



Photo Credit: Anoop Sathyan

Migration, Informality, and Development

An introductory workshop jointly offered by Aajeevika Bureau, Work Fair and Free Foundation (WFF), and the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS)

Workshop Date: 29 January – 2 February, 2024

Deadline to apply: 3 December, 2023



Photo Credit: Jagjit Singh

About the Workshop

The movement of people from rural to urban areas, between and within states, across sectors of employment forms a complex web that profoundly impacts India's socio-economic landscape. The internal labour migration story is multifaceted and contradictory in many ways. While migration opens new opportunities for employment for many, it also pushes people into precarious work regimes.

Moreover, migrant workers from marginalised caste, class, and gender identities remain politically excluded at both source and destination. The labour legislation continues to weaken the workers' claims to their rightful entitlements. The non-recognition of women's productive and reproductive labour remains a critical barrier to their political empowerment and socio-economic well-being. The COVID-19 pandemic sharply visibilised the structural exclusions of migrant workers and simultaneously deepened the labour crisis.

At this juncture, Aajeevika Bureau, Work Fair and Free Foundation (WFF), and the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS) are pleased to organise a workshop on migration, informality, and development. The workshop endeavours to develop a deeper and critical understanding of internal labour migration in India, including the historical context, labour market dynamics, diverse experiences and vulnerabilities of the migrant workforce, exclusionary urban imaginations, and policy implications. We will analyse the legal regime on labour migration and the labour movement strategies for achieving a dignified world of work.

The workshop is open to early career researchers and development practitioners. It will provide a nuanced understanding of internal labour migration in contemporary India and ways to contribute to informed policy decisions, advocacy, research, and interventions that can improve the lives of millions of migrant workers.

Workshop Themes

The workshop will explore migration in India through various thematic intersections. Some of these include:

- Theoretical frameworks and empirical trends to understand contemporary migration
- Migrant workers and platform-mediated work
- Urbanisation and housing
- The relationship between caste, gender, and migration
- Occupational safety and health (OSH)
- Migration in the context of climate change
- Addressing precarious migration through advocacy, social protection policies, and worker collectivisation

The workshop will also draw on multiple methods to explain migration. Sessions will cover how to:

- Use archives to historicise migration
- Apply qualitative methods to describe and understand contemporary migration
- Use public data sources to measure and describe migration patterns
- Spatialise migration through geographic information systems (GIS)

The workshop will be conducted entirely in-person and blend interactive lectures, group discussions, guided learning activities, case study analyses, data visualisation, map-based exercises, and film screening. Participants will receive a detailed workshop schedule, reading material and resources. Select faculty will also hold office hours during the workshop for participants to address their questions in a 1-1 or small group setting.

— Learning Objectives

By the end of the workshop, learners will be able to:

01 Understand theories and concepts underpinning labour migration studies.

02 Critically examine the relationships between labour migration, informality, and exclusionary urbanisation.

03 Explore policies and institutions on migration and labour.

04 Learn about data sources and research methods to study migration.

— Workshop Anchors

This workshop is jointly offered by faculty members of IIHS and researchers and practitioners of WFF with decades of teaching and research experience. Guest speakers, including academics and practitioners, will share their expertise and insights. The following faculty members will anchor this workshop:

Tara Nair

Director, WFF | Aajeevika Bureau

Divya Varma

Director, WFF | Aajeevika Bureau

Geeta Thatra

Associate Director, WFF

Divya Ravindranath

Senior Researcher, IIHS

Raghav Mehrotra

Research Associate, IIHS

Key Programme Details

Cost:

There is no fee to participate in this workshop. Participants will be provided with accommodation and food for the duration of the workshop. However, they are expected to arrange for their own travel to Bangalore, as well as local travel between the workshop and accommodation venues.

When:

29 January – 2 February 2024

Where:

IIHS, Bengaluru City Campus

How to Apply

To apply, fill out and submit the **Microsoft Form** by **11:59 pm IST on 3 December, 2023**. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

[Click here to apply](#)

Date	Procedure
3 December 2023	Deadline to submit application
3 January 2024	Email notification to selected candidates
10 January 2024	Last day to register
29 January – 2 February 2024	Workshop at IIHS

There will be a two-step selection process. Candidates will be shortlisted based on the application form, and a telephonic interview will be conducted with the shortlisted candidates to understand their motivation for joining the workshop.

Diversity Policy

Aajeevika Bureau, WFF, and IIHS aim to have a diverse cohort for this workshop and encourage women, people with disabilities and those from economically and socially excluded communities with the requisite skills and qualifications to apply.



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— Contact Information

If you have any questions about the application, please write to rmehrotra@iihs.ac.in and geeta.thatra@workfairandfree.org



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