

Knowledge creation and information sensitization of beneficiary groups

Awareness camp organized by Grameen Development Services (GDS)

On the eve of 'vishakarma pooja', Grameen Development Services (GDS) had organized an awareness camp at Shramik Sahayata Kendra (2SK) in order to promote awareness among the migrant workers. GDS has been working with migrant workers in Uttar Pradesh in promoting safe and beneficial migration at the destination. GDS works for the development of the poor and disadvantaged sections of the society, with 'livelihoods for the rural poor' being its core sectoral theme. GDS's field based interventions are located in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan and through its various ongoing programs the organization currently reaches 19000 poor families directly and approximately, another 31000 families indirectly.

The day chosen hold auspicious significance for workers in general. It is celebrated on September 17th primarily in factories and industrial areas, often on the shop floor. As a mark of reverence, the day of worship is marked not only by the engineering and architectural community but also by artisans, craftsmen, mechanics, smiths, welders, industrial workers, factory workers and others. The reality, however, as it stands speaks of the appalling conditions of migrants at the destination work place.

The camp was to act as facilitating arrangement for the migrant workers to provide them with basic entitlements such as registration and issuance of Identity Cards and informing them of the facilities that are meant for the welfare of migrant workers. A total of about 350 worker including female migrant workers attended the awareness camp.

1. Information on 'Aadhar Card':

This was intended for informing workers on importance of 'Aadhar Card' and encouraging them for registration of the same. During this camp a total **164 workers were enrolled** for issuance of 'Aadhar Card' while **113 remained pending**. Due to shortage of time on the specified day, the remaining have been assured of another registration day, specifically for issuance of 'Aadhar Card'.



2. The need for Life Insurance of migrants:

Security remains one of the main concerns for migrant workers at the destination. In the process of earning a livelihood, social security and living standard are left neglected. In order to provide system of security for them, GDS, in association with Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) took part in providing information. A new scheme was introduced to them- '**New Money Back Policy**' which offers an attractive combination of protection against death throughout the term of the plan along with the periodic payment on survival at specified durations during the term. It will provide financial support for the migrant family after the death of the worker. Such a scheme ensures that the family doesn't fall back into poverty and indebtedness anytime during their lives.

3. The Construction Workers welfare Board (CLWB)

The [Building and Other Construction Workers' Act, 1996](#) is meant to regulate the employment and conditions of service of building and other construction workers-provide for their safety, health and welfare measures. Majority of the migrant workers are left in lurch, unaware of the services entitled for them under this Act. The camp was also meant to register the workers under the Building and Construction Workers' Welfare Board, which has to be formed under the guidelines of the Act. Since the level of legal literacy is minimal or almost negligible, the organization eased out the process of registration and formalization with the rights under the Act.



4. Distribution of Workers & Registration of ID cards

The workers diary functions as a record of work hours put in by the worker and the wages received in accordance to the hours worked. The worker diary provided by GDS to migrants was counselled on the importance of maintaining labour diary. A total of **158 dairies** were distributed.

Financial security of migrant workers is also in need of immediate attention. Most of the workers do not hold any account, are unaware of financial services and view banks in a negative light. However, GDS used this opportunity to explain them the landmark scheme of the new government '*Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana*'. Run by the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, the target is to provide 'universal access to banking facilities', micro insurance and pension. With the help of this scheme, migrant workers can be made aware of different services, bringing them under banking channel and making them a part of the formal system.

GDS has on its part made efforts to ensure a safe migration and safety at the destination. Through such initiatives, it creates opportunities of information generation and knowledge awareness among the migrant workers and their families.

Project: Promoting Safe and Beneficial Migration in Uttar Pradesh

Grameen Development Services