

IMPACT OF SEASONAL MIGRATION ON CHILDREN OF A SCHEDULED CASTE COMMUNITY IN WESTERN ODISHA, INDIA

Madan Biswal*Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work,
Sambalpur University, Jyoti Vihar, Burla Odisha***ABSTRACT**DOI URL: <https://doi.org/10.36713/epra3055>

Seasonal migration is rampant among the scheduled caste population of western Odisha, India. Due to dearth of employment opportunities and caste-based livelihood barriers, the scheduled caste people of Bargarh district migrate heavily to other states and to other districts of the same state for a period of about six to seven months. Children are one of the most affected sections of the seasonal migration. The present study makes an analysis of children's situation of the migrant families both at the place of origin and place of destination. The study shows that the children who are left behind in the village are neglected, face educational hurdles and sometime remain engaged in economic activities at an early age and eke out hard for a living. The migrant children lead a sub-standard living in unhygienic environment and are exploited by the employer being engaged in work in odd hours of the day. They are deprived of the government sponsored facilities like immunization and vaccination at the place of destination and face health hazards, under nutrition and physical exploitation.

KEY WORDS: *seasonal migration, children, poverty, deprivation, education, health***INTRODUCTION**

Seasonal migration has long been a practice of livelihoods coping mechanism for the Scheduled Caste population of western Odisha. Some members of the family leave the village in search of livelihood every year during the lean season. Seasonal migration occurs due to the lack of livelihood options after the harvest of the monsoon crop (kharif) in the western part of Odisha. This forces the entire family to leave home in search of work in order to survive. Persistent drought during the past few years has led to the escalation of this trend. Seasonal migrants of Ganda community continually face difficulties in becoming a full part of the economic, cultural, social and political lives of society. Regulations and administrative procedures exclude migrants from access to legal rights, public services and social protection programmes accorded to residents, on account of which they are often treated as second-class citizens. Seasonal migrants face numerous constraints, including a lack of political representation; inadequate housing and a lack of formal residency rights; low paid, insecure or hazardous work; limited access to state-provided services such as health and education; discrimination based on ethnicity, religion, class or gender; extreme vulnerability of women. Seasonal migrants are looked upon as 'outsiders' by the local host administration, and as a burden on systems and resources at the destination. In India,

migrants' right to the city is denied on the political defence of the 'sons of the soil' theory, which aims to create vote banks along ethnic, linguistic and religious lines. Exclusion and discrimination against migrants take place through political and administrative processes, market mechanisms and socio-economic processes, causing a gulf between migrants and locals (Bhagat, 2011). Seasonal migrants, constitute a "floating" population, as they alternate between living at their source and destination locations, and in turn, lose access to social protection benefits linked to the place of residence. Planning for migrant families who are not settled but on the move warrants a fundamental rethinking of development approaches and models (Smita, 2007). 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 lend up in cities and urban location to work as unorganized labourers for better wage and livelihood Children, who have no choice but to accompany their parents, drop out of schools and are forced into hard labour. The circumstances of children

at migrant work sites, experiencing the same difficult living conditions that their parents endure, and those of children left behind in villages when their parents migrate for work, have both raised concern among policymakers and those who study short term labour migration. 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. 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. 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 worksite with their family often being excluded from all basic entitlements and services like food, nutrition, health and education.

AREA OF STUDY

Migration is a common phenomenon in western Odisha. People migrate to different places from their native villages in search of livelihood opportunities. Bargarh district has attracted world-wide attention for large scale seasonal migration and the exploitation of the seasonal migrant labourers. One of the Scheduled Castes known as Ganda migrates heavily from Bargarh district due to lack of employment opportunities at their native places. Since they face social exclusion due to their caste, livelihood options are limited for them: weaving and agricultural labourer being the most prominent. Keeping in mind the high proportion of Ganda people in Bargarh district, it has been selected for the present research. The study has been conducted in four Blocks of Bargarh district, viz Padampur, Paikmal, Gaisilet and Bijepur from which there is huge seasonal migration. Recently the government of Odisha has declared three blocks out of the sample blocks as migrant prone blocks and special package has been arranged to reduce seasonal migration. Three villages from each block have been selected for the study. Care has been taken to ensure that village inhabited by significant number of Ganda caste people (Harijan/Dalit) been included in the sample.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The major objectives of the study are:

- (1) To understand the impact of seasonal migration on sample children of Bargarh district in western Odisha
- (2) To assess the education and health status of the sample Scheduled Caste children in selected area
- (3) To investigate into the type and level of moral, physical and economic exploitation experienced by the sample children.

METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION

The present research is part of the researcher's Ph. D work and hence data have been collected along with the Ph.D work from a scheduled caste people of western Odisha called 'Ganda'. To make the research more analytical, data have been collected from both primary and secondary sources. Secondary data and information have been collected from

magazines, journals, books, and newspapers on migration issues pertinent to the present research. Relevant primary data have been collected through Observation, Focus Group Discussion, personal Interview and key informants interviewing methods. Several focus group discussions have been organised among the children of the migrant family. Emphasis has been given to collect data from both the migrant children and children left behind in the villages when their parents migrate. Voices of the respondents have been captured and analysed to make the study more logical and comprehensive.

FINDINGS

In the research on migration, relatively little sustained academic scholarship addresses the impacts and implications of migration for children whose families migrate or who themselves migrate to other areas. In the international debate on migration, scant attention has been given to children, and few statistics on migration provide data disaggregated by age. Policy makers and researchers have focused their attention on adult migration flowing from developing to industrialized countries giving almost no attention to the consequences on children in developing countries. Although substantial research and policy literature exists on migration and economic development on the one hand, and about child and adolescent development on the other, the literatures overlap only in rare and exceptional cases.

The dearth of general information on children left behind is one of the reasons for the lack of appropriate policy responses. There is no global estimate on the number of children who have at least one parent migrating. However, living in a family with at least one parent away for long periods of time is part of normal childhood experience for many children in the developing world. The impact of migration and remittances on the children left behind is still notably absent in the economic literature. Rapoport and Docquier (2006), in their thorough and far-reaching review of the economics of migrants' remittances, quote only two empirical papers on the impact of remittances on children in recipient households; the World Bank's (2006) publication dealing with the economic effects of migration and remittances refers to only a handful of papers on the issue.

Migrating parents in the study area decide to leave their children at the place of origin or take along with them to the place of destination depending upon the situation. It is seen that the young able-bodied parents leave behind their small children with the grandparents for the total period of migration which detach the children from their parents. However, sometime the children who are comparatively older taken with the parents to the place of destination who are found to be supporting and assisting the parents in several works at the place of destination. The decision of one or both parents to migrate and consequently, to leave children behind, may be the result of an individual altruistic decision to send remittances in order to make their family members' lives better, or the result of household utility maximization that may take into consideration also the risks and perils of travel (Funkhouser 1995; Stark 1995; Becker 1974, 1991).

The possible positive contribution of remittances to combating extreme poverty in recipient households has been at the centre of the recent debate on migration and development, leading to what some authors describe as 'remittances euphoria' (de Haan 2007). For example, during the recent United Nations High Level Dialogue on migration

and Development, remittances have been at the centre of most policy debates, publications and recommendations (UN 2006). However, the positive correlation between remittances and income may not necessarily cause a positive development effect on children left behind (de Haan, 2005). Migration of one or both parents may generate, in the short term, a reduction in household income, that is, reduction linked with migration costs such as travel, resettlement and unearned income, at least until the migrants identify a new and profitable solution in the country of destination. At the macro level studies have identified a negative U shaped relationship between international remittances and income inequality, with inequality increasing initially with the increase of remittances, and then decreasing (Koechlin 2007).

The Impact of Seasonal Migration on Children Left Behind

In the present research the impact of migration on children left behind has been organized along four issues. The first issue is regarding the impact of migration on various measures of child health. The second issue is regarding the analysis of the impact of migration and remittances upon educational attainment. The third one looks at the impact of remittances on child economic activities and possible risks of child labour. The fourth one looks at the effect on children of lack of parental care. The four issues mentioned are interconnected: a reduction in school attendance may lead to an increase in economic activity, and *vice versa*; bad health can affect school performance; and lack of parental control can increase the need for additional schooling, but not necessarily lead to an increase in performance.

Impact on Health of Children Left Behind

The migrant parents leave the small children behind in the care of the aged family members and sometimes with their relatives. Since the migrants of the study area stay at the place of destination for a period of about six to eight months, there is a negative impact on the health of the children. As per the definition of the World Health Organization, health is not something limited to physical aspect but includes social, economic, and psychological aspects too. Hence, the detachment from the parents for such a long period among the small children has a serious psychological impact on the health of the children. Some children are found to fall sick and mostly suffer from constant cold and fever. The children are not taken care of properly during such time. The aged couple fail to provide proper treatment to these children. One aged man during the study shares:

“My son and daughter in law had migrated to Telanga last year leaving behind their six years old son with me. They stay there for about six months. My grandson was caught with a severe fever. But you know I am old and had no money, so could not bring him to the hospital immediately. I asked a doctor who frequently come to our village and treat the people. But my grandson was not cured after the treatment. I felt very upset and managed to borrow some money from my neighbour who agreed to lend only when I gave my ‘bhatta card’ (Old Age Pension Card) as a security. I took him to the nearby Padampur government hospital where he was detected with malaria and got cured. Thank God, I could save his life.”

The above voice recorded during the fieldwork is a reflection of the situation of the children left behind when they fall sick. There are hundreds of such cases in the sample region where children are not properly treated during sickness and face many health hazards. The aged couple cannot provide due care and attention since they have to manage the family expenses too. The quacks are the so called doctors for the people of the locality who come to the house for treatment and people prefer them in spite of going to the government hospital. The aged are also burdened with the fear of being blamed if any mishappenings occur with the children.

Educational Challenges of Children Left behind

There is little literature available on the topic of educational attainment of children left behind in different countries. In India, no major studies are found on the above topic. Hanson and Woodruff (2003) explicitly recognize the complex interaction between migration and remittances and find that in the case of Mexico, children in migrant households complete significantly more grades of school at a given age than do other children.

The positive effect on children’s academic performance may reflect specific patterns of investments migrant parents channel into children’s education. Bryant (2005) argues that in the Philippines remittances were used to send children to private schools, which were considered better than public schools. He suggests that children in left behind households have a higher probability of attending private schools, and that on average they got better grades than non-migrant children. Finally the extra income a household gains from remittances may allow children to delay entering the workforce in order to further their studies, increasing the final level of education (Hanson and Woodruff 2003).

The overall situation in western Odisha is totally different from the findings mentioned above. The migrants belong to the scheduled castes who have limited livelihood opportunities and the migration is not for increasing better standard of living and better economic condition but just for the sake of sustenance of live. The migrants could hardly be able to send remittances to the left behind family members during the period of migration. They take advance from the Dalal and repay it working at the place of destination. They bring some money back home if at all possible only when they return. Hence, there are no such cases of sending regular remittances in case of the sample migrants. The school going left behind children encounter much negligence in their study. The research finds that they do not maintain regular study hour and secure less grades compared to their counterparts. These children are even not regular in the school as they also become part of the taking responsibility by way of supporting their grandparents/ relatives during the absence of their parents.

Economic activities of children left behind

The economic condition of the family and remittances sent home may have a direct impact on decisions concerning economic activity of children left behind. Remittances may replace the income obtained from child work, thereby reducing the need for economic activity of children regardless of the effect on return of education (Acosta 2006). Migration and remittances may have a different impact if the child undertakes her or his activities outside or inside of the household. When a child is employed within the household, the migration of an adult member may produce two distinct direct effects on the household demand for child work: first, it increases the

marginal productivity of the child, who is required to substitute for the foregone adult labour; and secondly, remittances – besides determining a beneficial income effect – can influence the productivity of child work if the remittances are used to finance productive investments, such as the purchase of land or of productive equipment. Conversely, when children are employed outside the household, migration of an adult member and the transfer of remittances do not directly influence their productivity. Therefore, expected and predominant income effects of remittances can potentially contribute to reducing the incidence of child work.

The present research differs with the findings of the above study. The seasonal migrants of the study area do not send regular remittances to their households left behind in the villages. The earning of the migrants do not suffice them to send the money back. However, they carry some money with them when they return home from the place of destinations. Hence, the able-bodied children are found to be engaged in different petty economic activities to support the grandparents or relatives.

The effects of remittances on child work can be sharply different between urban and rural households. In rural areas, where there is a much higher prevalence of employment within family-run activities than in urban areas, the effect of remittances on economic activity is not significant, whereas in urban areas, remittances are estimated to reduce significantly the incidence of child work. In a study on Ecuador, for example, nearly 90 percent of the working children in rural areas are employed for household farming, while in urban areas the percentage of working children employed in family-run businesses is 50% (Bertoli 2007).

The sample area being a rural area and migrant families living in abject poverty, the left behind children who are a bit older are involved in economic activities. The children are left in the custody of the aged members or relatives. The aged members are not capable enough to earn and provide a quality of life to the children left behind. The relatives either do not take interest in taking extra burden of taking proper care of the left behind children. They have constraints too as they themselves are very poor and already burdened with the responsibility of their own families. The children when left behind with their younger brother/sister have to shoulder up the responsibility of taking care of the younger children. However, it is seen during the study that the left behind children are younger in age and are rarely involved in any economic activity. One must understand the underlying dynamics of it. Those children who are considered to be productive are taken by the migrating parents to the place of destination so that they can support them in managing the work.

Social costs on children left behind

The social cost of seasonal migration can be very high, particularly due to the lack of parental care. Children left behind inevitably grow up in single-headed families (if only one parent is migrating), or with grandparents and other relatives (if both of the parents are migrating), filling the vacuum left by migrant parents. Negative effects can be exacerbated if long term migration of one of the parents may lead to permanent disruption of family unity (Coronel and Unterreiner 2005). Absence of men can create material and psychological insecurity, leading mothers (or children when both the parents are migrating) to pressures and negotiations with wider family members. The study finds that migrants

start having “dual families” relationships: one at the place of origin and another at the place of destination for the period of migration. The children are devoid of the parental care at the place of origin when both parents migrate. The children feel insecure and unsafe in the absence of their parents.

There are arrangements of seasonal hostels by the government in the study area to keep the children in the hostels during the total period of their parents’ migration. Some NGOs are also running seasonal hostels in the sample area but these hostels have not been successful enough to provide due care and attention to the children. Children rather prefer to stay with their relatives than in the seasonal hostels. Hence, many children are found to be staying with their relatives in case both the parents migrate. The extended family provide safety and security to the children. Similar findings are also found in other countries of the world. The impact of the absence of one of the parents on children can be mediated by an extended family safety net, which is an effective response to economic and social crises, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa (Foster 2004). In many developing countries, assistance among members of extended families is done not only through inter-household income transfers between rural and urban areas, but also through sending children to live with relatives as reciprocal arrangement that contributes to mutually recognized benefits for both families (Pharoah 2004). However, care by the extended family, or community or institutional care, often does not provide as much protection from abuse and exploitation as parental care. When very young infants are left behind, recommended periods for exclusive breastfeeding may be compromised and malnutrition exacerbated. Parental absence, however temporary, can still have a significant impact on children left behind.

When examining empirical evidence on the impact of lack of parental care on children left behind, it is crucial to remember that the final effect (positive or negative) is the result of two different components: though the lack of parental care produces a potentially adverse effect, remittances can compensate for maternal absenteeism due their positive contribution to the household income and to the household’s potential to access and provide better health, education, and work opportunities. Although family disruption may have an evident negative effect on children’s general health, particularly during the first period of their parent’s migration, the positive impact of remittances can compensate for this negative effect because the increase in the household income may elevate the food available for children and consequently raise child weight (Kanaiaupuni and Donato 1999). Unfortunately the remittances carried home at the end of the migration in the study area is very less and it do not provide better standard of living to the family members. The migrants are forced to migrate just for the sustenance of their lives and due to scarcity of employment opportunities. The migrants have a standard quality of life neither at the place of origin nor at the place of destination.

Impact of Seasonal Migration on Migrant Children

Impact on Health of Migrant children

The effects of migration on child health are contested and complex. Whereas on the one hand, seasonal migration itself poses significant hazards to children and their health, movement to the place of destination increase inaccessibility to health care.

The seasonal migrants of the study area stay in unhygienic conditions. The places of staying are far from the main town. They usually stay near by the place where they work. The seasonal migrants of brick kilns stay in *gursi* (small hut) without having enough space for the family to stay properly which have adverse impact on the health of the migrant children. The short-term agricultural migrants also stay in the field locally known as *khala* (the place where peddy is kept). There are instances of snake bites during the period of migration at the place of destination. The migrants sleep on the floor along with their children.

The small children carried with the seasonal migrants lack proper health care facilities at the place of destination. Small children are not vaccinated and they are deprived of the services provided through Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS). The children used to get the services at the place of origin and they go to Anganwadi but at the place of destination they lack these facilities. When the children fall sick, it becomes very difficult for the migrant parents to provide medical facilities to the child as they stay in the segregated area. The owners also do not provide any medical facilities in case of health problems of any of the migrants. A migrant mother says:

"I have migrated to Andhrapradesh for bricks-making along with my husband and one year old son. My son was taking vaccination in my village in the Anganwadi centre with the help of ASHA didi. When I migrate, there was no Anganwadi near the place of my staying. So, the vaccination was stopped. When I returned to my village after seven months it came to the notice of the Anganwadi didi who scolded me for not vaccinating my child during the migration period. But you see, what can I do in the new place where I do not know anyone?"

The experience shared by the migrant mother is a reflection of many such cases where the migrant children are deprived of the vaccination and other facilities provided at the Anganwadi Centres at the place of their origin. The children suffer from diseases due to lack of/poor vaccination during the migrant period. There are also older child migrants who are involved in various activities at the place of destination to support their parents which have severe health effects due to poor access to health care services at the place of destination. Whitehead and Hashim (2005) have argued that the effects of migration are *context-specific*. Although they do not discuss health specifically, this paper suggests some hypotheses about the relationship between migration and child health. In case of the seasonal migration discussed in this research the context-specific phenomenon can not be ignored. The intra-district agricultural migrants enjoy better health facilities compared to the inter-state migrants. The duration of stay is short in case of the agricultural migrants and hence the children are less affected due to migration.

Economic Activities of Migrant Children

Children who migrate may end up in being involved in economic activities as a specific decision or as a result of the conditions, need and opportunities in destination areas. Child migrant workers have a variety of experiences due to a complex set of factors, and often one child will have a mixture of positive and negative experiences. Negative effects may include exploitation, poor working conditions, physical, verbal, or sexual abuse from employers and foregone access

to school. The child migrants of brick-kilns are involved in different activities in the process of bricks-making. The younger children are specifically involved in drying the bricks due to their low weight. It is very unfortunate that the children are not paid for that work separately. They are just a helping hand to the parents and the children remain engaged in odd hours of the day. Since the bricks can dry well in the afternoon, the children are forced by the employers to work in the scorching sun to dry the bricks. The children are also involved in other activities in the process of bricks-making.

Impact on Education of Migrant Children

Seasonal migrations have a negative impact on education attainment of children. Children of migrant workers and children migrating alone face serious exclusion to education due to social and cultural isolation, strenuous and hazardous work, extreme poverty, poor health conditions and language barriers.

Over the last one and a half decades following the formulation of the National Policy on Education (NPE) 1986, there has been a serious move towards Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE) in India. For the first time since Independence, there has been a perspective shift in policy, and instead of expecting all children to come to regular government schools, intensive efforts have been made to 'take the school to the left-out child' by creating flexible schooling options. This approach has seen institutionalization in the form of the Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS) and Alternative & Innovative Education Scheme (AIE) under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the national umbrella programme for universalisation of elementary education. A number of reasons have been identified to explain why many children are out of education and a range of alternative and innovative options have been created for their coverage and mainstreaming. Many complementary strategies with provision of lateral entry into schools have also been initiated to cover the existing backlog. Thus the traditional reasons for exclusion, such as caste, gender, remoteness of location, and so on, are now at least well investigated and the possible remedies, to a great extent, reasonably clear.

There is another class of deprivation related to 'seasonal migration'. The migrant children are very often dropped out of school and closing the only opportunity available to them for an alternate future. Evidence indicates that such migrations are large and growing, and the number of children below 14 years involved may be close to 9 million (Smita, 2007: 13).

While discussing with one of the migrant children, the ten year old child shares her feelings:

"I was taken by my parents for work to some place which I do not know. I stayed with my parents there for about six months in a gursi. My parents were making bricks while I was helping in drying the bricks. There was no school nearby the place where I could go and study. After returning from there, I went to school for some days but could not understand what was taught in the school. Then I stopped going to school and help my mother in cooking and taking care of my younger brother when my mother goes for work."

The above statement made by the girl child shows that the migrant children face adjustmental problems after returning from migration. They do not feel comfortable in going to school being detached for six-seven months. It also becomes difficult for them to catch and understand lessons taught in

the class remaining absent for such long period.

Seasonal migration is an insidious promoter of child labour. The NCRL notes a high incidence of child labour in a number of sectors. The Poor Ganda families with no additional support in their villages have little recourse but to take their children along when they migrate for work. At work sites, little hands and feet are invariably drawn into the labour process by the employer, by contractors and by parents. The vulnerability of children is aggravated because they do not have access to the kinds of support which non-migrant children automatically have. Even where migrant children have access to schooling; the status of government schools in the migration prone regions is dismal. Poor education possibilities push children further into migration. As a result of large-scale enrolment drives the names of most migrant children are now on school rolls, but in reality they are often out of school, being drawn into labour at work sites, and falling irreversibly into the annual cycle of migration. Education is critical to the issue of distress seasonal migration because the window of opportunity that children of migrant families have is very small. The migrant children often begin working by the age of 6 or 7 years old, and are working like adults within a few years. They therefore face a life of hardship from a very young age. They are subjected to hazardous travel between villages and work sites, and a life of severe deprivation at work sites. Girl children endure even more deprivations than boys. In the villages, these children find acceptance neither in school nor in the larger community, and are constantly viewed as outsiders.

Social and Psychological Impact on Migrant Children

Seasonal migrations have psycho-social impacts on children due to the experience moving from the place of origin to the place of destination, and also due to exclusion and marginalization at the place of destination. Leaving their communities, migrant children lose contact with their family and friends, as well as lose customs and traditions. At the same time, coming into a new community, they may be required to become accustomed to new language, culture and lifestyle. Even if children may adapt to new contexts more quickly than adults, this may generate conflict with parent or other members of same migrant group. All these factors may be intensified by the size of the social and cultural differences between the country or place of origin, and exacerbated by poverty and unemployment conditions that often characterize migrants, particularly at the beginning of the migration process (James 1997; Sluzki 1979).

Seasonal migration has a potentially negative psycho-social impact due to the process of migration and associated stress, migrants' frequent status as minorities in the host society, and the cultural background of particular migrant groups. The study shows that many of the children face psychological stress who are from the migrant families. They find difficulties in playing with other children of the village after returning from the place of destination and hence remain secluded.

CONCLUSION

The study found that poverty, debt and unemployment force the scheduled 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 seasonal migrant children are excluded from their basic rights to survival, protection and participation in child development programs. Due to frequent relocation of the migrant families, their children undergo severe physical and mental agony resulting in breaking of their physical and psychological growth which is hardly being recognized and addressed. In spite 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. 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 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. Hence there is a requirement of the involvement of the governments, civil society organisations, policy makers and the common people in general in providing a safe and child-friendly environment to the children of the migrant families.

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