the labour force early

Vulnerable families

The labour administration struggles with poor outreach, limited staffing and meagre resources denying meaningful attention to migrant workers



KEY POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS



The report builds a case for a visionary and powerful state policy, institutional mechanisms and deeper engagement by the civil society to address the hardships of the migrant worker.

- Setting up of the Rajasthan Migrant and Unorganised Labour Protection and Welfare Authority** – an empowered authority that combines regulatory, vigilance and welfare functions
- Formation of an Inter-state Coordination Committee** comprising representatives from both Rajasthan and key receiving states such as Gujarat and Maharashtra – to monitor work and living conditions of migrant workers, review special schemes and offer recommendations to industry and urban authorities for improvement in the conditions of migrant workers
- Creation of a fast track mechanism for effective regulation, vigil and swift legal address** of migrants' work related disputes
- Creation of a system of portability of entitlements** such as food security, health care and financial services

As Legislators

- Create Rajasthan Migrant Labour Protection and Welfare Authority
- Finance worker facilitation centres in constituencies with high migrant concentrations, using MLA/MPLADS funds
- Greater vigilance of government, including PRIs on services and welfare delivery to migrant communities
- Provide greater financial & human resources for the labour departments

WHAT YOU CAN DO

As part of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India

- Redraft the Inter-state Migrant Worker's Act, 1979
- Create provisions for special migrant welfare boards/welfare packages
- Enable inter and intra-state portability of key entitlements
- Greater awareness, literacy and monitoring of RSBY, BoCW

As part of the Labour department

- Set up a sub-district structure for improving interface with workers
- Set up a Labour Helpline for workers in emergency
- Set up new boards/special welfare packages for highly vulnerable worker groups such as head loaders, rag pickers, agricultural labour and domestic workers
- Improve access to Construction Workers' Welfare Board
- Inter-state coordination with labour departments in Gujarat and Maharashtra
- Fast track redress of work disputes
- Create a paralegal cadre to widen the coverage of legal protection
- Set up crèches at work sites; community kitchens and facilities at labour nakas



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MIGRATION SERVICES & SOLUTIONS FOR SEASONAL MIGRANTS



**Registration &
Photo ID**

**Skill training &
Placement**

**Legal education &
aid**

**Financial services &
social security**

**Family support
services**

**Basic healthcare
services**

**Support services at
destination**

About Aajeevika Bureau

Aajeevika Bureau (AB) is a specialized public service initiative working to promote the well-being and advancement of rural migrant workers. Aajeevika Bureau has been well regarded as an innovative attempt to solve problems and address hardships faced by migrant workers in order for their livelihood quest to become more successful and dignified. AB was set up in 2005 and it began its work in the heavy out-migration areas of southern Rajasthan as well as heavy in-migration areas of Gujarat. It offers a range of services to migrant workers and their families – photo ID, skill training and placement, legal aid and literacy, social security linkages and financial inclusion, family empowerment and health care. For details, please visit www.aajeevika.org

About Sir Dorabji Tata Trust and Allied Trusts

Established in 1932 by Sir Dorabji Tata, the elder son of group founder Jamsetji Tata, the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust and the Allied Trusts are one of India's oldest and largest philanthropic foundations. The trusts offer monetary assistance to students and economically disadvantaged patients, make financial contributions to institutions and provide financial support to more than 600 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the country. Internal migration is one of the thematic areas supported by SDTT and Allied Trusts, under the Tata Trust Migrant Support Program. For details, please visit www.dorabjitatatrust.org

About Internal Migration in India Initiative (IMII)

The Internal Migration in India Initiative (IMII), launched in 2011, by UNESCO and UNICEF, with other partners and stakeholders, including UN Women, International Organization for Migration (IOM), and Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT), has been working towards supporting the social inclusion of migrants in the economic, social, political and cultural life of the country, using a three-legged approach, combining research, advocacy, and capacity building. For details, please visit www.solutionexchange-un-gen-gym.net



About CMLS

The Centre for Migration and Labour Solutions (CMLS) is a joint initiative of Aajeevika Bureau and Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT), with a mandate to spearhead expansion of migration services across high migration regions in India. The centre has facilitated design of migration programmes with 32 civil society organisations spread across ten states of India – Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Delhi and Haryana. The centre combines program design, capacity building, field research, and best practices exchange around the theme of seasonal labour migration.

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Sir Dorabji
Tata Trust