



Photo Credit: Tathya Macwan

Migration, Informality and Development

An learning workshop jointly offered by

**Work Fair and Free (WFF),
Aajeevika Bureau, and the
Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC)**

Workshop dates: 3rd to 7th March 2025

Deadline to apply: 26th January 2025

About the Workshop



Photo Credit: Aajeevika Bureau

Migrants, mostly from marginalised caste, class, and gender identities, encounter social and political exclusion at both their places of origin and destination. Their identities shape their integration into the labour market, resulting in stratified and exploitative occupational niches. For women migrants, the challenges are even more pronounced as they bear the dual burden of productive and reproductive labour. Women's work remains unrecognised and undervalued despite their critical contributions, undermining their socio-economic well-being and political agency.

Moreover, migration trajectories are increasingly shaped by climate impacts, which, in turn, disproportionately affect migrant workers, exacerbating their already precarious living and working conditions. Urban centres are often celebrated as growth engines but fail to integrate migrants equitably. Urban planning rarely accounts for the needs of this workforce, resulting in inadequate housing and limited access to social infrastructure.

The movement of people across geographies and employment sectors forms a complex web that profoundly impacts India's socio-economic landscape. The story of internal labour migration is multifaceted and contradictory in many ways. While migration opens new opportunities for employment, it also pushes people into precarious work regimes. This paradox becomes starkly visible when examined through the lens of structural inequalities.



Photo Credit: Manish Shukla

The rise of platform-based and technology-mediated work has further complicated the labour landscape, introducing new forms of precarity by redefining employer-employee relations. Weakening labour legislation continues to erode workers' rights and entitlements. The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns exposed these glaring structural exclusions of migrant workers and have simultaneously deepened the labour crisis.



Photo Credit: Aajeevika Bureau

This workshop, a collaboration between Work Fair and Free (WFF), Aajeevika Bureau, and the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), seeks to contextualise migration within broader discussions of informality and development through interdisciplinary approaches. It aims to develop a nuanced understanding of labour migration in India, including the historical context, labour market dynamics, diverse experiences and vulnerabilities of migrant and informal workforce, exclusionary urban imaginations, and the emerging challenges of climate change, platforms, and technology-mediated work. The workshop will also critically examine the legal and policy frameworks regulating migration and foreground the labour movement strategies to achieve a dignified world of work.

Open to PhD scholars, early career researchers, and development practitioners, the workshop offers a unique platform to engage with the complexities of labour migration in India. It aims to equip participants with insights and skills to contribute to informed policymaking, advocacy, research, and field interventions that can improve the lives of millions of migrant workers.

Workshop Themes

The workshop will explore migration in India through various themes, including:

- Theoretical frameworks to understand migration, informality, and development
- Empirical trends of internal migration in India
- The relationship between caste, gender, and migration
- Migration in the context of climate change
- Urbanisation and service provisioning
- Occupational safety and health
- Migrant workers and platform and technology-mediated work
- Addressing precarious migration through advocacy, social protection policies, and worker collectivisation

The workshop will also include sessions that build skills for research and advocacy on how to:

- Use public data sources to describe migration pattern
- Apply qualitative methods to understand contemporary migration
- Use media and digital tools to advocate for labour rights
- Develop strategies and tactics for movement-building

The workshop will be in-person and blend interactive lectures, group discussions, guided learning activities, case study analyses, and film screening. Participants will be able to address their questions in small group settings.

WORKSHOP

Learning Objectives

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



Interrogate intersectional nature of migration

Understand labour market dynamics and exclusions



Critique emerging forms of work and informality

Review legal and policy frameworks governing labour and migration



Workshop Coordinators

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

Dr Tara Nair

Director, Work Fair and Free | Aajeevika Bureau

Dr Geeta Thatra

Associate Director, Work Fair and Free

Dr Indrajit Bairagya

Assistant Professor, Institute for Social and Economic Change

Key Programme Details

When: **3rd to 7th March 2025**

Where: **Institute for Social and Economic Change, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru**



Photo Credit: Manish Shukla

How to apply:

Fill out and submit the Google Form by **January 26, 2025**. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

[Click here to apply](#)

Logistics:

Participants will be provided accommodation and food during the workshop. They will be reimbursed up to Rs. 5000 or actuals, whichever is lower, for their budget travel to and from Bangalore.



Photo Credit: Aajeevika Bureau

Participants will be selected based on their work in the fields of migration or labour and their motivation for joining the workshop.

Key Dates

26th
January
2025 | **Deadline to submit
the application**

10th
February
2025 | **Email notification to
selected candidates**

14th
February
2025 | **Last day to register**

3rd to 7th
March
2025 | **Workshop at ISEC,
Bangalore**

Diversity Policy

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



Contact Information

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



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Work Fair and Free

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