

Thank you chair!

I am Tejashree Kalanke from India.

I would like to start by sharing a story. While travelling to Geneva, I came across a woman whose mother, due to hardships at home, had to migrate illegally to a Middle East country, seizing every possible illegal way. During the process, she got separated from her children. Now she neither has any legal documents to stay in a foreign land & be entitled to basic human rights nor could she go back or contact her children. Her only surviving daughter, whom I met, has somehow found her mother & was travelling to meet her for the 1st time after years of separation. With the eyes full of tears of joy & excitement of meeting her mother, this young lady made me even more contemplative about this migration phenomenon. Things which are evident from this story are, Forces which compel to migrate, its irregular, unsafe nature etc.

I would like to make 2 brief interventions regarding this.

Last time I had advocated adopting a Universal & Comprehensive Migration Index system. With regard to today's topic, I specifically want to recommend that in Migration Index, a major parameter should be "labour Mobility". And the indicators can be labour mobility intensive sectors, protection of labour rights, quality of life of labours, labour mobility friendly state policies etc.

Secondly, we propose to set up a universal mechanism called 'Migration Exchange' on the lines of employment exchange under the leadership of UN, IOM, ILO and other relevant stakeholders at International level. And based on this, National governments can establish National Migration Exchanges at respective national levels which will be connected to International Migration Exchange

People who want to migrate can register themselves here. And countries/regions or let's say economies which are seeking a particular type of 'labour force' which they are short of and for a particular period, can register their market need. Based on the needs, reasons behind migration, skills and qualifications of people who wish to migrate on one hand and on the other labour demands of national/regional markets, these migrants can get meaningful employment opportunities by allocating them.

This will ensure following things –

1. Labour mobility, a major driver of migration, will get the appropriate framework in which it will be regulated and managed according to market demand-supply.
2. Migrants will automatically get registered and data collection of migrants which was an important issue till now will get somewhat addressed and solved.
3. It can also act as one point of contact for migrants in case of emergency or help. Chances of people migrating irregularly will be mitigated as they are registered and will be handhold by migration exchanges.
4. These migration exchanges can also provide necessary skills training to the migrants according to market demand and the wishes & capabilities of migrants.

5. From the perspective of host countries, this mechanism is beneficial as migrants will be accountable and answerable to the migration exchange. This will reduce the crime rate among helpless migrants.
6. As this mechanism will be universal in nature, there will be fewer complications.

However, I would like to end my intervention by putting a question on the floor for discussion. 'How can we make labour mobility more humane? How can we stop commodification of labour? How the rights of migrant labour will get ensured?'

Thank you!

Tejashree Kalanke