

# 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual (Virtual) Conference

## Orissa Economics Association

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February 12-14, 2021

The 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the Orissa Economics Association (OEA) will be held on virtual mode during February 12-14, 2021. The OEA invites full-length research papers for the conference on the following two broad themes: (1) Migration, reverse migration and the economy; and (2) Farm non-farm linkages for regional economic regeneration. Authors are invited to submit their papers addressing any of the suggested/indicative sub-themes or thereabouts.

### **Theme I: Migration, Reverse Migration and the Economy**

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed vulnerabilities of the migrant workers in India and around the world. It brought to the fore, the lack of data on the migrant workers, indifference of employers and the governments alike towards the rights and dignities of the migrant workers. Cutting across sectors, the migrant workers drive the engine of economic growth. However, systematic data and research on the migrant workers are hard to come by.

The *World Migration Report, 2020* published by the United Nations, estimates the number of international migrants at 272 million, with nearly two-thirds being labour migrants. The International Labour Organisation (2020)<sup>1</sup> estimates that the migrant workers comprise 164 million, which is 4.7 per cent of the global labour pool. It is widely recognized that the scale and pace of international migration is notoriously difficult to predict with precision because it is closely connected to acute events (such as severe instability, economic crisis or conflict) as well as long-term trends (such as demographic change, economic development, communications technology advances and transportation access). India continues to be the largest country of origin of international migrants. India had the largest number of migrants living abroad (17.5 million), followed by Mexico and China (11.8 million and 10.7 million, respectively). The top destination country remained the United States (50.7 million international migrants) (UN, 2020).<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> ILO 2020. Protecting migrant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic Recommendations for Policy-makers and Constituents, ILO brief, Retrieved from [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_protect/---protrav/---migrant/documents/publication/wcms\\_743268.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---migrant/documents/publication/wcms_743268.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/wmr\\_2020.pdf](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/wmr_2020.pdf)

Rural–urban migration primarily results from rural–urban differentials in growth and higher productivity and incomes in the urban industrial sector; this has been theorised by development economists for more than half a century (Lewis, 1954; Harris and Todaro, 1970; and Todaro, 1976)<sup>3</sup>. However, the vast movement of people from rural areas, within and across countries, has been structured by several factors other than voluntary forces at the household or individual level as envisaged in mainstream migration literature. There is increasing recognition that rural–urban migration is no longer a one-way street. Seasonal and circular migrants return to their villages after they expend labour in destination areas (Srivastava, 2020).<sup>4</sup>

Just as the magnitude and nature of migration were inadequately understood before the pandemic, there is also a similar lack of understanding on what will follow now as migration gets reversed in large measure for the circular migrants. It needs to be understood that the immanent forces underlying migration are structural, and not purely voluntary, and these structural features are embedded in the nature of development and the demographic structure across regions in India (Srivastava *et al*, 2020).<sup>5</sup>

The COVID-19 dashboard of Odisha shows that as on July 07, 2020 3,58,401 migrant workers of Odisha returned to the state during the lockdown period. Although data are provided on the source states and destination districts of the returnee migrant workers, no information is available on their nature and conditions of work.

### Sub-themes

1. Nature of migration from Odisha and India
2. Impact of migration at source and destination
3. Vulnerability of migrant workers
4. Challenges of reverse migration in Odisha
5. Gender issues related to migration
6. Impact of COVID-19 on migrant workers
7. Social security of migrant workers
8. Migration profile of Odisha

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<sup>3</sup> Lewis, W. A. (1954), 'Economic Development with Unlimited Supplies of Labour', *The Manchester School*, 22, pp. 139–192; Harris, J.R. and M.P. Todaro (1970), 'Migration, Unemployment and Development: A Two Sector Analysis', *American Economic Review*, 60 (1), pp. 126–142; and Todaro, M.P. (1976), 'Internal Migration in Developing Countries: A Review of Theory, Evidence, Methodology and Research Priorities', *Journal of Development Economics*, 5 (1), pp. 101–103.

<sup>4</sup> Srivastava, R. (2020), 'Covid-19 and Circular Migration in India', *Review of Agrarian Studies*, 10 (1), pp. 164-180.

<sup>5</sup> Srivastava, R., K. Keshri, K. Gaur, B. Padhi and A.K. Jha (2020), *Internal Migration in India and the Impact of Uneven Regional Development and Demographic Transition across States: A Study for Evidence based Policy Recommendations*, Institute for Human Development, New Delhi. [https://india.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UNPFA%20Report\\_2020\\_Internal%20Migration.pdf](https://india.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UNPFA%20Report_2020_Internal%20Migration.pdf)

9. Social network and migration

## Theme II Farm Non-farm Linkages for Regional Economic Regeneration

With a growing realization regarding the role of the local and regional economies not only in generating jobs and income drawing upon local resources – material and human – but also rendering the local productive space competitive, linkages between the farm and non-farm sectors have assumed significance. The mutuality between these two local sources of economic dynamism has come to be debated intensely especially since the publication of Mellor (1976)'s path-breaking analysis on the subject. In the Indian context, there has been a huge empirical literature on non-farm employment starting with the influential study by Vaidyanathan (1986) and Visaria and Basant (1994).<sup>7</sup>

However, beyond jobs per se, scholars concerned with the developing economies have brought in issues concerning local economic regeneration where institutions – both formal and informal – have played a crucial role. Farm-non-farm linkages manifest through micro processes involving migration, rural enterprises, basic infrastructure, innovation dynamics, role of local level agencies (including the civil society organisations) and gender discrimination, to mention a few (Breman and Mundle, 1991; Ranis and Stewart, 1993; Knorringa and Meyer-Stamer, 2008; Haggblade et al., 2010; Uchikawa, 2014; Das, 2015; Shah, 2016; Djurfeldt and Sircar, 2017; Ghosh, 2017; and Vos, 2019).<sup>8</sup> The discourse on linkages has a much broader connotation than the obvious sectoral aspects. Engaging with challenges of resource use – control, governance and access – at the local level has been a key issue impinging upon social-economic power play but, importantly, local ecology.

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<sup>6</sup> Mellor, J.W. (1976), *The New Economics of Growth: A Strategy for India and Developing World*, Cornell University Press, Ithaca.

<sup>7</sup> Vaidyanathan, A. (1986), 'Labour Use in Rural India: A Study of Spatial and Temporal Variations', *Economic and Political Weekly*, 21 (52), pp. A130-A146; and Visaria, P. and R. Basant (1994), *Non-Agricultural Employment in India: Trends and Prospects*, Sage Publications, New Delhi.

<sup>8</sup> Breman, J. and S. Mundle (Eds.) (1991), *Rural Transformation in Asia*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi; Ranis, G. and F. Stewart (1993), 'Rural Non-Agricultural Activities in Development: Theory and Application', *Journal of Development Economics*, 40 (1), pp. 75-101; Knorringa, P. and J. Meyer-Stamer (2008), 'Local Development, Global Value Chains and Latecomer Development', in J. Haar and J. Meyer-Stamer (Eds.), *Small Firms, Global Markets: Competitive Challenges in the New Economy*, Palgrave Macmillan, Hampshire, pp. 18-37; Haggblade, S., P.B.R. Hazell and T. Reardon (2010), 'The Rural Non-farm Economy: Prospects for Growth and Poverty Reduction', *World Development*, 38 (10), pp. 1429-1441; Uchikawa, S. (Ed.) (2014), *Industrial Clusters, Migrant Workers, and Labour Markets in India*, Palgrave Macmillan, Hampshire; Das, K. (2015), 'Institutional Constraints to Innovation: Artisan Clusters in Rural India', *Asian Journal of Innovation and Policy*, 4 (2), pp. 132-153; Shah, T. (2016), 'Farmer Producer Companies: New Wines for New Bottles', *Economic and Political Weekly*, 51 (8), pp. 15-20; Djurfeldt, G. and S. Sircar (2017), *Structural Transformation and Agrarian Change in India*, Routledge, London; Ghosh, M. (2017), 'Infrastructure and Development in Rural India', *Margin: The Journal of Applied Economic Research*, 11 (3), pp. 256-289; and Vos, R. (2019), 'Agriculture, the Rural Sector, and Development', in D. Nayyar (Ed.), *Asian Transformation: An Inquiry into the Transformation of Nations*, Oxford University Press, pp. 160-185.

Especially, in the current context of the pandemic, there is a greater need to understand, assess and rethink processes and strategies in local economic regeneration as would be effected through the farm-non-farm linkages. What renewed role of the state is possible towards reviving the rural engaging the local community? What key infrastructure provisions are required for a local economy? Are there experiments (state or parastatal) to learn from? The two key elements of revving up productive activities and ensuring public health standards at the local level are important concerns. Assessing the adequacy and effectiveness of state financial packages in times of the pandemic is an area that requires attention. Issues in land grab, displacement and destroying the local ecology in the name of modern development projects are needed to be examined. Endogenous strategies and practices remain the key focus of this theme.

### Sub-themes

1. Economic regeneration through farm-non-farm interdependence
2. Employment potential of non-farm activities
3. Rural/traditional skill-based enterprises and clusters
4. Rural infrastructure (both social and economic)
5. Institutional innovations (state, cooperative and parastatal)
6. Fiscal stimulus packages for rural economic regeneration
7. Women's agency in reviving the rural economy
8. Processing of primary commodities

### Instructions for paper submission

Only unpublished full papers will be accepted for the conference. The paper should be organized under the following sections:

- Title of the Paper
- Name(s), institutional affiliation(s), contact number(s) and email id(s) of author(s)
- An abstract of about 200 150 words
- Keywords (up to 5)
- JEL Classification Codes (up to 5)
- Introduction
- Review of literature
- Objectives
- Methodology
- Analysis
- Findings
- Summary and Conclusion
- References

- Appendices (if any)

The length of the paper should be limited to 8000 words including tables and references. Papers should be typed in Times New Roman font of size 12 and lining space should be kept at 1.5. Papers should be submitted only in electronic format by email. Researchers should send their complete paper in word format to the Secretary, Orissa Economics Association, **Dr. Amarendra Das**, in the email id [orissaea@gmail.com](mailto:orissaea@gmail.com)

### **Best Paper Award**

One best paper award will be conferred during the conference based on the quality of the paper and oral presentation. For this purpose, only the authors below 35 years would be considered. Papers with multiple authors have to declare the name of only one author who will participate in this competition. Concerned applicants will have to fill up a separate application form providing proof of age during the conference. The award, carries a certificate and Rs. 10,000. cash prize and shall be given in the valedictory session of the conference .

### **Important Dates**

- Last date for full paper submission: December 31, 2020
- Acceptance of papers: January 15, 2021
- Online registration starts: January 20, 2021
- Online registration closes: February 1, 2021
- **Conference Dates: February 12-14, 2021**
- **For paper presentation and participation in the conference prior registration is mandatory.**
- **All participants should register before January 31, 2021.**