

# Impact of COVID-19 on Workers' Health

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# Over-all perspective

- ▶ The COVID-19 pandemic has amplified challenges that workers were already facing before COVID-19 emerged
- ▶ These included: increase of insecure and informal work, lack of social protection, rising of unemployment which exacerbate poor health, poverty and inequalities.
- ▶ Amidst COVID-19, we anticipate escalation of incidences of various health problems among working people including HIV/Aids, TB etc

# Impact of Job losses & loss of livelihoods

- ▶ Workers losing stable jobs with adequate medical insurance
- ▶ Unemployment and precarious work has been on the rise
- ▶ The unemployed are being pushed to unpredictable and informal jobs which offer little in terms of job security, decent wages and social protection
- ▶ Not able to earn enough to cover their basic expenses at household level eg cost of housing, food, health care
- ▶ This may also entail spiraling debts in order to fend for needs of their households, constant anxiety, stress-related illnesses, poor nutrition and long term health problems
- ▶ Huge burden on the state in terms of increased expenditure on health to address the cumulative health problems emanating from job losses amidst COVID-19

# Vulnerabilities of migrant workers

- ▶ Migrants are prone to unpredictable and informal employment which have been negatively affected by COVID-19
- ▶ COVID-19 has further increased vulnerabilities of migrants in terms of wellbeing and access to health (Pascale Yav, 2020):

## A. Increased levels of stress and depression

- From death of loved ones they cannot bury in their home countries
- Sense of disconnection and lack of belonging due to unplanned extended stay
- Discrimination

## B. Reduced health seeking behaviour due to expiry of papers

## C. Lack of social protection

THE END

**THANK YOU!**