

Weekly Livelihoods Update

23 October 2018

✚ Mine Closure turns an issue of Livelihood

Mining communities are the worst affected by the closures. Since, they derive their livelihood directly or indirectly from the industry. In order to analyse the shift in the livelihoods of people pre & post mining operations, different stakeholders across 24 mining villages of Hindustan Zinc Limited in Sargipali, Odisha were interviewed. In addition evidence from documents and reports were taken for reference. The findings, an emergent grim picture owing to the lack of a sustainable mine closure plan & transparency between the planners and the villagers'.

(For Further reading <https://www.epw.in/journal/2018/42/insight/mine-closures-and-issue-livelihood.html>)

✚ All-purpose Migrant Workers?

India's cities have for long lived with the dichotomy of having "outsiders," mostly semi-skilled and unskilled poor migrant workers, providing for multifaceted requirements. With number of attacks on the migrants increasing day by day, of fear, exodus to native places is growing. Besides instances of mob attacks on the conviction of a migrant for the rape of baby girl in Sabarkantha, increasing unemployment, infiltration of local culture are the other reasons claimed for violence. It gains emphasis that all the citizens have the right to work anywhere in India as the constitutional rights and duties re-instill. Despite all this, several migrants still face the labor exploitation & are exposed to insecurities. In this aspect, large numbers are voicing the need for a government initiative to safeguard the rights of migrants. However, deeper understanding of these issues is to be a, welcome matter of priority.

(For Further reading <https://www.epw.in/journal/2018/42/editorials/all-purpose-migrant-worker.html>)

✚ Less numbers register as Manual Scavengers

According to a recent survey, a large number were identified to be registered as manual scavengers. This came to be altered, with the state recognizing only a few under the category. As per the information, National Safai Karamchari Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC), working under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, issued state-wise data of people involved in manual scavenging, while the information has not been revealed. A survey in 2018, identified 20596 people as manual scavengers, a contrast of a survey led in 2013 figuring 13368 people. Despite of the identified numbers, allegation against the state & central governments under-reporting the numbers is on rounds. On the whole, progress of Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is considered a matter of priority, as opined by many.

(For Further reading <https://thewire.in/government/manual-scavengers-survey-government-underreporting>)

✚ SC to hear Petitions Challenging Sabrimala Verdict

The verdict that, the women of all age groups be allowed the entry into Ayyappa Temple is creating wild fires of mixed opinions, widening the gaps between devotees and the Government. In the wake of a number of local tribes and devotees seeking review of the verdict given by the country's highest court, comes the proceeding. With Supreme Court willing to hear the petitions of those who challenged the

verdict, on November 13, 2018. In this regard, a bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice S.K. Kaul had completed listing the petitions in the order, as revealed to lawyer Mathews J. Nedumpara.

(For Further reading <https://thewire.in/law/sc-will-hear-petitions-challenging-sabrimala-verdict-on-november-13>)

✚ MeTooIndia: 54% Rise In Sexual Harassment Reported At Workplaces between 2014-17

Registered cases of sexual harassment at Indian workplaces increased to 54%. According to an official data, as in 2017 the number was 371, with the current number standing at 570. Overall 2,535 such cases were registered over the four years until July 27, 2018 depicting, two cases being reported each day as per the government data tabled in the Lok Sabha (lower house of parliament) on July 27, 2018. Over the first seven months of 2018, 533 cases of sexual harassment were identified to be reported across the country. India is now witnessing its own #MeToo movement, a year after this swept United States. Arose on the allegations of rape and molestation against star Harvey Weinstein coming out. This juncture, considered a drive of empowerment of several women to voice out their personal stories of harassment & their perpetrator, using social media as a medium. Allegations of harassment against several prominent personalities across various industries--cinema, television, media, advertising, music and entertainment is increasing day after day. This comes in the wake of Social Media turning an inseparable part of our experiences & emotions.

(For Further reading <https://gendercheck.indiaspend.com/metooindia-54-rise-in-sexual-harassment-reported-at-workplaces-between-2014-17/>)

