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JINDAL SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC POLICY (JSGP)

invites you to a

VIRTUAL OPEN LECTURE

WHERE DO THEY COME FROM, WHERE DO THEY GO?

LABOUR MARKET TRANSITIONS IN URBAN INDIA



SPEAKER

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Rahul Menon received his PhD from JNU, New Delhi in 2017. His research interests lie in the fields of macroeconomics, the economics of labour and inequality. He has taught in St Xavier's College, Mumbai, and is currently at the School of Livelihoods and Development TISS, Hyderabad. He has published in the areas of labour and inequality across international and national journals and has contributed columns analysing the budget and contemporary macroeconomic issues for newspapers and news sites. He is currently working on a manuscript on the dynamics of unemployment in developing economies such as India.

ABSTRACT:

The recent Periodic Labour Force Surveys (PLFS) from 2017-18 onwards contain an important innovation that allow for the construction of longitudinal panels, following the same individual over four quarters of the year. This distinguishes it from earlier rounds of NSSO surveys, which were cross-sectional in nature. Using two rounds of the PLFS covering the periods 2017-18 and 2018-19, we construct a panel of urban Indian individuals aged 15 to 65, and analyse the dynamics of their participation – or non-participation – in the labour force. We construct year-long transition probabilities to study the movement of individuals through three distinct statuses – employment, unemployment and non-participation – at the aggregate level and for different demographic groups. We find evidence of considerable movements from the labour force to non-participation; there exists a significant discouraged worker effect as well as a pronounced movement from employment to non-participation outside the labour force, specifically for women. A majority of those unemployed in the beginning of the year remain so at the end of the year, indicating the presence of significant rates of long-term unemployment. The reduction in unemployment rates from 2017-18 to 2018-19 hides significant weaknesses in Indian urban labour markets. This study represents an original contribution to the field of Indian labour economics, given the paucity of studies on the dynamics of Indian labour.

MODERATOR

Avanindra Nath Thakur, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy

WED | 15 SEP | 2021
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

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