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Q12

Case study. Migrant workers have always remained at the socio-economic margins of our society, silently serving as the instrumental labour force of urban economics. The pandemic has brought them into national focus. On announcement of a countrywide lockdown, a very large number of migrant workers decided to move back from their places of employment to their native villages. The non-availability of transport created its own problems. Added to this was the fear of starvation and inconvenience to their families. This caused the migrant workers to demand wages and transport facilities for returning to their villages. Their mental agony was accentuated by multiple factors such as a sudden loss of livelihood, possibility of lack of food and inability to assist in harvesting their rabi crop due to not being able to reach home in time. Reports of inadequate response of some districts in providing the essential boarding and lodging arrangements along the way multiplied their fears. You have learnt many lessons from this situation when you were tasked to oversee the functioning of the District Disaster Relief Force in your district. In your opinion what ethical issues arose in the current migrant crisis? What do you understand by an ethical care giving state? What assistance can the civil society render to mitigate the sufferings of migrants in similar situations?

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2020 · GS IV · 20 marks · Ethics Case Studies

Case Studies on above issues.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round. This sheet is for revision, not a substitute for the model answer.

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/gs-4/2020/case-study-migrant-workers-have-always-remained-at-the-socio-economic-margins-of-our-society-silently-serving-as-the-instrumental-labour-force-of-urban-economics-the-pandemic-has-brought-them-into-national-focus-on/>

Disaster Management Act, 2005

The Union and district architecture used in 2020; ethics asks that directions include the means to live, not only the prohibition.

Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act, 1979

A pre-existing, poorly implemented statute on contractors and displacement; the crisis showed a law that was not lived.

Code on Social Security, 2020 / unorganised worker boards

The later policy push to register gig and migrant workers is an admission that invisibility was the original ethical failure.

One Nation One Ration Card

Portability intended to let a migrant draw grain away from the home PDS shop; incomplete last-mile in 2020 made walking rational.

Supreme Court orders on migrants, 2020

The Court eventually directed transport, food and shelter; a reminder that care-giving can be a judicially noticed duty, not only a sentiment.

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