

PROGRESS REPORT
ON
IMPROVING THE CONDITTON OF MIGRANTS IN KALAHANDI OF ODISHA

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PROGRESS REPORT ON ‘IMPROVING THE CONDITITON OF MIGRANTS IN KALAHANDI OF ODISHA

1. Summary of the project: Kalahandi Organisation for Agriculture and Rural Marketing Initiative (KARMI) has been implementing the Migration project in Golamunda and Rampur blocks of Kalahandi district of Odisha. The operational area of KARMI, Kalahandi is the most backward district in western Odisha. The area is infamous for its underdevelopment, poverty, drought and starvation deaths. About 80% of the total population depends upon agriculture as there is no alternative source of employment. The other sources of employment opportunities are very limited due to lack of presence of industrial units. This has contributed to large scale migration to neighboring states of Gujarat, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Chatishgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra. Similarly, people also migrate to other districts of the state (intra-state migration) like Bargarh, Sambalpur, Balangir and Khurdha districts to work as daily wage labourers in different farms, industries, brick kilns, and as construction workers. The youth population migrates to nearby metro cities of Hyderabad, Mumbai, Delhi, and Raipur in search of suitable employment. The pattern of migration is seasonal in nature with the cycle starting in October-December, when the harvesting season ends till May-June, when they return to resume agricultural activities.

This type of migration is compelled by the distress factors at the origin place, pushing the people to other areas in search for livelihood. For the improvement of the distressed condition of the migrant workers, KARMI has undertaken the project on “Improving the condition of Migrants in Kalahandi district of Odisha ” for providing better opportunity to the migrants through registration, mobilization on their rights, provision of legal and financial services, undertaking vocational trainings for their skill up gradation, awareness and sensitization on health and common diseases at the work place, keep a strong relationship with the Shramika Sahayata Kendra (SSK) to save them from any harassment at the work place. The objective of the programme is to enhance socioeconomic condition, health awareness, legal provisions of the migrants and the financial facilities like opening of bank accounts, linkage with insurance, pension and other benefits like linkage with Construction Workers Welfare Board. The main aim of the project is reduce the distresses among the migrant youths and upgrade their skills and arrange for skillful employment at the destination with the support of partner organization.

2. **Back ground of the project:** . KARMI initiated the migration project of improving the condition of Migrants in Kalahandi district of Odisha with support from Jamsethji Tata Trust (JTT) for a period of 3 years. The project has been operational since August 2012 in Golamunda and M.Rampur Blocks of Kalahandi district of Odisha. The project covers 18 GPs of Golamunda block and 10 GPs in Rampur block

Kalahandi is most migration prone district in western Odisha. It has been revealed from our household survey of migrant families in the region that the poorest among the poor in the village, especially the landless, Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and marginal farmer families every year move out during the lean agricultural season. They mostly migrate in search of livelihood to far off places like brick kilns. They work on contractual basis after being hired by a certain labour contractor in lieu of advance payment received by the family. The most common destination regions are- Mumbai for construction work, Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Waltair, Vijaynagar, etc. in Andhra Pradesh; Bangalore, Mysore, Gulbarga, etc in Karnataka; Faizabad, Ghaziabad, etc. in Uttar Pradesh; Bhillai, Raipur, Durg, etc. in Chhattisgarh; Ahmadabad, Gandhinagar, Baroda, Surat, etc. in Gujarat; and Bargarh, Sambalpur, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, etc. within the state. Majority of migrants are involved in construction work at Mumbai, Hyderabad, brick kilns in Andhra Pradesh, agricultural farmers and rickshaw pullers in Raipur, Bhillai, Bargarh, and Sambalpur. Majority of them are construction workers, mason, auto driver, garden worker, security guard, and hotel boy and rickshaw pullers. Distress seasonal migration has become the accepted norm for the poorest of the poor lives in Kalahandi district.

Objectives of the project

- Preparing a detailed data base of the total project area with Household details, migration profile and study report on migration and other related issues in order to understand the reality of migration and share the same with the target people, NGOs and government agencies.
- Undertake awareness program on migration issues, health hazards, sensitizing with law for the welfare of migrants and the preventive measures at the destination through counseling.
- Registering the migrants and provision of Identity cards and maintaining a close relationship with the Shramik Sahayta Kendra (SSK) center at the destination and provide legal and other aids as and when required.
- Organize legal awareness among migrants and their families on the issues of migration, labour laws relating to it and register the cases; mediate and counsel to minimize the adverse effects of the migrants and link with construction welfare board.
- Formation and strengthening the collective through leadership building training and develop managerial skill so they can settle their disputes and undertake to resolve their issues and work for the development of the workers.
- Provide vocational and skill trainings to the migrants youth so they can upgrade their skills and cope with the problems at the destination.

- Organized block level interface with Labour Department, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to address the issues related to migration and link social security schemes and financial services through linkage with pension, insurances and government programs.

3. Program Findings:

Migration is one of the most important means of diversifying rural livelihoods. Kalahandi district is one of the most backward districts affected by chronic poverty and malnutrition as a result of multifaceted undeveloped characteristics. Despite quite a large number of development endeavors have been put in place by the State, Centre and various non-government organizations, poverty in Kalahandi is paradoxical in nature and with about 80 per cent of the people in the district being dependent on agriculture, such polarization of landholding affects the small, marginal and landless people dragging them into the vicious circle of poverty. This often forces them to opt for informal credit, which is being exploited heavily. To repay their loans and credits they are bound to take advances from labor contractors and forced to migrate due to lack of any alternate employment opportunity. The migration seen in the operational area of KARMI is seasonal and most of the migrants belong to the category of small and marginal farmers who have no work after agricultural season expires.

3a. Fulfillment of the objectives: The Goal of the project is analyzing issues concerning migrants and improving the condition of migrants and their families in Golamunda and Rampur blocks of Kalahandi district. The project has implemented a set of activities for well being of the migrants through community awareness through canopy avijan, pre-migration counseling, detail surveys and preparation of data base, block level profiling and project level profiling. Registration of the migrants and provide ID card, provision of health services to migrants and their family through awareness building, pre-migration counseling, health camps and linkage with health insurances. The project also includes development of legal aid redresal mechanism and education and provides legal service through case registration and mediation. Linkage with social security schemes and financial services, proper implementation of Government programs as linkage with MGNREGA, insurances, and pension schemes etc is another part of the strategy. The second important strategy of the project is improvement of the livelihood of the migrants especially at destination and youths are provided skill training facilities. The main problems in the destination is the identification of labour, good health facilities, lack of adequate worksite facilities, harassment and torture, issue relating to payment of wage on time and at the agreed amount and legal rights. KARMI has taken different activities to check the distress migration and increase the income and protect the right of the migrants through direct intervention, linkage with the other partner NGOs in destination, case registration and processing, formation of a collective organization among the workers and develop the leadership quality to strengthening the collective so they can independently fight for their right at the source as well destination.

KARMI has undertaken the following programmes as per the plan and implementation.

Quantitative achievement

Target Vs Achievements of the second half of the project (1st Feb 2013 to 31st July 2013)

SL.N O	PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES	TARGET	ACHEIVEMENT
1	OUT REACH ACTIVITES		
1.a	GP Level Meetings	10	10
1.b	Canopy Avijan	10	8
1.c	Pre-migration counseling camp	4	3
2	Registration and issue of ID card	1500	
3	Migration Survey and Profiling		
3.a	Preparation of GP profile	10	9
3.b	Preparation of Block profile	0	0
4	SKILL TRAINING AND PLACEMENT		
4.a	Carrier counseling camp	4	3
4.b	Skill Training	6	6
4.c	Placement Camps	2	2
5	Health Services		
5.a	Health Awareness Meeting	12	14
5.b	Health Camps	2	2
5.c	Linkage with Health Insurance	0	0
6	LEGAL Aid		
6.a	Legal Awareness Camp	12	10
6.b	Distribution of Labour Diary and Hazira Khata	1500	1605
6.c	Case Registration and Processing	20	19
6.d	Organise of Legal Clinic day	4	4
7	LINKAGE WITH SOCIAL SECURITY AND FINCNC SERVICES	150	162
8	COLLECTIVATION		
8.a	Formation of Labor Collective	2	1
8.b	Leadership building Training of Collective	2	2
8.c	Public Hearing	2	2
9	DESTINATION VISIT	4	4
10	SHRIMIK SATHI MEETING	12	12
11	FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMME	600	896
12	ADVIOSARY COMMITTEE MEET	2	2
13	DISTRICT LEVEL WORKSHOP	1	1
14	TEAM CAPACITY BUILDING	1	1

3b. Project Implementation:

i. Outreach Activities

KARMI has been given more priority on Outreach Activities for proper implementation of the program based on migration issues, undertaken with the target people through canopy Avijan, village meetings, and community mobilisation. Meetings with the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) are organized along with outreach programs with the target communities, inclusion of local level government officials in advocacy space to sensitise them on the coverage of the migration program, linkage with social security and financial inclusion for the improve the condition of the migrants of our operational area.

Considering the vulnerability of the migrant workers in the destination KARMI has given priority of awareness generation through pre migration counseling to the target people. The emphasis is on the registration as their pre requirement which is carried out before a family migrates. Awareness on labour laws and provision of migration, awareness on their health and HIV/AIDS, Financial inclusions like linkage with insurances, pension schemes, opening of bank accounts, and keep close relation with the Shramik Shahayaka Kendra (SSK)

i.a. G.P level Meeting: As per the project plan there would be one GP level meeting to share the details about the migration program to the Panchyati Raj representatives as Sarpanch, word members, and the Samiti members who are the best stake holder to the program.

i.b Canophy Avijan: KARMI has undertaken the canopy Avijan to build a strong rapport with the target migrant workers. Mass meetings are organized through Canophy avijan like rally with Self help Group (SHG) members and the members of collectives to generate awareness on issue relating to migration at destination.



i.c Pre-migration Counselling Camp: During the reporting period 4 pre-migration camps are organized with the target groups with collaboration of the collective members and the registered youths. KARMI has given priority on pre-migration camp because it helps the migrants in many ways, to tackle their problems and take preventive majors. 354 youth have participated in four camps and discussed their problems and took necessary preventive majors before they migrated.



ii Registration of Migrant Youths and Issue of ID Card: In the destination, labourers face a major problem relating to their identification and it face them difficulties at the time of journey also. By this program, KARMI takes registration of migrants' worker as a major component of the activities of the program and by this it will be able to keep the workers in safety-net. Registration also helps the workers in close coordination and collaboration with 3SK as well a good relation with the NGO as well detail information of their in destination. They are able to keep a close collaboration with the center and information is shared regarding the status of the migrant labour at the work site.

iii Skill Training And Placement

iii a. Organising career counselling Camp: The main objective of the migration programme is to provide livelihood support and enhance the income of the migrant workers. KARMI undertake different vocational trainings. During the reporting in both the centres of KARMI, it had organised four career counselling meeting where 189 migrant workers had participated.

iii b Undertaking Skilled Training: KARMI has undertaken skill development training as an important component of the migration program. By proper counseling and selecting the migrant youth as per their potential on different trades, the youth can be ensured of a better chance at earning decent wages as workers rather than as wage labourers. KARMI has completed five batches of Skill Development Trainings in both the blocks.



iii. c Placement Camps: Placement camp helps train migrants in many ways. KARMI has organised three Placement Camps with participation of 122 youth to get better placement. The organization connects with partner NGOS at destination sites and links them with suitable match of skilled migrant workers.

iv. Health Services

iva. Health Awareness Meeting: KARMI organized health awareness meetings in village and GP level for the improvement of health awareness among the migrant youths so they can maintain their health at the destination. Awareness on HIV/AIDS, use of clean and sainted water and keep the staying center healthy and hygiene is a part of the regular health camps

ivb. Health Camps: The main objective of health camp was to provide adequate information to the migrant youths. The migrants who return back from destination are given

special emphasis on their health checkup in these camps and necessary medicines are distributed to them.

ivc. Linkage with Health Insurances: For the improvement the health status of the migrant and their family KARMI linked with different health insurance schemes as RSBY and Other health insurance as Mahasakti Health insurance. About 1376 family are linked with the schemes and deposits their premium to link with the insurance schemes. About Rs. 42600 have been got benefit from RSBY and Mia health schemes.

v. Legal Aid and Legal Services:

va. Legal Awareness Camp: To protect the migrants in different legal disputes which arise in the destination due to nonpayment of wages and other payment related disputes, KARMI undertakes the legal services through this program. In the legal awareness programme the organization calls upon the counsel of advocates and the NGO experts who have common knowledge on different legal cases that have been occurred in the destination.

vb. Distribution of Labour Diary and Hazira Khata: KARMI provides hazira khatas to the migrant workers who have registered in the 3SKs and who are the target people in our program. It provides the labour diary at the time of registration The Hazira Khata helps the migrants in the destination workplace for keeping records of their work time , duration and a proof of work with the contractor or the company and help it them to got proper wage and keep a record of their work.

vc. Case Registration and Processing: Many disputes arise at the destination relating to payment of wage, harassment; disputes among the workers and the contractors. For the better settlement of these disputes KARMI started the case registration processes for settlement of the disputes through mediation or amicable settlement with the parties. The majority of cases relate to payment. During the reporting period KARMI had settled six payment related cases and was able to provide a sum of Rs. 4, 50,000 to the migrants.

vd. Organization of Legal Clinic: Six legal clinic day have been organized in both the centers during the reporting period where 480 people participated and took part in legal awareness as well raising their disputes in front of the advocates and sharing the problems..



vi. Linkage with Social Security Schemes and Financial Services: For better implementation of government program relating to migrants Karmi organized two Social security and family support program during the reporting period. Karmi discussed the schemes of government as MGNREGA, Old age and widow pensions, RSVY, and insurance schemes have also been discussed during this camp. Public hearing and redressal of problems on different governmental schemes are the major part of the program.

vii. Collectivities:

vii a. Formation of Collective: Till now Karmi has formed 3 collectives as collective of construction workers and Masson, collective on Auto-driver and Rickshaw puller, and Agricultural Farm Workers. The total members of three collective are 345. The three collectives have their own management boards and taking members from their own groups. The governing body meeting of each collective is organized in quarterly basis and takes policy decision for strengthening the collective in source and destination also. Each collective works for the betterment of their members and taken different issues relating to wage enhancement and protection of their rights at the source as well destination.



vii b. Strengthening Collective: Karmi guides the collectives on better management and provides leadership building training to the members as well the management board of the collectives. During the reporting we organized 2 leadership building trainings in both the centers where 128 members participated. The leadership building training also provides necessary managerial skill to strengthen the collective and deal the issue and protect their rights and liberty in the source as well in the destination.

vii c. Public Hearing: During the reporting period we organized two Public hearing in both the centers. The Govt officials, NGO workers, migrants, the collective members and the PRI members participate in the public hearing. The issues relating to migration and implementation of Government Developmental program are discussed in the public hearing. Objection relation to implementation of schemes and program are undertaken.

vii d. Destination Visits: For understanding the real problems of the migrant youth in destination as well the know detail of the worksites and the problems concerned to the workers, the staff of the program as well the collective members make 2 destination visit in each center in the reporting period. The destination visit was Mumbai and Raipur for Mahaling center and Surat and Raipur for Rampur centers. With the collaboration with YUVA Mumbai the team of Mahaling center organized the destination visit especially in Khargar, New-mumbai where majority of our workers are engaged in construction sector. The collective members and the registered migrant youth of our operation area also play an important in the construction side of both the site and keeping a strong collaboration with YUVA and they able to enhance their wages as well able make workplace facilities.

Similarly they are also able to enter into contracts with the companies and maintain their labour diary and get their dues in timely manner.

viii. Advocacy and Net working

viii. Family Support Programme: KARMI has undertaken family support program for the left out members of the migrant family through links to government developmental programs. We cooperate with the left out members of the family through linkage with governmental developmental programs as MGNREGS, RSBY, Old age pension, widow pension, Janani Surakhya Youjana, Crop insurances, and linkage with credit facilities with financial institutions etc..



3C. Project Output and dissemination:

i. Establishment of Migrant Counseling & Information Centre:

As per the project objective, KARMI has established the Migrants Counseling & Information Centre at Mahaling in Golamunda Block and M.Rampur in M.Rampur block of Kalahandi district. The Counselors are actively involved in providing the services to the target people with the project staffs and the Coordinators. The Centre acts as Resource centre that generates information and offers Registration & Photo I-Card, skill training, job counseling, Legal counseling, financial literacy to enhance savings and access to credit, micro enterprise training to migrants family, communication & tracking services. Case documentation and processing also a important work of the centre. Till we have settle 12 cases and 24 are pending in Mahaling centre. The Migrants Counseling Centre acts as a centre for information dissemination.

ii. Developing IEC materials/ Wall painting

In keeping with importance of Information, Education & Communication, KARMI has developed literature on issues of internal migration. The main objective of the program is to generate awareness on their problems and the IEC material makes it easier for them to overcome the problems. KARMI also provides pocket diaries to the registered workers for their record keeping in destination and use it for their labour calculation and balance of their wages accounts.

3D. Capacity Building program

i. Migration Services Exposure & Orientation Workshop for Orissa NGOs by Aajeevika Bureau

Previously the project staffs of KARMI had attended the workshop and training at Udaipur, Rajasthan and Bhubaneswar, Odisha for orientation. The program and workshop organized by SDTT through Aajeevika Bureau provided detail knowledge on project implementation, legal issues and way of settlement the disputes and vocational training on different trades.

i. Objective sharing workshop at community level

KARMI Organised block level Project objective sharing workshop on migration issues with the involvement of PRI members and cross section representatives to interact on issues of migration. The organization imparted Gram Panchayat wise training among elected PRI members, including Gram Panchayat elected officials. This training has been geared to the needs of migrants, non-migrants and marginalized social groups who need special attention for mainstream integration, e.g. migrants at destination and unskilled youth laborers at sources.

ii. Mass Awareness on communicable diseases/ HIV/AIDS Challenges

As per the project objectives, KARMI has organized awareness and motivational camps on communicable disease and HIV/AIDS. In the project period village meeting were organized, and in the canopy avijan the migrant people and their family members were sensitized on health and hygiene and maintain health and hygiene at the destination.

iii. Sensitization of PRIs, SHG members, Youth clubs and Mahila mandas: All the elected PRI functionaries of the proposed 28 GPs of both the blocks have been sensitized on migration issues and human rights. Total 12 numbers GP level sensitization camps has been conducted with participant of 356 PRI representatives, SHG members, members of youth clubs and Mahila mandals. Similarly 59 village level sensitization meetings also conducted where the migration committee member, PRI members, the word member, Samilti members also been attained. Government officials and PRI representatives has conducted to sharing the objective of the program and its successfulness. Particularly, elected women representatives will be given more priority. In other words, requisite development of women leadership need to be anchored on a leadership prospective plan outlining the foundations like SHGs, PRIs to provide women leadership.

4. Project management section

The activities of this project would be centered with community members and the target people as migrants. At the community level, village level organization like SHGs, CBOs, women's organization, youth clubs, Education and Health committees in the village level have been working with KARMI for a longer period with all the activities and program undertaken by KARMI.

The cooperation of Shrimika mitras, the PRI members and the Government official at block and district level also helps KARMI to materialize the project. The project Advisory committee has been providing necessary aid and guide as and when need. Quarterly meeting of Advisory committee and monthly shrimik mitras meeting have been conducted both the project sites.

Monitoring

The Monitoring and evolution of the project establishes systems at different levels to ensure successful implementation of the project. A set of indicators will be developed by the Organization to monitor & evaluate interventions at the grassroots level. The organizations' internal monitoring team will monitor once in six months. The project would be monitor through monthly review meetings of the staff by the last date of each month. The planning for the next month has been prepares for the next month. Once in each month there would be all staff meeting at the project level, which is to be attended by all the staffs and shamik mitras and the volunteers of the project to over assessment of the project as per the plan fixed and based on considering this the next month plan has been developed. All major decisions relating to project implementation at the organization level would be taken jointly.



5. Impact: KARMI has been in the second phase of the program. The following impacts have been observed in this reporting period.

- Previously there was idea that migration is a bad impact on the community and the migrants are seen as a the lower categories of people in the society but when the project lunch and awareness programme and the cause and effect of migration has been discussed with the stake holders, the migrants, the general people, PRI members, Members of youth clubs and other NGOs, government line departments, that the positive impacts of migration, that the migration is the better earning sources and it develop the attitude and income of the poor. Now everybody treat migration is an opportunity.
- By undertaking the vocation and skill training and other activities as placement camp and carrier counseling camps, the unskilled youth and migrants got proper training and enhancing their skill and potentiality and placed in different skilled jobs. It impact other youth and the demand of vocational training demand is rising.
- Establish and maintained relation with field level officials of different departments of Govt., PRI members and grassroots level NGOs for better preparedness and management of activities during campaign activities which has a great impact and people like the program very much and cooperate all aspect of project implementation.
- Undertaken of awareness program on migration issues and the solution, Pre-migration Counseling and issue of ID cards, financial and legal aspect of the program help the target people a lot and they think it is their program and cooperation and contribute for the project as their own.
- Sourcing of Youth for training and Counseling, Prioritizing issues of migrants and translate into action.

6. Overall Assessment:

The Migration Program has been under implementation since February 2012 but before that KARMI has taken different migration related programs as collection of migration data through survey and keep of records for proper information. With Support of American India Foundation KARMI has also been undertook the Residential Care Centre for the children of the migrants who are left out and stop migration among the children of the migrant family. KARMI has a credible link at all levels as PRI members, the migrant youths and the family migrants in source as well as destination. The linkages and networking at all levels help a lot to implement the programs more successful. Cooperation and coordination with the public, NGOs and Government on migration issues, awareness on different government programs, implementation of social and financial inclusions, and the legal aspect of the migrants and ensuring justice to the labour migrants. Improving legal system of the migrants consistent with accessing justice and their complete legal awareness has been given priority by the program and it help the migrant youth a lot in redressed of disputes in the destination. Strengthening the community on various migrants issues and case and efforts of that issue and way of redressal also help a lot to the migrants in the destination.

The legal service and financial inclusion helps the labour to improve their condition. The health awareness and linkage with the insurance companies also helps them at their crucial period. Registration and Issue of ID card help the migrant youth for a alternative identification and linked with a social net work of migrant workers and the NGO work in source as well destination. Both Govt. and Non- Govt. organizations are extending their cooperation to run the activities smoothly. More and more migrant labours are associated with the program by awareness, their rights, and cooperation to make the project successful. The PRI and Government departments have also given their support and encouragement to make the program successful.



