

# Jesus and Mary College

# IQAC

## Webinar Report

### **Topic: "Migration Matters"**

**Speaker:** Dr. Chinmay Tumbe, Assistant Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A)

Date:15 May 2020

Time: 12:00 noon - 1.30 pm

### Webinar platforms used: Google Meet

YouTube (live streaming)

<u>Click here</u> for video on YouTube.

<u>Click here</u> for video on JMC website.

#### **Registrations:** 272

Number of Registered Faculty: 137 [Associate Professors: 29, Assistant Professors: 104, Others (including acting Principals, Researchers etc.): 4]

Number of Registered Students: 135

Number of participants on Google Meet: 161

Number of participants on YouTube: 35 (127 views and still counting)

**Organizing Team:** 



Principal: Sr. (Dr.) Rosily T.L.

IQAC Coordinator: Dr. Alka Marwaha

JMC Webinar Coordinator: Dr. Ameeta Motwani

Moderator: Mr. Naveen Joseph Thomas

- Dr. Renu Gupta
- Dr. Reena Marwah
- Dr. Alka Sehgal
- Dr. Vibha Mathur
- Dr. Sunita Kaistha
- Dr. Pavitra Bharadwaj
- Dr. Shruti Tohan
- Ms. Charu Sarin
- Ms. Megha Jacob
- Ms. Monica Chhabra
- Ms. Priyanka Marwah
- Ms. Saloni Arora
- Dr. Shikha Singh
- Ms. Vrinda Moda

**About the speaker:** <u>Dr. Chinmay Tumbe</u> is with the Department of Economics at the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM-A). He holds a Masters from the London School of Economics & Political Science and a doctorate from the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore. He was the

Jean Monnet Postdoctoral Fellow at the Migration Policy Centre, European University Institute in Florence, Italy in 2013 and was with the School of Public Policy and Governance, Tata Institute of Social Sciences Hyderabad in 2014-16. He has worked in academic, corporate and government institutions in India, UK and Italy, served on an Inter-Ministerial Working Group on migration and his research has been featured in journals, newspapers and policy portals. His research interests include Migration Studies, Urban Economics and Business & Economic History

#### Webinar Summary

History in its broadest aspect is a record of man's migrations from one environment to another. On Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020, we witnessed an engaging webinar on "Migration Matters" hosted by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), Jesus and Mary College (JMC). Dr. Alka Marwaha, IQAC Convenor, and Dr. Renu Gupta initiated the webinar at noon with a brief welcome to the esteemed speaker and the guests. Sr. (Dr.) Rosily T.L., Officiating Principal, JMC, commenced her address by invoking God's blessings and proceeded to describe elementary forms of migration, a quest for comfort, as those found in Nature itself. This was followed by Dr. Ameeta Motwani's (JMC Webinar Coordinator) introduction of the erudite speaker, Dr. Chinmay Tumbe.

Dr. Tumbe began his talk by mentioning his 2018 book *India Moving: A History of Migration* about the varied facets of the great migrations of India and the world. Following culture and tradition, 200 of the 700 districts in India have witnessed large scale migration. To simplify the phenomena, migration is quantitatively of three types: permanent, semi-permanent and short-term/seasonal. Both permanent and semi-permanent migrations come under the purview of 'positive selection' which describes the condition wherein the richer one is, the greater the likelihood for them to migrate. Contrarily, short term migration is an 'inverse selection' phenomena wherein the poorer a migrant, the shorter the duration of the migration owing to costs of relocation and establishment.

Dr. Tumbe argued that there is a gender imbalance even in migration. It is a male-dominated phenomena. Using a map, he presented the concentration differentials of migration across India. Even richer parts of India, like Kerala, has high rates of migration along with its poorer counterparts like Bihar. This map has been essentially the same for over 100 years, thanks to the preservation of India's history on migration and wage differentials across States. He further explained concepts like circular migration, and popular Indian schools of thought associated with migration, mainly Gandhian and Ambedkarite.

Dr. Tumbe critiqued India's pale view on migration and the consequent schemes of rural development which are aimed to keep the migrants back home and away from cities, the typical hotspots for resettlement. Empirically, as seen in the Punjabi community, a more developed rural system had encouraged a multitude of Punjabis (over 12 million) to relocate more vigorously to countries like Italy. Thus, the richer they are, the more the migration. That's where schemes like MGNREGA provide succour by keeping a check on Distress migration.

24th March 2020 was Day 1 of complete lockdown in India in light of the pandemic. Despite a week's notice by authorities, it was an unprecedented shock to individuals to move out of their dwellings at such short notice. This led to hordes of people stranded in foreign migrated cities, unemployed and almost unsheltered owing to cities' hostile conditions towards immigrants. The immediacy of this movement is attributed to the social security offered by villages which is absent in cities that provide

only economic security. The uncertainty around lockdown dates accentuated the anxiety among the diaspora and their return plans. They could have returned early on in the start of the lockdown when the infection rates were relatively lower than now when infection rates have peaked.

He stressed upon the point that the government should have taken adequate measures and issued warnings, having spectated the gravitas of the pandemic in other nations. Timely action would have prevented the exodus of migrants who resorted to undertaking a long journey on foot. However, some argue that the migrant crisis could not have been estimated and that hindsight is a gift.

Answering questions posted to Dr. Tumbe before the webinar through the google form circulated amongst the participants, he addressed the issues concerning reverse migration, labour laws, brain drain and international emigration. Dr. Tumbe argued that reverse migration is only a temporary phenomena and that the departed migrants will soon return once the panic eases. In the meanwhile, as city dwellers, he proposed, we should be more hospitable to migrants and give impetus to slum upgradation rather than slum displacement as was done by the Bombay City Improvement Trust (1898) in response to the 1896 Bombay plague epidemic. This would break the nativistic political rhetoric prevailing in India today. Tackling a few other concerns with regard to international migration, Dr. Tumbe ended his lecture.

We proceeded to the question-answer session moderated by Mr. Naveen J. Thomas (Assistant Professor, Economics). A gamut of interesting questions were asked and answered such as those pertaining to the Lewis model of migration, the Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act of 1979, formalization of labour, and satellite tracking to give palpable aid to migrants.

The scholarly session ended with a detailed vote of thanks by Dr. Alka Marwaha recognizing the efforts of the many who contributed to the success of the webinar.

**Feedback Summary:** After conducting the Webinar, a feedback form was circulated amongst the participants. Of the 161 participants, 129 provided their feedback. More than 70% of the participants were not affiliated to Jesus and Mary College but to Universities and Institutions all over the country. This was an encouraging sign of our wide and diverse reach. The feedback was unanimously positive. Dr. Chinmay Tumbe was appreciated for the insightful talk and his lucid explanations. We also received praise for the smooth conduct and management of the webinar, for the organizing team and most importantly the relevance of the topic chosen. The positive feedback has been overwhelming.







