

Invitation and Call for Paper Presentation

Through the Prism of Labour: Gender & Distress Migration in Contemporary India

Two Day Seminar

Organised by

**Labour & Migration Unit and Women's Unit of Indian Social
Institute, Bangalore**

Dates: 19th & 20th July, 2017

Venue: Volken Hall, ISI- Bangalore

CONCEPT NOTE

Post liberalization, the category of labour has undergone radical transformation in terms of employment opportunities, labour laws, job security and policies related to wages and other incentives schemes. The invasion of technology accelerated by privatization had impinged on various facets of labour and led to significant changes such as contractualization of labour, dissolution of labour union and substitution of labour by technology. For women it carries different connotation as labour gets entangled with gender. Their dual victimization on account of gender and marginalized status needs specific address to understand the multiple kinds of violence: economic, social and sexual: they encounter. Therefore, it becomes absolutely essential for us to broaden the idea of work and workplace and comprehend and accept its diversity in form and nature, inter-sectionality of caste-class-gender, migration and new possibilities of work.

Since its inception, Indian Social Institute, Bangalore has been spearheading a novel approach to the Indian sociology by blending radical activism with theoretical academics. Staying fidel to its approach, it is organizing a two-day seminar on the intersection of gender, labour and subaltern voices of migrant workers in post liberalization in India. In the domain of labour, distress stimulated by economic deprivation, natural and environmental disasters or social oppression leads to migration which produces many socio-cultural repercussions for the migrants. Supplementing this, the changes in the political and economic contexts too impinge on the predicament of migrant workers. The latest mutation in the economic and political contexts, that is, demonetization has catapulted the migrant

labourers into unforeseen economic and social crisis such as overnight destitution and made them more vulnerable to harassment of all sorts.

An active academic engagement with these areas will be enabling in exploring the correspondence of gender with labour. The seminar intends to contemplate over the following key questions: How do we understand the terms used in the title of the seminar, how gender defines the allocation of work to men and women as well as transgender who do not fall in the pre-structured normative social order, the various modes of labour in the organized and unorganized sector, how does economic restructuring that has snowballed India into unprecedented liberalization impinges on the Dalit and Tribal men and women who have never featured as yardstick for measuring the country's recent economic rise and what notion of work, at home and outside, does Women's writing, by both upper caste and Dalit, delineate. This regional level seminar aims to detail the articulation on labour and paradoxical outcomes of liberalization and make this issue more visible not only in the domain of academics but also policy making so that we can collectively further the labour rights of, migrant workers in the unorganized sector, women and transgender. It spiritedly invites academics, activists, students, independent researchers for fertile, critical, dialogic reflections on this area of gender and labour in the neoliberal Indian moment so that it can translate into concrete materialist intervention in terms of advocacy and lobbying.

The following list is suggestive and not exhaustive.

- a. Gender based division of Labour: Mode of labour: Organized and Unorganized
- b. Women in Organized and Unorganized sector specifically migrants
- c. Case Study of Dalit, Tribal Women and bonded labour in Unorganized Sector
- d. New Economic Policy and its Impact on Women's Employment and Migrant Labour
- e. Predicament of women workers in construction labour, daily wage labour and domestic labour
- f. Cultural implications of displacement on women and children: alienation in terms of entitlements and social inclusion
- g. Northern Migrants in Southern Region specifically daily wage labourers in metropolitan cities.
- h. Mutations in political contexts and its connotations for distress labour
- i. Connotation of urban space for migrant workers: Avenues Vs Exploitation
- j. Shift from agrarian setup to capitalistic order and its implications for labour
- k. Repercussions of shift from traditional caste and class ordained labour in present times
- l. Contemporary issues of women garment workers in Bangalore
- m. Victimization of women workers in urban space such as human trafficking, less wages etc.

Submission of Abstracts in not more than 500 words by 10th June, 2017
Submission of Full paper in not more than 3000 words by 30th June, 2017
Selected papers will be published

Note:

- Honorarium will be given to all the presenters.
- Travel allowance will not be given
- Food and Accommodation will be provided free of cost
- The institute will be more appreciative of women presenters

For more queries and clarification contact the persons mentioned below

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