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# Survey: 39% workers repatriated from West Asia in 2020 faced non-payment of wages

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Updated: September 30, 2021 5:06:16 am



Wage theft consists of non-payment of a worker's remuneration, payment of salaries below the minimum wage and non-payment of overtime among others.

A SURVEY conducted among migrant workers who were repatriated from the Middle East during the first wave of the pandemic shows that 39.1 per cent of them faced non-payment of wages.

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accounted for a significant share of the repatriated migrant workers. Among the respondents, 49.1 per cent returned from [IIT](#) and Saudi Arabia.

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According to the survey, while 39.1 per cent of the workers faced non-payment of wages, 8.8 per cent worked during the pandemic without any wages and 18.2 per cent faced wage cuts.

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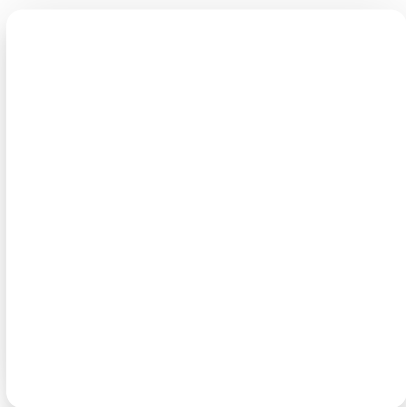
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Among the returnees, 45.5 per cent chose repatriation due to job loss and 28.4 per cent returned due to fear of the [Covid-19](#) virus.

Among those who lost jobs, most of the workers (30.18 per cent) were asked to resign. Notably, 18.7 per cent of the workers were advised to travel back home without payment of their salaries, and a few workers (2.6 per cent) were threatened with termination. Among these, only 12.79 per cent received a favorable option of returning to their home country with wages and dues.

Among the respondents, 32.2 per cent were employed in the industrial sector, while workers from construction and hospitality sectors constituted 15.1 per cent and 12.3 per cent, respectively.



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informal sector in the Gulf suffered the most, a trend seen in other parts of the world. [Must-reads](#) [Listen](#) [View](#) [Parts](#) [Explained](#) [Audio](#)

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According to the report, Indians filed 11 group cases of wage theft, comprising 741 workers. The UAE and Saudi Arabia received the highest number of grievances on wage theft from Indian workers (324 and 124 respectively).

The Kerala government's NORKA Department has so far received around 600 cases about wage theft, which have been taken up with the Indian mission in the Gulf.



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