

Involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) in development planning:

Migration program implementation by UDAYAMA

in Titlagarh and Bangomunda

To minimize the adverse impact of distress migration on lives and livelihoods of the people in Odisha, Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT) has initiated a project in association with UDAYAMA, the partner and facilitating Non Governmental Organization (NGO). The SDTT project interventions cover two Blocks i.e., Bangomunda, and Titlagarh of Bolangir district. The purposes of the project is to develop models and intensify the work with evidence based actions and advocacy for people in adverse situations and bring the best in them to lead a better life.

The project was launched with the goal to minimize adverse impacts of distress migration on lives and livelihood by empowering the migrants to exercise their rights, avail entitlements and pursue safe and protected migration with enhanced skills.

District Profile- Bolangir, part of KBK (Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput) region in western Odisha is considered to be one of the poorest districts and one of the most drought prone regions, with hardly any irrigation infrastructure in place (less than 10% of total irrigated area). This region has become the origin place for distressed migrants who travel along with their families to far off places like the brick Kilns in Andhra Pradesh, carpet industry in Uttar Pradesh, construction sites in Mumbai, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Chennai and Raipur for Rickshaw pulling and as laborer in Gujarat.

NGO Profile- Udyama is a food security and sustainable rural livelihoods focused action and advocacy oriented organization primarily working in the state of Orissa.

Its mission is to link people together to work on rights based approach for collective actions towards reducing disaster risk (Natural, Climate and Manmade) and achieving livelihood, social justice and gender rights, equitable and sustainable development.

The successful implementation of this project, i.e., mitigating the adverse impacts of migration depends on the close knit relationship of the NGO with the community under consideration. UDAYAMA believes that active participation of people and involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) while implementing the migration project will lead to timely completion of the project. Hence, a rapport building exercise was conducted at both blocks, Titlagarh and Bangamunda with the objective:

- To sensitize PRI members to be part of this program
- To share about migration issue
- To leverage the benefits of Migration Program via issue of Migrant Identity Cards, and



- Accelerating Survey & Registration Process Inclusion in this program to facilitate planning with Gram Panchayat.

An inaugural meeting was held with the Local Sarpanchs of Bangomunda centre to generate awareness on the program. The issue of creation of identities for the migrant workers was highlighted. The involvement of local heads has been recognized important for establishing a relationship with the target group/community. UDAYAMA has been successfully following its strategy of creation of relation base with the local people and involving village heads.

During the meeting, the village head (Sarpanch) spoke on the harassment and misery faced by the migrant families at the destination sites. Speaking on behalf of UDAYAMA, he assured all kind of support to the migrant families with regards to creation of identity for the migrant workers. The efforts taken by UDAYAMA in reducing the risks at the destination places is creditable. Ensuring that all the migrants from the two blocks (Titlagarh and Bongomunda) have their registrations with UDAYAMA and possess Migrant IDs has helped reduce the harassment cases.

UDAYAMA believes in broad based livelihood promotion using a four point agenda to reduce risks and vulnerability.

- Private–Public-Partnership through networking
- Agro ecological development & adaptation to climate change and livelihood resilience
- Capacity Building and Advocacy
- Creating enabling environment for Micro-macro linkages

In migration project, the initial process of identification of migrant families and successive registration of theirs will ensure that further processes relating to risk reduction and mitigation at destination sites can be carried out. In order to execute the initial step, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) needed to be sensitized. PRI members need to be aware and informed of the problems faced by migrants. The process of verification at the Panchayat level takes 2-3 days before UDAYAMA authenticates the same to issue identity cards. Efforts of advocacy with the Panchayats have enabled the creation of exhaustive database on the migrants.

The database on migrants includes information of the destination place, type of work done, type of skill-set and a unique registration number for every migrant worker. The Panchayats have come forward in verifying the identity of the migrants which has helped ease the process of creation of the database. This database can be used for further advocacy with local governments, i.e., Panchayats.

UDAYAMA has been successful in provision of Identity cards to the migrants from the above two blocks with the help from PRI members and village Sarpanchs. This will lead to ease in successive project implementation and ensuring a life of dignity for the migrants.