

CONGRATULATIONS

You have completed the game!

This game is intended to teach about the challenges faced by migrant workers and their susceptibility to COVID-19. It is important to understand that even though this game is grounded in research, the characters are fictional and the resources provided are more plentiful than often found along the road in reality. The rate of resource acquisition was increased to facilitate game play. We hope you learned about the challenges migrant workers face before and during a pandemic. There is a great need for better worker protections, living conditions, and healthcare access for the migrant workers of India. We hope this experience brought insight of how other people live and the impact society can have on social, mental, and physical well-being.

Our project and research, which is focused on the migrant workers in India, is not solely applicable to our subject population. As we have seen in history and other societies, groups are often marginalized and forced into dire circumstances because of social standing, economic status, race or ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and education level. Marginalized communities rarely have legal protections to safeguard health and wellbeing. Additionally, there is rarely stability and assurance in work or shelter. The social structures make these populations vulnerable and somewhat invisible. There is little political, social, and economic power in the hands of the oppressed. It is important to support protections and policies to keep marginalized communities safe, especially in the middle of a pandemic.

Furthermore, as exemplified through our analysis of migrant workers in India, the global consumer mindset also propagates contemporary disparities in already marginalized communities. The advent of cheap and minimally regulated labor in countries like India, for example, have led to the widespread abuse of power. The migrant workers in our research project who were employed in the textile and chemical dye industries continue to be victims of such oppression. A nuanced analysis of the factors that allow for such injustice reveals a direct connection between first world consumers and migrant worker conditions. Lack of transparency regarding global textile and goods supply chains has allowed corporations to compromise worker rights and conditions in order to supply increasing demand. As such, the heinous conditions of migrant workers continue to persist due to a lack of knowledge and transparency amongst consumers about the dire consequences of their purchases.

Discussion Questions

- What are ways the Indian Government or NGOs can improve the lives of migrant workers?
- How might you address the public health concerns of an entire state or country?
- What other aspects of life were not explicitly addressed that could impact the journey of a migrant worker?

If you would like to learn more about the migrant worker population or the effects of COVID-19 in India please check out these resources:

<http://www.aajeevika.org/index.php>,
<http://www.dishafoundation.ngo/>
<http://www.shram.org/aboutSHRAM>
<https://www.india.gov.in/>