Managing Migration

This volume of the bulletin focuses on the impact of migration on children

International Headlines

The growing global discussions on migration fail to address one issue of emerging importance: the deplorable situation and rising cases of death of child migrants. Children, particularly unaccompanied minors form a vulnerable group of migrants. It has been reported that in America alone, 11,500 unaccompanied minors have attempted to enter the country, with the numbers only expected to rise in the coming months. The challenge facing countries is two-fold. Firstly, separation of children from their parents will have psychological impacts on the child in the long run. Further, this is worsened by the deplorable conditions in the detention centres including lack of access to basic sanitation facilities, clean water, food and shelter have serious consequences on the health and well being of the children. Data shows that nearly 5% of the migrant deaths between 2014 and 2018 have been of children with huge gaps in the data available.

On the National Front

In India too, focus on the impact of migration on children remains an unexplored subject with a report by UNESCO indicating that 40% of children from migrant households are more likely to go to work and not school and 80% migrant children do not have access to education near their homes. In the path towards the achievement of the SDG 4, 5 and 8, the focus on ensuring quality of life for migrant children becomes extremely crucial. While there have been initiatives to push for improved quality of education and learning outcomes, there has been no attention paid to migrant children who face the double jeopardy of a lack of access to resources and the uncertainties of migration. Addressing this challenge calls for collective action by all stakeholders including the community and civil society.

Listen In

Listen in to this podcast by Elora Mukherjee, the director of Columbia Law School’s immigrant rights clinic, Jennifer Silvers, a professor in developmental psychology, Amanda Holpuch, a Guardian US reporter and India Rakusen who narrate the shocking realities of migrant children in US detention centres.