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Assessment Of Government Approaches To Migrant Labour Housing In The Context Of Kerala

Migration is people's movement from one place to another for many reasons including better quality of living, job, better facilities and due to many other pushing and pulling factors. In India, the most common driving factor is work and the interstate migration where more than 100 million in the past years. The people from different parts of the country migrate to other regions in search of work with better wages. Most of these migrations are seasonal migrations which are creating undulations in the demography of the region. Kerala is one of the major host states for interstate migrant workers with more than 25 lakh migrants as per the report by Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation in 2013. These interstate laborers are one of the major work force and wealth creators in many sectors including construction, industries, quarries, restaurants etc of the State of Kerala. Even though they help in meet the high need of workforce, the living conditions of these workers are very poor.

The study is conducted to understand the conditions of housing of these migrant laborers in Kerala and the scope and provision in the rules and regulations and government schemes for reducing the gap and to address the housing need of the migrant laborers. The study also looks into the gap in the government approaches and the loopholes, which causes the insufficient housing facilities for the migrant laborers. The study analyses various acts, rules and regulations and schemes of national as well as state government level and find out various provisions for providing housing for the migrant laborers in it. It helped study to understand the gap in government approaches in addressing the migrant labor housing. The study also look into different best practices across the world for housing for migrant laborers to arrive the recommendations. The study also accessed the conditions of the migrant laborers and the mode of housing they are relying at present using interviews, key informant and by observations of author.

The study concluded with recommendations in the regulations, need for strong database, different approaches which are to be taken by the government and better possible solutions from various best practices for filling the gap and provide better options for housing for migrant laborers.