

## Organizing the Unorganized: A Long Road Home for India's Road-Makers

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A team from the Department of Community Medicine observed and photographed the dwelling of a road construction worker's family residing in a temporary house near a construction site (1). This photographic panel sheds light on the plight of the unorganized sector of migrant workers in India. Working for the bare minimum wages with the uncertainty of stable employment, they suffer from various issues, including a lack of proper housing, electricity, sanitary and medical facilities (Figure 1). Internal migration of these workers also makes them vulnerable to various diseases. This is worsened by overcrowding (2) and poor living conditions (3). Living near the construction site, surrounded by constant noise, disrupts the mental health of not only the migrant workers but also their family members (4). Belonging to low socio-economic status combined with their children not attending school owing to constant migration, it looks very likely possible that these families fall into a "poverty trap". Despite making up 93% of the total labor force in our country, the informal sector of workers remains deprived of the basic social security schemes of the Government of India\*. These images call for immediate attention to understand the unique problems of migrant workers in India and to develop inclusive schemes that cater to their security needs in the domains of nutrition, health, housing, employment, income, life & accident, and old age.

\*Government of India. Unorganised Worker | Ministry of Labour & Employment | Government of India [Internet]. Ministry of Labour & Employment. 2023 [cited 2024 Mar 18]. Available from: <https://labour.gov.in/unorganized-workers>

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Figure 1: The daily conditions of a family thriving to survive with the minimum wages and resources

### Reference

Government of India- Ministry of Labour and Employment  
<https://labour.gov.in/unorganized-workers>

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