

MIGRATION STUDY REPORT  
OF  
GOLAMUNDA BLOCK OF KALAHANDI DISTRICT OF ODISHA

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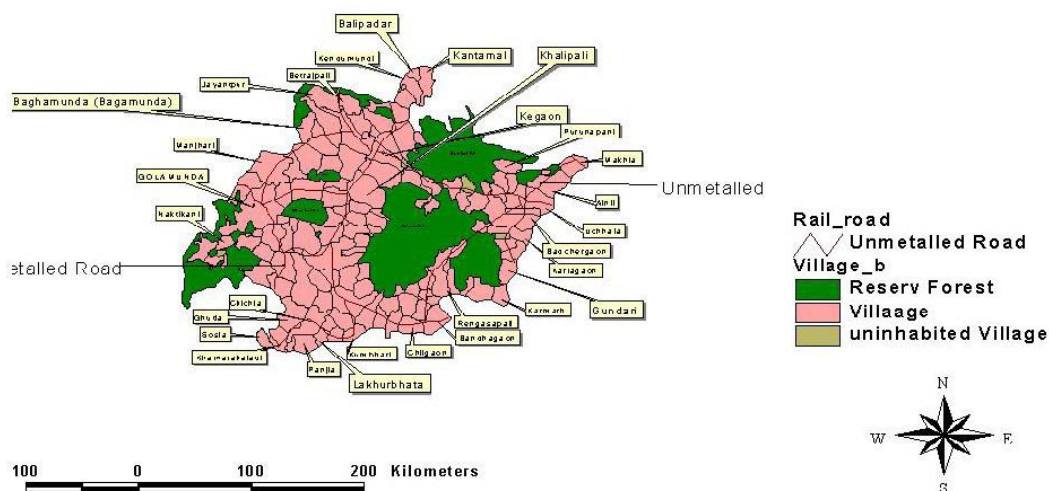
## The Migration Study report of Golamunda block of Kalahandi district

### **Background of the study**

Orissa is one of the most backward states in India having a history of natural disasters, presence of large scale poverty, low level of literacy and prone to distress migration. Drought and floods are common phenomenon in the state. This has led to a formation of a vicious poverty cycle trapping the small and marginal farmers who are dependent on their land holdings for income generation. Although having a high percentage of agricultural land, the share of irrigated area is nominal in the state. Agriculture, this in majority of the districts is underdeveloped and subsistence based. The absence of large-scale land holdings further aggravates the debt-ridden situation of the farmers and agricultural labourers. Acute pressure on the land due to growing population and poor sectoral diversification, most of the people are reeling under acute poverty and mass unemployment. Every year in the absence of adequate alternative source of wage employment and self-employment, the poor and ultra poor category households are pushed out from their hearth and home for a living in far off places during lean agricultural season.

In its survey area of 24 Gram-panchyats where KARMI has been functioning, the organization has observed that many households from western Odisha migrate during years of drought in search of alternate livelihoods. Only the old and weak or infirm people stay behind. All able-bodied males and females including small children move out to eke out their living either as contract workers in the brick kiln units or as independent wage workers/self-employed workers of the urban informal sector economy in relatively developed regions of the state and outside the state.

# Golamunda Block



## Social and Demographic Profile of Golamunda Block

Golamunda Block of Kalahandi district is located in the Western part of Orissa and forms an integral part of the in famous K-B-K region. Geographically the Kalahandi district, particularly the Golamunda block is situated in the rain shadow zone and dry climatic conditions. The loss of crop on one hand and non-availability of alternative sources of employment on the other, leave the small and marginal farmer with little option other than mortgaging (and, often, selling) their land to the village landlord. When the crops fail, the poor farmer has to borrow from the moneylender to meet the family's immediate consumption. The produce from the unproductive land, after farmers has taken his disproportionate share, does not leave the farmer with enough to eat till the next harvest. He is thus forced to seek another loan from the moneylender. Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) as a rule is never applied on the sale of timber or other forest products by the farmers. The middlemen play a major role in determining the price of the products, compelling the farmer to sell his produce at rates well below the government prescribed price. In the absence of alternative avenues of marketing the poor farmer is forced to sell his produce at the price determined by the procurer.

KARMI conducted a survey on migration trends in 2013 covering all 24 GPs of Golamunda block.

TOTAL POPULATION			
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
SC	10634	9967	20601
ST	13204	12616	25820
OBC	27724	25685	53409
GEN	1202	1135	2337
TOTAL	52764	49403	102167

The household survey data reveals that seasonal migrant households of the region belong to lower social strata of society. The larger percentages of seasonal migrant households in the sample are from the combined population of scheduled tribes (29.6%) and scheduled castes (23.41%). Next to them, 46.4 percent of the migrant households are from OBC (other backward classes) category belonging to lower castes. As expected the majority of the migrant households (70.28%) are listed as BPL (below poverty line) category households. It is further found that although only 19.08 per cent of the households in the sample are listed under the Above Poverty Line (APL) category, the rest 10 per cent of the households are neither listed as BPL, nor as APL. The survey reveals that only about less than 25 percent of the households presently send their children in 6-14 age groups to school. At present children from only 20 percent of the sample households have received minimum seven years of schooling. The average literacy level of the population according to 2001 census was 63 per cent in Orissa. However, in the surveyed districts the average literacy level of sample was 45.94 percent in Kalahandi.

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Among the 12478 migrants in the Golamunda block 9858 are male and 2628 are female, similarly there are 1462 children are migrated along with their parents and among them 707 are male and 755 are female children. There are 11016 Adult migrants in the block and among them 9143 are male 1873 are female.

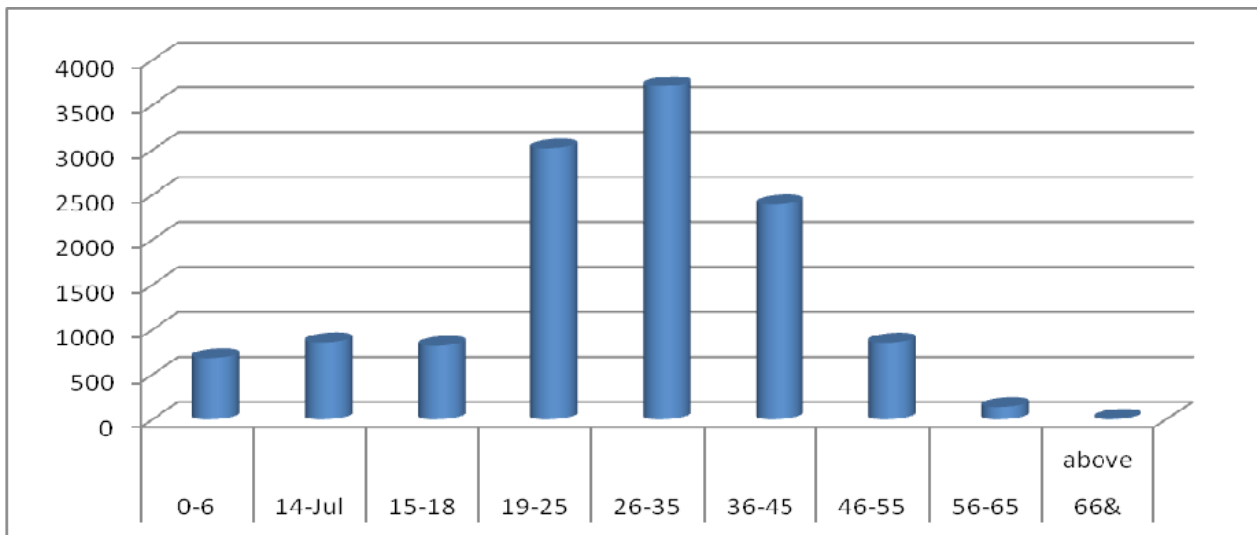
And the break up the migrant population according to social classification is as follows

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GENERAL MIGRATION			
	Male	Female	Total
Child	4	2	6
Adult	43	9	52
Total	47	11	58
SC MIGRATION			
	Male	Female	Total
Child	267	261	528
Adult	2464	708	3172
TOTAL	2731	969	3700

The age composition of the migrants is shown in the following table as

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It has been found in the survey that people from all age group migrate from this area. The highest percentage is though reported among the youth, belonging to the age group of 36-45 years (29.71%).



(age composition of migrants)

The principal means of livelihood of majority of them is non-agricultural labour, which is mainly laying bricks, as construction workers, as agricultural labours working in far off places outside the state such as Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh etc. Only 21.08 percent of the households report agriculture as their principal means of livelihood and another 25.30 percent cling to agricultural sector as agricultural labour. Of the rest, 6.63 per cent of the surveyed households practise traditional craft as their principal means of livelihood, and 1.00 per cent in small business and construction activity as their principal means of livelihood.

In present household survey none of the seasonal migrant households of the region has any steady and sustainable source of earning so as to keep them above the poverty line. It is found that only around 20 per cent of the seasonal migrant households report agriculture as their principal means of livelihood. Of the rest, 70 per cent of the households subsist on by doing wage work in both agriculture and non-agricultural sector economy and the other 10 per cent by pursuing their traditional caste occupations such as pottery, basket and mat making, weaving, petty shop keeping and the like in self-employed category. The average size of family among the surveyed households is 4.10 persons. The average size of holding is only 1.5 acres. In such situation, the agriculture dependent families have no other option except seeking other avenues of earning for subsistence. The other source of earning for all such families is wage work and collection of minor forest produce. However, due to increasing deforestation and encroachment of common property resources a poor family of the study region at present on an average manages to earn around Rs.2,000 to 2,500 cash income by selling minor forest produce.

The access of the poor migrant households to public health care services in the region is very poor. NRHM (National Rural Health Mission) programme has been striving hard to improve the health status of population in the backward rural areas. It aims at universal immunization of children from preventable deadly diseases to reduce infant and child mortality rates, to reduce maternal mortality rates by promoting institutional deliveries and to improve the overall longevity and life expectancy rate of population by strengthening public health care delivery services in rural areas. Despite Janani Surakshya Yojana (JSY), many pregnant women due to poor transport networks and bad road conditions do not go for institutional deliveries in local PHCs and Health Sub-Centres. It is reported that in many cases the poor women are harassed by the doctors and nurses in the PHCs and Sub-Centres.

In this scenario of lack of sustainable living either through viable occupations in self-employed capacity or wage-based employment for adequate number of days, the poor families are left with no other alternatives except moving out to far off places as indentured or contract labour. The places to which these poor worker families of the region move out almost every year are: Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Waltair, Vijaynagar, Sikandarabad etc. in Andhra Pradesh; Bangalore, Mysore, Gulbarga, etc in Karnataka; Faizabad, Ghaziabad, etc. in Uttar Pradesh; Bhilai, Raipur, Durg, Bilashpur etc. in Chhattisgarh; Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Baroda, Surat, etc. in Gujarat; Mumbai, Nagpur, etc. in Maharashtra, Chennai in Tamilnadu, Srijanta, Panji in Goa, Ludhiana, Chandigarh in Punjab and Bargarh, Sambalpur, etc. inside the state.

It is also found that many do not like to work in MGNREGS project because of the delay in payment of wages. People allege that it takes more than three four months to get their dues released by the government officials handling MGNREGS projects at the grassroots level. Moreover, in many cases it is alleged that the muster rolls are forged by the officials in the name of fake beneficiaries. In many villages of the region people have given many instances where the names of non-wageworker people have appeared as MGNREGS beneficiaries, although they never do any wage work. Further, it is important to note that artificial generation of wage employment for the distressed poor families of the region cannot be sustainable in the long run without the development of local human capital and diversification of occupational skills of people for their absorption in non-farm sector economy on a sustainable basis. It is seen that the average size of land holding among the poor migrant families of the region owning agricultural land is only 1.5 acres and of this more than 80 per cent of the land does not have any irrigation facility. More so, only about 55 per cent of the families own some agricultural land and 45 per cent of them are totally landless sustaining round the year on wage-based income.

However, this seasonal migration pattern is associated with its own negative effects and problems. Continuation of child labour and discontinuation of education of small school going children posits as a serious issue to adolescent development. Children left out of schooling during their development years are more prone to trafficking, being sold as sexual workers and used as anti-social elements. It is revealed from our focus group discussions held in many villages of the study region that the parents engage their small children in work with the hope to earn more. The labour contractors are mostly local people personally known to the migrant families by virtue of their long years of association with them since last 18 or 20 years. It is found from the household survey data that around 35 per cent of the labour contractors are from the same GP/block area and 55 per cent from the same district. Only 10 per cent of the labour contractors are from outside of the state. They act as via media with the employers requiring workers for their brick kiln units in places like Hyderabad, Waltair, Karimnagar of Andhra Pradesh, Faizabad, and Ghaziabad of Uttar Pradesh or in any other states such as Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, etc.

The issues and problems notwithstanding, families still move out every year to eke out a livelihood in order to pay off their debts and survive. At present seasonal migration is the only means available for the distress poor families in Golamunda block of Kalahandi district of Odisha to escape from poverty and subsistence insecurity. It is revealed from the present household survey of migrant families that seasonal migration enables the poor to get adequate days of wage employment for their subsistence. It also enables them to fulfil their other sociocultural and emergency needs like marriage, birth and death rituals of family members and medical treatment of the seriously ill persons in the family. However, it is found all such needs including basic consumption needs of the family in the village are often met from borrowing from the local moneylenders at extortionate rates of interest of 10 per cent per month assuming cash flow in the form of advance from the labour contractors during migration season, October/November of the year. This type of borrowing by the poor from the local moneylenders at very high rate of monthly interest keeps them in vicious circle of poverty despite steady source of earning.

A large number of people of Golamunda Block of Kalahandi are found to migrate to big cities and other specific destinations in search of livelihood for a variety of work. In the course of the study, people migrating to a large number of urban locations, e.g. Mumbai, Surat, Rajkot, Nagpur, Raipur, Bilaspur, and Bhopal etc. were intercepted. Mostly people headed for these locations to work in construction sites as construction workers, masons, wage labourers, to pull rickshaw, hotel boys, and most of them are working in the agricultural and gardening in Chhattisgarh.



STATE WISE MIGRATION DETAILS OF THE GOLAMUNDA BLOCK



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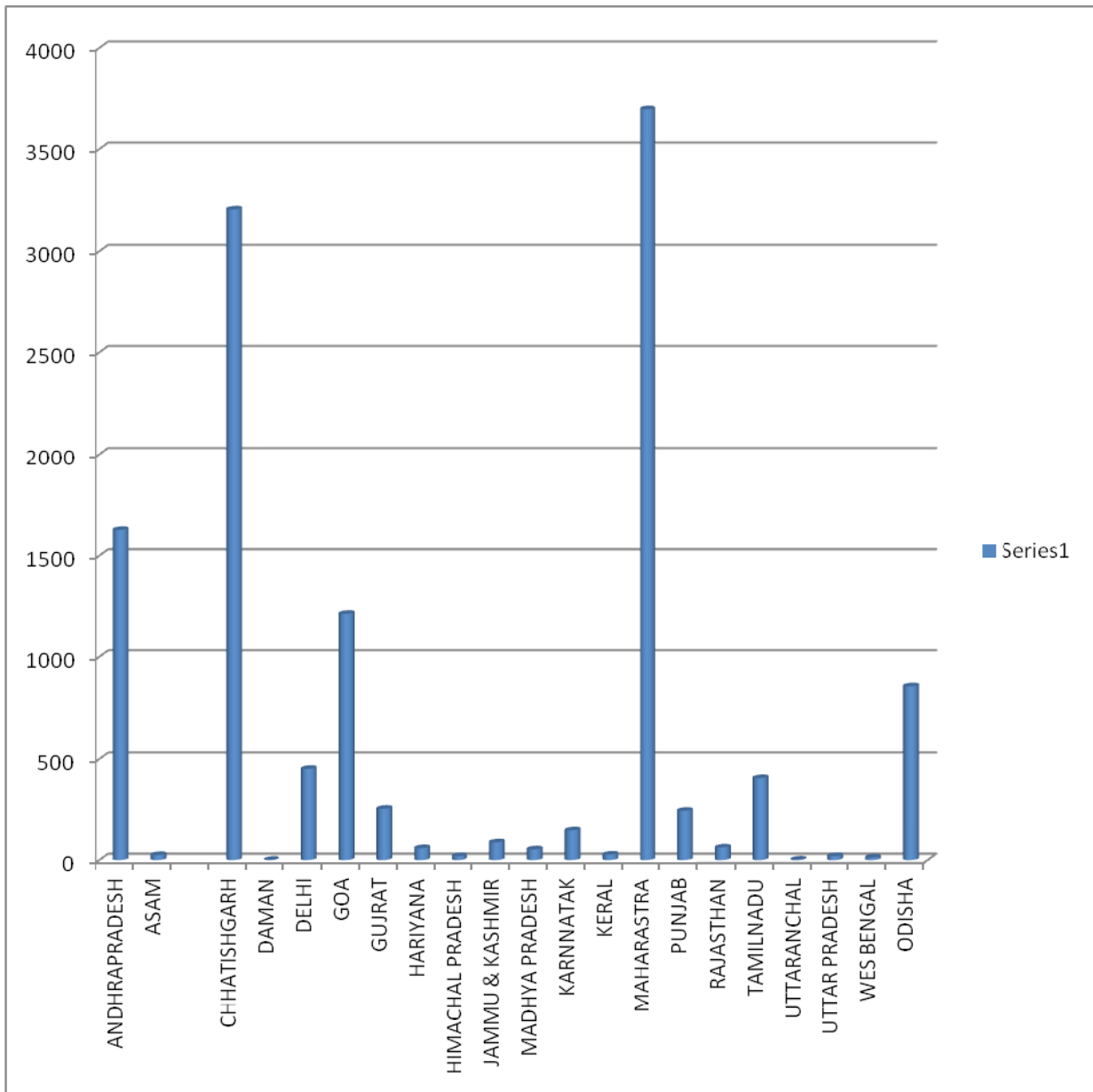
ST MIGRATION			
	Male	Female	Total
Child	141	176	317
Adult	2164	441	2605
Total	2305	617	2922

OBC MIGRATION			
	Male	Female	Total
Child	295	316	611
Adult	4472	715	5187
Total	4767	1031	5798

AGE GROUP MIGRATION									
0-6	7-14	15-18	19-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	66& above	Total
683	858	820	3017	3708	2392	855	138	7	<b>12478</b>
5.47 %	6.87%	6.57%	24.17 %	29.71 %	19.16 %	6.85%	1.1%	0.05%	

DESTINATION	STATE	DISTRICT WISE	
ANDHRAPRADESH	1626	Belari	01
		Bhadrachalan	05
		Bijewada	01
		Bishakhapatanam	52
		Gudur	02
		Hyderabad	1494
		Karimnagar	06
		Khaman	25
		Khana	08
		Ramgunda	09
ASAM	25	Sikandarabad	23
		Dispur	20
CHHATISHGARH	3205	Sibsagar	05
		Bhilai	94
		Bilaspur	87
		Durg	41
		Jagadapur Raipur Raygad	02 2979 02
DAMAN	02	Daman	02
DELHI	452	Delhi	452

More than 33.32% people migrate to Chhattisgarh and most of them are construction workers, gardener and rickshaw puller. Similarly 33.45% of migrants migrate to Maharashtra to work as construction worker, mason and industrial labourers.



Frequent droughts leading to progressively diminishing returns from agriculture coupled with the absence of local employment opportunities and debt trip has forced large scale migration of labour from the area. Every year throng of people across the length and breadth of Golamunda block of Kalahandi district leave their native villages in search of unemployment, and flock down to the brick kilns, and construction work in the neighboring state of Andhra Pradesh. In the brick kilns, the labourers are subjected to a long hours of work, about 15-16 hours every day. The average pay is meager and in order to exploit them, the contractors make them believe that their advance is still not paid in full, thereby subjecting them to bondage labour.

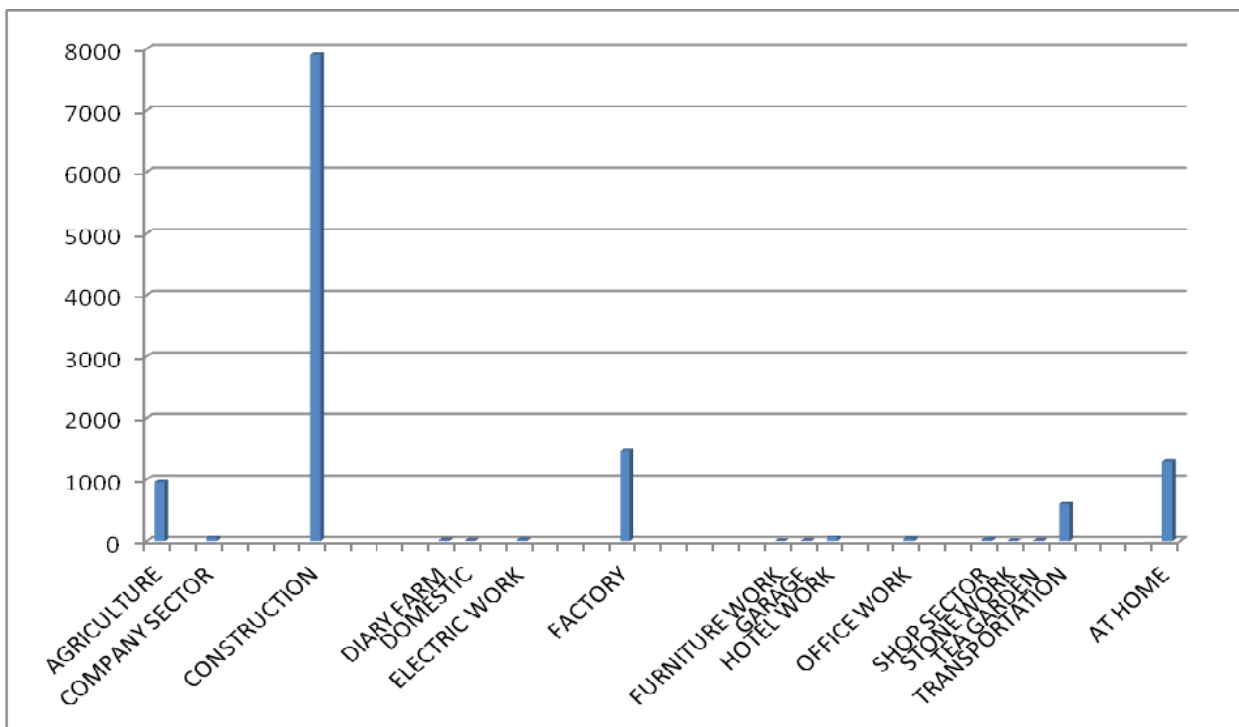
The following are the work sector and type of work at the destination states of the migrants

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GENERAL MIGRATION			
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Child	4	2	6



As observed from the above table and the accompanying graph, majority of the migrant workers are employed as construction workers which include working in brick kilns. Majority of the migrants are situated in the neighboring state of Andhra Pradesh, particularly Hyderabad. The lack of other opportunities of employment has compelled the migrant families to situate in brick making and other allied activities. Even though labour contractors harass them, force them into bondage, are paid less and are made to live in inhuman conditions, people continue to migrate, as long the condition of their farms remains stagnant and there are no avenues for employment.

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