

Migrant workers are compelled and pushed by hardships to take up jobs which are underpaying in nature and exploitative. The issue of earning a livelihood drives marginalized and destitute families to migrate in search of jobs without prior knowledge and any special skill set at their disposal. Thus, the earning power of such unskilled migrants remains low even after years of hard work at the destination.

UDYAMA has documented three such case studies, helping the young and desperate migrants to acquire certain skills for aiming at a better earning opportunity. The organization, as a part of its migration project, conducts awareness trainings on safe migration, provides identity cards to migrants and builds their knowledge level on reducing hardships and exploitation by conducting legal aid workshops and other awareness building exercises.

### **Dinesh Sripati Nag-Driver**

Dinesh Sripati Nag, belongs to Titilagarh block in Bolangir district of Odisha. He comes from a very poor and marginalized family. Currently he's employed as a professional driver earning a reasonable income of about 4000-5000 Rs per month. This is in stark contrast to the condition before joining the skill development program of UDYAMA.

Earlier he used to work as daily casual labour in the fields and migrated to Raipur in Chattisgarh to work in shops and other commercial establishments. This is general trend of migration followed by the unemployed youth of western Odisha. Having no income source during the lean periods of agriculture, they migrate to the neighboring state of Chattisgarh.

Dinesh came to know about the trade based training provided by UDYAMA and selected driving as his subject. He joined the 2 month course and took up driving lessons and acquired basic knowledge for driving from the resource organization; CMDTT, Titilagarh. He now can dare to hope of having his own vehicle with the small savings and improve the condition back home.



## **Sudhir's story to become a plumber**

Sudhir Kumar Singh, aged 25 years, resides in Godampada block of Bolangir district. With a family size of seven, the single earning source of his father was proving difficult to provide for even the basic needs. Sudhir being the eldest of all had to support his father. He frequents both Raipur in Chhattisgarh and Surat in Gujrat for small time earnings. While in village, he worked as a daily labourer and earned 150 Rs per day.

He learnt about Migration project and the migration resource center SSSK, Titlagarh from other friends. After learning about the skill training programs, he decided to join in plumbing course. He completed the training and now works in the locality. His earning has increased to Rs Rs300 per day with contentment. He hopes to be more versatile and expert in coming days so that he can earn better and support his family.



## **Apin's desire to become an Electrician**

Apin Suna is from Diaton village under Titlagarh Block. He says, "When I came to know that UDYAMA organization have started a skill development Training for Electrician I immediately decided to enroll because I am interested to do this work and occasionally I have taken up such work in my village."

The instructor engaged by Udyama gave him good orientation training in theory and practical class. Now, he works in Balaji Electrical shop, Titlagarh and earns Rs 200 per day.

Educationally, Apin had also completed a course in Electrical machinery from Industrial Training Institute (ITI) but he regrets the fact that he could not gain practical knowledge from his ITI days.

