2017

Trends and magnitude of Migration in Khairput Block of Malkangiri District of Odisha State in India

A REPORT
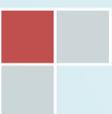
Content

Chapter 1: Background Information

Migration scenario in India

There are different explanations for the motivation that compels people to migrate. At one extreme, there is involuntary migration which denotes extreme economic and often social hardships and is undertaken mostly by landless, unskilled and illiterate poor labourers. Here people do not have any choice of the place or type of work that they undertake. Number of studies(Raman Murthy,1991, Reddy,1990 and Rao,1994) have identified the main drivers of migration as the worsening situation of dry land agriculture, created by drought, crop failure and poor terms of trade. More recently, the idea of migration as a coping strategy(Davies,1996) is gaining acceptance. This is migration, that is integral to peoples' coping, survival and livelihood strategy and not just response to emergencies.

Migration in India is not new and historical accounts show that people have moved in search of work, in responses to environmental shocks, to escape religious persecution and political conflict. Eroding natural resource base, unproductive agriculture, recurring droughts, inadequate employment opportunities in the non-farm sector and overall socio-economic backwardness have led to distress migration of resource poor & disadvantaged households to developed pockets in their respective states and other states of the entry. However, improved communications, transport networks, conflicts over natural resources and new economic opportunities have created unprecedented levels of mobility.

The ever increasing migration pressure in India is due to surreptious adoption of an export growth model. (Phansalkar, 2012). The export growth model of development focuses on keeping farm income low, food prices high & depressing industrial wage to compete globally. Economic decentralization in India has been characterized by contract culture, outsourcing, mushrooming of informal, highly decentralized enterprises, cascading of vendors feeding into higher level, improved connectivity & transportation, burgeoning of service sector etc. Inevitability of such a growth model has been the circular cum seasonal migration. As cheap labour has become a necessary externality for growth, hardship for migrants is an inevitable consequence.

Magnitude of Migration

Thus, seasonal migration has become an important livelihood strategy for millions of Indians. The National commission of Rural labour did the first estimation of such migrants in India in 1991. It estimated the total seasonal migrants to the tune of 10.5 million out of which the estimated inter-state migrants were 4.5 million and intra-state 6 million. Since then, the number of seasonal migrants is increasing very rapidly. The latest estimate by the National commission for Enterprise in the unorganized sector have projected the number of seasonal migrants in India as 30 million, around half of which are inter-state migrants. As per Deshingkar and Akhtar (2009), more than 100 million workers in India migrate seasonally in search of livelihood. A recent UNESCO report puts the number of internal migrants at 309 million, a staggering 30% of the total population in India.

In spite of contributing massively to the economic and commercial foundation of the much celebrated material growth in India, millions of migrants remain out of bounds of any form of governance. Migrants lose access to their basic entitlements as they change their place of residence. They are left out of census, NSS and Below Poverty Line (BPL) surveys, are unable to vote during election and can not access basic public services such as ration, subsidized health and education for lack of a portable identity. In reality, migrants are poorly endowed with physical, financial, social, human and political resources.

Occupational pattern of Migrants & their destinations

Migrants make enormous contribution to the national economy through major sectors. According to NCRC, majority of seasonal migrants work on cultivation, plantation, brick kilns, quarries, construction sites, fish processing, urban informal manufacturing, services, transport sector, head loaders & hawkers. The major destinations for inter-state migrants are Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra, Gujarat and all the four southern states (Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka & Kerala). The major migrant-sending states are Bihar, UP, Jharkhand, Chhatisgarh, Rajasthan and Odisha.

Migration in Odisha

Migration of underprivileged populace especially the scheduled castes, has been ongoing all through the British rule when people had moved out to Assam to work in tea gardens of British employers in India during late 19th and first half of 20th century. Though it was one form of forced migration made by the British rulers and a majority of those migrants did not go again to their native homes. During the early independence years, Odisha had observed some sporadic and casual migration. However, migration from Odisha started increasing during early 1980s.

In Odisha, Poverty and migration have always been interconnected. Seasonal migration has become an important livelihood strategy for many localites. A lot of people migrate to other states to work as wage labourers on a daily basis. A clear trend could be seen in migration from southern, western and coastal Odisha. In case of western Odisha, migrants are mostly unskilled labour who are forced to migrate due to food insecurity, poverty & economic coercion. But migrants from southern Odisha & coastal Odisha are often skilled or semi-skilled people who are somewhat drawn by the pull factors of migration in search of extra money for investment purposes back home and a better quality of life.

Profile of Malkangiri

Malkangiri district is located in the southern corner of the state which is sharing its border with Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. The whole district is surrounded with the hills and mountains. On the western front of the district, flows the river Sabari while, in the east flows Sileru river.

Malkangiri has a total geographical area of 6115.3 sq.kms out of which, 1552.51 sq.kms of area is under forest cover. According to the 2011 census Malkangiri district has a population of 6,13,192 having a population density of 106 inhabitants per square km Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 21.53%. Malkangiri has a sex ratio of 1016 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 36.87%

The primary economy of the district is agriculture followed by forest produce. Malkangiri is one of the remote and tribal dominated districts of Odisha and is known to

have the habitation of more than twelve tribal communities including two primitive tribes namely Bonda and Didayi. Koya tribes are majority in the district spreading across 5 blocks. About 60 percent of the total population of the district is tribal who have been losing their livelihood pattern i.e. rain-fed agriculture, NTFP and daily wage laborer. The agricultural activities are fast decreasing due to low productivity. On the other hand, degradation of the forest is resulting in enormous decrease in the forest produce which is also forcing the people to shift to other occupations.

Malkangiri is considered as the most backward district in the state of Odisha.Many parts of the district are affected by violence induced by Naxalites. The Human Development Index score of the district is 0.370, the lowest among all districts of the state. Media has always reported about the exploitative money lending practice which is operating in the tribal region. Once the local population has mortgaged their land and other valuables the only way to get it back, is to opt for migration to earn money and pay off the debt to release the mortgaged assets from the money lender. The existing debt induced marginalisation of the people is also one of the main reasons for the people of the district to migrate from their home town in search of better income generating opportunities.

Profile of Khairput Block

The Khairput block has 130 villages spread across 9 gram panchayats. No of total households is 10,097. The total population of the block is given below:

Total Population			SC Population		ST Population	
Male	Female	Total	Total	Percentage	Total	Percentage
20,754	22,195	42,949	3124	0.72%	31379	73.06%

Source: Census of India 2011

Given below are some details of the block where the survey was conducted:

The people of this block mainly depend on agriculture as the primary source of income .Paddy cultivation is the dominant agricultural activity. The productivity from agriculture is very meager because of small landholding, lack of irrigation and other supply chain problems like lack of farm mechanization, insufficient use of fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides, storage and marketing problems and poor rural

infrastructure. Next to agriculture is the livestock rearing, which is also a significant occupation for the people, but the returns from this sector are also very discouraging. Besides these the other sectors in occupation classification are not that much remunerative to provide a decent income for the households of the block.

Madhyam Foundation's interventions in Khairput Block:

Madhyam Foundation ,supported by Government of India and Tata Trusts, initiated its direct intervention   by launching Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana(Empowerment of Women Farmers) among 2200 women farmers of Khairput and Mathili blocks of Malkangiri district during June,2013.The major focus of the project were promotion of paddy cultivation by using SRI method ,cultivation of pulses, millets, vegetable, tuber crops through adoption of sustainable agricultural practices. Promotion of Producer groups and Producer Co-operatives and building a cadre of local Community Based Resource Persons were some other focused areas of intervention.

In January,2017, Madhyam Foundation started a new project covering 48 villages across 5 gram panchayats of Khairput block supported by AWO International of Germany. The new project aims to reach out to 3,000 households out of which 1600 households were already reached in Khairput block   by the earlier project. Apart from consolidating the interventions among 1600 households, the AWO-supported project plans to reach out to another 1400 households with additional focus on minimizing adverse impact of distress migration, reducing gender discrimination and encouraging women farmers to actively participate in local decision making processes.

As migration was a new area of intervention , Madhyam Foundation decided to create a data base of migrants in its operational area through survey of 3,000 households across 48 villages of the Block. The survey was undertaken through a structured questionnaire in a span of two months. The main objective of the survey was to know the trends and magnitude of migration in the block to enable Madhyam Foundation to devise appropriate interventions for minimizing adverse impact of distress migration.

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Chapter 2: Findings of the Survey

Findings of the survey revealed a very high percentage(47%) of migration from the block. The village wise/Panchayat wise migration details are given below-

Magnitude of Migration

GP Name	Village Name	Total Households	No. of Migrants	Percentage	GP wise percentage
Rasabeda	Oringi	109	40	37%	55%
	Muduliguda	133	105	79%	
	Ramchandrapur	24	20	83%	
	Machhaguda	66	45	68%	
	Nandiniguda	50	25	50%	
	Palkaguda	20	10	50%	
	Katala Guda	50	30	60%	
	Banaguda	50	26	52%	
	Dhangadaguda	30	15	50%	
	Gadiput	75	45	60%	
	Butiguda	75	43	57%	
	Chadheiguda	30	14	47%	
	Challanguda	38	17	45%	
	Kupuliguda	25	20	80%	
	Rasabeda	100	54	54%	
	Mundiguda	149	50	34%	
Podoghata	Gobarkundu	33	13	39%	30%
	Tanginiguda	37	15	41%	
	Podaghata	115	51	44%	
	Baliguda	60	30	50%	
	Pakanmuhan	25	5	20%	
	Kalapalli	145	30	21%	
	Puspally	165	32	19%	
	Sikhapally	95	38	40%	
	Tungabahal	85	22	26%	
	Jamuguda	50	7	14%	
	Amalabhata	59	20	34%	
Khairput	Bayaguda	37	22	59%	56%
	Tankamunda	125	70	56%	
	K.Attalaguda	75	34	45%	
	Dalbhataguda	21	15	71%	
	Khairput	82	59	72%	
	Majhiguda	68	41	60%	
	Jhadiaguda	29	15	52%	
	Upparput	51	22	43%	
	Kumarput	40	22	55%	
	Kadaguda	36	32	89%	
	Kardabadi	22	10	45%	
	Kandhaguda	30	8	27%	
	Lamtaguda	52	24	46%	
Kadamguda	Talagaudaput	50	25	50%	54%
	Rauliguda	50	27	54%	
	Amaliput	49	28	57%	
Govindapally	Gaudaput	50	26	52%	45%
	Khemaguru	49	32	65%	
	Sugriguda	50	22	44%	
	Gojiaguda	50	11	22%	
	Kamalapadara	50	21	42%	
	Total	**2959**	**1388**	**47%**	

Socio-Economic profile of the Migrants:

The above table clearly indicates that , 47% households of Khairput block reports seasonal migration of at least one or more than one member from each household. Out of the total gram panchayats, Khariput GP records the highest 56% of migrant households while Podoghat GP reports the lowest 30% of migrant households.

Figure-1 clearly shows the socio-economic profile of migrants that basically the migrants come from households that belong to the lower strata of the society and are marginalized.
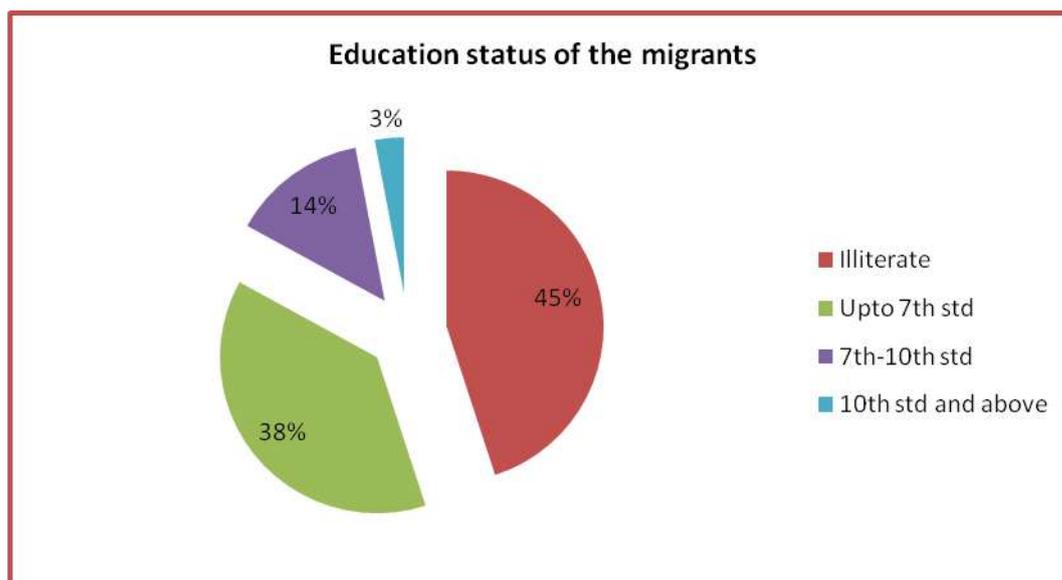
FIGURE 1
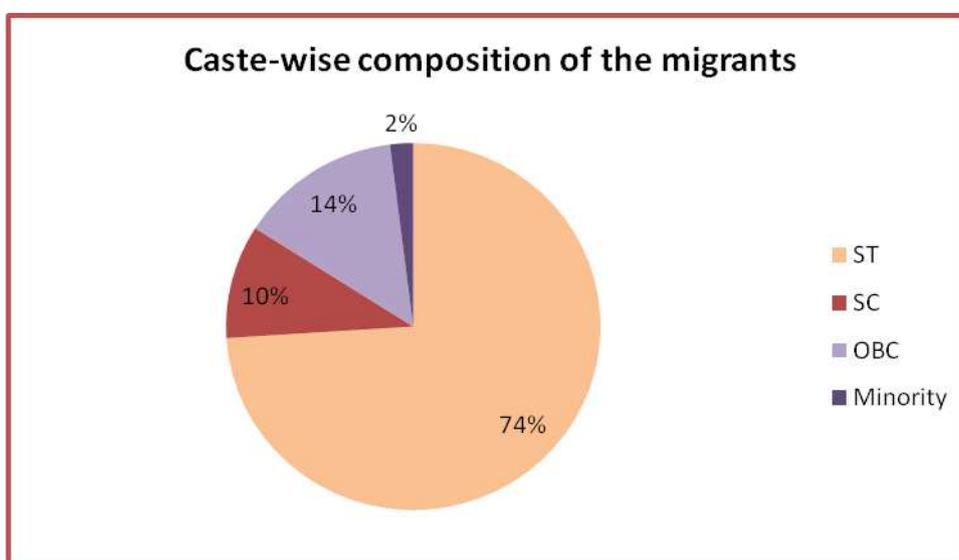
The highest 74% migration is from the scheduled tribe, followed by 14% from other backward caste category. 10% of the migrants belong to the scheduled castes and a minority of 2% from the rest of the castes.

Educational status of the people is very poor and therefore they are unable to get jobs that help them to sustain their family expenditure.
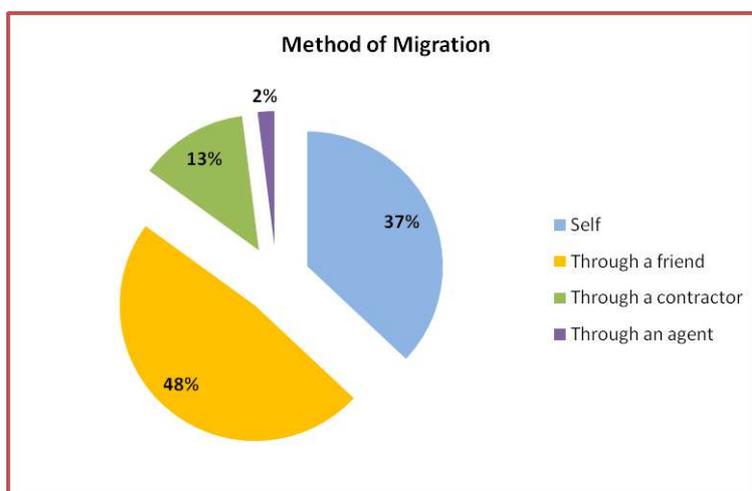
FIGURE 2

Education status of the migrants

Figure-2 clearly describes the poor status of education of the migrants of Khairput block of Malkangiri. It affirms that the biggest chunk of migrants numbering to 45% are illiterate and only 38% are educated up to the 7th std. 14% have completed their std 10 and a meager 3% have actually managed to study after their 10th std. Inadequate education, may it be due to lack of facilities, less infrastructure or even poverty attribute to the miserable condition of education. Almost a major percentage of the migrants are school drop outs.

The migrants follow a certain pattern to migrate. Either they migrate to unknown places in search of work or take help from a friend, a contractor agent. **Figure-3** below gives an exact picture of the existing migration trends. 37% migrate on their own to unknown destinations and find some work , while 48% migrate with the help of friends.13% of the migrants take help of contractors to get sure shot work and 2% approach the agents to get work in distant places.
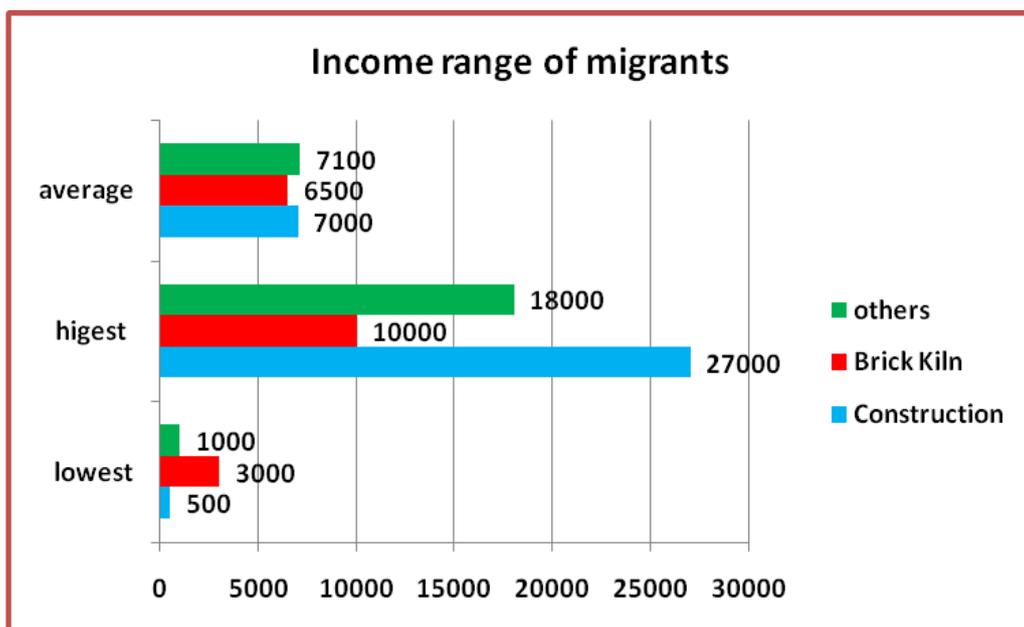
FIGURE 3

Method of Migration

The survey findings also pointed out that most of the time migration arose due to the "Push factor" leading to forced migration. Wide spread unemployment, infertile farming , current low wage structure, lack of adequate income generation opportunity in the non-agro sector, lack of adequate work under MGNREGS and financial insecurity were considered as the main reasons for migration. Majority of migrants are involved in the vicious debt- migration cycle where earning from migration is used to repay debts incurred at home. Sometimes the grounds are merely deliberate in nature for the reason of limited choices available for survival.

The Economy and financial status of the populace of this block of Malkangiri district is not very good and the people normally depend on the daily wages or the limited income that the earning members of the household earn by working for more than eight hours every day.

| Income of migrants	
Monthly average income	6000-8000
Annual average income	22000-25000

The situation in the survey area indicates explicitly that the natives had to move away in search of work as there were very limited options open for them to earn livelihood. **Figure-4** above gives a clear picture of the average and annual income of the migrants during seasonal migration
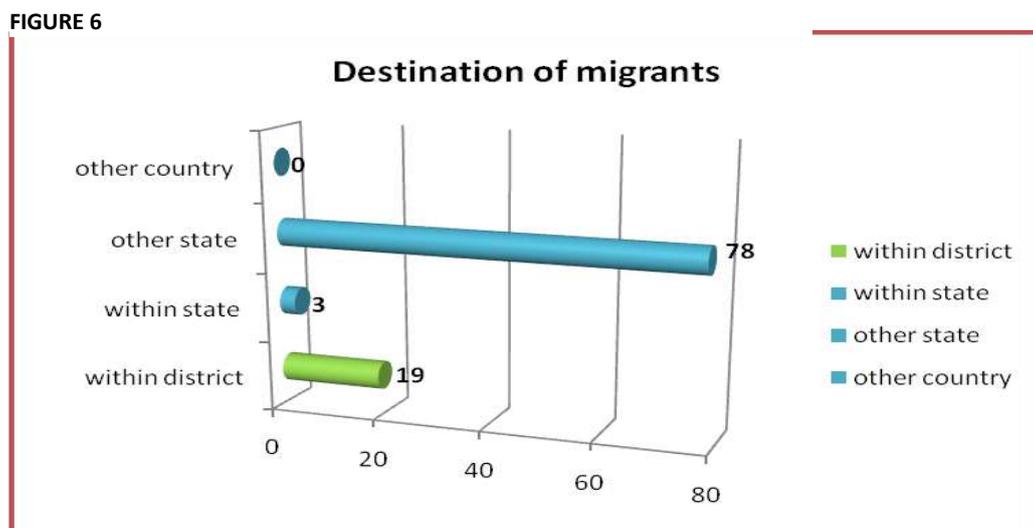
FIGURE 4

Whereas **Figure-5** explains the income pattern of individual migrants at destinations could possibly earn staying in Malkangiri.

The duration of migration in the Block varies between 3 months and 12 months in a year. However it is observed that the highest of 72% people migrate for a period of 3 months in a year followed by 24% of people who migrate for about 3 to 6 months in a year. About 3% people migrate for a period of 6 to 9 months and just about a percent

FIGURE 5

Duration of Migration

More than 1 year	0%
9-12 months	1%
6-9 months	3%
3-6 months	24%
0-3 months	72%

migrate for a period more than 9 months. The data in **Figure-6** indicates the duration of migration.
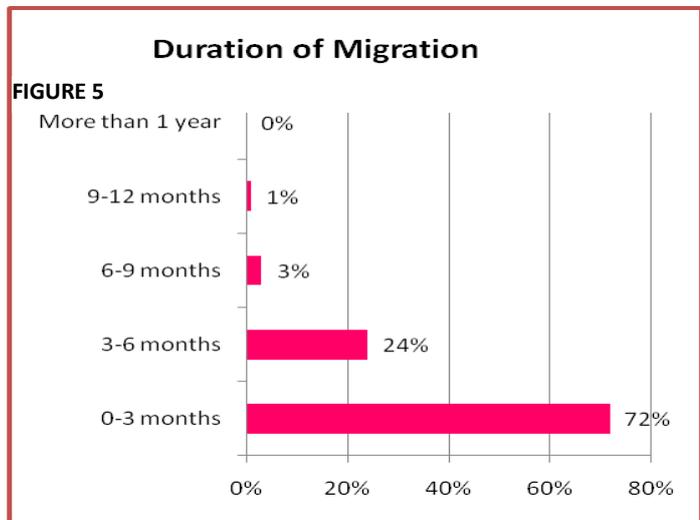
The most common destination for the migrants is the interstate migration to the neighboring states and it's the highest .Mapping of destinations for migrants reveal that they cross district boundaries, state boundaries and sometimes national boundaries which is a rare scenario. The destination data from the block shows that interstate migration to other states is the most preferred form of migration amounting to 78% followed by within the district 19%.

FIGURE 6

Destination of migrants

other country 0
other state 78
within state 3
within district 19

- within district
- within state
- other state
- other country

An

insignificant percentage of migration which is only 3% takes place within the state while there is nil migration to other countries.

The composition of inter-state migration reveals that migrants move to each nook and corner of the country though one can notice a domination of certain destinations and they are the neighbouring states of Odisha. 78% of Intra-state migration indicates that the migrants prefer going to the surrounding states so that they can visit home occasionally during festivals or in an emergency. The most favorite destinations are Bangalore 13%, Hyderabad 10% and Chennai10% with parts of Andhra Pradesh the highest 42%. Sporadic migration is also seen to the states of Telangana, Kerala, Tamilnadu , Karnataka and also 1% to Mumbai.
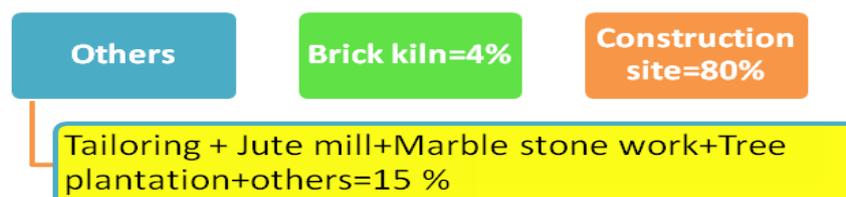
FIGURE 7
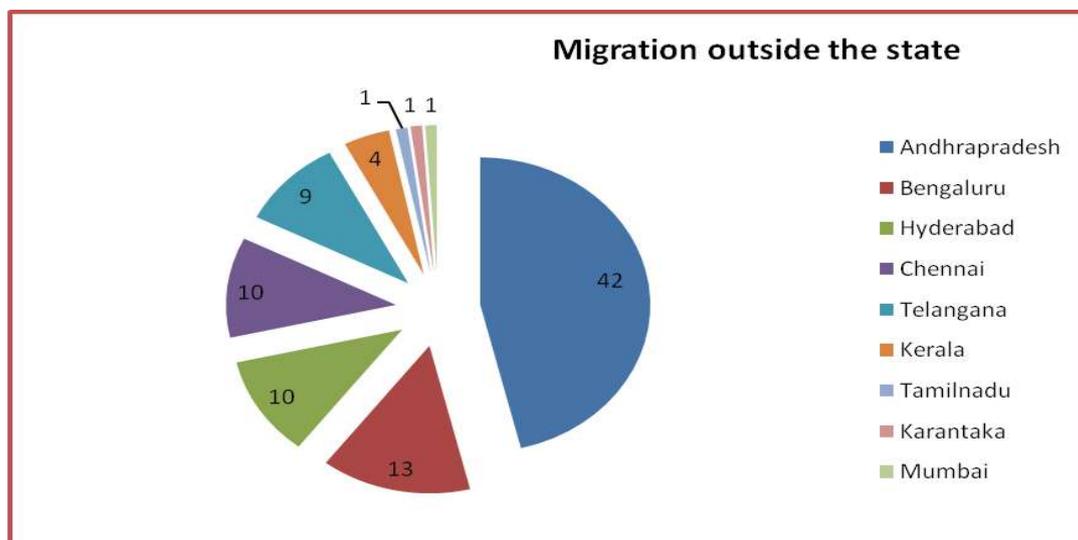
Occupational patterns of Migrants:

 The general occupation pattern of the migrants is given in **Figure-8** below which shows that 80% of the migrants are employed at construction sites and 15% are able to get employment at brick kilns. The remaining 15% work as tailors, in jute mills, marble stone mines and other petty jobs.

FIGURE 8

Remittance by Migrants:

Very few migrants are paid advance amount before they leave for their destination. The details are given below-

Amount received as advance from contractors		
Amount received	156	11%
Amount not received	1232	89%
Average amount from contractor= Rupees 2000 to 4000		

A very low percentage of migrants, 22% send money back home to their families. Transfer of funds by migrants varies between Rs 2500/- and Rs 3,000 per month. But majority of migrants, 78% are unable to do so because of various factors. And usually carry their income with them while visiting their families The details are given in the table below-

| Percentage of migrants sending money home		
Yes	300	22%
No	1088	78%
Average money sent home is rs 2500/- to rs 3000/-		

Staying outside state is expensive and that is one of the causes that the migrants are unable to send a good amount back home. Insufficient wages, expensive standard of living also make it difficult for the migrant to survive in a new area.

Problems faced at destinations:

The migrants and their families face a host of problems at the destinations. Such problems pertain to basic services (Shelter, Sanitation, drinking water, cooking fuel, ration, subsidized health care etc.), security related (threats from local mafias, harassment by police), women's issues (sanitation, bathrooms, protection of personal space), communication issues, economic & political right related issues. Most migrants leave at an early age with poor or no skill sets and enter the market with limited bargaining power. Long working hours, poor working & living conditions, exploitation

or cheating by the labour contractors characterize their existence in the cities. In short, few are able to convert migration into a positive opportunity for themselves and their households, retiring early with no savings and often with diseases / poor health. **Figure-9** shows a clear picture of the problems faced by the migrants at their work destination.
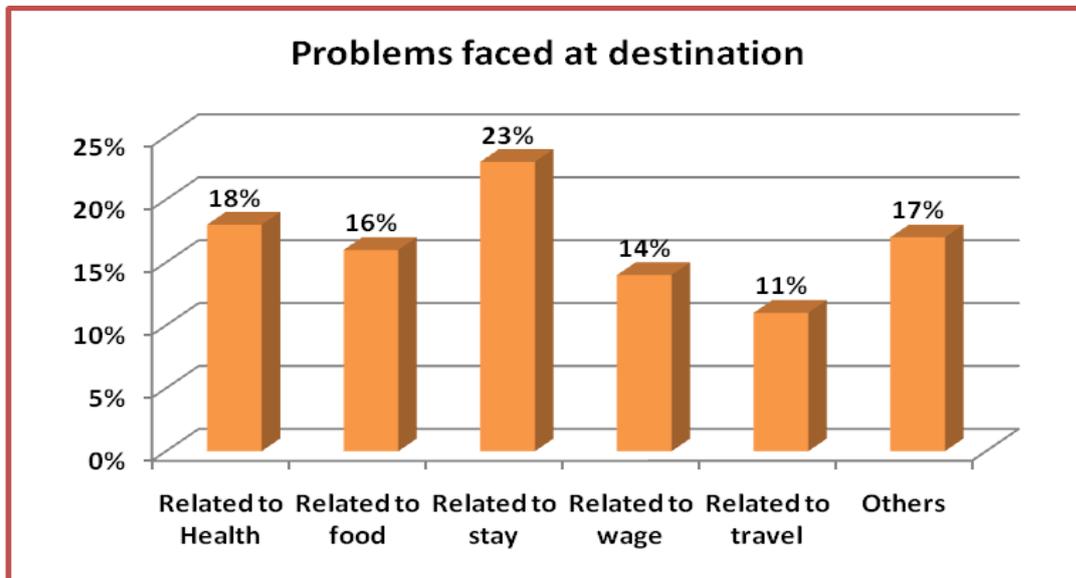
23% migrants face problems related to stay and 18% related to health while 16% related to food. The migrants also face problems due to other factors and mainly suffer from various diseases because of unhygienic surroundings, less food and other diverse conditions.

 Figure-10 clearly explains the details of diseases which create an adverse effect on the health of the migrants-
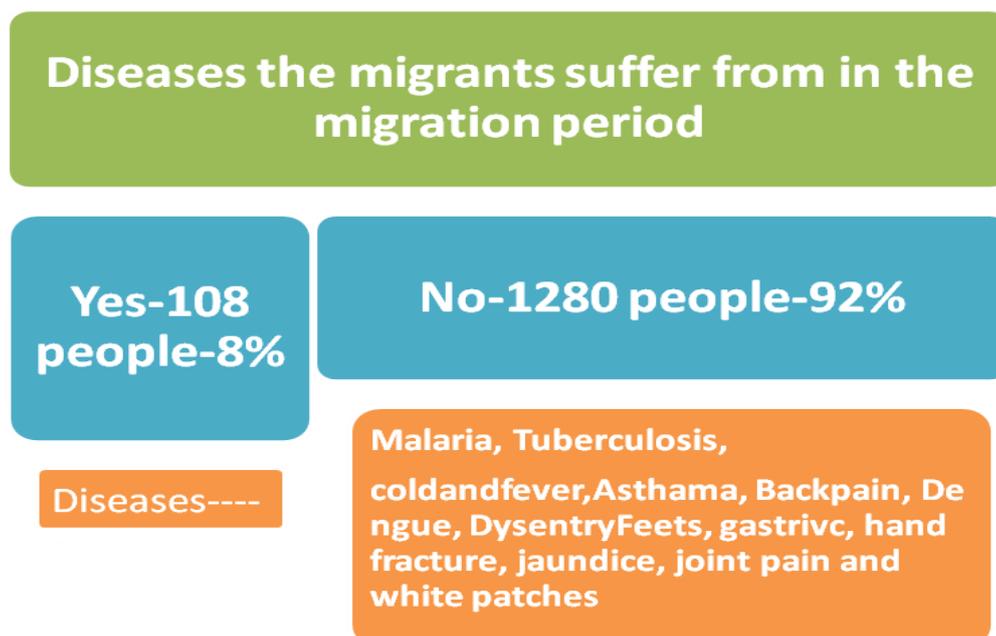
Coverage of Migrants under Social Security Schemes:

Number of migrants having Aadhar card and MGNREGA card are very less . 84% have a bank account and the percentage of migrants that are linked with DLO office or registered with the board of construction workers is nil which is an area of concern.

FIGURE 11

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Chapter 3: Conclusion and Recommendations

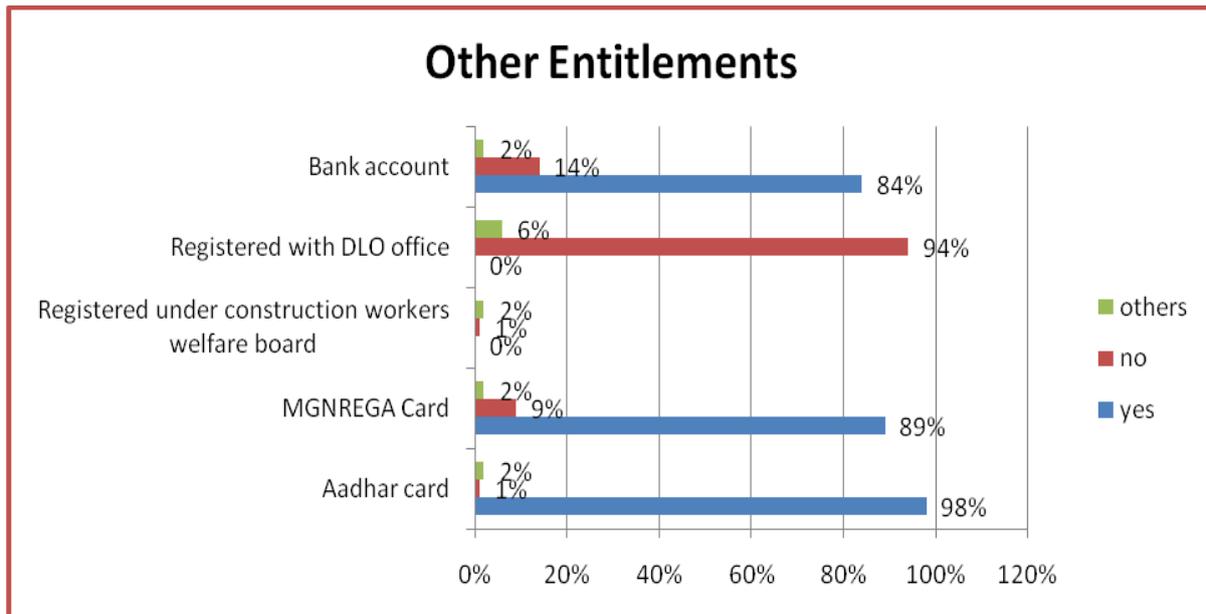## Conclusion

What do Migrants really need?

It is an irony that migrants are hardly treated as a different category of disadvantaged groups, having unique set of special needs. Poornima Dore (2012) has articulated major needs of the migrants as labour market information, identity, access to services, skill building, unity and leadership and family social needs

- **Labour market information**: Recruitment of labour generally occurs through the contractors and middlemen at adverse terms of work & living. A significant proportion of wages earned goes as commission for the contraction. This can vary from 10% to as high as 40% (brick kiln workers from Uttar Pradesh in Gujarat) of wages earned. Recruitment in lieu of the advance can be one cause of bondage in the destination area where the migrant worker is forced to work against her/his will.
- **Identity / Dignity**:
  In the absence of a portable identity, the migrants become vulnerable to harassment and many other problems during their journey and at destination sites
- **Access to services**
  Migrants constitute a floating population and thus lose access to social security benefits linked to residence.
- **Skills:** Migrants often do not have the requisite skill sets and hence remain in lower end jobs are unable to move up the value chain.
- **Unity & leadership:** Being a dispersed group constantly on the move, they do not have the existing social structures which help them in coming together and address issues of common concern.
- **Family social needs:**
  At the source locations, family members undergo a lot of hardship in the absence of male members who migrate. Women and children suffer the most.

Recommendations

- Creating awareness on different facets of migration through wall paintings, leaflets, street theatres, community meetings etc.

- Creating a data base of migrants through household survey & village level survey.

- Establishing support centres at source as well as destination sites.

- Registering the migrants and issuing a photo identity card,

- Providing skill building training to migrants to enhance their employability.

- Organizing awareness camps on occupation related diseases and HIV AIDs and health check-up camps.

- Facilitating exposure visits of migrants to labour markets and organizing placement camps for them.

- Organizing monthly legal clinics and providing legal support through lawyers, wherever required.

- Setting up of migration committees at village level and identifying & training a cadre of Shramik Mitras (Friends of migrants) at village level for providing need-based support to migrants.

- Mapping of occupational streams, linkages with social security schemes, and networking with organizations working at destinations.

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Situational analysis of Migration in Khairput block of Malkangiri district of Odisha: A Survey

Undertaken by:
Madhyam Foundation

Supported by:
AWO International, Germany

Date:

Village name: **Panchayat name:**

Village code: **Panchayat code:**

House code:

1. Family details

a. Name of the head of the family   :

b. Category   : (ST, SC, OBC, General, Minority)

   Total family members   :

   Male >14 years of age   :
   Female>14   years of age   :

c. Is any of your family member a migrant? **:** (Yes, No)
   If yes, give detail information of them.

Sl No:	Name	Age	Educational qualification	Marital status	
1				Married	Unmarried
2				Married	Unmarried
3				Married	Unmarried

2. Detail information of migrant labourers.

a. Duration of Migration

   I) 0 – 3 months   II) 3 – 6 months   III) 6 – 9 months   IV) 9 – 12 months   V) More than a year

b. (I) How do they migrate?

Self	Through Friend	Through Contractor	Through Agent

   (II) Are the contractors/Agents   (i) From district [   ]   (ii) From other district [   ]   (iii) From other State [   ]

c. Where do they migrate?

   (I)   Inside the district
   (II) Inside the state(Please specify district/ Town)
   (III) Other state (Please specify)
   (IV) Foreign Country (Please specify)

d. What work do they undertake at destination?
Please specify the work
(I)   Brick kiln
(II) Construction sites
(III) Others (Please specify)

e. Do they get advance from the contractor?

if yes, how much (In rupees………………………………..)

f. How much money a migrant labourer earn during the migration period?

Monthly | _____ | Yearly | _____ |

g. Does the migrant send money to his home?

| Yes | No |

If yes, then how much ?

Monthly	Yearly

h. What type of difficulties a migrant labourer face during his stay at destination?

1. Health related (Please specify) :

2. Food related (Please specify) :

3. Stay related (Please specify) :

4. Wage related (Please specify) :

5. Travel related (Please specify) :

i. Does the migrant labourer get affected by any disease?

| Yes | No |

If yes, please specify the disease Name:

3.   Other Details of Migrant:

(a) Does the migrant has Aadhar card?   Yes…………………   No……………

(b) Is the migrant a Job card holder under MGNREGAS?   Yes…………………   No…………….

(c) Is the migrant registered under Odisha Construction Worker Welfare Board?   Yes…………………   No…………….

(d) Is the migrant registered with District Labour Office ?   Yes…………………   No……………

(e) Does the migrant has a bank account?   Yes……………….   No…………..

Information given by   **Information collected by**

Name: **Name:**

Signature: **Signature:**