

A Study Report
On
Youth Migration

Study conducted by:
DEBADATTA CLUB

Facilitated by- Ajiveeka Bureau, Udaipur
Supported by- TATA Trust, Mumbai

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Introduction

Bargarh District formerly comprises of two agriculture districts having six blocks each and located in the agro-climatic zone of western central table land with hot, humid and sub-humid climate. According to the 2011 census Bargarh district has a population of 1,478,883. The district has a population density of 253 inhabitants per square kilometer. Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 9.84 percent. Bargarh has a sex ratio of 976 females for every 1000 males and a literacy rate of 75.16 percent.

The predominant economic activities of Bargarh district are cultivation, hand loom weaving, handicrafts, village/cottage industry and small business activities and trading of seasonal forest products. The major food crops of the district are paddy, groundnut, pulses, oilseeds & sugarcane. Irrigation is primarily canal-based or through wells and tanks. Paddy/rice cultivation is the main agricultural activity of the district.

The present project is situated in Gaisilat block in the district of Bargarh. Gaisilat block is one among the 6 blocks of the Padampur sub division of the district. It may be observed that the district has two paradoxical situations-while one part of the district is well developed, the other part is rain-fed and agriculturally underdeveloped. There is occurrence of drought in every alternate year in the rain fed areas. Due to the frequent drought large chunk of the population migrates every year to neighboring district as seasonal migrants for agricultural work and a fraction goes to other state as brick kiln workers in states of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Chhatisgarh, Uttar Pradesh etc. Based on the migration phenomena, a study was conducted on the particular migration of the youth age group from Gaisilat by Debadutta Club.

About the Project area –Gaisilat block is located in the southern part of Bargarh district bordering Bolangir in one side and Padampur and Bijepur block in the other side. The total population of the block is 87,163. Total number of households is 22072. The area under study is primarily backward with 11,871 persons as Scheduled Castes and 15,758 as Scheduled Tribes. 47205 persons have migrated from different place from Gaisilat block (according to previous House hold base line Survey).

Debadatta club has initiated the migration project to check the adverse impact of migration in Gaisilat block of Bargarh district supported by Tata Trust. The project covers 109 villages of nineteen Gram Panchayats. The target groups are migrant families working as skilled wage labourer, young boys and girls who are of school going age but dropped out, landless labourers, small and marginal farmers.

Goals: Organizing the migrant workers, their families for improving livelihoods, social security & capacity building in an integrated approach.

Objective of the Project-

- To conduct village and Panchayat survey and indentifying migrants, their families and registration.
- To develop data base and profiling of 19 proposed Panchayats of Gaisilat blocks.
- To impart skill development training among school dropout and unskilled migrant youth for creating better livelihood opportunities.
- To organized legal awareness programs for migrant families and migrant workers at community level.
- To sensitize elected PRI members for supporting migration services.
- To create mass awareness on HIV/AIDS, general health and malnutrition among migrant workers and their families including other vulnerable communities.
- To create awareness among migrant families on the importance education, financial inclusion and financial literacy.
- To link up with destination services - visiting destinations, ID registration, counseling and problems sharing with migrants

- To organized block level workshop on migration issues with the involvement of District Labour Officer, Labor Inspector, other district officials, PRIs and Media.

- To establish better relationship with different government departments, like minded local NGOs and PRI members for supporting migration services and advocacy issues.

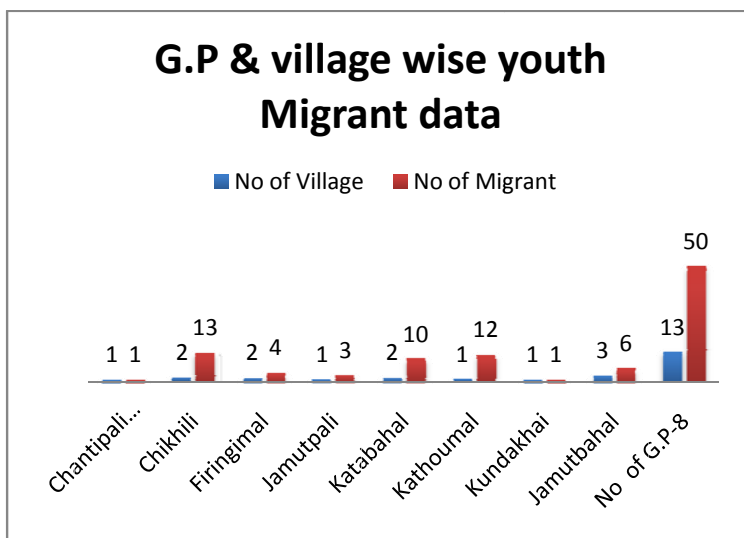
Target Group-All migrant families of Gaisilat Block

The key concept under preparation of a study report about Youth Migrant is to analyze the real situation of migrant youth and its family members. When adverse conditions at source place initiated migration from western Odisha, the entire family was a migrant unit. Natural calamities forced families to join brick kilns as labourers. At the time of the baseline survey, it was found that youth-led migration was a sizeable proportion of the total migrant numbers. People in the age group of 18-30 constituted a major portion of migrants moving to Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. At the destination, they stay alone or in communities. There they are exploited physically, financially by their employers.

In order to ascertain the exact condition of the migrants at the destination, Debadutta Club conducted a survey and a subsequent report on the same. The variables included in the study were the family status, educational details, marital status, social details, reason for migration, occupation at destination, payment system, age period, duration of migration have been studied in the report.

G.P & village wise Youth Migrant data

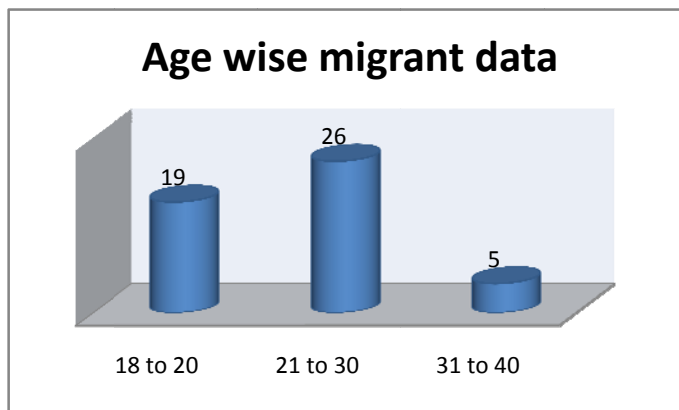
| Name of G.P | No of Village | No of Migrant |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Chantipali G.P | 1 | 1 |
| Chikhili | 2 | 13 |
| Firingimal | 2 | 4 |
| Jamutpali | 1 | 3 |
| Katabahal | 2 | 10 |
| Kathoumal | 1 | 12 |
| Kundakhai | 1 | 1 |
| Jamutbahal | 3 | 6 |
| No. of GP-8 | 13 | 50 |



The survey covered eight of the 19 G.P of Gaisilat Block and which covered 13 villages from 109 villages of Gaisilat block including a sample of youth (in 18 to 40 years of age) comprising 50 persons.

Age wise Youth Migrant Data

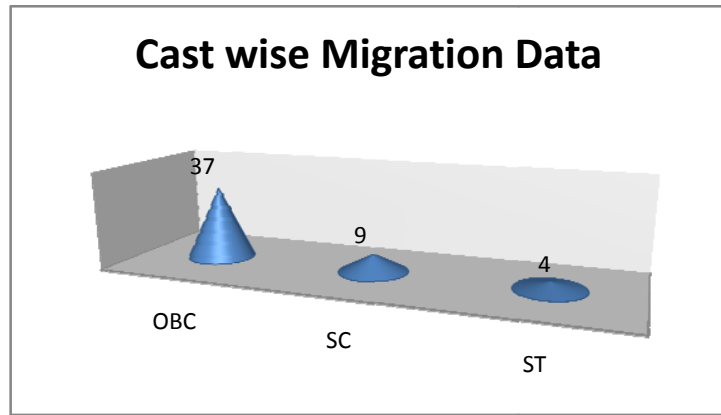
| | |
|----------|----|
| 18 to 20 | 19 |
| 21 to 30 | 26 |
| 31 to 40 | 5 |
| | 50 |



Above data table & diagram shows that at the time of survey, maximum number of migrants are in the age group of 18-30 years (44 or 88 percent) out of the sample size of 50. Since this age group is the most productive and energetic, the probability to migrate is higher in this age group.

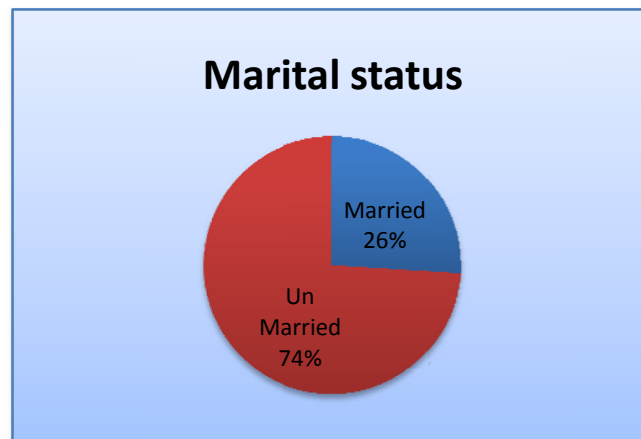
Cast wise Youth migrant data

| | |
|-----|----|
| OBC | 37 |
| SC | 9 |
| ST | 4 |
| | 50 |

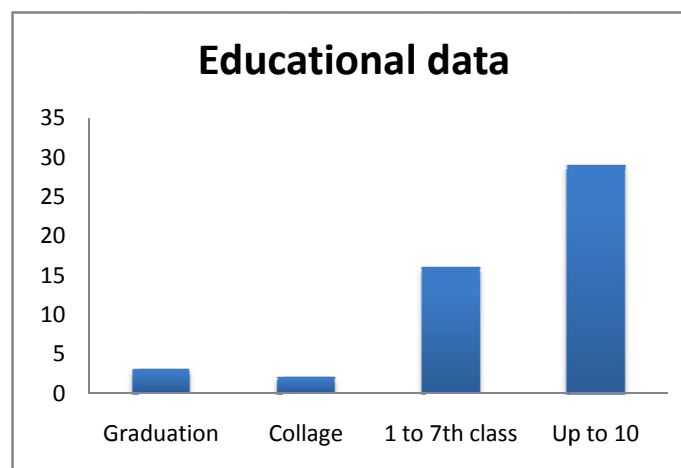


Another interesting facet found from the survey is that majority of the youth belonged to OBC category, followed by SC and ST. The caste affiliation plays a major role in the type of occupation at the destination place.

| | |
|------------|----|
| Married | 13 |
| Un-Married | 37 |



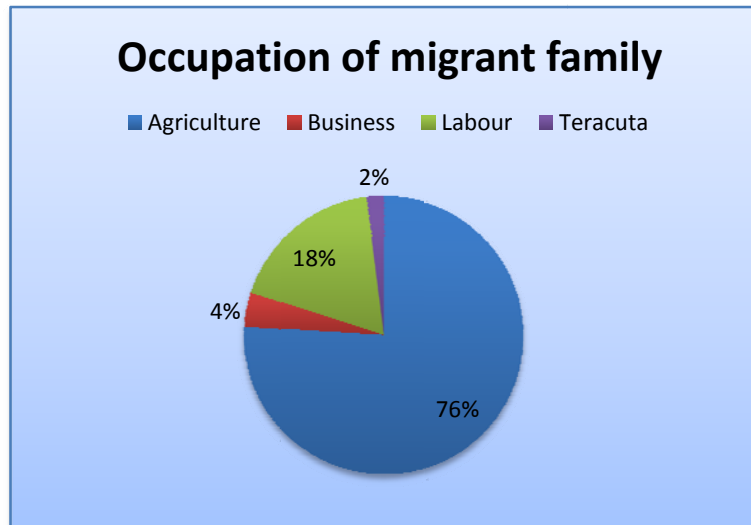
| Education of Youth migrant | Number |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Graduate | 3 |
| Intermediate (10+2) | 2 |
| 1 st -7 th std | 16 |
| Up to 10 th std | 29 |
| | 50 |



Out of the sample, 32 percent only knew to read and write in their mother tongue and had command in spoken or written English and Hindi. Only 6 percent of the sample had cleared graduation. The table has

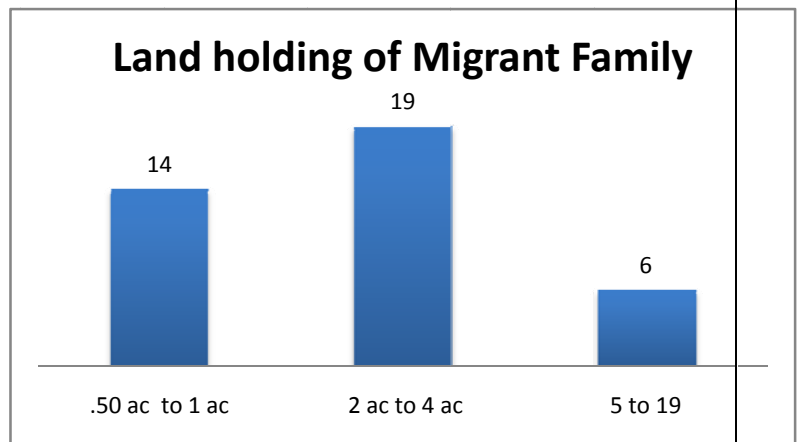
been presented out of 50 youths 16 no of youth were intermediate. It implies that maximum number of migrant labour were under school going children (up to 10th std) and primarily unskilled.

| | |
|-------------|----|
| Agriculture | 38 |
| Business | 2 |
| Labour | 9 |
| Terracotta | 1 |
| | 50 |



Occupation of the family of the young migrant at the source principally depends on agriculture. Most of the respondents were small and middle farmers who depend on rain-fed irrigation and thus when there is drought like situation, the possibility of migration is substantial.

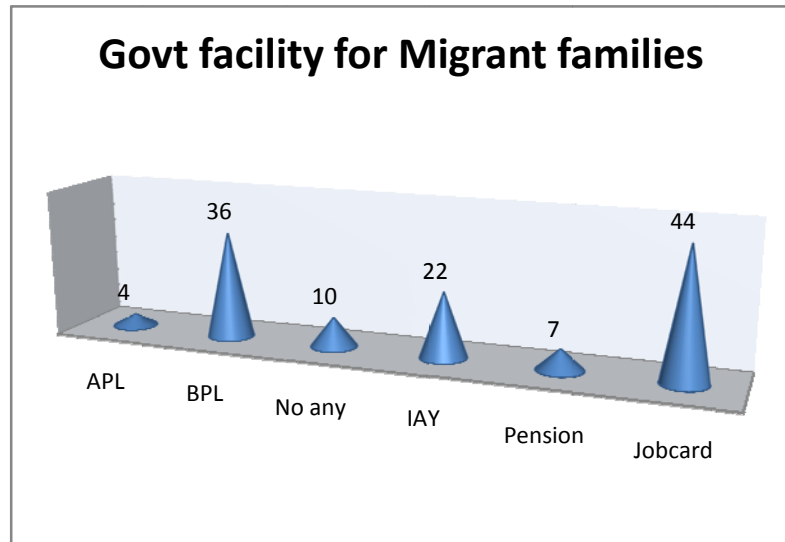
| | |
|-----------|----|
| No land | 11 |
| 0.5-1acre | 14 |
| 2-4 acre | 19 |
| 5-10 acre | 6 |
| | 50 |



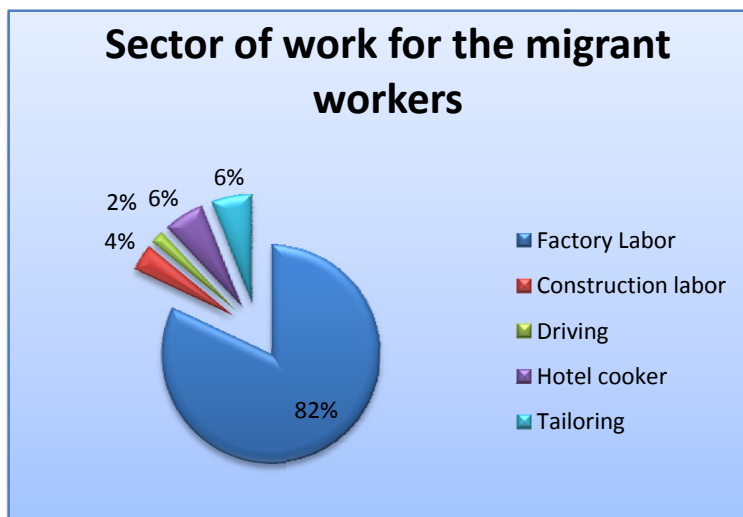
22 percent of the families of the migrants were land-less and 28 percent possessed less than one acre of land. Only 8 percent of the families had more than five acres of land. This also shows the high tendency to migrate to urban centres in search of potentially better livelihood.

At the time of the survey, 72 percent of the families of the migrant workers were BPL families out of which 44 percent was covered under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY). There were ten families which were not covered by any social assistance or scheme of the government.

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Above Poverty Line (APL) | 4 |
| Below Poverty Line (BPL) | 36 |
| Not covered by any scheme | 10 |
| Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) | 22 |
| Pension | 7 |
| Jobcard | 44 |



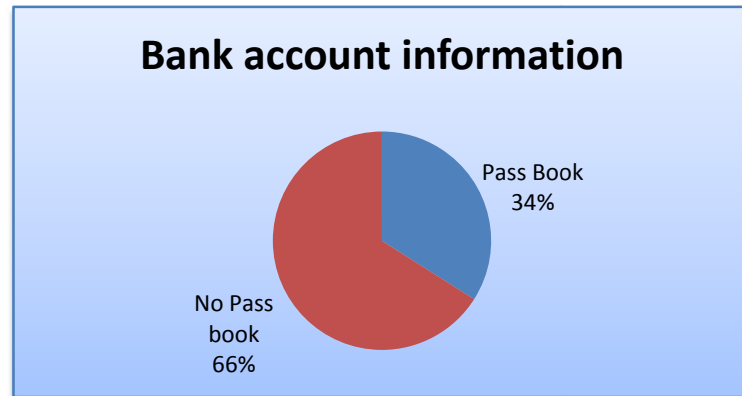
| Work sector | |
|--------------------|----|
| Factory Labor | 41 |
| Construction labor | 2 |
| Driving | 1 |
| Hotel cooker | 3 |
| Tailoring | 3 |
| | 50 |



According to this survey report, migrant youth were working mainly in industrial sector and some others were working in construction, tailoring etc. But when divided according to engagement of work- more than 60 percent of the youth were engaged in textile work in Tamil Nadu. Apart from textile work, glass factory, medicine factory, iron and aluminum work offers employment to youth in industrial sector. Some youth worked in non industrial sector as hotel worker, construction workers, mason and driver at destination. The percentage of non industrial work was not more than 10 percent. It means the out of the migrant youth

population of Gaisilat block more than 90 percent were working in textile and industrial sector in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh, etc.

| | |
|--------------|----|
| Pass Book | 17 |
| No Pass book | 33 |



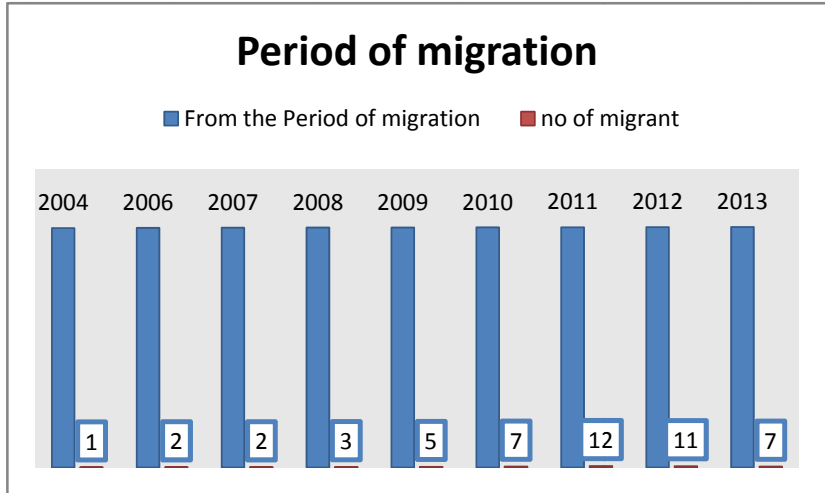
After the financial literacy program conducted by the state government and banks it is noticed that there has been little impetus provided to the migrant families. The survey reveals that only 34 percent of the respondent families possessed bank account.

Work side facility of the Migrant

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| No facility | 5 |
| Accommodation | 12 |
| Monetary bonus amount | 4 |
| Facility of drinking water | 3 |
| Food and other services | 15 |
| Healthcare services | 1 |
| Mess facility | 10 |

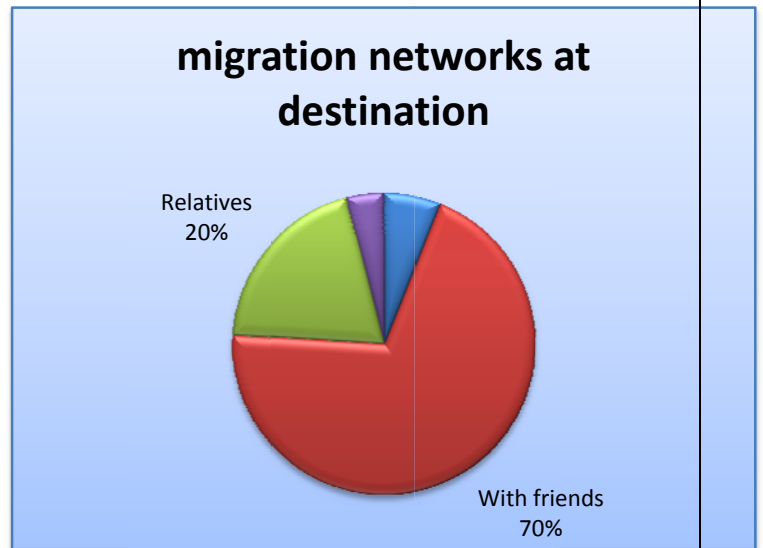
According to our survey, the living condition of the migrant youth is vulnerable with only 30 percent of the sample said to have been receiving food and other required services at the destination. Accommodation is available to only 24 percent of the workers. 20 percent were reported to use the mess facility to cook their meals using their meager income to buy essential food items. Health care services are the worst performer—hardly any migrant receives proper and timely health care at the destination work place from the employer or contractor. They are exposed to multitude of health risks due to long hours of work and in the absence of proper health checkups; their earning capacity is exposed to risk.

| From the Period of migration | no of migrant |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| 2004 | 1 |
| 2006 | 2 |
| 2007 | 2 |
| 2008 | 3 |
| 2009 | 5 |
| 2010 | 7 |
| 2011 | 12 |
| 2012 | 11 |
| 2013 | 7 |
| | 50 |



Lack of employment opportunities for the youth in this block took a major hit in the year 2004, at the time of drought. Agriculture was damaged severely and the young population started migrating to neighbouring states for alternative source of employment. Another cause of largscale migration was droupout from school. The digram show 2004 year was the starting year of youth migration from Gaisilat block. Maximum youth migrated during the period 2011-2012..

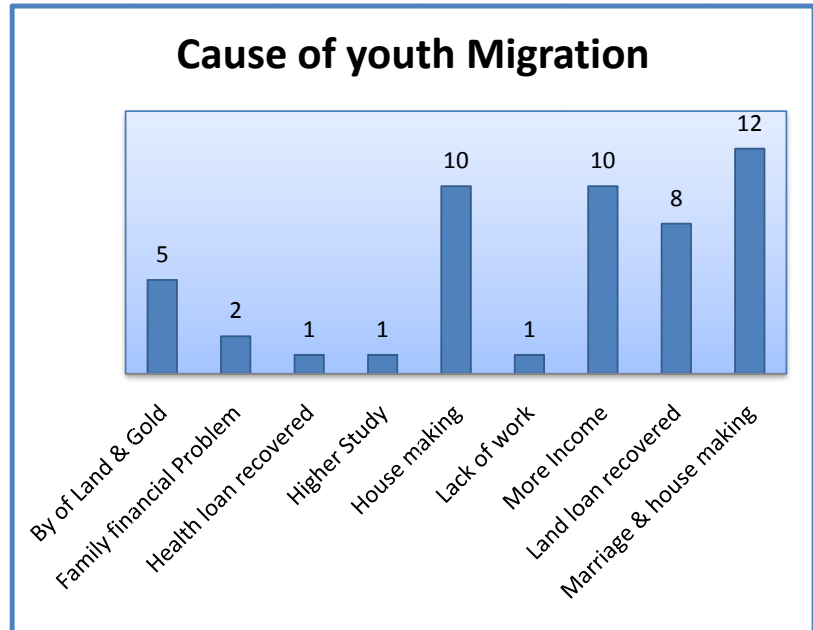
| | |
|--------------|----|
| With Brother | 3 |
| With friends | 35 |
| Relatives | 10 |
| With Uncle | 2 |
| | 50 |



According to survey report, the youth primarily depend on their friends at the destination place as informal networks to access information on employment and for the process of migration

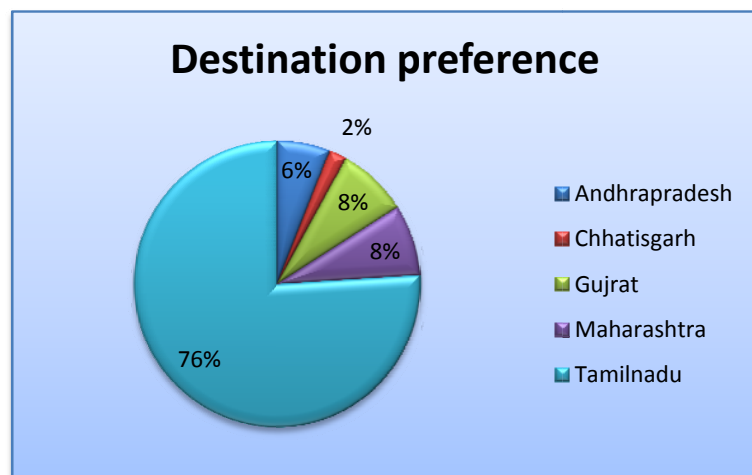
Cause of Migration

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| For purchase of land and/or gold | 5 |
| Financial Problem | 2 |
| Health loan repayment | 1 |
| Higher Studies | 1 |
| House constuction | 10 |
| Lack of work at source | 1 |
| More earning opportunity | 10 |
| Land loan repayment | 8 |
| Marriage | 12 |



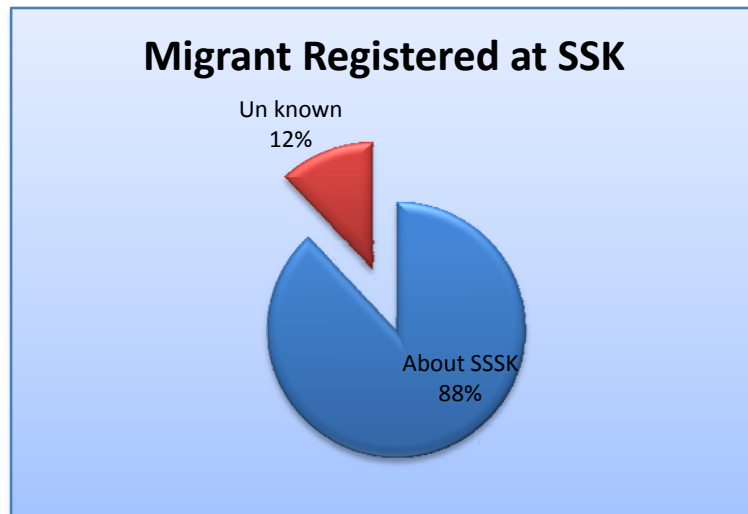
The main cause of youth migration is poverty & unemployment. Besides these, some migrant relocated for marriage & house making, loan recovery, purchasing of land & gold, higher study etc.

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Andhra Pradesh | 3 |
| Chhattisgarh | 1 |
| Gujarat | 4 |
| Maharashtra | 4 |
| Tamil Nadu | 38 |
| | 50 |



The youth migrant ,mainly moved to Tamil Nadu to work in textile units, followed distantly by Gujarat and Maharashtra to work as industrial labourers although the preference for industrial work is far less.

| | |
|---------------|----|
| About SSK | 44 |
| Un known | 6 |
| Un registered | 29 |
| Registered | 21 |



At the time of our survey it was found that after the efforts taken by Shramik Sahayta Kendra (SSK) during the previous year, nearly 88 percent of the youth from the project area were informed of it. However, only 42 percent of those had registered with SSK for their Identity documents. This shows the gap still remains when it is viewed in terms of community level action undertaken for migrant safety and security.

The above tables, diagrams, survey discussion suggests that migration is the only option for the poor farmer, and labourer youth. The non availability of employment, wants of higher wages, low literate youth move out of their natal places to seek work at distance places, especially to other states and mainly directed towards large cities. Upon arrival in the cities the youth are able to find work but have to go through several discomforts like poor working & living conditions. At destination area the youth are totally engaged in secondary & tertiary sector activities. They are employed as industrial labor, construction labor, drivers, and hotel worker. However it must be borne in mind that the most of the youth have learned the skill on job. Although the youth migrants face much hardship in the destination, the money earned means a lot to them. Now they are able to save & remit money which is use for various purposes like marriage, construction of house, purchase of gold and land, etc. Sometimes the remitted money is used to tide over emergency & also is expended on ceremonial occasions. Amidst such conditions the task is cut out for SSK-make sure the awareness results in action wherein the migrant labourers get themselves registered and have possession of identity documents to ensure a safe and secure migration process.