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Youth Migrants: Challenges and Opportunities

*A study in three districts
of Odisha*

Boudh, Nuapada and Bargarh



By: YCDA

Executive Summary

Migration of youth migrants is global phenomena. It is creating multidimensional problems & opportunities for the youths. This report aims to highlight the incidence of youth migration in three districts; Boudh, Nuapada and Bargarh of Odisha with an objective to stress on the concerns, challenges and prospects based the youth migrants' own perspective and experience.

The report brings out that the youths migrate to increase their family's financial strength due to lack of employment availability in their villages. These youths are less educated and having no job oriented skills. Hence most of them work as daily labourers in factories and other establishments. The young migrants get to know about their destination places from their relatives and friends those who have already migrated to the place. Being less educated and skilled they migrate irregularly on seasonal basis. Their migration last for 2 to 3 months and for some 6 to 8 months. The income of these migrants are between Rs 20,000/- to Rs 40,000/-. Those who have skills migrate for a longer period and on permanent basis.

Another important concern is access to information on safe and informed migration. There are no mechanisms to facilitate safe and informed migration. The youth migrants feel if there is any migration facilitation centre it would have helped them. Similarly migration with a skill is the other priority requirement for the youths. The youths from their experiences of migration feel they required their skills to be developed which would increase their bargaining power for a financially benefiting career and better job condition. There are ample of opportunities to create a favourable migration environment for the young migrants. As per the study migration has improved their economic strength. After return the youths need counseling, facilitation to enhance their skills, linking them to various job oriented government schemes and information on safe migration.

Therefore the migration of youths has both concerns and opportunities. In the present context the concerns can be address with the establishment of appropriate institutional framework which will lead the youths to get a decent work, better linkages to the job market with suitable vocational skills, social protection and improved economic strength.

Introduction

Youth migrants between 18 and 35 have become powerful agents of change and development. Poverty, lack of development and unemployment in the villages as well as discrimination and social exclusion, remain major challenges for the full realization of the rights and capabilities of youths affected by migration. For migration flows to be economically efficient, however, requires strong integration policies that allow to harness the demographic dividend afforded by the influx of young people and their offspring.

Lack of information on migration options and migration with inappropriate skill increases oblivion among youths to make ill-informed decisions with decreased bargaining power. It decreases the scope of opportunities for them which do not facilitate to control their own lives and frame their future

Therefore the youth labour migration end up either an opportunity or risk them which can lead them to decent work or its very opposite, depending on policies and measures supporting them, such as provision of a better linkage to work demand, more and better social protection, education and training for employment, entrepreneurship development, social inclusion and an effective institutional framework. It is only when these challenges are adequately addressed that the positive impacts of migration can be fully harnessed.

Rural youth account for around 50 percent of the Odisha's youth population. They are among

the most disadvantaged of groups. Migration for survival and increase in household income is largely seen among the rural youths. The present study is undertaken in three underdeveloped districts of Odisha; Nuapada, Boudh and Bargarh. These three districts are located in western part of Odisha where migration both youths is extensive.

Objective of the Study

- " To understand the opportunities and challenges of youth migration
- " To recommend suggestions to create conducive environment for youth migration

Study Methodology

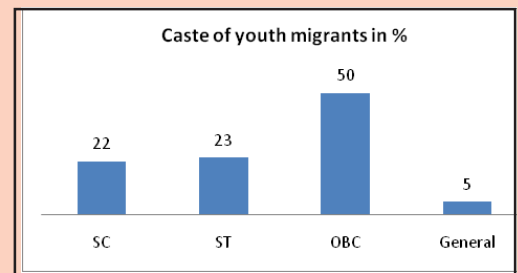
This study took purposive sampling of 300 respondents and covered 2 high youth migration prone blocks of these districts and included 50 youth respondents (between 18 to 35 years of age) from each block to understand the challenges and opportunities of youth migration in these areas. A structured questionnaire was developed and administered with the youth migrants. The data was entered in the computer and analysed using simple statistical tools.

District	Blocks	Total
Nuapada	Komna	50
	Nuapda	50
Boudh	Kantamal	50
	Harbhanga	50
Bargarh	Gaisilat	50
	Padampur	50
3 districts	6 blocks	300

Findings of the Study

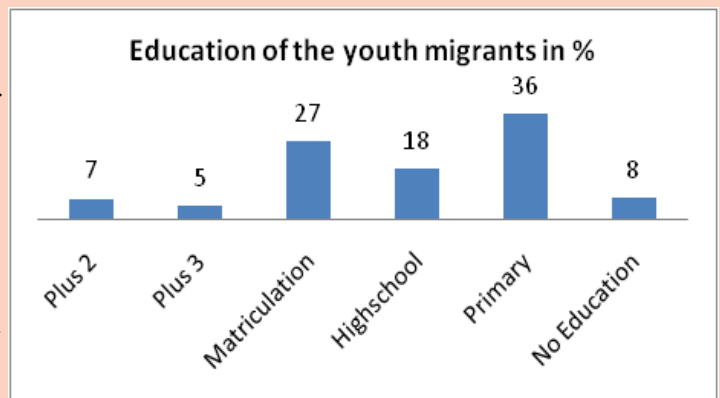
Social-economic profile of the youth migrants

The young migrants of the studied areas are mostly from backward communities. There are 50 % youths who are from other backward class, 23% and 22% are from SC & ST communities respectively. Among the youths 52% are unmarried. The annual family income of 41% migrant youths is between Rs 10,000/- to Rs 20,000/- followed by 25% whose income is between Rs 30,000/- to Rs 40,000/- only.



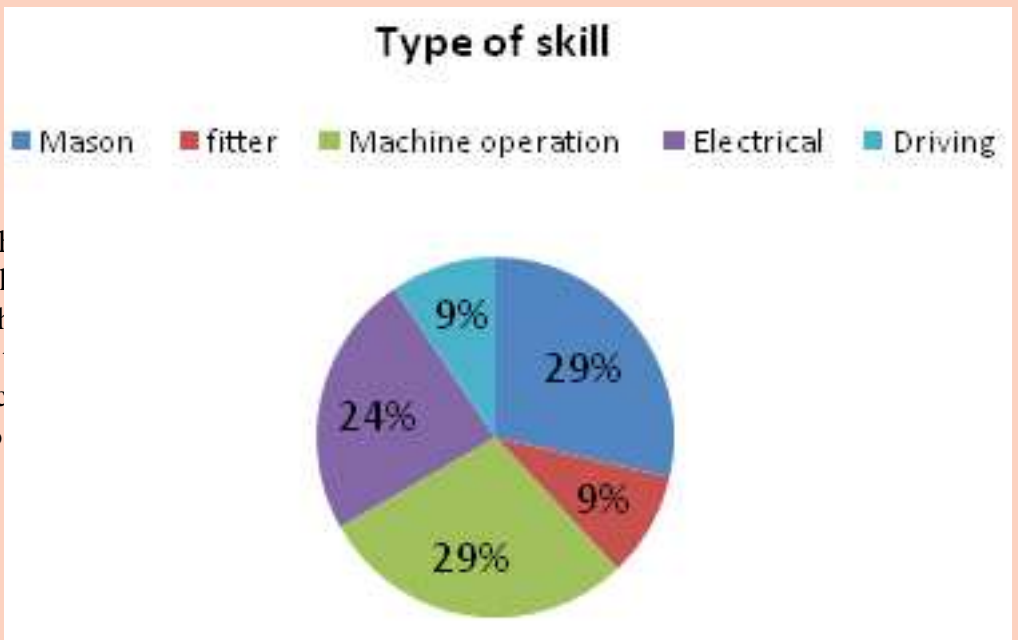
The family of the 65 % of the young migrants is in possession of BPL cards while 11% possess antodaya card. Only 4% of the migrants have APL cards. There are 20% of young migrants whose family do not possess any PDS cards. The economic conditions of families of more than 90% of the young migrants are not sound.

Time and again they have limited access to educational programmes that are geared to their situation and needs - not surprisingly, many rural people drop out of school at an early age. This study finds that 36% of youths have completed their primary education (upto class 8th). 18% have reached to high school and 27 % completed matriculation respectively. Only 5% have completed their graduation and 7% higher secondary education.



Possession and Type of Skills

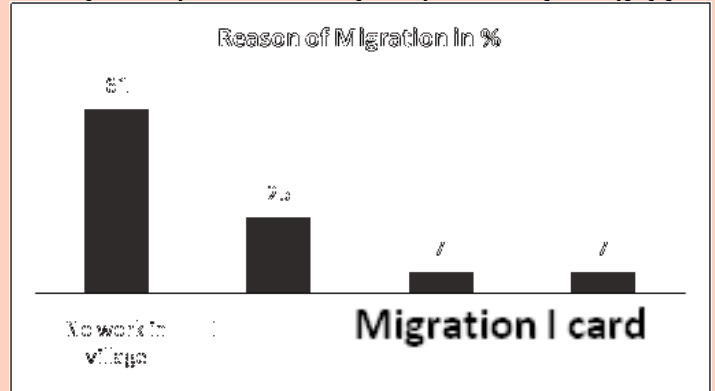
A job oriented skill helps youth migrants a lot in getting a suitable job at the destination points. In the study it was observed that among the youth migrants only 7 % of them are having job oriented skills. Among the youth migrants having the skills of mason followed by 24% mason followed by 24% machine operation 9% each are having the skills of fitter.



Reason of Migration

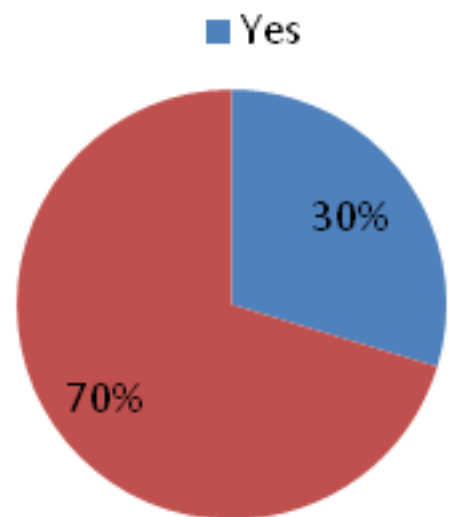
Migrating decision is normally influenced by two factors; push & pull. Push factors are factors or causes with which people tend to be pushed away or repelled from certain locations; while pull factors are those conditions that attract people to a particular location. As per the study findings the push factors are more than the pull factors. As per the youth respondents 61% of

role for their migrating decision.



Migration Identity Card

Lack of identification prevents undocumented migrants from accessing the services that are available to them and intensifies their fear of contact with police and other official institutions. Therefore an identity card provides a sense of security to the migrants and prevents them from getting exploited. The study finds that only 30% of the young migrants are having migration identity card. The interventions of NGOs working in the area have provided the I cards to the young migrants to facilitate safe and informed migration. These young migrants are not provided with any identity issued by the government departments especially labour as per the interstate migrant workmen act 1979.



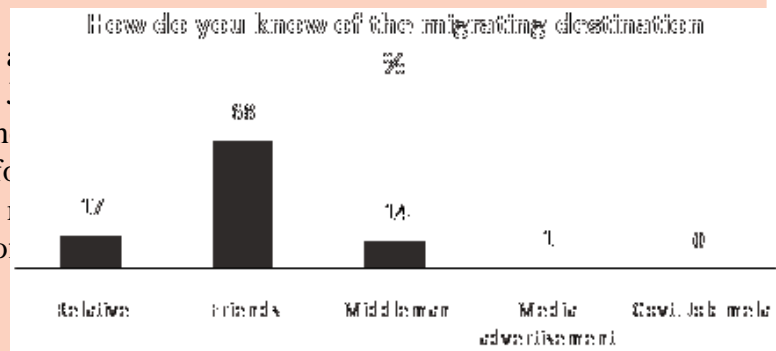
- The migration of OBC youths are high in Bargah (76%) and Nuapada (43%) whereas in Boudh SC youths migrate (33%) compared to other groups.
- In Nuapada the annual family income of migrant youths are between Rs 10,000 to Rs 20,000 (73%) while in Boudh it is 26% and Bargarh it is 23%.
- The number of BPL youths are more in Boudh districts (76%) followed by Bargarh (60% and Nuapada (59%))
- In Bargarh 42% of youths have completed their matriculation while in Boudh and Nuapada it is 19% each. In Boudh 51% completed primary education while in Bargarh and Nuapada it is 30% & 27% respectively. In Nuapada 27% youths have receive no formal education
- In Bargarh district 97% of youths do not have any vocational skill while in Nuapada it is 94% and in Boudh it is 88%.
- The youths of Nuapada (61%) migrate as there is no work available in the village but youths of Bargarh (61%) and Boudh (58%) migrate for higher income.
- In Bargarh (33%), Boudh (38%) and Nuapada (18%) youths migrate with an migration identity card issued by NGOs.

Month and Return of Migration

The movement of youth from the villages in the study villages is seen all the year. Only 10% of the youths stay out of the village for a whole year and come back to the village for a certain time and again go back. Their migration is permanent in nature. However majority of the youths migrate between October to December (36%) and January to March (27%) to September. Those who migrate between April to December and January to March. Among them 21% in December and 21% in January to March. Therefore they can be divided into three categories; short term (2-3 months), medium term (3-6 months) and long term (one year & above). The permanent migration of the total youth migrants only.

Information of the Migrating Destination

The willingness to migrate and location choice may be influenced by others' choices or plans, particularly if the "other people", such as family and friends, are migrants, former migrants, or potential migrants themselves. When asked on how they know the migrating destination 68% answered friends influence the migrating destination decision and for 17% relatives give them the destination information. There are 14% of youths who said the middleman intimate them on the destination. Only 1% said through media advertisement they applied for the job and came to the destination. Therefore the friends and the relatives of young migrants who have earlier migrated or migrating to a particular destination has a strong influence on migration destination choice.



Migrating Pattern

The young migrants as per the study findings prefer to migrate alone and with friends. There are 44 % of youths who said they migrate alone while 41% said they migrate with their friends. Only 9% migrate with their family and children and 7% with their members of family. The study reveals the youth migrants are not new to migration. Majority of them (45%) are migrating since last 1 to 2 years and 20% since last 2 to 4 years. There are 17% of the youths who are migrating since more than 4 years and only 18% are for the first time.

Migration Medium	Medium	%	No
Migration Medium	Alone	44	131
	With friends	41	122
	With family members	7	20
	With family & child	9	27
	With family & child	9	27
Migrating Since	Time		
	First time	18	53
	last 1 to 2 years	45	135
	last 2 to 4 years	20	61
	More than 4 years	17	51

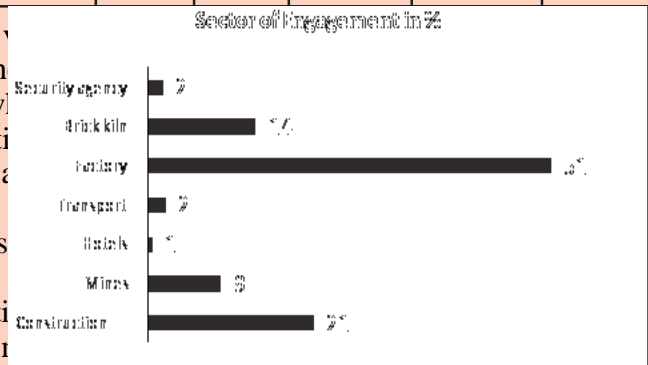
Place of Migration and Sector of Engagement

The destination of the young migrants in the study areas are not confined to one place. They move to various parts of India and Odisha. The table below indicates that nearly half (45%) of the youth migrants migrate to Chennai for work followed by 16.7% who move to Mumbai and 9.3% to UP. These are three most favored destinations places of migration as per the study findings. Among other places of migration Surat, Bhubaneswar, Raipur and Hyderabad are also key destinations.

Place of Migration

Place	Hyderabad	Chennai	Mumbai	Delhi	Surat	Bangalore	Bhubaneswar	Raipur	Coimbatore	Others parts of Odisha	UP
Number	9	135	50	6	21	5	20	17	6	3	28
%	3	45	16.7	2	7	1.7	6.7	5.7	2	1	9.3

These youth migrants are engage themselves in various sectors at the destination places. Factories are the most common sector of employment. There are 51% of youths who get employment in the factories, 21% in the construction sites, 14% in brick kilns. The mining sector takes in 9% of youths. The remaining 2% are each by security agencies and transport sectors. The youths do several type of work in these sectors. 58% of youths engage themselves as daily laborers followed by 14.7% as machine operators at the destination. Among other 13% are into brick making, 4% as transporters and 2 % as security guards.



- In Nuapada 59% youth migration starts between October to December while in Boudh (42%) it is between January to March and Bargarh (25%) each spreading between the months of January to March and April to June. Permanent migration is seen among the youth of Bargarh district which is 26% and Boudh (4%) only.
- The youth migrants of Nuapada (59%), Bargarh (74%) and Boudh (70%) get to know about the migrating place through their friends only.
- The youths of Nuapada (65%) and Bargarh (47%) migrate alone while the youths of Boudh migrate with their friends (81%)
- The youth of Nuapada (59%) and Boudh (47%) are migrating since last one to two years while the youths of Bargarh (31%) are migrating since last four years.
- The youth migrants of Nuapada generally engage themselves in construction sites (41%) and Brick kilns (33%). Their favoured destination is Mumbai (26%) and UP (28%)
- The youths of Bargarh engage themselves in factories (75%) and construction sites (11%) and their favoured destination is Chennai (61%) and Mumbai (20%)
- The youths of Boudh get employment in factories (59%) and mines (26%) and their preferred destination is Chennai (65%) and within Odisha (17%)

Hours of Work and Condition of Accommodation at the Worksite

The youths work for 8 hrs and more in the worksites. There are 46% of the youths who said they work for 8 hrs. But the rest 54% said they work for more than 8 hrs a day without any extra money. Among them 36% work for more than 10 hrs and 17% work between 8 to 10 hrs a day. It is observed that those who work in factories, mines and brick kilns are working for more than 8 hrs a day. When asked about their accommodation at the destination 65.7% said it is manageable and 26.3 said it is good.

Illness, Health check up and Payment for Illness

The youths seldom fall ill while at the destination as per the study findings. Only 30% said they fell sick and went to the nearest hospital (66%) for health check up. As these youths work in the cities they are good access to the medical care. But there are 13% of youths who consult to the local medicine store and 10% consult the employer and as per the advice of the employ go for treatment. The expenditure of the treatment is borne by the youths themselves (57%). Another 35% said the company bears the treatment expenditure and 8% said a part support is borne by the company.

Payment at the Worksite

The young migrants get money as promised by the employer. There are 75% of the youths who got the amount as promised to them. Only 25% said they received less amounts against the promised amount. The income of majority of the youth migrants range between above Rs 10,000/- to Rs 40,000/-. There are 33% and 24% of youth migrants who income from the last migration is above Rs10,000-Rs20,000/- and Rs 20,000-Rs 30,000/- respectively. Earning from last migration for 18% of youth are between Rs 30,000-Rs 40,000/- and for 8% between Rs 40,000/- to Rs 60,000/-. Only 6% of youths said they had income of more than 60,000/- from the last migration. It is important to note that as most of the youths work as daily labourers and unskilled workers the income level is low. Those who are having skills are earning more from them.

Remittance of Money to Family

Majority of the youths send money (51%) for the left out family member's survival. Some of them (34%) send it every month and many of them (48%) send in every two to three months while 10% send in every six months and 8% once in a year. Among them there are 57% of youths who send money less than Rs 10,000/- for their family members. It ranges from Rs 1000/- to maximum of

