



Child Migration: Challenges and Scopes

(A study on child migration to identify the challenges and scopes in regard to Education, Health, Nutrition and Protection of Migrant Children in Kantamal and Harbhanga blocks of Boudh District of Odisha)

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Migration to a new place takes place when one is either structurally or functionally gets detached, either by design or distress, from the socio-economic fabric of her/his nativity. Migration has formed an important part of evolution of life, especially that of the human beings. However, from a

“Migration should be positioned within the context of a human rights framework that provides protection for all children, adolescents and women affected by migratory processes. States that are parties to international human rights treaties are obligated to offer protection to the rights of non-





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Abbreviation

APL	:	Above Poverty Line
BPL	:	Below Poverty Line
CHC	:	Community Health Centre
CWC	:	Child Welfare Council



DHH	:	District Headquarter Hospital
ECCE	:	Early Childhood Care & Education
FFA	:	Force Field Analysis
FGD	:	Focus Group Discussion
G.P.	:	Gram Panchayat
ICDS	:	Integrated Child Development Services
JSY	:	JananiSurakshaYojana
MDM	:	Mid Day Meals
MGNREGA	:	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
MHU	:	Mobile Health Unit
NRHM	:	National Rural Health Mission
OAP	:	Old Age Pension
OBC	:	Other Backward Caste
PDS	:	Public Distribution System
PHC	:	Primary Health Centre
PRA	:	Participatory Rural Appraisal
RGCS	:	Rajib Gandhi Crèche Scheme
RSBY	:	RastriyaSwasthyaBimaYojana
RTE	:	Right to Education
SC	:	Scheduled Caste
SDTT	:	Sir Dorbaji Tata Trust
SMC	:	School Management Committee
ST	:	Scheduled Tribe
UN	:	United Nations
UNCRC	:	United Nations' Convention on Right of Child



W&CD	:	Women & Child Development
YCDA	:	Youth Council for Development Alternatives



Chapter – I

Summary of the study

children, thus discontinuing their education. Like their parents and other family members, the children not only reside in extremely unhygienic conditions, but also are also vulnerable to a large number of threats. But it's not only economic reasons alone that force parents to take children along with them. Few can actually afford to feed an extra mouth and look after the needs. Therefore, the migrating parents cannot even think of leaving their children behind with relatives or neighbors. Girls especially are taken to the brick kilns in Andhra Pradesh and other districts of Odisha to tend to the infants and cook the meals while the parents toil throughout the day. Besides, the girls are also taken because of their biological and social vulnerability back in the villages. The girls, apart from doing household chores, also help their mothers in the brick making work. Young girls not only lose out on education, but also become physically and sexually vulnerable at the work sites. Moreover, the health status of girls in the brick kilns is worse because though they do the cooking, they only get to eat after their brothers as per the age-old tradition of remaining only second fiddle to their male counterparts.

What happens to the migrant children

Adverse effect on children's Education: Forced by nagging poverty, about 96.96% of the migrant children of elementary age group remain out of school to join their parents in their economic pursuit too far of places mainly to the brick kilns in Andhra Pradesh and other districts of the state also. While parents keep themselves busy in brick making, the children are involved in manual transporting, tending and conditioning bricks under the hot sun. With their parents becoming regular migrants and staying away from the village for nearly 6-8 months a year, the children lose out on their primary education. Persistent absence from school leads to their names being struck off from the school register. Poverty prevents their re-enrolment and forces them into wage labor even when they are back in the villages. The guarantee of the FUNDAMENTAL EDUCATION RIGHTS envisaged in the Indian Constitution proves itself failed.

Forced to undertake Labour activities

The children are forced to work as supplementary workforce who used to work in unhygienic situations and conditions. Instances are there they are



being target of physical harassment and wage exploitation. The CHILD LABOUR ABOLITION ACT, 1986 gets violated. Besides, the RIGHT TO PROTECTION of UN DECLARATION is not ensured though India is a signatory to that declaration.

It is also relevant to mention that there are wide ranges of laws, which guarantee to a substantial extent the rights and entitlement as provided in the Constitution and in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

- The Apprentices Act, 1961.
- The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929.
- The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.
- The Children (Pledging of Labour) Act, 1929.
- The Guardian and Wards Act, 1890.
- The Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956.
- The Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956.
- The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956.
- The Juvenile Justice Act, 1986.
- The Orphanages and Other Charitable Homes (Supervision and Control) Act, 1960.
- The Probation of Offenders Act, 1958.
- The Reformatory Schools Act, 1897.
- The Women's and Children's Institutions (Licensing) Act, 1956.
- The Young Persons (Harmful Publications) Act, 1956.
- The Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply & Distribution) Act, 1992.
- The Prenatal Diagnostic Technique (Regulation, Prevention and Misuse) Act, 1994.
- The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

Apart from these laws mainly concerning children, there are a host of related welfare and criminal laws, which have beneficial provisions for the care, and



protection of children. Even the laws relating to commerce, industry and trade have protective provisions for children. But most of these laws and provisions remain as decorative principles of the constitutions and UN conventions.

In practicality, applications of these laws seldom take place for the real restoration of child rights in its true spirit. The maladies of the children continue to prevail and ignorance of both the parents and the communities make the situation more worsen. This has remained as perennial characteristic of the Boudh district in terms of overt violation of child rights in guise of distress migration and distress in migration in the district.

The migrant children (who migrate either independently or as dependents when they migrate) are the most unrecognized and vulnerable groups among internal migrants. These categories of children often lose access to basic entitlements, miss out on schooling and are subject to health and security risks. Child migrants forgo critical inputs necessary for their physical, psychological and intellectual development during their formative years. This has an irreversible impact on their emotional and cognitive development.

In order document the plight of children migrating with their families to live in a brick kiln and other unorganized sector like construction site for almost 6-8 months and about 1 year respectively and identify the challenges and scopes in regard to education, health, nutrition and protection of migrant children, this study was conducted by YCDA in Kantamal and Harbhanga blocks of Boudh District (Odisha) with the support of SDTT and Allied Trust, Mumbai. The study was conducted with 338 Households covering 23 villages of 21 G.Ps. Out of the 338 families 295 families have migrated in this year. The highest number of migrant Households was found to the brick kilns sector which is 97% while 3% Households are to other unorganized sectors like construction sites.

The study shows that 532 children of different age group within 0-18 years have migrated with their families to brick kiln industry and other unorganized sectors in the outside states and within the state also. Out of the total migrant



population children constitute 41.95% (532). Among the children 54.13% (288) are boys and 45.87% are girls (244).

Summarily the study found absence of an inclusive approach to ensure access to various government entitlements and services for the migrant children and their families. Due to lack of authentic database of migrants, information about children and families living at the work-site, lack of honest effort from the establishment employing migrant labourers to register the labourers with the labour department and absence of effective coordination between labour sending and receiving district/state government departments are the major hindrance to create an inclusive process for the migrant workers to access to Government services and entitlements.

To universalize the accessibility to services by the migrant families and the migrant children state government needs to take proactive step for implementation of the welfare programs and entitlements. It is foremost and important that the government is to identify the child and mothers and tag link up with the ICDS and MDM program, children with educational program and subsequently mainstream back the children with the same schemes and programs when they are back in their villages.



Background and Rationale

There are many categories of children for whom adequate and appropriate strategies are not in place for their education, health, nutrition and protection. One such substantive category is children of distress seasonal migrants – a group which has not been on the radar screen of the government or development agencies. Distress seasonal migration is a growing phenomenon in almost all arid parts of Odisha. The increasing rate of deprivation and inequality in the rural areas and poor governance system give rise to large scale distress migration of poor people who end up in cities and urban location to work as unorganized labourers for better wage and livelihood. Migrants comprise the most vulnerable sections of society, and especially those that also belong to SC and ST groups.

There is hardly any available system or mechanism to ascertain the scale of distress in seasonal migration, but estimates put the number of migrants in lakhs. The number of children involved in these migrations is large in numbers. The distress migration takes place to a range of industrial and

agro-industrial sectors such as brick manufacture, industry, agriculture and other unorganized sectors. The migrant children spend half of their life in a work site with their family often being excluded from all basic entitlements and services like food, nutrition, health and education.

At the worksite there are hazardous living conditions, un-hygienic environment, and absence of health services and so on. The children and particularly the infant and mothers are debarred from accessing to the services and entitlements. But it is difficult to ascertain the exact numbers of the seasonal migrants flock into different places in a particular time and also their living condition and life in an alien environment. There is also absence of any concrete mechanism, system or process to track, monitor or acquire any authentic data or information about such people who often considered as invisible.

With an attempt to document the plight of children migrating with their families to live in a brick kiln and other unorganized sector like construction site for almost 6–8 months and about 1 year respectively and identify the challenges and scopes in regard to education, health, nutrition and protection of children migrate with families and children of migrant families, this study was conducted by YCDA in Kantamal and Harbhanga blocks of Boudh District (Odisha) with the support of SDTT and Allied Trust, Mumbai.

Objective

The purpose of the study was founded on two major objectives for;

- ✓ Identifying the scope and challenges in regard to education, health, nutrition, Issues related to Education, Health, Nutrition and Protection of Migrant Children.
- ✓ Disseminating with the stakeholders and preparing a plan of convergence so that the required services and entitlements reach out to the children of migrant families and rights of such children are ensured.

Methodology

The study on the challenges and scope related to issues of migrant children in worksites was conducted adopting the following methodologies:



- 1) A rapid survey was conducted through questionnaire pattern which was both semi-structured and open ended. The survey covered 338 migrant families.
- 2) The survey questionnaire was developed with both open ended and structured questions for collection of data. The questionnaire covered two parts (Part – I : Information pertaining to demography, economic, social, reason of migration, life at worksite and access to various entitlements & Part – II : Information pertaining to access to basic facilities, environment and information about their knowledge about nearest service delivery at the worksite).
- 3) In order to capture the information on activities of the migrants, employer, children involvement in work, education, health status and food habits of children in worksites, both key respondent interview and observational methods were framed.
- 4) Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools like Force Field Analysis (FFA) and Focus Group Discussion (FGD) were also used.

Area covered

<i>Table: 21: Area covered under the study</i>				
State	District	Name of the Block	No. of G.Ps. covered	No. of villages covered
Odisha	Boudh	Kantamal	06	06
Odisha	Boudh	Harbhanga	15	17
Total:			21	23

Limitation

Both in and out migration takes places in almost of all the districts of Odisha. Since the study is a sample study, only two blocks out of three blocks of Boudh district was covered under the study. The study focused on family migration, especially families migrating with children to different locations. Again, the study was conducted at the time when the migrants are at the destinations. Key respondents of their families who are in regular touch with the migrants and have previous experience of migration were covered under the interview.

Study Team

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Chapter – III

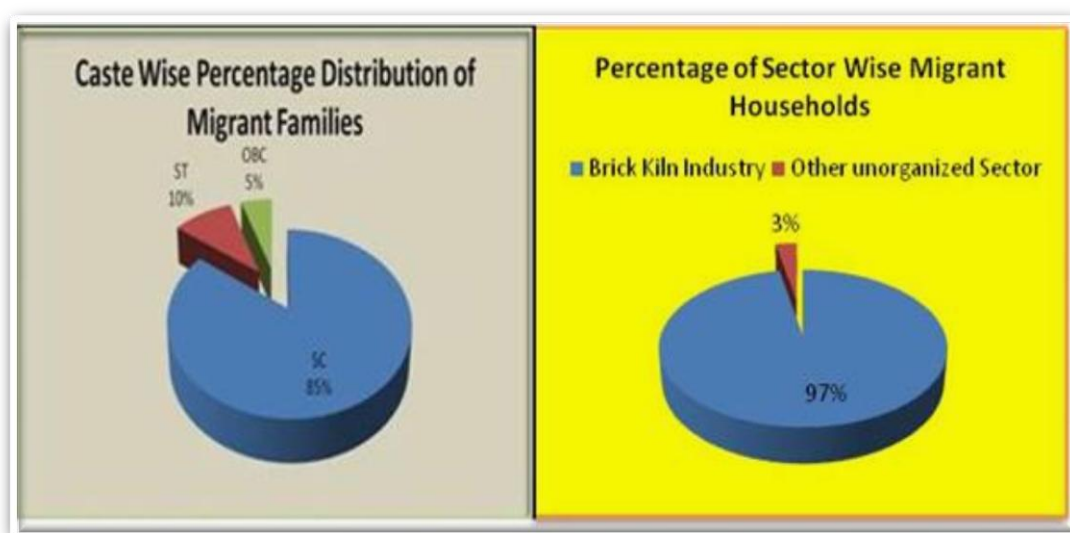
Demography and Socio-Economic Profile of the Migrant Families

extends for a periods of between six to eight months once a year, migration for other unorganized sector tends to be of long duration and take place for 10-11 months a year. Distress migration appears to be a reality in both blocks, although to varying degrees.

The industrially developed states Andhra Pradesh (Hyderabad), Maharashtra (Mumbai) & Tamil Nadu and districts/cities of Odisha like Brajarajnagar, Jharsuguda, Cuttack, Puri and Berhampur are the net receiving states/districts/cities for migrant labour. The study shows a substantial portion of migration taking place within states, from one district to another.

Household Distribution

The study was carried out in 23 villages which covered 338 Households. Out of the 338 families 295 families have migrated in this year. The highest number of migrant Households was found to the brick kilns sector which is



97% while 3% Households are to other unorganized sectors like construction sites.

Destination wise outflow of migrants

The study reveals that migration takes place within states as well as to other states. The characteristic of Boudh district as poor district tend to send labour, while the industrialized rich ones such as Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu and Maharastra and some industrial districts of Odisha tend to receive labour.

Demographic Profile

The study has covered about 1268 migrant population which includes 663 male and 605 female. Out of the total migrant families 1260 people have migrated to brick kiln industry sector and 08 people have migrated to other unorganized sector like construction work. The sex distribution among the migrant population to brick kiln industry constitutes male – 660 and female – 600 (including children). Similarly, 03 male and 05 female have migrated to other unorganized sectors.

Table-3.1: Demographic Profile of Migrant Families

Sector	Numbers of Migrant Population														
	Adult			Children (0-6 years age group)			Children (6-14 years age group)			Children (14-18 years age group)			Grand Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Brick Kiln Industry	373	359	732	107	81	188	140	121	261	40	39	79	660	600	1260
Other unorganized Sector	2	2	4	1	1	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	3	5	8
Total	375	361	736	108	82	190	140	123	263	40	39	79	663	605	1268

Duration of Migration

Generally three categories of migration for informal labour work have been observed– long term, short term and seasonal or circular migration. The long term migration ranges from 1-2 years duration in any one particular or multiple worksites, seasonal or circular migration ranges from 6-8 months. Due to lack of unemployment in the lean season of agriculture migrants leave the villages and return back before the monsoon to be engaged in farming. Short duration migration takes place for 2-3 months to work in irrigated, road construction and other short term projects. The migrants covered under the study are of seasonal migrants who migrate to

brick kiln sites for 6-8 months (December of one year to July of another year) in the year.

Reasons of Migration

Migration for many people in the villages of Boudh happens to be direct fallout of their indebtedness. Most of the villagers migrating to the brick kilns in Andhra Pradesh and other districts inside the states are contracted by the agents of the owners of the brick kilns, who in turn get commission from the kiln owners on a pro-rata basis, depending upon the number of people gathered by them to take out of the villages. Several rounds of force field analyses were conducted in different villages of study area to identify the factors prompting the scale of migration outside the villages. The factors identified in the process included “push factors” arising from lack of livelihood options in the villages, lack of livelihood asset/resource and other pressing constraints like indebtedness, crop loss etc., and “pull factors” entailed in the attraction for livelihood in the lean months. A set of “reverse push factors” were also identified in the process which made the migrants look forward to returning back home after reaching the brick kilns.

Chapter – IV

Status of Child Migration

Invisibility in the radar

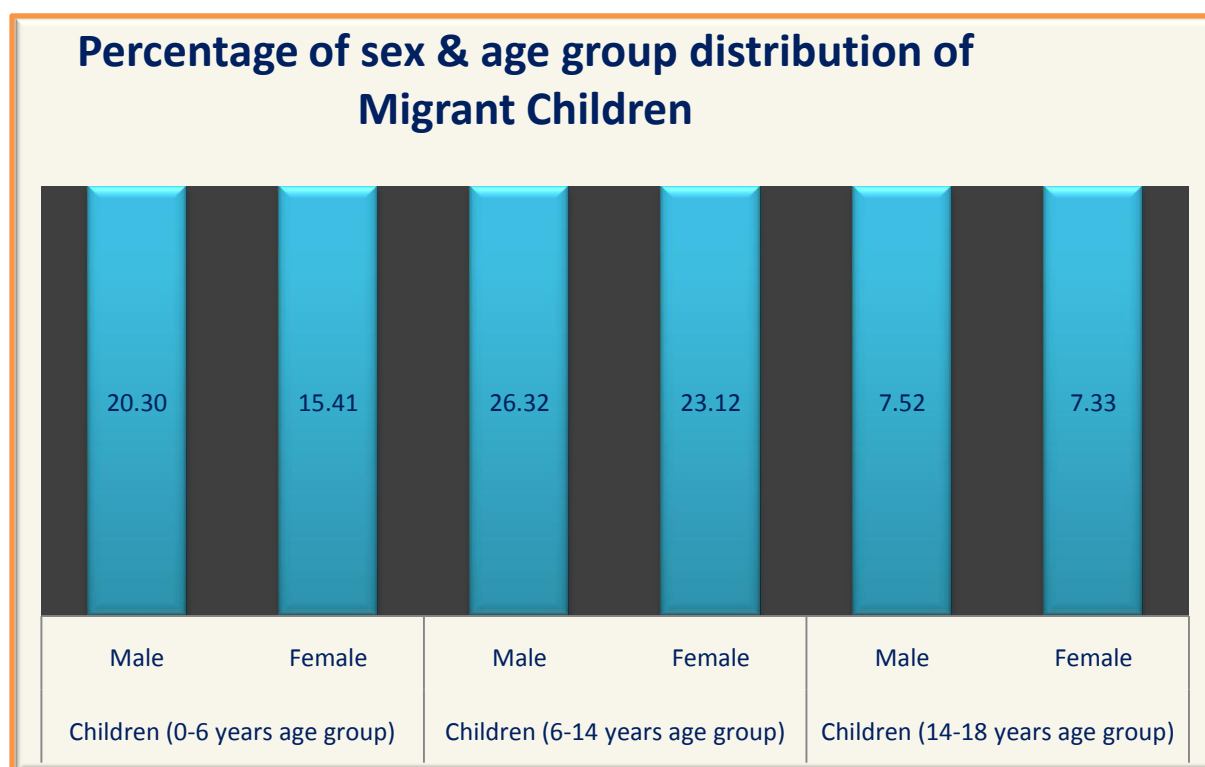
It is learnt from the study in the case of brick kiln migrants that children travel with their parents to the kilns for two reasons. The first is because they are valued members of the Pathuria, or if they are too young to roll mud, they can look after younger siblings and contribute to household chores. The second reason is that parents fear what may happen to them if left alone at home. This is most common for girls, who are rarely left with relatives in the village. Children of migrant workers are regularly missing school for six to eight months of the year. 532 children migrate from two study blocks of Boudh District out of them 255 are within the age group 6-14 years; about 96.96% of them are out of school. In effect they become full-time child labourers learning only the trade of brick making, passed on by their parents. The cycle of poverty turns smoothly to the next generation.

Children's bodies take a worse beating from the unhealthy surroundings than adults. Physical and mental development is threatened by pollution and poor nutrition. The labour is equal to that of adults, and there is neither time for play nor education. In short, their childhoods are lost. Malnutrition and stunted growth is rife, with girls unsurprisingly faring the worst, since they are assumed to work less hard than boys and hence get less food.

Migration from these blocks has been a compulsion in search of livelihood. Child migration takes place along with the family migration. The migrant



families often take their infant and young children with them while migrating out. Thus child migration takes place invisibly with the family migration. Since there is hardly any existing system of mechanism to trace this category of children the process of movement, transit, harboring of migrating children are rarely being documented. Neither the primary nor the secondary information is available to ascertain the exact numbers of migrating children and their



plights.

Though there is series of child rights, enforcement mechanism to prevent and rescue children in difficult circumstances and particularly migrant or trafficked children engaged in hazardous work, children living in hazardous environment and children who are subjected abuse and denial of basic services, entitlements and rights are today posing as a challenge before government and civil society which requires large and great effort to ponder and act.

The study shows that 532 children of different age group within 0-18 years have migrated with their families to brick kiln industries and other unorganized sectors in the outside states and within the state also. Out of the



Table-4.1: Age and Sex wise Distribution of Migrant Children												
Sector	Children (0-6 years age group)			Children (6-14 years age group)			Children (14-18 years age group)			Grand Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Brick Kiln Industry	107	81	188	140	121	261	40	39	79	287	241	528
Other unorganized Sector	1	1	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	3	4
Total	108	82	190	140	123	263	40	39	79	288	244	532

total migrant population children constitute 41.95% (532). Among the children 54.13% (288) are boys and 45.87% are girls (244).

Chapter – V

Issues related to Education, Health, Nutrition and Protection of Migrant Children

Education status of Migrant Children

The study found from the history of migration of migrant families that most of the migrant families migrate every year regularly for almost half of the year and others may be migrating newly or in one or two alternative year(s). Themigrant children migrating with the familiesare usually detached from their natural environment and social fabrics in almost all the cases. They are excluded from getting basic and indispensable services like education, child care, nutrition and health services. The Elementary Education for children within the age group of 6 to 14 years is free and mandatory in India. The RTE Act in India also makes it an obligation for the state to provide education to all children without any prejudice and discrimination. As per the Act, the local authority and teachers are assigned to carryout periodic enumeration and survey of children who are out of school and enroll them in the neighborhood schools. But most of the migrant children get deprived of getting education since they become unable to attain the education and the objective of RTE Act fails in achieving its purpose. The educational calendar is not favorable for such children because the education session is in opposition to the migration seasonality. The uninterrupted study of such excluded children has never been given attention. Since there is no schooling facility at the destination the children further gets alienated because they become unable to access any education facility at the place of living. The poor response of the state in performing state responsibility by such denial indicates gross denial of their ability to live within the structure of our civic institutions. Before the childhood bud is full-blown it is plucked by our poor governance system and



debarsthe child from being a valuable contributor to the progress of the Nation.

Schooling at destination:

The study found from the statement of the respondents that a perplex number of children (96.96%) are unable to access any form of education at the destinations. Most of the children belong to the families of seasonal migrants. Since the children migrate during December of one year to July of another year which is the mid of academic year they remain far from schooling. There is absence of any special education facility like bridge course and again the teachers do not take step to enroll them at the destination. This happens to the migrant children both in the case of inter – state and intra – state migration.

Early Childhood Care & Education of Migrant Children

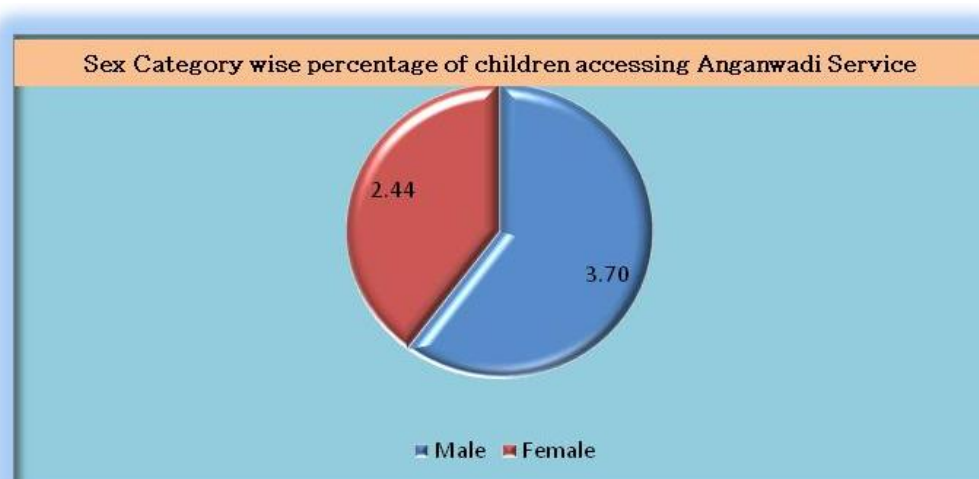
ECCE is very important for child development like to prepare the children for school, enhance nutritional standards and provide protection & care at the foundation (early childhood age) age of children. Though coverage of ICDS has increased manifold in India, this flagship program has failed to cover the migrant children due to various administrative and policy gaps because of absence of an effective mechanism for early childhood education programs. The migrant children, pregnant women and young mothers do not get opportunity to be linked with this program both at the source village and destination due absence of a proper beneficiary tracking mechanism. This is the drawback of this program. In spite of the directives of the Ministry of W&CD to the state Governments including Odisha to extend ICDC program to the migrant population living in the vicinity of the worksite, this shows no pace progress because of lack of survey to ascertain the numbers of migrant population. The migrant pregnant women, infant and young mothers usually discontinue pre-schooling, immunization and in rare cases they take home ration, supplementary nutrition food, growth monitoring, integrated mothers care, care during pregnancy in their new place of living.



According to almost all respondents Anganawadi Service is not available at the worksite places. Only 6 children within the age group 3-6 years are accessing Anganwadi Service at the destination located within 1 KM. This is due to lack of data or timely enumeration of children who temporarily live in the work place.

Health & Nutrition Status of Migrant Children

Owing to their mobile status, infants of migrant mothers often miss out on immunization, growth monitoring and regular health check-ups. A high level of risks of malnutrition, morbidity and mortality among migrant children is apprehended more. Limited access of migrants to anganwadis, public distribution services and public health services has a negative impact on the health of their children. There is risk of malnutrition in early childhood which can cause frequent illness and physical deficiencies, such as stunting, and may affect children's cognitive abilities as reflected in poor school performance. Poor access to safe drinking water, sanitation facilities and poor work and living conditions give rise to diseases such as fever, cold, water-borne and respiratory diseases and diseases causing diarrhea. Migrant children remain deprived of essential elements of 'care' and 'early stimulation' whilst their mothers work, which leads to their neglect or at best inadequate care by their siblings. In the absence of crèches and early childcare services, children's transition to formal schooling remains incomplete.



The study reveals that the migrant families do not get balanced food at the destinations because of inability to afford vegetable supplements with less earning they get from the work. Again the weekly markets (as responded by 315 respondents) from where they buy vegetables are located at distant location. Their primary dependable foods are low quality rice, onion and occasional egg. Also in the tight schedule of work they cook once in the day and eat the food in day and night. As a result the children have no other way rather to eat decayed food which is cooked in the day time and eaten in the night. Again the study found that 3.16% children within the age group 0-6 years access the Anganwadi Service at the work site. It is observed that most of the children suffer from malnutrition.

Disease suffered by migrant children:

The unhygienic living conditions, polluted environment compounded with lack of nutritional food lead the children to be affected by various diseases in the worksite. The children suffer from many diseases like cold, fever, weakness, loose motion, cough and body pain.

Immunization at the worksites:

This study has revealed that 10.83 % of migrant parents have vaccinated their children while 89.17 % of them have not vaccinated their children. According to the respondents the children have been given only polio dose. Hardly any one of them has given other required vaccines to their children, and this is because of unawareness among the parents.

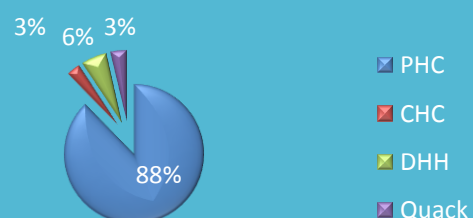
Access to Health Service:

The study found that 228 families get their health service from the nearby by PHC, 08 families from the CHC, 15 from DHH and 09



Child Migration: C...

Percentage of Dependency of Migrant Families on Health Service



families from the quack. Interaction with the respondents found that in case of any health problem the migrant families get one day off to go to the health service institutions and they have to lose one day's earning.

Protection of Child

Since independence, India through different constitutional provisions and statutory enactments protecting its children against exploitation, providing welfare, education and assuring their child rights. Children's rights are the perceived human rights of children with particular attention to the rights of special protection and care afforded to the young.

The UNCRC 1989 is one of the historical declarations made by the international community Child Rights and Situation of Children in Odisha to best protect the rights of the child. The convention document urges the state/parties to think for comprehensive legal intervention strategies to fulfill the provisions of UNCRC in the system of governance, i.e. legislative, judiciary and executive. The fourth pillar of democracy, i.e. press must act as a watchdog on the activities of legislative, judiciary and executive. It is the duty of civil society to sensitize public so that, rights concerning the basic needs of children could be asserted for protection as and when required.

UNCRC encourages and provides opportunity to the civil society organization to submit an alternative report in every five years revealing the status of the rights of the children in their respective state/countries. UNCRC set forth international standards of child rights and cast an obligation on the nations/states/parties to make laws/legislations as per the social and economic conditions prevailing in their countries.

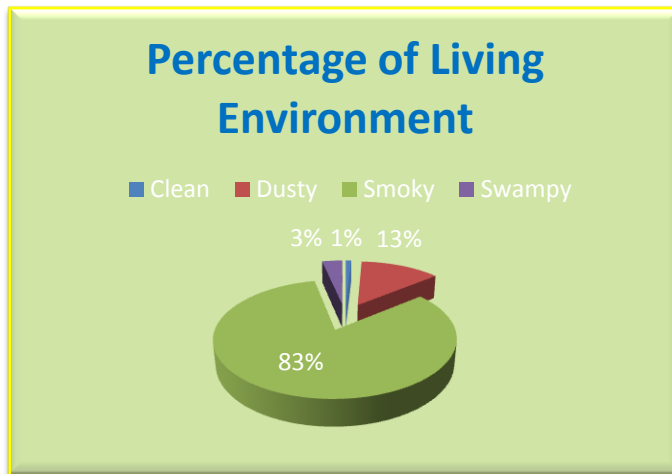
Survival, protection, development and participation are the four columns of child rights which need to be strengthened by enacting appropriate laws as deemed suitable. Countries which have ratified UNCRC are required to report periodically on the progress of its implementation to United Nations and so as states to nations at country level.¹

The study shows that large numbers of children are migrating from Boudh district with their migrant families to work in brick kilns and other

¹Dr. Dharmendra Kumar Mishra (Child Rights and Situation of Children in Odisha)

unorganized sectors of outside states as well as the state. Children are the main victims of migration process. They work as child labour in the family labour segment at the cost of their childhood. Suffering of such children is painful and cannot be tolerated.

Worksite Environment & Housing:



As regard to safe and protected environment for the children to live, the study shows that most of the worksite gives an unlit picture.

Living conditions at brick kilns are very basic. Most workers live in temporary housing units of sun dried bricks that they themselves construct. These

are like hovels where one has to sit to enter. At most, the employers provide a polythene sheet for roofing. Out of the total respondents, 225 respondents have responded regarding condition of the house the migrant families and their children live. 217 respondents told that the house they live is hut and 08 told that house is kacha. The hut is made of the first raw bricks that the pathurias make are used in the construction of low-roofed and thatched houses where they stay. One unit of pathuria stays in one house where it becomes difficult to move freely.

Drinking Water Facility:

Most of the migrant families fetch drinking water from well, tube well, open well and tank. It is found from the study that 167 families get drinking water from well, 110 from tube well, 41 from open well and 01 family from tank at the worksite. Drinking water used by them from most of the sources is certainly unsafe and impure.

Sanitation:



The study revealed that most of the migrant families go in open air to defecate on defecation grounds. According to the respondents 305 families use open ground for defecation and 02 families use community toilet. There is every chance that the children may be affected by warm and other bacteria borne diseases.

First Aid facility at worksite:

First Aid facility at the worksite is essential as minimum safety norms. But this is not being adhered. According to the statement of the respondents during the study 108 respondents say that first aid facility is not available at the worksite and 05 respondents say that first aid kit available.

Cases of Child Labour:

Engagement of children in the worksite is seen in two forms. The domestic labour includes children helping their parents by carrying bricks, mixing clay, etc. as well as managing household work. Commercial labour refers to children earning money by working at the kilns from the tender age. Since both the parents are into making bricks for 8-14 hours the children are neglected. The older children are forced to take up household responsibilities at an early age. The elder boys and girls help their parents in the work so that the family can earn little extra. During the study 282 respondents responded in regard to engagement of children in the worksite. 53 respondents said the children are engaged in the domestic work and commercial work and 229 said that children are not engaged in any work. But though it is unexpressed it presumed that the children are engaged in any work at the worksite.

Conclusion

The study found that poverty, debt and unemployment forces majority of the tribal, dalit and other backward caste communities to migrate to other places in search of livelihood. Uprooted from their habitation and social fabric, the migrant families get isolated from accessing government entitlements, social security, social assistance and government supported livelihood and poverty alleviation programs. The family migration invisibly carries a segment of nowhere children population who are the accompanying children who at last work as child migrant labour at the destinations. The family including the child become invisible at the destination due to lack of attention and support from the government department to include them into various government entitlements and citizenship rights. These internal migrant children are excluded from their basic rights to survival, protection and participation in



child development programs. Frequent relocation of the migrant families their children undergo severe physical and mental agony resulting breaking of their physical and psychological growth which is hardly being recognized and addressed.

Inspite of the declaration of UNCRC 1989 which provides all children the right to survival, development, protection and participation and commitment of the “State” the dreamt goal of UNCRC is at far. However, the Government has changes in their laws and rules to enable these children to assert their rights. But, the response of the state government seems to be weak and invisible. All children are equally important and all the rights of children are of equal importance. To universalize the accessibility to services by the migrant families and the migrant children state government need to take proactive step for implementation of the welfare programmes and entitlements. It is foremost and important that the government is to identify the child and mothers and tag link up with the ICDS, MDM and educational programmes and subsequently mainstream back the children with the same schemes or programmes when they are back in their village.

The present study tries a first step initiative to document the plights of the migrant children who migrate with their parents to work in the brick kilns and other unorganized sectors in the state and outside states for 6–8 months in year. It emphasizes on the challenges and scopes in child migration in regard to Education, Health, Nutrition and Protection.

Summarily the study found absence of an inclusive access to various government entitlements and services for the migrant children and their families. Due to lack of authentic database of migrants, information about children and families living at the work-site, lack of honest effort from the establishment employing migrant labourers to register the labourers with the labour department and absence of effective coordination between labour sending and receiving district/state government departments are the major hindrance to create an inclusive process for the migrant workers to access to Government services and entitlements.

Recommendation

1. This first step initiative of the study needs to be treated as a foundation data base for use by the government line departments such



as Education, Health, Women & Child Development and needs regular periodical updates. Government should also develop a child-sensitive focus in data and approaches to migration. This data should focus on collection of sex-disaggregated and age disaggregated data on migrant children with data on reasons of migration to enable proper planning and monitoring.

2. Government needs to adopt the 'continuum of care' framework in designing migration interventions that consider age- and gender-specific risks and vulnerabilities of children and that is hoped to increase essential services for mothers, newborns and children at critical life stages.
3. Government should issue official instruction to the employers to provide breastfeeding breaks for mothers in between work schedules at worksites.
4. Steps should be taken for undertaking special extension and outreach strategies for migrant women and children under Integrated ICDS and RGCS, by increasing coverage of ICDS in migrant labour camps and worksites, and improving facilities for preschool education and growth monitoring besides increasing financial and human resources for these schemes in migration-prone areas. Provisions for establishing crèches, as mandated under labour laws in the construction, mining and plantation sectors and at MGNREGA worksites should be enforced and mobile crèches, early childcare and daycare centres for children in the age group 0-14 years should be established.
5. In order to make reach of health services to the migrant labourers and the children at the destination MHUs should be established. Special health camps in association with charitable hospitals and NRHM should be carried out in close intervals. RSBY needs to be extended to the migrant workers at the worksite ensuring a special enumeration in each worksite to enroll the migrant workers.
6. An appropriate strategy should be facilitated so that the migrant women access to JSY for institutional delivery of pregnant women.
7. The rights of the migrant children to education should be ensured by linking them to the nearest neighborhood schools. The teachers and SMC members of the neighborhood schools need to visit the worksites to enroll such children in the schools.



8. Government of Odisha needs to make it mandate to the school authorities to accept admission of children into their school if they are living within the school jurisdiction. At the time of return of the migrants, the school will provide a testimony to the parents to mainstream the child back in their native village. In case of distant location of schools, provision of transportation of the children to the schools should be made. Government of Odisha should consider enacting a state action plan on access to education by the migrant children.
9. Government should take proactive steps against the contractors who employ child labour in the worksite. Registration of all worksites under the appropriate authorities and periodic visit to the site to report incidence of child labour should be made mandatory. Again the CWC members should visit to the worksites to report and rescue the child labour.
10. Child migration should be tracked by constituting child protection and vigilance committees at all G.Ps. level.
11. A special provision for MDM should be mandatory for migrant children at the destinations till the child return from migration.
12. In order to address the issues of food insecurity Government of Odisha should introduce roaming PDS, Antodaya and other food entitlements.
13. Joint effort of Labour Department and contractors is necessary for standardization of basic facilities like drinking water, health, good housing, lighting and cooking facilities for the families of migrant workers.
14. Government should come up with enactment of plan of action to ensure enjoyment of entitlements and rights to migrant children; and protection of migrant children.





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