
Migration In Bongomunda Block Of Bolangir (Odisha),India Some Myths, Facts & Figures

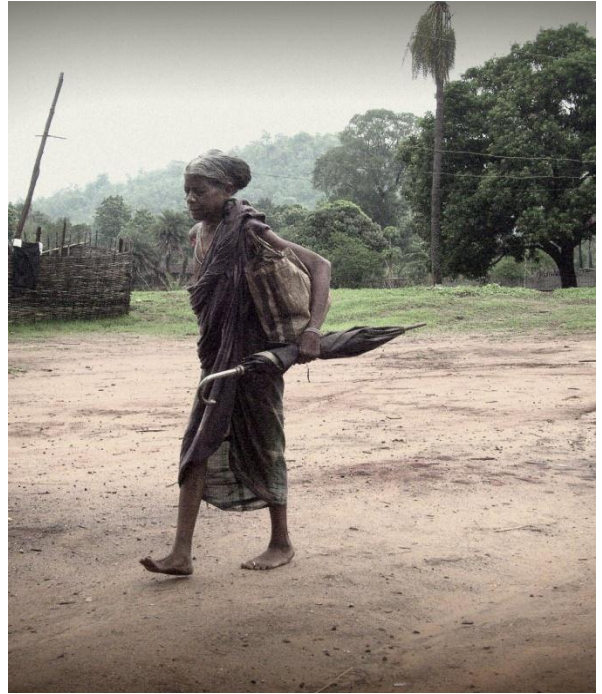
Documentation Of Best Practices
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A Survey Report By AJSA Bolangir



The Hidden Fact Behind Migration-

“On average, nearly 400,000 people migrate annually from the Koraput-Bolangir-Kalahandi (KBK) region. Just before Nuakhai, a huge festival in the region, contractors from the southern states camp here, give advances to labourers and take them away. Reports from the field suggest that the migration economy of western Orissa is around Rs 80 crore. People in Balangir district, mostly belonging to the landless category and the small and marginal families, have adopted the option of migrating out as a coping up mechanism to the high degree of food insecurity owing to lack of employment, bad show in agriculture due to continuous droughts, uneven land distribution, loss of forest so on and so forth. This form of migration is therefore mostly due to distressed condition in the villages. The form of migration takes place in a well established system of middlemen (called Thikadars or Jamdar's) who take advantage of the distress condition of the poor dalit and tribal people in the district and give them some advance money to the tune of 15-25 thousand rupees to work for about seven months in the brick kilns in



other states. This advance money comes as a big allurement and also relief to the helpless families who tacitly agree to a semi-bondage condition under their employers. The people go there as brick makers, brick carriers and so on. The brick maker constitutes most part of labour in a brick kiln. The unit of labour as brick maker constitute generally two adult members and a child. Therefore the incidence of child labours in a brick kiln is by sheer design not by default. Both the adult and child labourers have to work about 14-16 hours in a day under very harsh conditions. They are provided with a small weekly allowance of 250-300 rupees which cover their food, clothe and health needs. The rice they eat are basically the chicken fodder. long hours of work, non availability of people medical attention, people and children often fall to various types of diseases. Although many migrants live away from their homes for months, sometimes years (very few with their families), they are not provided a pucca house to live in or basic facilities. They live in Surat's slums, without clean water, sanitation or electricity. And because they do not know the language, their children cannot go to school and are forced to work. More often than not the poor labourers are treated inhumanly and are harassed to any extent beyond imagination, which include both mental and physical torture. Toward the end of the season (season is from September/October to May/June in Hyderabad, Mumbai, Delhi and from December/January to June/July in Chandigarh and Chennai), if the labourers could not complete the task they are not allowed to go back home and are kept under forced captivity in the brick kilns under the vigilance of the hired goons.

The unspoken misery of the people is witnessed by AJSA in many extent in every season forcing AJSA, and to intervene to rescue them, with the help of District administration from the captivity of the brick owners. This year 22 labourers rescued from Titlagarh and Kantabaji of sindhekela panchayat.

The Effect of MGNREGA In Bongomunda Block

In Alunda, Gandharla, Jamkhunta, Chandotara, Dedgaon GP's, now there is new perspective in the quality of lives of hundreds of families, due to the continuous inputs and interventions of AJSA, Lokadrusti Khariar and under the guidance WONC khariar (Western Odisha NREGA Consortium), MGNREGA has brought some relief to a miniscule numbers of families. For example, in jhinkipada village in Bongomunda block of Bolangir district, about 25 habitually migrant families stayed back as they availed work under the scheme.

Now many families are have stopped to migrate,after getting the job and work in their own village.Similarly more than 300 such families opted out to stay back in village and work under MGNREGA in Badbanki village under Turekala block. Several children who used to migrate with their parents and lose their education also stayed back and continued their study in their respective villages. Some people have also made capital investment from income generated MGNREGA to make capital investment. For example, Narayan Majhi in Barkani village who has completed 100 days of work under MGNREGA in 2010-11 financial year, has got about 15,000 rupees and purchased gold for his daughter's marriage and got bullocks for his agriculture. Similarly,Kanti bhoi has able to full fill his family's need,after he got a farm pond under MGNREGA. About 17 families in the Barkani village have completed 100 days of work quota. It has helped reducing migration in this Panchayat. But these are very rare instances.

The efforts now is to strenthen the institution framework at the habitation level so as to fortify the panchayat ensuring effective governance at panchayat and village level for effective and efficient implimentation of MGNREGA work.Around **14,000** registered NREGS workers were organized into around **57** groups at village level,11 group's at GP level,1 Block level federation's in operational area's respectively which acted as platforms for collective action. To Cater to the need of the job seekers, "Azad Shramik Mahasangh(AZM)"(Block level Federation) further integrated with the 11 Groups of GP Level. and they developed their strategy according to the Guidelines of MGNREGA, For proper implementation for proper advocacy and Lobby in every level. At the block level, members of JSC's organised a rally to demand work, and proper payment of wages, in Bongomunda Block.The leadership was provided by the federation 'Azad Shramik Mahasangh'. Subsequently, the access to basic entitlements of NREGA has improved a lot, in comparisson to other villages due to proper advocacy and Lobby by the JSC's in all levels's.The Ornganisation also has plans to devlope a pool of resource persons(Federation) in District and state level for effective implimentaion Of MGNREGA.

Time is ripe for the state and district administration to put all their efforts to make MGNREGA a success for reducing distressed migration and prevent people from facing all out harassment in other states.



Works Covered BY JSC's

SL NO	Works covered Through JSC'S	Before Intervention	After Intervention	Total No. of Male Job Card Holders'	Total No Of Female Job Card Holders	BUDGET (INR)
1	MGNREGA Check Dam	0	04	82	115	41,000,00
2	Road Work	08	10	150	220	30,00,000
3	Tank Renovation	05	15	285	416	75,00,000
4	New WHS's(Water Harvesting Structures)	0	05	210	275	50,00,000
5	Farm Pond	12	22	86	124	11,00,000

SL. No	Achievement's(Till March 2012)	Before Initiation Of Project	After Initiation Of the Project
1	Total no. Of Job card holders	4554	6642
2	Total No. Of Job Card Issued	6354	6642
3	Total A/C opened For Job card holders in bank	2169	4491
4	Total A/C opened for Job card holders in post office	0	959
5	Total Migration Household Covered	1367	2054
6	Total Migration Population Covered	2776	3075
7	Total job demanded through JSC's	800	1980

Programme Highlight's And Key Achievement's

- Baeline survey and MLP's were conducted in **33** operational villages.
- Total Household Covered-**6469**
- Total population was covered under project-**27103**
- Across 41 villages in Bolangir, MGNREGA laborers demanded jobs, and received job demand slips with the advocacy of AJSA
- **33** Village Level, **18** GP Level, 07 Block level meetings were organized. Where **1854** participants have participated. **07** Block level interface meeting and **05** Trainings were also arranged through AZM.
- A JOB SEEKER Fedration (**Azad Shramik Mahasangh(AZM)**) has formed For the job seekers, for proper lobby and advocacy for GP, Block and District Level.
- During the year, **60** capacity-building training programs were arranged for village communities, run either by project staff or by external resource specialists. These covered topics such as leadership, NREGS, Micro level planning, Panchayati Raj and gender issues.
- In our operational area's, every villager is now having their own job card and **100** Days work, Migration ratio has minimized to **30%** ,because job opportunities are created at village level.
- This Year 22 labors and their families were rescued from Titlagarh, Kantabanji Railway station.
- **6** GP Level Awareness camps were orgnised In Dengaon, Gandhrla, Chandotara GP, where 208 persons participated including 150 Male and 58 Female Participants.
- Field bundling and plantations and compost pits are done 12 villages through the contineous efforts of Azad Shramik Mahasangh (AZM).
- For proper awareness and for Program visibility Wall writing, Street plays, leaflet distribution and rally's were done in **33** Villages.

The Case Of Rathi Bhoi

The village Batharla is situated in 20 kilometers away from Bongomunda block of Bolangir district. Most of the people are basically farmer. With the Scarcity Of Potable water as well as water for agriculture is the major issue of this area. The people of Batharla Were facing many hurdles in their day to day life. Rathi Bhoi is an marginal farmer in Batharla. Whose land was barren and served for no purpose and considered as waste lands. He has 4 children's who are studying. As he was the sole breadwinner in his family it was with great difficulty that he was able to sustain his family.



He works as a daily wage laborer on other peoples land and elsewhere in his village. Rathi bhoi did not mind the kind of work that he was doing as that point of time it was important for his to earn enough so that he could feed his family members on same occasion his wife also accompany him for in order to enough for the family. Thus life was a desperate struggle for Rathi. He has regularly attended grama sabha meeting, and through such meeting he got himself and his wife enrolled in the scheme, and after two years a farm pond was constructed on his own land. And he along with his wife and 15 other worked on that. The equal and sufficient waged have brought a ray of hope in his live. Their homestead land was lying fallow when the project team motivated him to undertake homestead farming. After he prepared the land and fenced the area, he planted papaya and ground peanut with support and guidance from the project. He was supplied with adequate fertilizers and pesticides. The papaya plants started fruiting and he was able to supplement her household food basket as well as have marketable surplus to add to the household income. This year he has earned 45000 Rupees as profit. Now he started growing vegetables like tomato, onion, lady finger, culliflower in his own land, to increase financial capacity and to full fill the basic needs of the family.

NEED FOR INTERVENTION

- As we have seen in last few years, many job card holders are getting benefited from schemes like Farm pond, Land lebling, compost pits etc. So it would be better if we will focus on these kind of acativities, it can affect the Migration ratio directly.
- It can be batter, to sensitize the communities on issues like Migration and its Demerits.
- Increased proactive involvement of the migrant community in education governance.
- It should be better if we will go for alternate livelihood options under MGNREGA, migration ratio will be minimized, when people will get work and when job opportunities will created in village level

Migration Data Of 5 G.P's Of Bongomunda Block, Dist-Bolangir

Sl no	Name of the GP	Name of the village	Total house hold in the village	Total job card holder	Total house hold migrated in 2009	Total house hold migration in 2012	Total house hold stop migration till date
1	Dedgaon	1-Bagbahal	111	76	52	35	15
		2-Dedgoan	404	219	162	117	34
		3-Pudapali	173	86	84	82	22
		4-Purniapali	103	65	32	57	14
2	Alanda	5-Alanda	277	145	175	103	20
		6-Bagartipada	67	34	47	38	10
		7-Banjupadar	97	43	62	48	16
		8-Bakaguda	153	76	30	64	22
		9-Pandripani	166	120	120	83	17
		10-Pitamahul	197	112	48	63	21
		11-Putulatalai	230	123	145	85	24
		12-Tentulipada	68	38	44	22	17
		13-Bahalguba	109	65	36	58	18
		3	Jamkhunta	14-Gharla	166	65	87
15-Jamkhunta	237			74	104	99	31
16-Jampada	141			63	70	103	26
18-Kalkut	95			37	38	42	22
19-Turekela	223			125	97	105	28
20-Sriram	262			119	122	98	21
4	Chandotara	21-Bhursaguda	217	122	177	120	19
		22-Chandotara	509	135	208	166	35
		23-Chindaguda	117	70	77	82	34
		24-Ganjipada	208	122	66	98	17
		25-Kurlubhata	258	98	139	68	27
		26-Titisilate	254	122	75	83	16

5	Gandharla	27-Badapara	172	68	105	95	23
		28-Barkini	141	55	88	42	12
		29-Batharla	162	62	105	40	25
		30-Dabjhar	51	36	27	21	10
		31-Gandharla	476	167	270	156	20
		32-Jhinkipada	202	150	81	101	24
		33-Salemudga	52	25	17	12	13
		34-Sundhimunda	105	75	43	35	18

*N.B-This year 22 labours of Sindhekela GP were rescued under bonded labour act.From kantabanji and Titlagarh Railway station, with the joint collaboration with District administration.

This is Draft Copy Of Migration Report, The Full report will be published in March 2013.

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