The hidden truth behind migration

(Case study on healthcare to migrant families)

Srinibash was a migrant worker working in a factory in Hyderabad. His family comprised of his wife, Minati and two daughters back in Kendrapada district of Odisha. Srinibash was diagnosed with HIV in 2003 after several faulty examinations. Thereafter, he lost his job. Without any source of income, his family had to struggle to meet sustenance. Minati, his wife, and his children were ostracised in their village. Initially, she started off as an ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) in her village.

(Minati & her younger HIV positive daughter)

However, she couldn't continue for long due to several bouts of illness. Initial reports confirmed that she was affected with HIV. Not only that, the disease had spread to her younger daughter too, who was ten years old then.

(Gram-Utthan staff interacting with Minati and her daughters)

Gram-Utthan, in its migrant outreach program provided with the support and care for this migrant family. Today, Minati and her daughters lead a healthy life. Her elder daughter is pursuinf college education and her younger daughter will be sitting for senior secondary examination. Gram-Utthan is now providing training and skill development services to Minati's family. There are several other similar cases, where the migrant families at the origin have to face various forms of hardships and social barriers to eke out a living.

The task of organizations is not to provide the resources to enable the migrant earn their livelihood but also engage with society in order to dissolve hatred and ostracization. There are several hidden truths behind the process of migration. Apart from being an economic phenomenon, driven by probability of earning a higher earning in urban centre, migration carries with itself several untold truths which affect both the migrant and his/ her family.

Civil society organizations are constantly trying to mitigate the ill-effects of the migration process and provide with the necessary support for the migrant families.

****