



Session Title	Providing relief, Building resilience: Role of effective Social Protection for the poor
Day & Date	Saturday, 16 th May 2020
Time	11 am to 1 pm (IST)
Format	Panel discussion
Panelists	Dr. Muniraju S. B. , Deputy Advisor, NITI Aayog, Govt. of India Shikha Srivastava , Head, Urban Habitat and Migration Portfolio, Tata Trusts Rajiv Khandelwal , Co-founder and Executive Director, Aajeevika Bureau Dr. Aaditeshwar Seth , Co-founder and Director, Gram Vaani Prabhat Labh , CEO, Grameen Foundation India
Host	Rathish Balakrishnan , Co-founder and Managing Partner, Sattva Consulting

Context:

The conversation of Social protection has so far been myopically focused on relief and access to relief. The truth is that the crisis has highlighted how ineffective our social protection systems are for the most vulnerable people in our society. The conversation on social protection needs to gradually move from providing relief to building resilience. The benefits announced by the Finance Minister as a part of Government's 20 lakh crore stimulus package come at a crucial time for farmers, small vendors and daily wage workers, especially the migrant workers.

We had representatives from government, funders, practitioners and solution providers coming together last Saturday to discuss challenges, opportunities and the way forward. Through this panel discussion, we were able to talk about the efforts taken by the government and the challenges in the implementation, bottlenecks and potential solutions to enable social protection system for migrant workers and the poor, the role of CSOs and companies in enabling social security and the role of technology in streamlining delivery to ensure easy access to benefits.

Key Insights from the discussion

Social protection as a conversation to be addressed urgently is now gaining collective conscience. Key pointers are as below:

- **Shifting to a paradigm of inclusion** is critical to ensure that vulnerable people are not excluded - access to health, housing and food to be guaranteed for them.
- **Moving away from domicile to provide entitlements** is the way to go ahead. This can be achieved by legitimizing the presence of migrant workers in the cities, so that they get all the required benefits at the destination. Self attestation as a way of targeting recipients needs to be looked at. Solutions lie in having representation from migrants and building solutions to have them have a say in urban governance
- **Building a structure for civil society organisations working in tandem with the administration** to enable decentralized delivery of social protection services will help in ensuring effective last mile delivery of benefits.
- **States must revisit their rural development and revival plans** to develop employment opportunities for people to bring down the exodus of workers to other states.
- **Tracking data of migrant workers** at source and destination, and using this data to understand the types of migration is critical to address specific problems.
- **Technology is an enabler** but will be effective in a manner that is humanized and keeps the beneficiary at the center of the equation. The systems used for distribution of benefits to the poor can be improved by using technology.
- **Financial literacy plays an important role** for the beneficiaries to effectively access the benefits at the last mile, while making use of interactive technology.