

TOWARDS MITIGATION OF DISTRESS MIGRATION



Sebastianus Lakra, S.J.

**NEED ASSESSMENT OF MIGRANT
WORKERS
(JHARKHAND, ODISHA AND CHHATTISGARH)**

**A Study Conducted by Migrant Labourers Solidarity Centre,
(Xaviers Hazaribag Association – Extended Centre)
Namkum, Ranchi, Jharkhand
November 2021**

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This work is a product of the research team of the Migrant Labourers Solidarity Centre, Ranchi, Jharkhand, with technical contributions from the Conference Development Office (CDO), Jesuit Conference of India, New Delhi. The findings, interpretations and conclusions in this report do not necessarily reflect the view of the Migrant Labourers Solidarity Centre. The Centre does not guarantee the accuracy, completeness, or currency of the data in this work and assume responsibility for any errors, omissions, or discrepancies in the information, or liability with respect to the use of or failure to use the information, methods, processes, or conclusions.

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Publisher:	Migrant Labourers Solidarity Centre Namkum, Ranchi, Jharkhand 834010, India E-mail: central-zone@mainindia.org
Required citation:	Migrant Labourers Solidarity Centre. 2022. <i>Towards Mitigation of Distress Migration. Need Assessment of Migrant Workers in Central Indian States (Jharkhand, Odisha and Chhattisgarh)</i> Ranchi, India
Cover and design:	John Daniel, Conference Development of India, New Delhi
Published in:	November 2021

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

<	Less than	NEP	New Economic Policy
>	More than	NFSA	National Food Security Act, 2013
ASHA	Accredited Social Health Activist	NGO/s	Non-Governmental Organization/s
ADO	Assistancy Development Office	NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Produce
ANC	Ante-Natal Care	OBC	Other Backward Caste
AWW	<i>Angan Wadi</i> Worker	OSU	Order of St. Ursula
CCL	Central Coalfields Limited	PDS	Public Distribution System
CDO	Conference Development Office	PESA	<i>Panchayats</i> (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act,1996
CMRF	Chief Minister's Relief Fund	PI	Principal Investigator
CM	Chief Minister	PIB	Press Information Bureau
CSA	Coordinator of Social Action	PMKKY	<i>Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra Yojana</i>
COVID	Corona Virus Disease	PNC	Post-natal Care
DD	Demand Draft	PRI	<i>Panchayati Raj</i> Institutions
DSA	Daughters of St. Anne	PTI	Press Trust of India
Fr.	Father	PVTG	Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group
FMM	Franciscan Missionaries of Mary	SC/s	Scheduled Caste/s
GEN	General	SCN	Sisters of Charity of Nazareth
GIAN	Global Ignatian Advocacy Network	SHG	Self Help Group
GO/s	Government Organizations	S.J.	Society of Jesus
HH/s	Household/s	ST/s	Scheduled Tribe/s
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Services,1975	THR	Take Home Ration
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons	TRTC	Tribal Research and Training Centre
IGP	Income Generating Program	TV	Television
ILO	International Labour Organization	UAP	Universal Apostolic Preferences
MGNREGA/S	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005		
MSME	Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises		
MLA	Member of Legislative Assembly		
MLSC	Migrant Labourers Solidarity Centre		
MPs	Members of Parliament		
N	Total number of Samples		
NCRB	National Crime Record Bureau		

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

It took a pandemic in India to realize the extent to which the country relies on the migrant workers in building the country and sustaining the economy when in March 2020, India came to a halt with breaking out of Covid-19 and subsequent lockdowns. This resulted into the biggest crisis of India's invisible workforce that quietly drives the economy. The observation on the condition of people returning back home in various modes of transportation was horrendous, where people were returning on foot covering long distances walking for days and being exhausted, only a few fortunate ones could afford the luxury of booking vehicles to come back home.

To assess the need of the returnee migrant workers for reuniting those into the rural socio-economy, Migrant Labourers Solidarity Centre (MLSC) conducted a Need Assessment in the Jesuit Central Zones. The objectives were to see gaps in the ground realities of the migrant workers, their rights, entitlements, needs and expectations. The Jesuit Central Zone comprises of five Jesuit Provinces: Dumka-Raiganj, Hazaribag, Jamshedpur, Ranchi and Madhya Pradesh. These are spread in the four political states viz. Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha. Due to Covid-19 protocols and restrictions of movements, the study was conducted only in three states (Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha). The study covered 1534 returnee migrant workers from 151 villages of 102 *Panchayats* in 48 blocks under 23 districts of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha. Similarly, the Household (HH) survey covered 6244 households of the villages of these returnee migrant workers to see the factors responsible for migration. The study aims at developing migrant workers' databases for future course of action through networking and alliance building. It also explores avenues for safe migration and mitigating distress migration through sustainable development and livelihoods.

To complete this study and bring the report into this present form many individuals, organizations have contributed. Migrant Labourers Solidarity Centre acknowledges each one's roles, responsibilities, helps, services and accompaniments in this endeavour. In the first place: Jesuits Conference of India and Conference Development Office for handholding Migrants' Help Desk (later raised to MLSC) by taking upon financial load of Ms. Prabha Neli Lakra who was appointed as Migration Watch Executive in Research and Documentation by JCI-CDO with tenure of 20/4/2020 to 31/3/2021. The hand holding continued with additional support from Dr. Siji Chako, S.J. (Director Conference Development Office) by providing technical and human resource assistance. Samuel Singh (CDO Staff, Ranchi) helped the research team in developing concept note, research tools, and data entry excel sheet. He also accompanied with the research team to Chaibasa and Sathia to give training to the field investigators for data collection. In the phase of report writing Dr. Hemant Minj, the present Conference Development Office team member in Ranchi, has rendered his services in writing reports of Odisha and Consolidated report. Conference Development Office team (Indian Social Institute, Delhi) has been accompanying Migrant Labourers Solidarity Centre through online meetings and on a few occasion with physical meeting in conceptual phase, development of research tools and going through the draft reports of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha and the consolidated report. To bring the need assessment report into a logical conclusion the Conference Development Office team has provided its expertise in finalizing the report.

The Migrant Labourers Solidarity Centre is grateful to Dr. Denzil (Director Indian Social Institute, Delhi), Dr. Martin Puthussery, Ms.Thawamony (Indian Social Institute, Bangalore), and Jayanta Mahapatra (National Coordinator Lokmanch) for valuable suggestions and guidance on research designing. So much so, Jayanta Mahapatra mobilised the non-Lokmanch

partners in Odisha to participate in the survey. In person he came down to Tumdibandha (Kandhmal District, Odisha) to motivate and facilitate the partners in the training workshop. During this time, he also took keen interest in conducting a pilot survey in the village Madaguda of Lokmanch intervention field area in Kandhmal district. The Migrant Labourers Solidarity Centre is equally thankful to Lokmanch partners in Central Zone. These were: Jesuit Coordinators for Social Actions who willingly helped in data collection with their staff. The Migrant Labourers Solidarity Centre is highly indebted to Jesuit Fathers for collaborating in the need assessment in different capacities. Frs. Ranjit Kindo, S.J. (Director Tribal Research and Training Centre, Chaibasa) and Renny, S.J. who coordinated their Lokmanch partners and staff for data collection. They facilitated training and orientation for conducting survey in West Singhbhum. Fr. Sushil Tirkey, S.J. (Lokmanch Co-ordinator Arouse, Gumla and Head, Arouse Lohardaga) motivated his units in Lohardaga, Gumla, and Simdega. He along with Fr. Sylvanus Kertketta, S.J. (Head, Arouse Simdega) undertook the field work for data collection in their supervision. Similarly, Fr. Maria Louise, S.J. (Lokmanch Co-ordinator, Hazaribag) brought together the different Lokmanch units and partners in Prerna for training and orientation to carry out the need assessment survey. In this collaborated Frs. Christopher Kujur, S.J. (Director Prerna), Arun Kujur, S.J. (Konar Village Extension Doomar), and Alex Toppo, S.J. The survey work in Dumka-Raiganj was undertaken in the co-ordination of Frs. Robert Lakra, S.J. (Sona Santhal Samittee, Kodma), Tom Kavalakat, S.J. (Director, Pahadiya Seva Samittee, Litipara (Sathia) and Marianus Minj, S.J. (JOHAR, Dumka) who facilitated orientation and training for their unit members and staff for data collection. These took the survey work under their supervision. Fr. Yacub Kujur, S.J. (Director Jivan Vikas Maitri, Pathalgaon) co-ordinated his Lokmanch units orienting and training field workers for data collection in Chhattisgarh. Fr. Balacius Ekka, S.J. (Director, Odisha Citizen's Initiatives, Tumdibandha) facilitated the orientation and training of his Lokmanch unit members in Odisha; and took the survey work in his supervision.

Migrant Labourers Solidarity Centre also acknowledges the contribution of other non-Lokmanch partners who participated in the need assessment survey. Among the non-Lokmanch partners who undertook the data collection in their respective field areas in Odisha were Babina Majhi, Pulme Majhi (Biswanathpur Anchal Unnayan Society, Kalahandi), Veronica Dungkung, Praful Kullu (Samajik Seva Sadan, Sundargarh), Damyanti Kumar, Surendra Majhi (MBSS, Balangir), Ashis Behera, Tikeshwar Chatar (New Hope India, Bargarh), Sudhir Kumar Nayak and Prakash Chandra Nayak (READ Chhatrapur, Ganjam), Jacob Digal and Namitarani (Shanti Maitri), Promojini Digal and Linga Pradhan (High Hope Society), Sukant Nayak and Ramesh Behramji (SAHARA) and Shankar Baliar Singh and Rabindra Dakua (Odisha Citizen's Initiatives). From Chhattisgarh were: Sr. Asha Xalxo (OSU) and her team for conducting survey and data collection in Mahuapali (Raigarh District); Mr. Chandra Pratap Singh (Nav Chetna Manch) and his team members in the districts of Pendra-Gurella, Bilaspur, Mungeli and Kawardha. Sr. Annie, FMM (Jeevan Jharna, Kansabel) facilitated training for the team to conduct survey in her field area. Sr. Sumitra Xalxo, DSA (St. Anna Association for Rural Development) who conducted survey in Jashpur Block. Similarly, Sr. Elizabeth, DSA (Sitara Gumla), Fr. De Brower, S.J. (Gram Uthan Gumla) who facilitated surveys for data collection in their field areas. Praveer Peter (Aman Prayas) participated in training and undertook data collection with his team working in Pakud district (Santhal Pargana). These were the persons and institutions that rendered their services in completing the data collection following Covid-19 protocols. Migrant Labourers Solidarity Centre also expresses its thanks to Fr. Vipin Pani, (Director, Social Initiative for Growth and Networking) for mobilising his

network partners for participating in the need assessment survey. Ms. Rose Mary Nag (Lokmanch State Coordinator, Jharkhand) had been in the research team. She also accompanied the Research team in developing survey schedules, in conducting pilot surveys in Jamgain of Namkum Block. She also travelled with the team to Dumka, Hazaribagh and Gumla to give orientation and training to the Lokmanch partners for field Survey.

To bring this report in the present form, the staff of Migrant Labourers Solidarity Centre gave its valuable services. Ms. Prabha Lakra, Fulmani Marandi and Vinay Prakash did all the data entries, while Anshumala Dungdung and Dr. Hemant Minj (CDO, Ranchi) did the tabulation and analysis under the guidance of Dr. Sebastianus Lakra, S.J. (Head of MLSC). Anshumala Dungdung and Hemant Minj helped in writing the need assessment reports: Chhatisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha; thereby evolving a consolidated report. The draft reports were sent and shared to different persons for their comments, corrections, and suggestions. Migrant Labourers Solidarity Centre is grateful to Dr. PM Tony, S.J., Peter Martin, S.J. and Dr. Alfred Toppo, S.J. (Mauhapali, Chhattisgarh) for their expert opinions and valuable suggestions. Finally, the draft report was sent to the Conference Development Office (Delhi) for editing and bringing this report into a presentable form.

Last but not the least, Migrant Labourers Solidarity Centre is also grateful to all the returnee migrant workers as well as the household members who participated in the need assessment of the migrant workers. Without them this study would not have been completed. Migrant Labourers Solidarity Centre is highly indebted to Fr. David M. Solomon, S.J. It was his dream and vision for migrant workers that shaped and finally came into logical conclusion in the form of this report. It was he, a force behind the research team. He accompanied, guided and participated in all the processes/stages of the need assessment of the migrant workers: from developing concept notes, evolving research tools, conducting pilot surveys, training of the field investigators, etc... The Migrant Labourers Solidarity Centre is highly grateful to him for his writing foreword for the report.

November 1, 2021,

Dr. Sebastianus Lakra, S.J.
Head, MLSC, Namkum, Ranchi.

FOREWORD

"April is the cruellest month," The Waste Land of T.S. Eliot, reminds us. April 2020, perhaps, was the cruellest month for the poor of India in the last 70 years. 30 million migrants were locked out during the lock-down period for controlling the pandemic. Young and old, men, women and children walked thousands of kilometres. They cycled, rode in the cement containers, slept on the roads and ran over by train. Beaten up by the police, thrown out of the villages, detained by the police in abandoned buildings, sprayed with disinfectants and treated like vermin; above all these migrants were accused of being carriers of the virus passing on to people. Jamlo Madkam, a 12-year-old Adivasi girl, walked 100 kilometres and died 20 Kms before reaching her own village in Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh. Adivasi Migrants were run over by train in Maharashtra. The walking migrants did not let the scorching heat of North India during the summer of 2020, dry up their spirit. Reaching home kept them searching for routes that they would not have imagined; a girl rode 1200 hundred kms on cycle with her father at the back. Their only hope was individuals, organisations, young, old men and women with compassion in heart for the plight of these migrants. Relief works by the civil society and advocacy gradually sensitised the government and their response began to mitigate the situation of the migrants.

Temporary solutions such as compassionate relief works remained an incomplete response. A sustained intervention, in collaboration with caring groups and individuals focusing on migrants from the marginalised groups, was the only way a civil society organisation can justify its vision for an equitable world. Movements were the medium by which the centre intervened in whatever way possible in the last fifteen years. This centre (Research and Training in Ranchi) addressed displacement issues due to mining or power plants; police atrocities in the forest areas. Human Right issues were taken up to mitigate violence. It is common knowledge that a greater number of indigenous people under trials are incarcerated in the prisons of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Madhya Pradesh. The centre intervened with evidence-based research and filed for judicial intervention on behalf of these tribal families. Directly or indirectly, all these contributed to migration as push factors. Now, Migrant Labourers Solidarity Centre and its team became intensely aware of the issue of Migration. The interventions and advocacy actions undertaken were not sufficient. Enormity of the migrant problems for the indigenous population requires continuous interrelated interventions. National Seminar on 'Interstate Migration among the populations in Central India' was already organized in the Month of February 2019 where academicians, civil society organisations insisted on the following:

- (1) That we need to formulate approaches to our interventions based on good evidenced researches;
- (2) That an alliance building between organizations working in the destination states and resource states create an environment for greater access to entitlements, legal help and rights of being citizens in the country.
- (3) That networking is accepted as a mode to reach out to families of the migrants in the Central Zone.

These approaches eventually will actualise Justice, Liberty and Equality enshrined in the Preamble of our Constitution. It shall duly build up the federal polity of the country.

Towards attaining these objectives and to assess the needs of the migrant workers who returned in Covid-19 (lockdowns and post lockdown), the present study was taken up. This

report is the outcome of the research process in seeking sustained intervention. The study will be complete only when it fires up the energy for advocacy action, networking and alliance building for the rights of the migrants.

Migrant Labourers Solidarity Centre took up the study earnestly. I congratulate Dr. Sebastianus Lakra, the Head of the Centre for his hard work, academic rigour and clear directions that he put in completing the study. Samuel, Prabha Lakra, deserves our praise for their practical wisdom and approaches. Rose Mary, the Jharkhand coordinator played a vital role in training our investigators in the field. Of course, the Lok Manch partners walked the hills and valleys, talked to the migrants and their families and amidst the raging pandemic managed to complete the interviews in time.

The study, of course, is in the nature of an academic report to fulfil the requirements. However, let the numbers speak of the dire situation of denial of dignity of the migrants. Let the study throw light on socio-economic deprivations and slave-like working conditions. Let organisations use the study for greater collaboration for actions of justice to migrants; let us search for sustainable cultural sensitive agricultural models for safeguarding livelihood opportunities.

Fr. David M. Solomon, S.J.



(Source: Indian Express)

Fig.0.1: A 15 year old girl Cycled....

INTRODUCTION

"Migration today is not a phenomenon limited to some areas of the planet. It affects all continents and is growing into a tragic situation of global proportions. Not only does this concern those looking for dignified work or better living conditions, but also men and women, the elderly and children, who are forced to leave their homes in the hope of finding safety, peace and security."

- **Pope Francis**

'To walk with the poor' (the individuals and communities that are vulnerable, excluded, marginalized, and humanly impoverished) is one of the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAP) of the Society of Jesus. Jesuits commit 'to care for migrants, displaced persons, indigenous peoples' in a mission of reconciliation and justice (UAP, 2019). Migrant Labourers Solidarity Centre (MLSC), Namkum (Ranchi) has taken steps in consonant with the UAP in accompanying the migrant workers learning from migrant workers' crisis during and post Covid-19 lockdowns. MLSC has taken steps for mitigation of the distressed migration in the source states, which are covered by the Central Zone Jesuit Provinces. For sustainable intervention on the migrants' issues evidence based research was a felt need. Towards this end, Need Assessment of Migrant Workers was undertaken in the Central Zone states of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha. Thus, the report is the outcome of the process in seeking sustained intervention on distressed migration. The present report documents the situation of migrant workers belonging to five Jesuit Provinces viz. Dumka-Raiganj, Hazaribag, Jamshedpur, Ranchi and Madhya Pradesh which fall under the political states of Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh in India. The study was conducted during the first year of Covid -19, specially, Sept. 2020 to December 2020, while the Covid-19 pandemic brought two major threats to the society, first, the fear of increasing infection and second, the economic loss of the poor.

As Covid -19 lockdown was imposed in India, it was realized how much the country relies on the migrant workers in building the country and sustaining the economy. India came to a halt with Covid-19 lockdowns, resulting in the biggest crisis of India's invisible workforce that quietly drives the economy. The migrant workers were stranded in different parts of the country and experienced acute problems of joblessness, homelessness and crisis of food.

The visuals of the returning migrants forced the state governments to open up migration registers to eventually reveal the loopholes of failing to maintain the statistics which limited the scope for helping the migrants and making policies. There was variance in data regarding the migrants; Indian Railways claimed, it transported about 57 lakhs migrants through *shramik* special trains all over India, while the office of the Chief Labour Commissioner of the Central Government had put the data on its website claiming that there were only 26 lakhs migrant workers across the country. The data available by the Government is obviously misleading as they usually ignore the unregistered migrants. According to the news report, about 10.26 lakhs migrant workers of Chhattisgarh were stranded in other states during the lockdown. Of Odisha, the estimated stranded migrant workers were about 8.5 Lakhs. The number of the stranded migrant workers of Jharkhand as assessed between the period of March 27, 2020- May 01,2020 was 963,490 (Department of Labour, Employment & Training, Government of Jharkhand).

The return of migrant workers challenged the stakeholders on how to address their concerns, engage them in the local economy and improve their livelihood systems. The issues were one of the most pressing needs of the time. It was expected that their vulnerability would increase if immediate problems are not understood properly. On this background, the need assessment was conceptualized and conducted by MLSC, Ranchi.

Objectives of the Study

The study seeks to understand the situation of migrant workers who returned after the Covid-19 lockdown in Central Indian states, viz. Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Odisha. The study will pave the way, more particularly to MLSC, Ranchi to take up important concerns of the migrant workers in Central India through advocacy and network building for helping the migrants.

In the light of the above, the objectives of the need Assessment study are -

- i. To assess post lockdown (Covid-19) socio-economic conditions of migrant workers.
- ii. To understand the factors responsible for migration.
- iii. To assess the status of entitlements of the returnee migrant workers.
- iv. To assess the livelihood scopes and opportunities for the returnee migrant workers.

The study was conducted among returnee migrant workers of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Odisha to understand the situation of interstate/intra-state migration, the working condition and protection of labourers' rights, the living conditions, government entitlement, nature of work migrants engaged in, demography of the migrants, etc. The study adopted a consultative approach in developing research tools and techniques for conducting the survey. Lokmanch (National Team Delhi and its local partners), Conference Development Office (CDO) Delhi, Indian Social Institute (ISI) Delhi and Indian Social Institute (ISI) Bangalore were consulted online.

Division of the Study

The study report has been presented in four chapters. Chapter **One** holds review of the literature. This helps to understand migrant labourers in India: migrant labourers in colonial period, labour migration in the post liberalization era, and the situation of migrant labourers in Covid-19 pandemic.

Chapter Two deals with the methodological components of the study explaining research design: samples, research tools and techniques, processes of data collection and analysis, research team, timeline and stakeholders.

Chapter Three discusses the major information collected in the study. The chapter is divided into five sections. **Section one** discusses demographic profile of the migrant workers, profile of the households, landholding patterns of the households. As situational analysis, it diagnoses the push and pull factors in interstate migration in terms of nature of the works, duration of their migration, place of their migration, condition of migrant workers in the destinations, pattern of saving and expenses. **Section two** is on skill mapping of the workers, and labourers' rights and entitlements. In skill mapping and skill related issues: it assesses skills of the returnee migrant workers, their future employability in their native state and need of skill training. Under rights and entitlements of the migrant labourers: it explores the gaps in workers' rights and entitlements. **Section three** is challenges and experiences of migrant workers during Covid-19 Pandemic. Under migrant labourers and pandemic, it discusses the desperate situation of the migrant workers in the destination states. It also gives the situation of the migrant workers in native states after their return. It explains the expectations, support needed to the migrant workers in addressing their issues from Government and other stakeholders. **Section four** deals the future status of migrant workers. It assesses the problems to be faced in future by the returnee migrant workers; status of employment of migrant workers after returning. It feels the pulse whether the migrant workers have plans to go back again to destination states for work. **Section five** deals with addressing

migrant workers issues, support needed to returnee migrant workers to reunite them in the local economy.

Chapter Four summarises the major findings of the study and suggests recommendations. The conclusion reflects three forked approaches in dealing the issues of the migration. First, to deal the distressed calls, second, mitigating un-safe migration, and third, mitigation of migration. At the end, bibliography and annexure are given.

Limitations of the Study

The study has three main limitations-

- i. The study captures the situation of returnee migrants after the Covid-19 lockdown crisis. This was the period when people and the Government were highly anxious about the fear of infection. This signifies that the problem is highly specific to the particular time frame. Hence, the study may not be relevant for similar crises occurring in different time frames.
- ii. The study was limited to returnee migrant workers of selected districts of Jharkhand, Odisha and Chhattisgarh. These states have almost similar characteristics of migrant population. Hence, the study may not be generalized to different regions with different characteristics of population.
- iii. The study was conducted with only returnee migrants who were capable enough to return even in the crisis and ignored other migrants who were stranded in other states at the time of survey. There are possibilities that some potentially vulnerable sections of migrant population have not been covered in the study. Hence, the study may not be able to give a complete situation of migrant workers.

CHAPTER I

LITERATURE REVIEW

“In a crisis of this magnitude, it can certainly not be claimed that no one suffered any inconvenience or discomfort. Our labourers, migrant workers, artisans and craftsmen in small scale industries, hawkers and such fellow countrymen have undergone tremendous suffering. We are working in a united and determined way to alleviate their troubles”.

- **Mr. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India**

In this chapter, an attempt has been made to review the literature related to the migrant workers of India in Covid-19 context. In the first part, brief discussion on migration and in the later part more specific to Covid-19 context have been discussed.

I. Migrant Labourers in India

Migration which broadly means movement of people across boundaries is an ancient phenomenon and has been a viable strategy for survival of millions of people across the world. Migration is also associated with the evolution of society, culture, organizations, search for food, and trade. It plays a great role in defining the process of industrialization and urbanization in society (Matrin, 2017).

There is no standard definition of “Migrant Labour” but there are many working definitions available to comprehend the subject. Simon et al. (2015) refers to “Migrant Labour ” to those sections of people who are seeking work or employed in the host country, or previously seeking work or employed but unable to continue working and remaining in residence in the host country irrespective of their documentation. It is also referred to as Migrant Worker. The International Labour Organization (ILO) defined “migrant worker” as a person who migrates from one country to another (or who has migrated from one country to another) with a view to being employed other than on his own account, and includes any person regularly admitted as a migrant for employment. The United Nations Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families defined “migrant worker” as a person, who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a state of which he or she is not a citizen. Majority of migrant labourers are engaged in building construction, agriculture, brick kilns, stone quarries, carpet weaving, street vendors, and waiters in hotels etc. which are easily available in the destination states (Ashok, 2014).

Historically, India has witnessed the migration of people as an important factor defining various social systems. In the pre-colonial phase, the major reasons for migration of people were religious and trade activities. However, with the increase of industrialization, the demand of skilled and unskilled workers pushed many people to migrate from different parts of the country in search of better livelihood opportunities. Though, the first Census in India 1872, the data for migration did not properly record to understand the movement of people. In the 1971 census, a question on the place of last residence was added to capture the movement of people (Census India, 2011). Since, then Census data started giving a good picture of migration in India.

In India, as per Census 2011 approximately 400 million domestic migrants leave their homes and families to earn their living in response to environmental shocks and stresses, to escape religious persecution and political conflict. However, improved communications, transport networks, conflicts over natural resources and new economic opportunities have created unprecedented levels of mobility in the past few decades (Deshingkar & Akter, 2009). Out of total domestic migrants, 15.6% migrants moved from rural to urban areas as per the census 2011. The census 2011 saw a 51% increase in rural–urban migrants from census 2001(What the Rural to Urban Move Says About Migration, 2019). The rural urban migration is a response to factors that affect

the desirability of better life over rural life such as improved income, good education, and good quality of life.

The people of Jharkhand, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh in Central India have been exposed to much socio-economic vulnerability due to the presence of a large size of tribal and other marginalized communities who have been discriminated on various grounds. As per census 2011, the size of ST and SC population is quite big compared to other states. Jharkhand has 12.08% Scheduled Caste (SC) and 26.21% Scheduled Tribe (ST); Odisha has 17.13% SC and 22.85% ST, and Chhattisgarh has 12.82% SC and 30.62% ST.

The trends of migration among tribal and other communities from Central India can be traced from the pre-colonial years. *Chota Nagpur*¹ and Santhal Pargana tribals were forced by the colonial policy and also encouraged to join the labour force in plantations, mines and to some extent factories, as tribal labour was not only cheap but committed. *Girmitiya* labour plight was one of the biggest labour plights from undivided British India in 1800 when English migrated thousands and lakhs of hardworking Indian labourers to Asia, Africa, and Australia. These Indian labourers were known as *Girmitiya Labourers*². The labourers were supplied by the British by ships that took about 3 to 4 months. The emigration was of the poor, and unemployed. They were vulnerable to exploitation. Under these circumstances, the *dipu-gomkes* (European or Eurasian labour recruiting agents) supplied these vulnerable people alluring them to provide employment under agreement (for 5 years at Rs. 5 per month) to tea gardens in Assam and far away foreign lands. They had no body for them in these foreign lands but could not come back because of the agreement signed. Finally, they made up their mind to make these alien lands their home and thus settled. To-day their descendants have made their own identity in the West Indies, Maritus, Australia, Surinam, Trinidad and other countries. Cricketers Shivnarayan Chandrapal and Deren Ganga are the descendants of these *Girmitiya* labourers. Even after six generations, the descendants of the *Girmitiya* labourers consider themselves Indian (Karn, 2020). The socio-political circumstances behind this historical labourers' plight from *Chota Nagpur*, can be learnt and the ethnicity of *Girmitiya Labourers* can be traced, their origin and ethnic groups from Encyclopaedia Mundarica Art. *dipu* (Vol IV: D-D, pp 1238-1241) and Art. *bhuiñār* (Vol. II: B, pp. 511-521) (Hoffmann, 1930). (C.f. Annexure-I and II). These vividly picture the distressing situation of tribals and more particularly of Mundas, as their land and proprietary rights were robbed by *Dikus* (outsiders) 'field after field, village after village and *paṭi* after *paṭi* and right after right by means of a new kind of war, the *nalīs-palīs*, as they called the law proceedings. All these happened when *bhuiñār* Settlements (as can be seen in annexure-II) (commenced in 1869 and ended with last settlement 1902) on one hand, and on the other, refusal to accept the famine loans from local Governments by the large number of Mundas. (C.f. Annexure-I). The Mundas failed to understand how the law courts could continue to give decisions against them which from their point of view were so evidently wrong, had already before 1869 come to the conclusion that the local Government officials must have been gained over to the zamindar's side. This misled them into most stupid, and for them very fatal suspicion and errors.' As said 'how a number of them refused to accept famine loans from the local Government were boons to coolie recruiters in *Chota Nagpur*. The migration was the result of the double-edged colonial policy of land alienation and

¹ Chhota Nagpur consisted five districts of Chhota Nagpur Division and nine Native States under Bengal Presidency of British India. The five districts of Chhota Nagpur were Hazaribag, Lohardaga/Ranchi, Palamau, Manbhum and Singhbhum. The nine Native States in Chhota Ngpur consisted seven Tributary States of Chang Bhakar, Korea, Surguja, Udaipur, Jashpur, Gangpur and Bonai, and the two Feudatory States of Kharsawan and Saraikela (Imperial Gazzetter of India, vol. x (Central Provinces to Kumpta).

² *girmiti* (the Mundarised English *agreement*): Contract/agreement of 5 years at Rs. 5 per month (contract signed by thumb mark of emigrating labourer) with *dipu-gomkes* (European or Eurasian labour recruiting agents) which somehow labourers were so often cheated into renewing.

labour recruitment. Colonial capitalists developed plantations in Assam and Bengal and thus the tribals were recruited. By 1891, 10.5% of the total population in the area migrated to other regions (Shalini SCN, 1993, p. 11). N.C. Choudhary and S.K. Bhoomik in their article *Migration of Chhotanagpur Tribals to West Bengal* point out that because of the demand for labour in jute and paddy harvesting and transplantation many migrated seasonally to West Bengal, and whenever they found more steady work, they settled in those areas.

After the Independence of India, rapid expansion of industrialization and development projects has displaced millions of people particularly *Dalits*, *Adivasis* and fringe Other Backward Caste (OBC) communities from their dwelling places, livelihood and the sources of their life and identity. Such a displacement has been accelerated manifold towards the end of the 20th century when India steered into New Economic Policy (NEP) in 1991. While the NEP became a boost and a boon for the corporate, crony capitalists and Multinational Corporations (MNCs) (Kniivilä, 2007), it became a death knell for the future hope, prosperity and livelihood option for the poor and the marginalized, particularly *Dalits*, tribals and many fringe OBC communities. Due to the political policies on economic, social, and corporate spheres millions of *Dalits*, tribals, poor farmers were forced to leave their state of origin and moved to other areas for life and livelihood. In many places they were forced to move from their source states due to mining, deforestation, and other factors (Shah & Lerche, 2020).

The trend of tribal women migrating to urban centres for domestic works also increased in the past few years. There are strong preferences for women or for young women in domestic work rather than for men workers. This preference was manifested because women seem to be more reliable, obedient and efficient in domestic work in taking care of babies or of the elderly. Tribal women tend to stick to the job for longer periods, agree to work for lower wages, and can be controlled more easily. These elements of apparent virtues in the tribal women are the very reasons for their vulnerability and exploitation. One study conducted in Delhi shows that Oraon (59.5%), Munda (21.6%) and Kharia (16.2%) were the three major tribal communities engaged as domestic workers. The Oraon was large in size because of their exposure to education and the missionary influence in the Oraon dominated areas in the source states of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Odisha (Shalini SCN, 1993, p. 37).

Human trafficking is also very prominent in the states like Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Odisha. According to UN study (September 2013), Chhattisgarh was among top five states in the country for women and girls being victims of human trafficking. There were as many as 6,000 women victims in Chhattisgarh from 2014 to 2016. Within the same period, 8,159 women were found missing who was mostly from Surguja, Jashpur and Raigarh; and 3125 were minor girls. As per the report published in Prabhat Khabhar, Ranchi Friday, Jan. 10, 2020, which highlighted the concern of human trafficking in Jharkhand with the statistics of the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB). According to that 2367 cases of human trafficking in India registered in the year 2018. Out of that 373 (15.75%) cases were registered from Jharkhand as being the highest among other states. Similarly, Odisha has also emerged as a source state for human trafficking in the last decade. (Kumar, Mishra, & Mishra, 2020).

During the post liberalization era, most of the major cities, southern and western states developed infrastructures very fast, and the demand of the labour force was fulfilled from the underdeveloped states. The present situation of huge out-migration of *Dalits* and *Adivasis* from the Central states to the south as well as in the other states needs attention and involvement to address the distress migration issue and the various violations that take place in the destination states. The huge out-migration also speaks volumes of the migration issues of the source states. Ashok and Thomas (2014) cited three main reasons for the huge influx of migrant workers in Kerala i.e. literacy of the state, attitude of people towards labour jobs and high daily wages. High literacy rate creates

disinterest towards daily wage jobs which creates shortage of labour in the state which attracts migrant workers in large numbers. About 60% of the Migrant labourers in Kerala are working in Construction. The similar trends can also be seen in the other destination states.

II. Covid-19 Pandemic and Migrant labourers

The imposition of sudden nationwide lockdown in India due to Covid-19 gave time to the Government machinery to prepare for the uncertain pandemic. Kerala was the first state to respond, drawing experience from the spread of Nipah virus, 2018. Odisha's preparedness to natural disasters ensured all resources were in place. However, the sudden lockdown posed a great threat to the vulnerable section of the population. When all the movements were stopped then migrant labourers got panic to return home. The uncertainty over employment and flow of money raised concerns of financial crisis and starvation among the migrant workers (The Lancet, 2020).

The study conducted by K. Kumar et al. (2020) during the lockdown phases shows that the lockdown strategy has significantly pushed migrant workers into depression and affected their mental conditions. The study pointed out three reasons, financial insecurity due to loss of livelihood, worry over health conditions of self and other family members; and uncertainty overstaying alone/isolated have affected the migrant workers the most. It highlighted that besides providing logistic help such as food and shelter, the migrant labourers need to be screened in detail for mental morbidity. It further advocated the need of psychological aid to the migrant workers.

A. Measures taken by the Central Government for Migrant Labourers

The Central Government imposed lockdown on 24 March 2020 and just after two days on 26 March 2020, announced a Rs. 1.70-lakh-crore package under the *Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Yojana* for the poor and vulnerable people to fight against Corona Virus. The scheme provided an additional 5kg wheat or rice and 1 kg of preferred pulse free for the next three months; *Jan Dhan account* holders got Rs. 500 per month for next three months, MGNREGA wage was increased from Rs. 182 to Rs. 202, an ex-gratia support to senior citizens, widows and disabled, support of Rs. 2000 to farmers in first week of April under PM *Kisan Yojana* and financial support to construction workers through Building and Construction Workers Welfare Fund (PIB Delhi, 2020). This scheme was a big relief for the migrant workers.

However, uncertainty over the lockdown and financial loss forced many migrant workers to make barefoot journeys in the absence of transportation making situation more chaotic and tense (Slater & Masih, 2020). On 29 March 2020, the Central Government issued strict orders to district authorities to provide all the necessary support to the migrant workers in their respective districts (PTI, 2020a). This was the major step taken by the Government to ensure relief for the Migrant workers. In addition to it, the Central Government had set up a labour control room to constantly monitor the cases and delivery of essential commodities across the country.

On the occasion of World's Labour Day i.e. on 1 May 2020, the Ministry of Home Affairs gave permission for movement of migrant labourers via the special "*Shramik Train*". The first special train brought 1200 migrant workers from Telangana to Ranchi. Thereafter, the Government gave permission especially to migrant workers to travel back their home/states via special buses and trains.

1. Response by Jharkhand Government for Migrant Labourers

The Jharkhand Government immediately after the lockdown established the Migrant labour Control Room to serve the issues of stranded migrants of the state. The control room received many calls on ration, shelter, medical support, discrimination in support, accommodation, financial status, etc. which was further shared with the respective State/UT Government for providing relief

(*Homecoming of Migrants*, 2020). As per the estimate of Jharkhand Government, more than seven lakh people of Jharkhand working in states like Gujarat, Maharashtra, Delhi, West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu and Nagaland and out of these, nearly five lakhs have returned by 'Shramik' Special trains, buses and flights, by the month of June 2020 (PTI, 2020b).

After a few weeks of the lockdown, the Government of Jharkhand launched "Chief Minister's Special Assistance Scheme- APP". The scheme provided Rs. 1000 financial support to all the stranded migrant labourers of the state (Daniel, 2020).

The Jharkhand Government conducted a skill mapping study of the returnee migrants in order to provide job opportunities, but it was very difficult for the Government to provide jobs to all the returnee migrants. The study conducted on 2,50,056 returnee migrant workers shows that 1,77,186 or 70% returnees were skilled labourers, while the rest 72,871 were unskilled workers. Majority of them were engaged in construction, automotive and electronic sectors. However, the Government expected to absorb all the skilled workers in the rural development programmes of MGNREGS and National Rural Livelihood Mission (Dey, 2020).

The Jharkhand Government launched 3 labour intensive programmes in May 2020, *Birsa Harit Gram Yojana* (BHG), *Neelambar Pitambar Jal Samridhi Yojana* (NPJSY) and *Veer Sahid Poto Ho Khel Vikas* Scheme (VSPHKVS) to restore the rural economy. All these three schemes were conceptualized in convergence with MGNREGS. The BHG aims at a-forestation of unused Government fallow land. The NPJSY aims at creating agro-water storage units by arresting rainwater and running groundwater. The VSPHKVS aims at creating as many as 5000 sports grounds in the state. (Barik, 2020). All these schemes were focused on rural development.

The returnee migrants started facing extreme financial crises after a few months of their return. Many workers started returning to their places of employment, despite the Jharkhand government's efforts to generate jobs for these labourers by launching new schemes through MGNREGS but the workers were struggling with the low wages and delayed payment in the MGNREGS. The dependency on MGNREGS and lack of other livelihood opportunities forced the workers to go back to the cities from where they returned (Das, 2020).

The state Government became more cautious after learning from the struggles of migrant labourers. In the month of June 2020 (PTI, 2020b), Jharkhand Government issued directives which says migrant workers will have to furnish personal and job details to the state Government for easy communication during a crisis situation. This forced the employers to furnish details for taking labourers from Jharkhand.

2. Response by Odisha Government for Migrant Labourers

As per the Government data, total 10, 07,330 migrant workers have returned to Odisha after the imposition of Covid-19 lockdown. The Ganjam district of Odisha reported the highest number of returnee migrants followed by Balangir and Balasore. ("10 Lakh Migrants Returned to Odisha," 2020). Maximum number of people reported to have returned from Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Kerala (Bisoyi, 2020).

The Odisha Government launched help lines for migrants and appointed nodal officers for key migrant destination states soon after the lockdown. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik personally communicated to the Chief Ministers of different states to extend support to Odisha's citizens stranded in the other states. The Odisha Government also offered financial support to the stranded migrant workers (Daniel, 2020).

The Odisha Government launched a Special Livelihood Intervention Plan of Rs 17,000 crores package in June 2020 to provide employment and income generation opportunities in agricultural, fisheries, animal resource development, tourism, industrial parks, and other allied sectors to the

migrant workers and farmers. It was expected to be implemented till March 2021. However, there existed a challenge to provide employment to all the returnee migrants (Express News Services, 2020). Odisha Government also made provision to pay Rs. 2000 per migrant as an incentive to the returnee migrants who completed the mandatory institutional quarantine period of 14 days followed by another seven-day home quarantine through budget allotment of Rs. 62 crores from Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) and many steps were taken for creation of 20 crores Man days under MGNREGS to ensure the livelihood of the returned migrants (Meher & Nanda, 2020).

Despite the efforts of the state Government to boost their livelihood, the returnee migrants of Odisha started returning back to their destination states to resume their jobs. (S. Kumar, 2020) noted that there were mainly two reasons for their return, first, the Odisha was not properly prepared to provide employments to the returnee migrants of the poor districts (Ganjam, Balangir, Koraput and Kalahandi) which leave migrant workers with no employment opportunities. Second, the arrival of festival season in India especially, October to December offers lot of seasonal income opportunities.

3. Response by Chhattisgarh Government for Migrant Labourers

Chhattisgarh Government immediately established a team lead by the Collectors and SPs to look after 24x7 State helpline numbers for each districts and social media platforms to reach out to the migrant workers stuck in different parts of the country. The state Government was in constant communication with the CMs of different states to ensure food, shelter and other relief support to the stranded labourers (Droliya, 2020).

The state Government announced in May 2020 that it would bear all the cost of travel of migrants via train to bring them back to the state (John, 2020). The Government used *Shramik* Special trains to bring stranded migrant workers from different parts of the states to Chhattisgarh and they were sent to their respective villages via buses (R. Mishra, 2020). With the increase in the number of migrants belonging to rural areas, the state Government prepared 17,907 quarantine centres to accommodate approximately 6 lakhs returnee migrants (Kaur, 2020).

The state Government announced in the month of June 2020 that they were working on a comprehensive plan to provide permanent jobs to about 7 Lakhs migrant labourers out of estimated 10.85 Lakhs stranded Migrant workers (S. Mishra, 2020). It had planned for skill mapping of 2.5 lakhs returnee migrants of the state to provide jobs in its labour-intensive departments. The state Government was also signing agreements with select Central Government and Non-Government Institutions so that workers migrating from the state can get employment and other entitlements on priority basis. The state Government was also exploring scopes of amendments in labour laws and the migrant workers act to employ maximum local workers of the state in Government departments, agencies, non-government business and industries. It also made a commitment of holding recruitment rallies in all districts for labour identified through skill mapping (Singh, 2020). It also planned to increase the disposable income of labourers by providing works under MGNREGS in various rural developments. The state Government started making job cards on priority basis so that every eligible migrant can take benefits of it (Ghose, 2020).

III. Recent Studies on Covid-19 Affected Migrant Workers

Some of the studies conducted during the pandemic phase highlight the issues in a more concrete way. V. Kumar (2020) conducted a study on the migrant workers of Rajasthan and found that the migrant workers were the most vulnerable to the crisis. Their financial crisis coupled with lack of external support made them very poor due to the fact that approximately one third of the population began to return to the destination cities. He found very less people were interested to work in MGNREGS but very much interested in skill training and financial support which could boost their livelihoods.

The study conducted by Rajkumar (2020) on suicides related to the Covid-19 outbreak in India between 12th March 2020 to 11th April 2020 shows majority of men committed suicide out of fear of infection and related anxiety.

Caritas India (2020) conducted a nationwide rapid research study on 624 migrant workers. The study shows that 95% of migrant workers lost their work and faced extreme financial crises. The pandemic has affected the marginal and small farmers to a great extent. MGNREGS was seen as an alternative livelihood for the migrants, but the study shows 93% of the population have not received work. The poor implementation process in MGNREGS has greatly affected the migrants.

The study conducted by the Inferential Survey Statistics and Research Foundation shows those incomes of returnees dropped by 85%. Jharkhand and UP have experienced 94% drop. The study also shows that about 70% migrants wanted to return to the destination states for work. This figure is approximately 90% for UP and Jharkhand. They have cited lack of income opportunities in villages, job offers from employers, higher wages and hope of getting a job as their major reasons for returning despite the risk of Covid-19 infection (Nanda, 2020).

It was identified from the available literature that the vulnerability of migrant labourers increased many folds after the Covid-19 pandemic pushing them to extreme poverty. It was equally substantiated by the study of Azim Premji Foundation (2021) accordingly a large section of marginalized population would be pushed to extreme poverty conditions. Hence, it is very urgent for the entire human society to pay attention to the concerns of migrant labourers.

CHAPTER II

RESEARCH DESIGN

“By Research design, it refers to the entire process of research from conceptualizing a problem to writing research questions, and on to data collection, analysis, interpretation and report writing.”

-John W. Creswell

This chapter discusses the overall design of the study. It highlights sampling, area of study, methods, data collection and analysis used in the study.

I. Research Methods

The Need Assessment is carried out to serve two broad purposes. First, these surveys can provide some first-hand general field information on physical, social and institutional conditions in the pilot area that can be used in designing programs. Secondly, these surveys identify the gaps between desired results and current results or state of affairs for developing and monitoring some testable performance and evolution indicators in monitoring the project or for post-project evaluations” (Memon et al., 1997). Ideally, the survey is designed, and data is collected prior to any construction or development intervention. Hence, action research should come in directly addressing the problems of the field to link between practices and theory. It envisages a strategy for addressing research issues in partnership with local people integrating the development practice, collaboration, mutual learning, and action for change. This approach increases the validity of research by reorganizing contextual factors within the research environment that are often overlooked with more structured approaches. Action researchers are sensitive to culture, gender, economic status, ability, and other factors that may influence research partners, results and research community (Sinha, 2008).

The present survey is descriptive. ‘Descriptive survey studies are those studies which are concerned with describing the characteristics of a particular individual, or a group.’ It includes fact- finding enquiries of different kinds. The major purpose of descriptive study is description of the situation as it exists at present. As the main characteristics of this research- it has no control over the variables. The researcher only reports what has happened or what is happening (Kothari, 2011). It also attempts to discover causal effects. In this sense, to a great extent its approach is diagnostic in nature.

The present need assessment report followed various steps and procedures for studying the targeted group. During the conceptual phase of the study, research design, tools and techniques for conducting the survey were framed through the participatory discussion with the partners. Consultations with partners like Lokmanch National Team (Delhi) and its local partners, CDO team Delhi, ISI Delhi and ISI Bangalore were mostly online through zoom meeting and, on other few occasions- physical meeting held as and when time was feasible and possible in the Covid-19 protocol. These consultations were on deciding the research design, determining the sample size for the study and developing survey tools and techniques.

A. Sampling

It is purposive sampling. The purposive sampling was adopted to collect the samples seeing the constraints of movement to various locations due to the Covid-19 protocol. This was a feasible way for the partner organizations to collect details of returnee migrants for the study from their working areas (villages or *Panchayats*), when many were unable to move freely due to restrictions. Another reason for going with purposive sampling was that the characteristics of the samples were known.

The study collected samples based on following characteristics-

That a person must have returned from the destination states;

That a person must have worked/employed in the destination states.

This shows that all the individuals of the samples were returnee migrants and hence, very less chances of deviation from the migrant related information.

The sample size was selected on the basis of a village having 10 or more returnee migrant workers. From each district under study area, at least three such villages were taken, and these returnee migrant workers were interviewed through survey schedules. Thus, the study reached out to a total of 1534 returnee migrant workers who belonged to 157 villages of 102 *Panchayats* of 48 Blocks from 23 Districts from three Central Indian States viz. Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha. Secondly, those villages, as having at least 10 returnee migrant workers or more were taken for household survey. The household survey was to assess the push factors in the family or village for causing migration of the workers.

1. Sample Respondents from three states

Table No. 2.1: Sample respondents and study area					
S. No.	District	Block	Panchayats	Villages	No. of Migrants
Chhattisgarh	7	9	25	38	274
Jharkhand	10	29	55	87	943
Odisha	6	10	22	32	317
Total	23	48	102	157	1534

Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

2. Location Map of the Study Area in Central Indian States

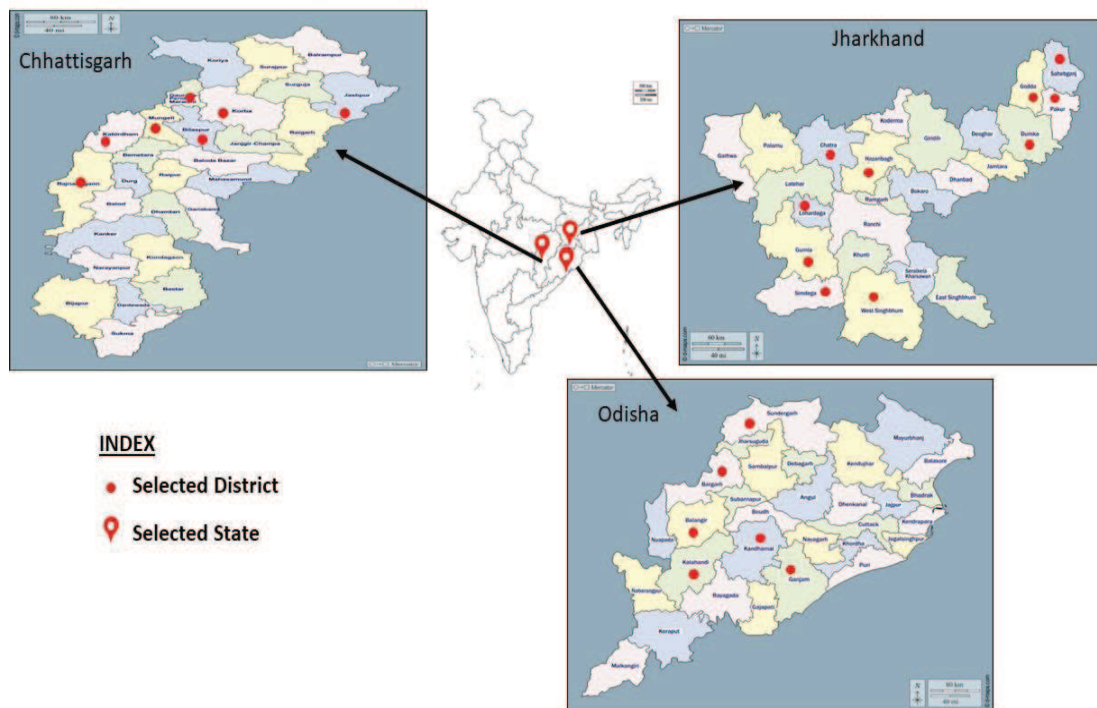


Fig.2.1: Map of the study area

B. Tools and Techniques

During the conceptual phase of the study, consultations and discussions with all the partners helped evolving the tools and techniques as per the context and needs. It was decided to use survey formats with structured questionnaires for the returnee migrant workers to collect their concerns. The study is mainly based on documenting the issues of the returnee migrants. Household survey schedules were also used to understand their village issues which encouraged the migration. However, only relevant details from the Household survey have been discussed in the study. These tools and techniques were for primary data collection. Primary data collection- using survey format was the major focus of the study. The secondary data were collected from review of literature, Government records, Labour related Acts, rights and entitlements of the labourers, migrant labourers' related webinars, reports related to migrant labourers' issues.

II. Process of Data Collection and Analysis

The data collection and analysis of the study was carried out in order to involve inputs and participation from all the key stakeholders.

A. Process of Data Collection

MLSC developed a concept note and survey formats in two sets in collaboration with Samuel Singh, the CDO staff in Ranchi. One set of survey schedule was for the investigation of the returnee migrant workers while another was for conducting household surveys for assessing current household assets, sources of income and livelihood options to see to what extent they play as push factors. Reference sheets for investigators were also developed to be handy in the field investigation. The set of questionnaires were translated into Hindi and Odia for easy understanding in field investigation. Once the Hindi survey formats were at hand, a pilot survey was conducted in the village Jamgain of Namkum Block, Ranchi district. The pilot survey was facilitated by Mr.

Praful Linda, the local social activist. This field testing and hands-on experience in terms of difficulties encountered, discrepancy in the formats, and questions lacking clarity were reviewed in the pilot survey feedback. The learning was shared, problems discussed, and further improvised the formats. Thus, the survey formats came to final forms after many rounds of review, discussion, and corrections.

Meanwhile the research team evolved a training module for the field investigators and constituted teams for giving training. The team first underwent training for imparting data collection training. Later, trainings were organized for field investigators, heads of organizations or their representatives as partner organizations under proposed study area. The physical training programs were conducted at different locations in Jharkhand while in Odisha trainings were online and physical both. Physical training was not possible in Chhattisgarh due to the increasing rate of Corona Virus infection and subsequent lockdowns. Hence, online trainings were conducted. Thence, survey formats were reached and given away for field investigation after giving practical instructions for data collection.

In few places Jeevan Jharna, Kansabel and Jeevan Vikas Maitri (JVM) in Chhattisgarh, field investigation review was made in physical meetings while for the others were monitored telephonic through organization heads or their respective field supervisors. After receiving the filled schedules, the MLSC team checked them and in cases of incomplete, they were completed by telephonic interview directly with the concerned migrant worker or through the field investigators.

B. Data Entry, Tabulation and Analysis

Data entry template was created in excel sheet and tested. With minor changes the template was made ready for data entry. Three data operators were inducted, oriented to make data entry as per guidelines. With sort and filter techniques, data were tabulated first district wise covering the village, *Panchayat*, and block. Thence, desired tables were created with analysis taking out simple percentages. These table analyses were further evolved into comprehensive tabulations to represent state level statistical analysis. On the basis of these tabulations- charts, graphs were created for presenting the data creatively and graphically.

C. Report Writing

The last major task of the Need Assessment was writing the descriptive report. Towards the end of a research project writing a report forces the investigator into a new and more intensive kind of analysis and cross analysis. In this report single and multivariate tables are used and with the help of simple percentage results and findings are expressed in mean. Charts, bar graphs and maps are used to present the statistical data more vividly. All the referred contents have been put in the text reference and a few on footnotes. The full reference is given in the Reference section (as per APA format).

D. Varia

1. Stakeholders

The Need Assessment focuses on particular target groups in a system. ‘Ideally, they are initially conducted to determine the needs of the people (service receivers) for whom the organization or system exists’. In this case of the migrant workers- the service receivers are the families, village community and the migrant workers themselves. However, ‘target groups’ are not only the service receivers, but also the service providers (the employers, contractors, Government organizations (GOs), Non-Government organizations (NGOs), Counsellors, Skill trainers and all those who are concerned or work for the good of the migrant workers.

The stakeholders can be categorized into primary, secondary and tertiary. The primary stakeholders are the migrants, their families and dependencies who were surveyed and the people who are directly to benefit from the study. The secondary stakeholders are the villagers and the community, *Gram Sabha* and *Panchayats* who have the data of the returning migrant workers and want to use this data for the welfare of the migrant/workers. The tertiary stakeholders are those who work for the better of the migrant workers like GOs, NGOs, counsellors, media, Government institutes, agencies and officials, employers, contractors, etc.

2. Research Team

The research team was headed by Dr. Sebastianus Lakra, SJ, as Principal Investigator (PI), supported by Dr. Prabha Lakra, the Research Assistant and Documentation. Besides her, Rose Mary Nag (Lokmanch State facilitator, Jharkhand), Coordinator of Social Action (CSAs) as field research assistants were directly engaged in monitoring the field survey under them. Two data entry operators Ms. Phulmani Marandy and Vinay Prakash and an advocacy officer (Ms. Anshumala Dungdung) joined the team. The advocacy officer directly assisted the PI in monitoring the data entry, tabulation, and analysis. The CDO staff (Ranchi) helped the research team as and when needed in tabulation, analysis, and draft report writing. The PI and the other members of MLSC Team took care of the logistics and printing of survey formats. Fr. David Solomon, S.J. the director, was overall in charge of the Need Assessment of the Migrant workers.

3. Timeline of the Study

The study was conceptualized immediately after the first Covid-19 pandemic lockdown. Major data collection was done in August 2020 to November 2020 following necessary pandemic protocols. Data entry was started in November and data tabulation/analysis was started in January 2021 and got over by the month of March 2021. After that, writing of the report (Jharkhand, Odisha and Chhattisgarh) was taken up.

CHAPTER III

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

This chapter discusses the major information collected in the study. The chapter is broadly divided into five sections. In section one situational analysis of migrants has been discussed. Skill mapping and related labour information have been discussed in section two. The challenges faced by returnee migrants and their experience during pandemic have been discussed in section three. Concerns related to future status of migrants have been discussed in section four and feasibilities/possibilities have been discussed in section five.

Section One: Situational Analysis of Migrant Workers

This section tries to understand the overall situation of the returnee migrant workers covered under the study.

I. Profile of the Returnee Migrant Labourers

In the first part, the demographic profiles of the returnee migrants have been discussed in detail. This would help in comprehending further discussion from the point of view of targeted population.

A. Migrant Workers During Survey

The study was conducted on total 1534 returnee migrant workers belonging to 3 states of Central India i.e. Jharkhand, Odisha and Chhattisgarh. Out of them, 7.63% migrants had reached home before the Covid-19 lockdowns, while 33.77% returned during the four lockdown phases (March 25th to May 31st) facing all odds and lockdown protocols. 27.51% migrant workers returned home during the post lockdown. (See Graph 3.46: Time of returning of the migrant workers to their native villages).

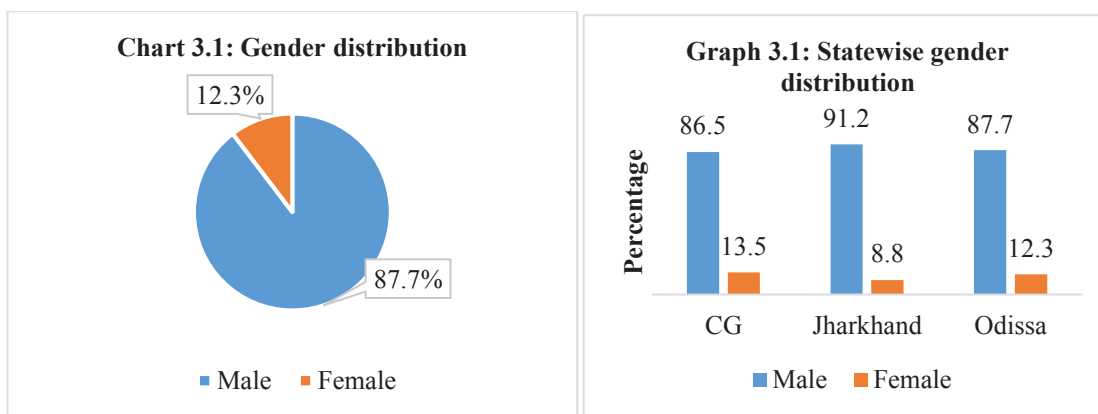
At the time of survey, 85.92% migrant workers were at home; 7.5% were in home quarantine; 2.35% in the Quarantine Centre; 0.65% in relatives' houses and 0.39% were in transit home (waiting to go). This shows that the study has captured information from the returnee migrants who managed to reach their home /villages/native state.

B. Demographic Profile of the Returnee Migrant Labourers

The demographic profile refers to particular characteristics of a population. The word *demographic* derives from Greek words for people (*demos*) and picture (*graphy*). Demographic details provide sufficient information about the samples under study. This section discusses demographic details of the total 1534 returnee migrant labourers of Jharkhand, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh comprising the Central Zone from where large number of people migrate to other states in search of work.

1. Gender Distribution of Migrant Workers

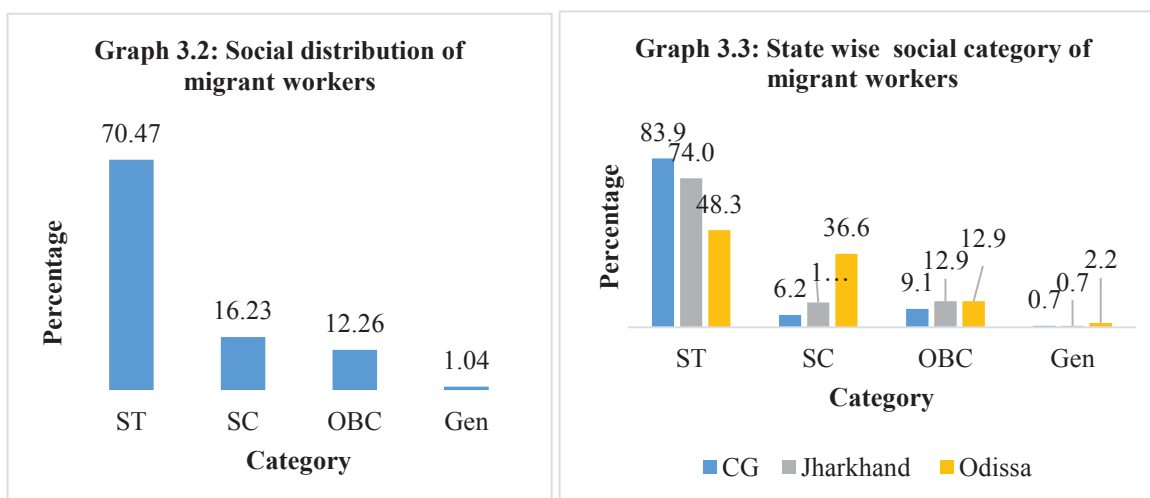
Out of 1534 returnee migrant labourers, about 87.7% were male while 12.3% were female. The state-wise data as per Graph 3.1 shows, in Chhattisgarh out of 274 returnee migrant workers 86.5% were male and 13.5% were female. In Jharkhand out of 943 returnee migrant workers 91.2% were male and 8.8% female. Similarly, in Odisha, out of 317 surveyed returnee migrant workers 87.7% were male and 12.3% female. The above data reflects the male members in the families of migrant workers whose responsibility is raising a family. Hence, male members play an important role in raising and taking care of the families; and also, in decision making for migration.



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

2. Social Category of Migrant Workers

The social distribution of the sample as per graph 3.2 shows 70.47% of the migrant workers belonged to Scheduled Tribes (STs), 16.23% from Scheduled Castes (SCs) and 12.26% from Other Backward Castes (OBCs). State-wise data shows that 83.9%, 74% and 48.3% of respondents were STs from Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha. In Schedule caste, Odisha has a higher number i.e. 36.6% compared to Chhattisgarh (6.2%) and Jharkhand (12.3%). In the OBC category, 9.1%, 12.9% and 12.9% of respondents were from Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha. In general category: 0.7%, 0.7% and 2.2% were from Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha. The data depicts that the migrating population from the given states comprise a majority of the tribal communities.



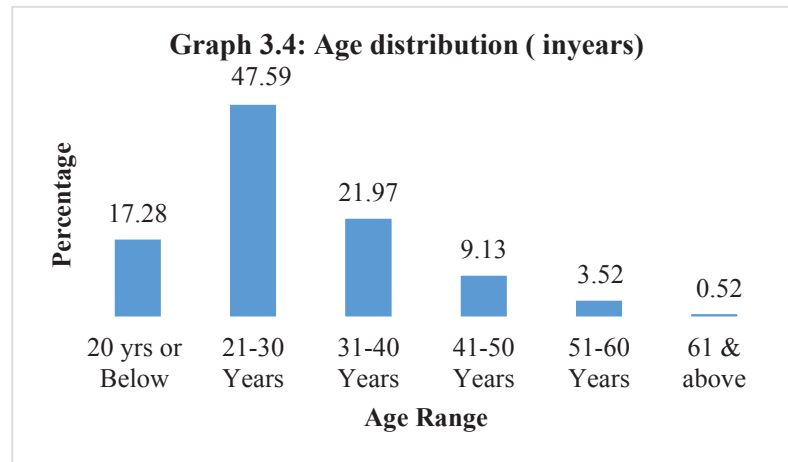
Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

3. Age Category of Returnee Migrant Labourers

Age is an important factor to understand the dynamics of migration. The graph 3.4 (Age distribution) shows that the highest number i.e. 47.59% of returnee migrant workers were from the age group of 21-30 years. While from the age group between 31-40 years the migrant workers were 21.97%. Third segment is 17.28% belonging to the age group of 20 years or below. 9.13% migrants were from the age group of 41-50 and 3.52% were from above 50 years. The migrant workers belonging to 20 years or below form a substantial percentage (17.28%) in which the minors may as well come. The migrant workers under this age group should have been in schools

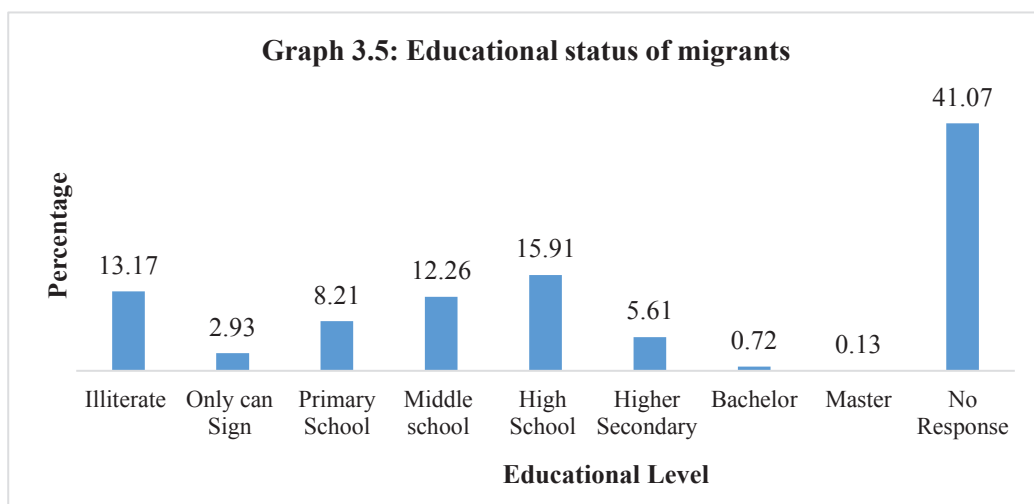
or colleges rather than migrating to other places for work. It was observed that the migrants of Odisha underage group 20 years or less were higher than the other two states.



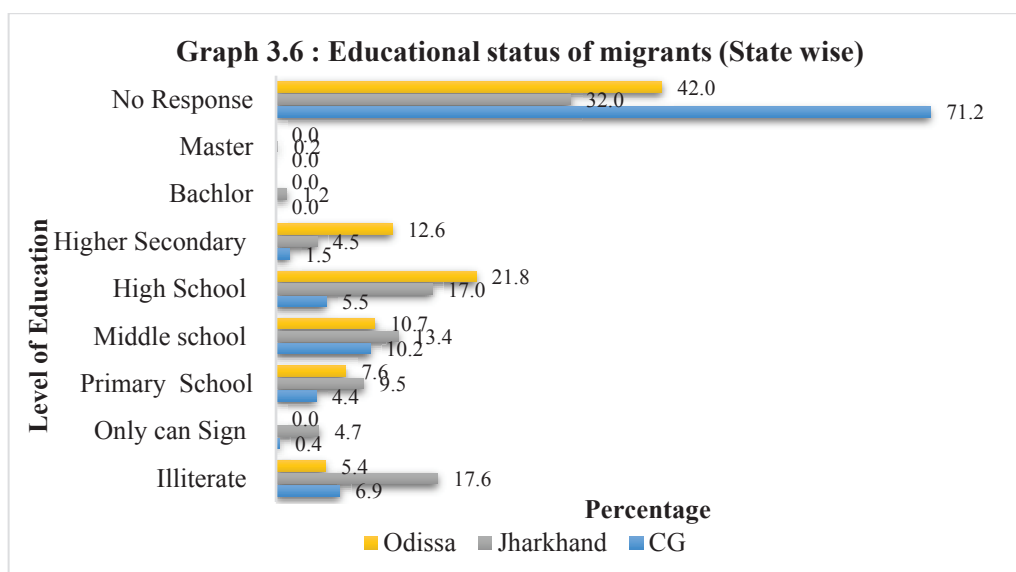
Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

4. Educational Status of the Migrant Workers

While capturing educational details of the migrants, 41.07% migrants preferred not to share their educational details. This was very prominent in Chhattisgarh where 71.2% didn't share their educational details. On the basis of available data, it was found that 41.98% migrants had some level of school educational background viz. primary to higher secondary schools. 0.85 % had graduation and post-graduation degrees. About 16.1% (Illiterate 13.17% + only can sign 2.93%) were considered as illiterate migrant workers. Illiterate migrants from Jharkhand were higher i.e. 17.6% than Chhattisgarh (6.9%) and Odisha (5.4%). The data (Age distribution) shows that below 20 years begin to migrate for work. This may be the reason here we see the majority of migrant workers (86.84%) belonging to the young age group between 20 years or less- 40 years.



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

C. Households and Land Holding Pattern in Migrants' Villages

After identifying villages of the returnee migrants, at least 10 or more migrant workers from the same village, a separate household survey was conducted in such villages. Total 6244 household data were collected from Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Jharkhand. 23.06% of households were from Chhattisgarh, 58.86% from Jharkhand, and 18.08% from Odisha.

1. Social Category of the Households

The data shows that the household in villages of the returnee migrants mainly comprises the tribal population. Schedule tribe comprises 72.04% of households, schedule caste comprises 16.19%, and OBC comprises 9.66%. People of the general category were found to reside in the villages with very few numbers, only 0.50% of households.

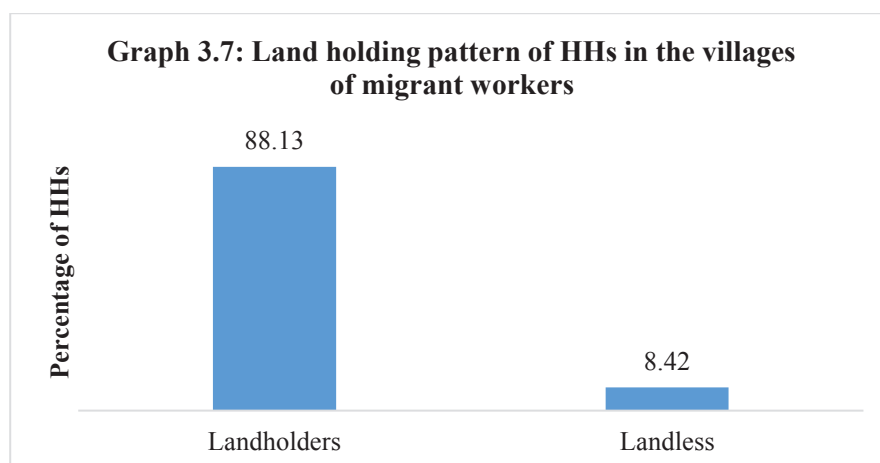
Table no. 3.1: Social category of the household of migrants' villages

State	ST	SC	OBC	General	No Response	Total HHs
CG	1072	168	187	1	12	1440
Jharkhand	2827	467	349	18	14	3675
Odisha	599	376	67	12	75	1129
Total	4498	1011	603	31	101	6244
%	72.04	16.19	9.66	0.50	1.62	100

Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

2. Landholding Pattern in the Villages of Returnee Migrants (N=6244)

The data on landholding patterns at the household level shows that 88.13% HHs are landholders and 8.42% are landless.



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

It was further found that out of 6244 households, 43.90% of the households have less than 1 acre of land and 21.52% have less than 2.5 acres (1 hectare). As per the classification of landholding³65.42% (43.90%+21.52%) fall under the category of marginal farmers. 11.72% belonged to the category of small farmers. These segments are usually identified as vulnerable farming groups. 3.96% HHs fall under semi-middle farmers, and 1.91% under middle farmers. 0.56% households have more than 25 acres of land falling under the category of big farmers.

Table 3.2: Land holding in acres by the HHs in migrant workers' villages

Land size	< 1 Acre	< 2.5 Acres	2.5-5 Acres	5-10 Acres	10-25 Acres	>25 Acres
No. of HHs	2741	1344	732	247	119	35
%	43.90	21.52	11.72	3.96	1.91	0.56
	65.42					

Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

Table 3.3 shows (with multiple choices of answers) 53.86% of households have *doin khet* or low land, whereas 51.27% of households were found to have *tanr khet* or upland. The land of 3.62% of households falls under the category of barren/pasture/wasteland. In other words, a household may be having a combination of *Doin*, *Tanr Khet* and waste land. On the basis of the quality of land, the agricultural land is ranked as *Doin khet* (low land, the best agricultural land- used for cultivating of long duration of paddy); second, *Tanr Khet* (up land) in which grown millets, barleys, pulses, oil seeds, and short duration rice variety. However, a large portion of households i.e. 84.80% HHs depend on rain for cultivation, whereas only 1.35% HHs have access to irrigation facilities as shown in Chart 3.2. It is, by and large, '**dry land agriculture**'⁴ (Phalansankar, 2003).

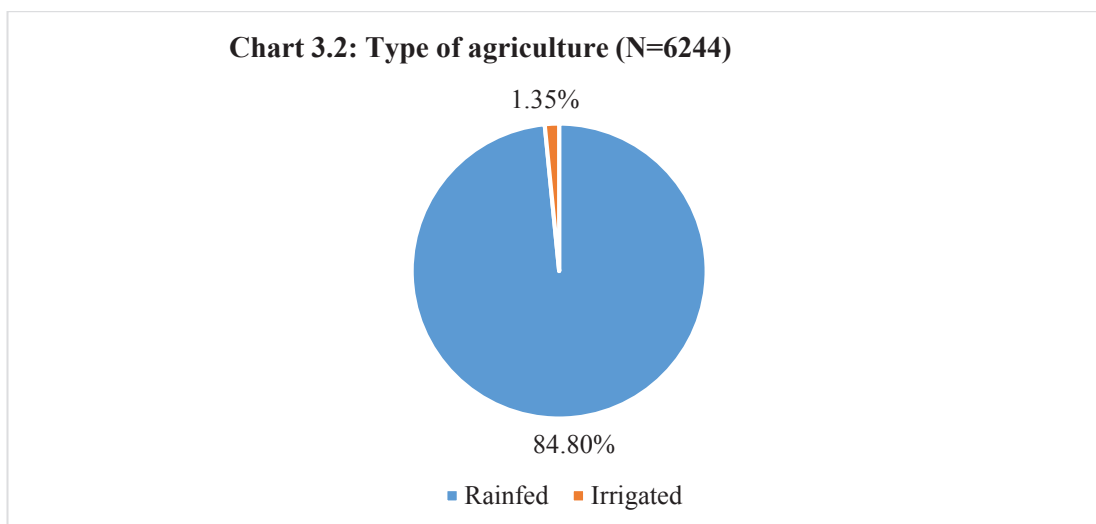
Table 3.3: Type of land owned by HHs

Type of land	<i>Doin Khet</i>	<i>Tanr Khet</i>	Barren /Pasture/wasteland
No. of HHs	3363	3201	226
%	53.86	51.27	3.62

Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

³Land holding less than 1.0 hectare (2.5 acres) - classified as marginal farmers; between 1.0 to 2.0 hectares (2.5 to 5 acres) -small farmers; between 2.0 to 4.0 hectares (5 to 10 acres) - semi middle farmers; between 4.0 to 10 hectares (10 to 25 acres) - middle farmers and 10.0 hectares & above- classified as big farmers.

⁴ Dry land agriculture: where the ratio of gross irrigated area to gross cropped are is likely to be less than 20%



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

II. Push and Pull Factors

Migration is a worldwide phenomenon usually caused by some strong push and pull factors. These factors determine the migration of individuals or groups of people altogether from their native place to another.

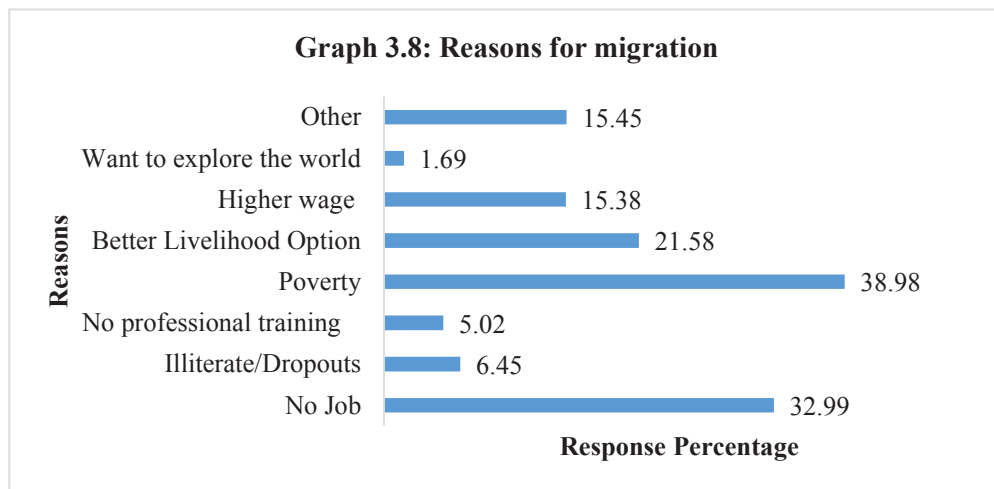
A. Push Factors

The push factors are those factors which are associated with the area of origin responsible for the migration. Rural agricultural distress is the major push factor for migration. Agriculture in the Central Indian states is less remunerative due to traditional farming, climate change, vagaries of monsoon, or drought situation. Tribal agriculture by and large is dry land agriculture; and agriculture failure causes seasonal and circular migration. The states in which marginalized communities (STs, SCs, and forest dwellers) live are rich in mineral resources. Large scale mining, mega dams and other projects have displaced rural people in large numbers. These Internally Displaced Persons (IDP's) have become inter-state migrants in the past. The non-tribal moving into the tribal land, deforestation, conflicts based on communal grounds, red-corridor (where people are either caught up with the security forces or Maoists, have left with their children seeking a secure future, as is a case of Bastar in Chhattisgarh and other states in Central India), ongoing acquisition of tribal land in the name of development and industrialization, human-elephant conflicts, have been causes for migration. Agronomic industrial growth is negligible in these Central Indian states. Lack of job opportunities, low human development indicators (lack of educational facilities, poor medical, transport, water facilities) have considerably contributed to inter- state migration. (C.f. Annexure-III: Push Factors (Excerpts from Concept Note)). The apparent and current push factors discussed are as following-

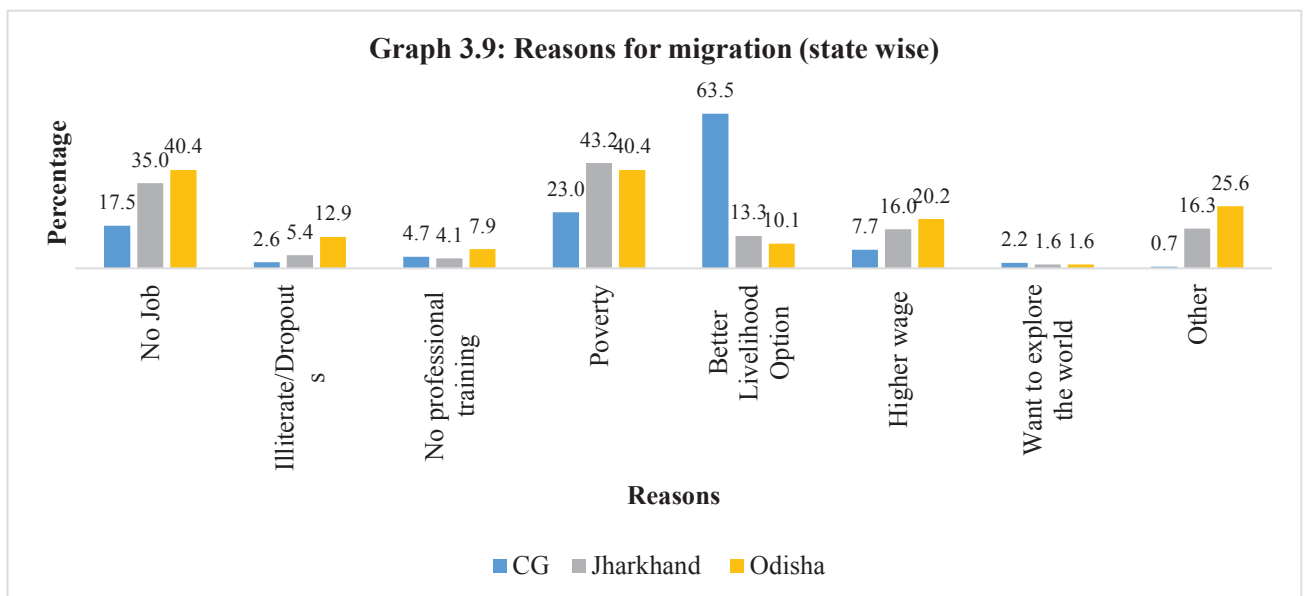
1. Reasons for Migration

People always liked to move out of their state in search of a better livelihood. Migration has many pull and push factors. To investigate the questions asked were of multiple choices of answers as presented in graph 3.8. The study found that 38.98% migrants said poverty forces them to migrate. 32.98% said it is unemployment as push factor. Being Illiterates/school dropouts comprising 6.45% and people having no professional trainings 5.02% both contributed in migration as they were usually considered liability to the family. The school dropouts do not fit themselves in the agricultural activities, but live fanciful lifestyles. Due to lack of professional training, they lag behind taking up other traditional sources of livelihood available locally. They waste out time in

the villages, often falling prey to criminal activities or alcoholism. Migration becomes a safe haven for them. State-wise data as per graph 3.9 shows that for Odisha and Jharkhand lack of employment and poverty is a major push factor whereas for Chhattisgarh, people mainly migrate for better livelihood opportunities.



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020



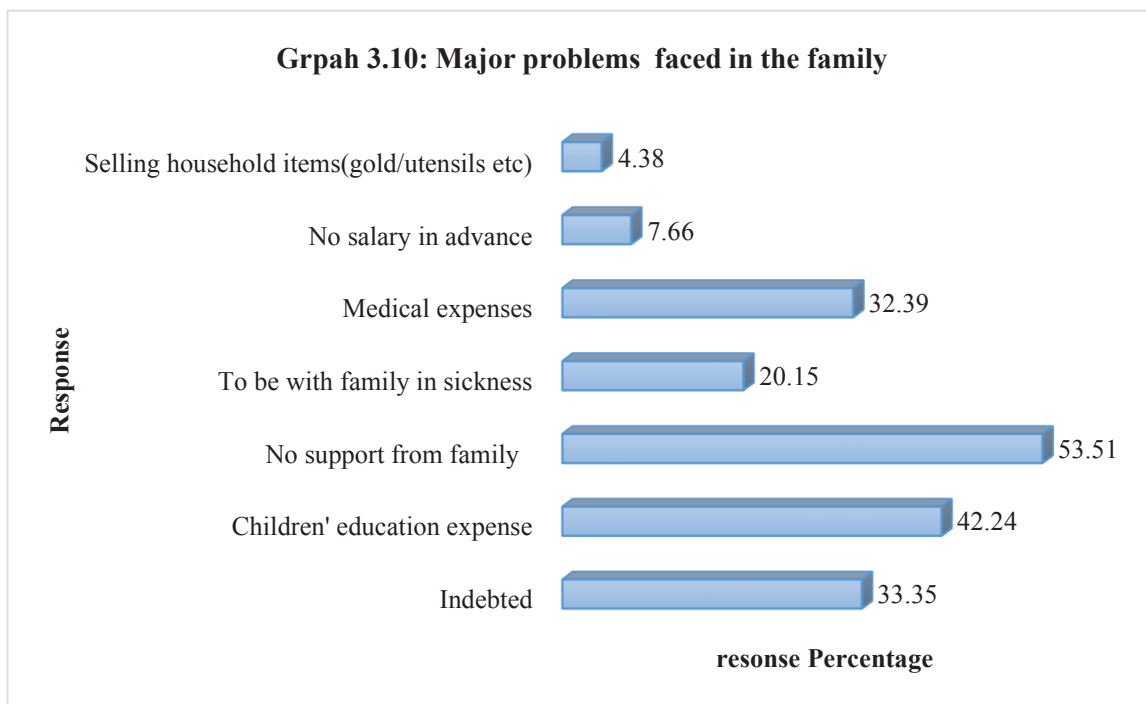
Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

2. Major Problems Faced in the Family

Several problems like indebtedness, illiteracy, poverty, children's education and medical expenses of the family members, etc. increase the complexity of problems for a person. The workers often migrate seasonally and come back home to continue with agricultural activities during sowing season. Women usually go out for daily agricultural wage work around their villages or sell forest produce to earn extra cash. Men migrate for unskilled or semi-skilled work in construction sites, factories (bread, biscuits, pipes and rubber making) or mines.

Based on the multiple choices of answers, graph 3.10 shows the returnee migrants have been facing family problems. 53.51% migrants mentioned that they didn't receive support from their family. 42.57% mentioned expenses of their children's education is a major problem. 32.92% migrants

were found indebted and unable to pay the due amounts. Earlier, the joint family systems used to take care of all the needs of an individual in the family. In this changing scenario, nuclear family has taken over the joint family that have to look after the needs of its members of the family.

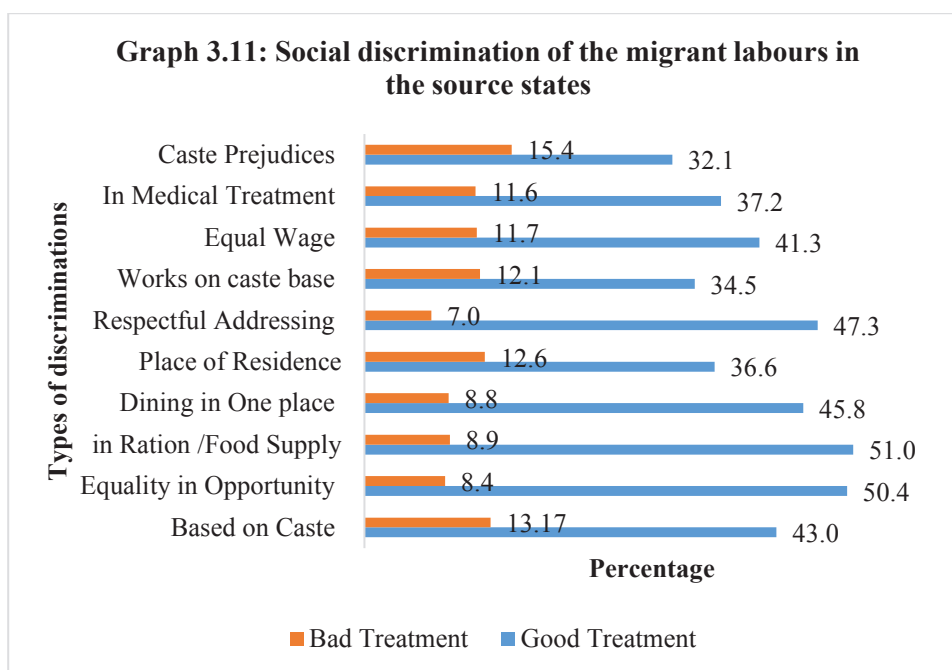


Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

7.66% of responses mentioned that they didn't get their wages (MGNREGA) in time and about 4.43% responses have mentioned selling household items (gold/utensils) in order to meet their expenses. This shows that some people faced deep financial crisis.

3. Social Discrimination of the Migrant Labourers in the Source States

Around less than half of the population mentioned to receive good treatment in their resident state on various grounds such as caste, opportunity, rations, food supply, and common place of eating, place of residence, respect, discrimination, equal wages, medical treatment, caste prejudices and treatment with respect. However, there were cases of discrimination in the source states but in lesser percentages. As per graph 3.11, 15.4% experienced caste prejudice in their home state and 12.6% people experienced discrimination in finding suitable temporary residence were higher than the other parameters. This may be due to migrants being mainly from tribal community and other marginalized communities that have been discriminated on various grounds and may be true that the third-highest variable i.e. 12.1% talks about the worker facing caste discrimination in getting work.



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

4. High Rate of School Dropouts

It was observed that 42.83% migrants had attended school education but decided to discontinue the education for reason not known and migrated in search of work. This may be due to the high scale of poverty among the migrating families which discourages children from pursuing education; for them earning daily bread for survival is more important than completing education. The high rate of school dropouts certainly plays as a big push factor. For, these school dropouts neither are interested in taking up agricultural work at home nor want to resume their studies. In addition to that, they are unskilled workers. In other words, they don't find happiness in the rural economic and social life. To escape this situation and to fit themselves to their fanciful life they migrate to work and earn their living.

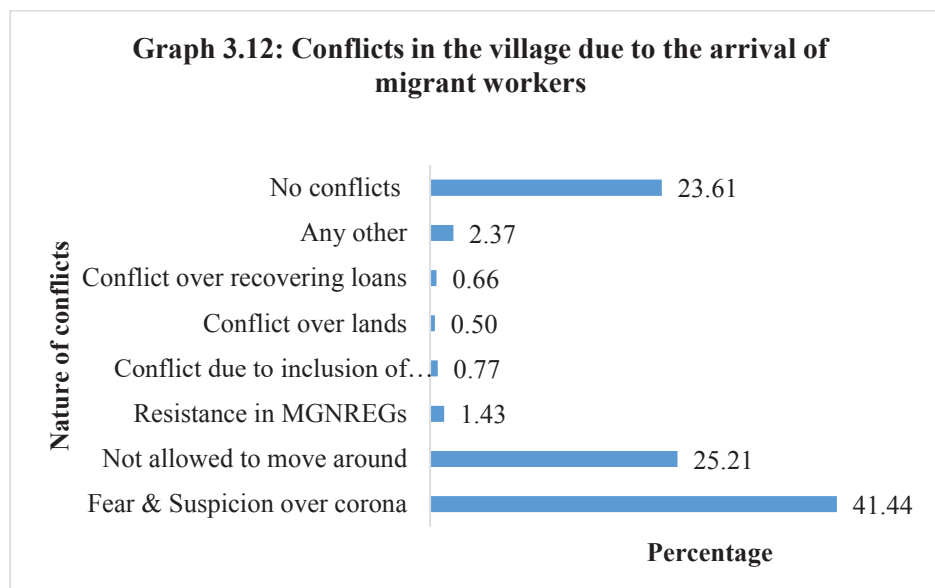
5. Illiteracy and Unskilled Working Class in the Source States

The quality of education has deteriorated in government schools in the past years. As a result, students in the rural and remote areas do not get proper education and thus the numbers of school dropouts keep increasing. Also, the present-day education system prepares the students for jobs in the cities inculcating the values of the urban set of life. The educated young men and women hesitate to work in the agriculture fields. They feel, out of place in their villages and choose to migrate to the cities after becoming school dropouts. The study shows that 62.65% of the people migrating are involved in the unskilled works. These unskilled workers, no doubt, constitute from school dropouts and illiterate migrant workers having no skills to get a decent job. These unskilled working groups easily get absorbed in low wage labour work in the destination states. Thus, lack of skill training becomes a push factor for migrants.

6. Conflicts in the Family and in the Village

There were conflicts at family levels that pushed the returnee migrants to move out from their homes. As per graph 3.12, 41.44% of migrants had conflicts over fear and suspicion of corona virus and 25.21% migrants were not allowed to move freely in the locality. 23.61% migrants had no conflicts in the family or in the village on arrival. The study also found that few other cases

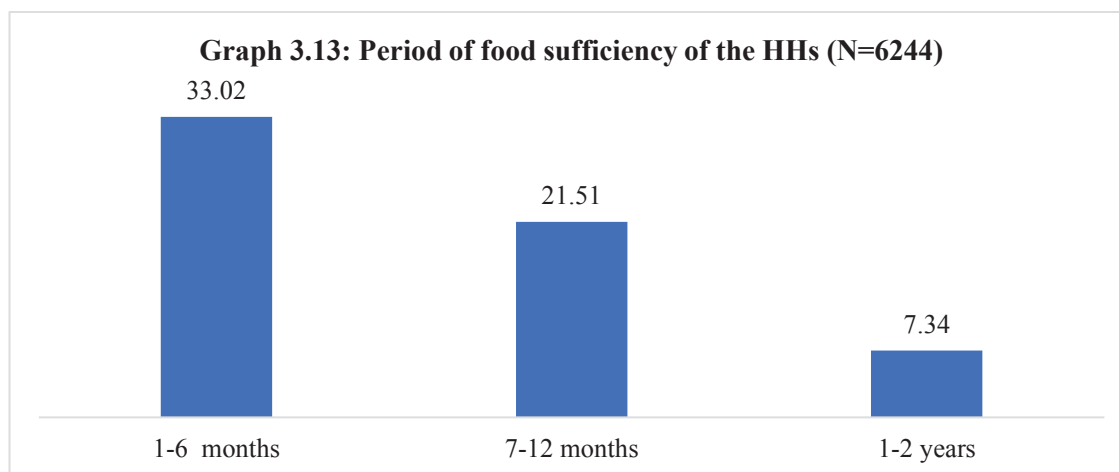
were present but in less number 1.43% migrants faced resistance in MGNREGS employment; 0.77% faced conflict in availing entitlements; 0.66% faced conflict over loan recovery.



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

7. Food Self-sufficiency (HH Level)

In order to understand food sufficiency, household data were analysed. The result shows that 33.02% households were able to manage food for up to 6 months. 21.51% of households had food sufficiency for 7 to >12 months. If we add both numbers, it comes to 54.53% (33.02% + 21.51%), which means nearly more than half of the total households struggle to meet food sufficiency for a full year.

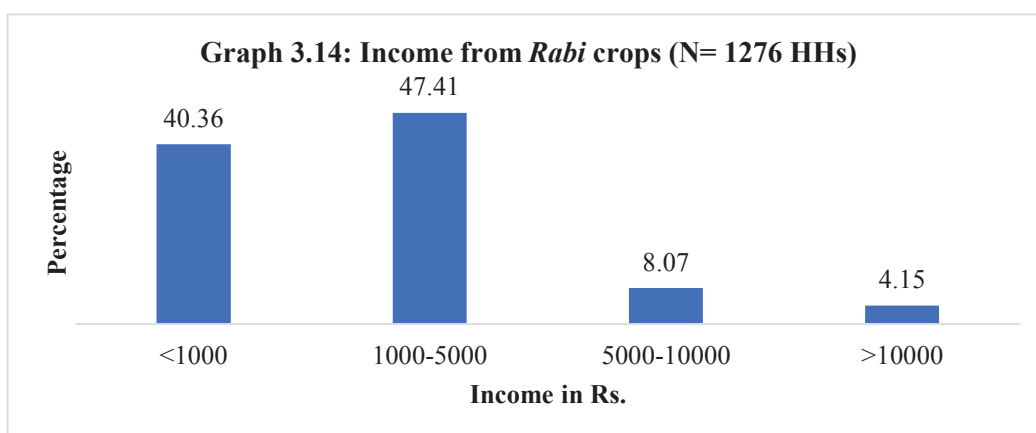


Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

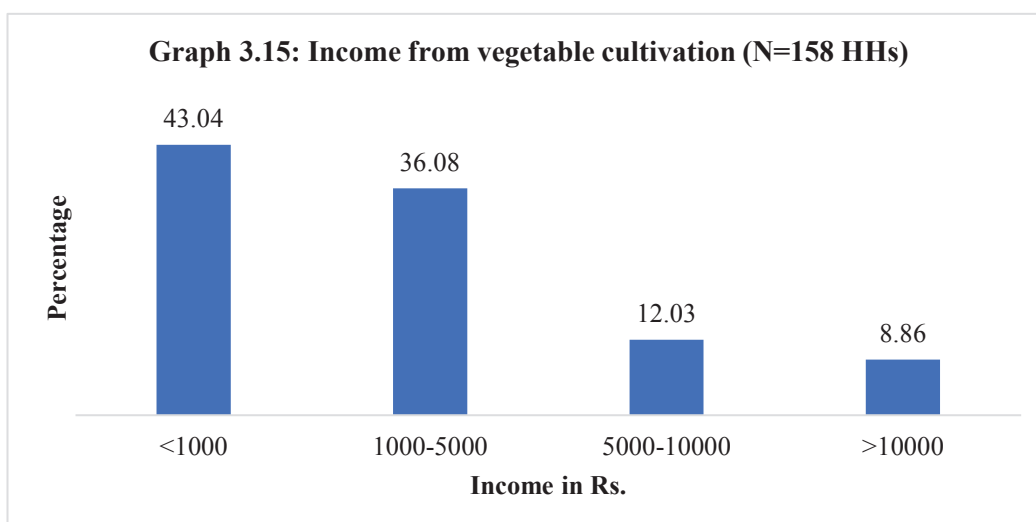
9. Income of HHs from *Rabi* and Vegetable Cultivation

Income from *Rabi* and vegetable cultivation shows the diversification in their agricultural production apart from their core *Kharif* cultivation. However, only 20.44% and 2.53% households were found practicing *Rabi* and vegetable cultivation. Out of 1276 *Rabi* cultivators, 40.36% were able to make an income of less than Rs. 1000. 47.41% HHs were able to earn income between Rs. 1000-5000. 8.07% households were able to earn income Rs. 5000-10000 and 4.15% earn income

more than Rs. 10,000 from *Rabi* cultivation. In the case of vegetable cultivation, 43.04% of HHs cultivating vegetables was able to earn less than Rs. 1000. 36.08%, 12.03% and 8.86% HHs were able to make income of Rs. 1000-5000, Rs. 5000-10000 and more than Rs. 10,000.



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

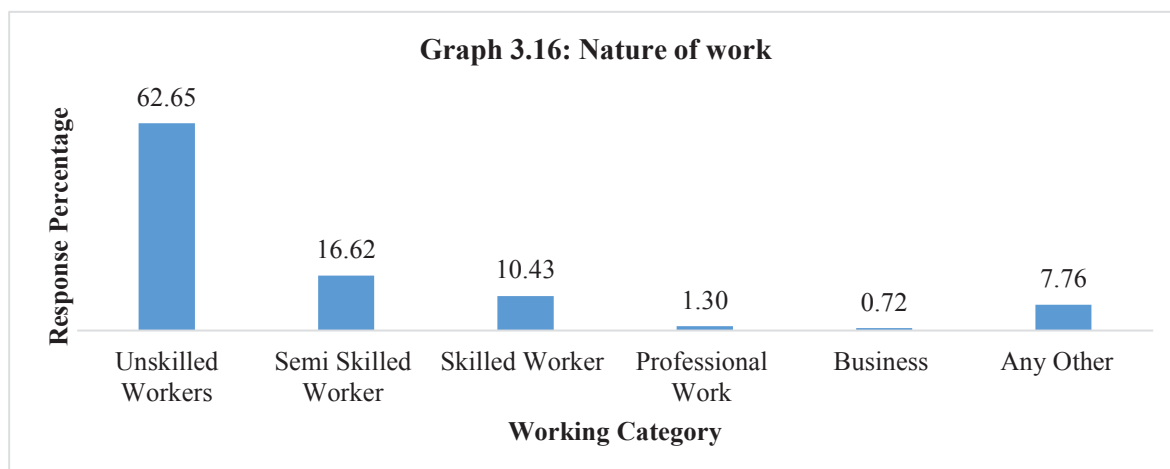
B. Pull Factors

The pull factors are usually understood as those factors which are associated with the area of destination. This section tries to explain the pull factors found in the study.

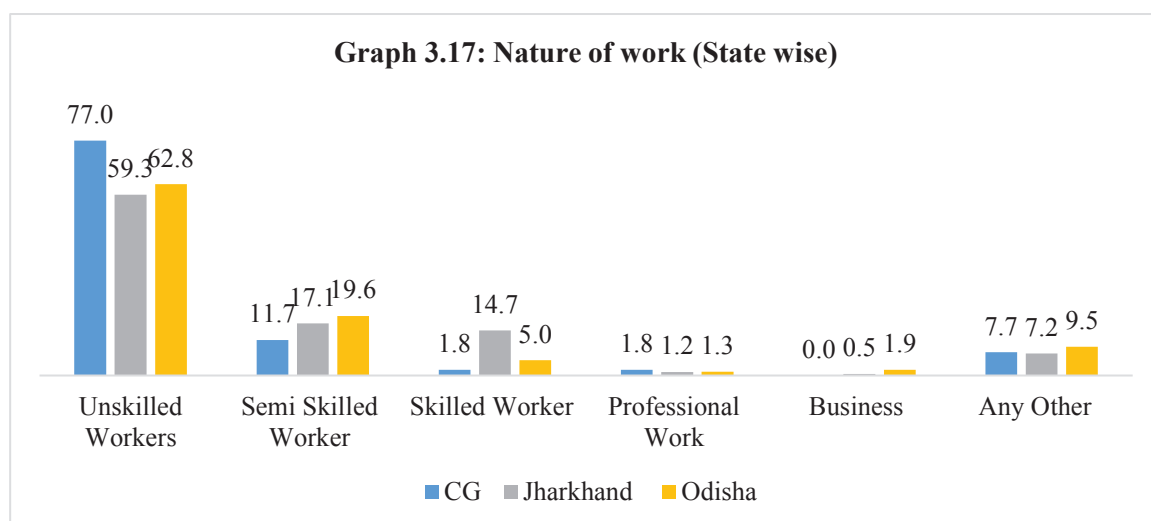
1. Easy Availability of Works for Unskilled Workers in the Destination States

The study shows about 62.65% of the migrants involved in the unskilled jobs in the destination states prove that the migrants were provided jobs which are easily available in the destination states. 16.62% semi-skilled workers were slightly better in position than unskilled but mostly preferred for low wage workers. It can be observed that only 10.43% of the migrants engaged in the skilled work and 1.30% were involved in professional work while 0.72% were petty vendors in the destination states. The graph 3.16 shows that unskilled workers in Chhattisgarh (77%) were more than Jharkhand (59.3%) and Odisha (62.8%); while skilled migrants in Jharkhand (14.7%) were more compared to Chhattisgarh (1.85) and Odisha (5%). These workers have little or no skill to be hired in a skill based decent profession. The migrants were engaged in cheap manual labour

work in the construction sites, industry, garment factories, bore well rigs, brick kilns, domestic work, chemical factories, etc., which were easily available in the destination states.



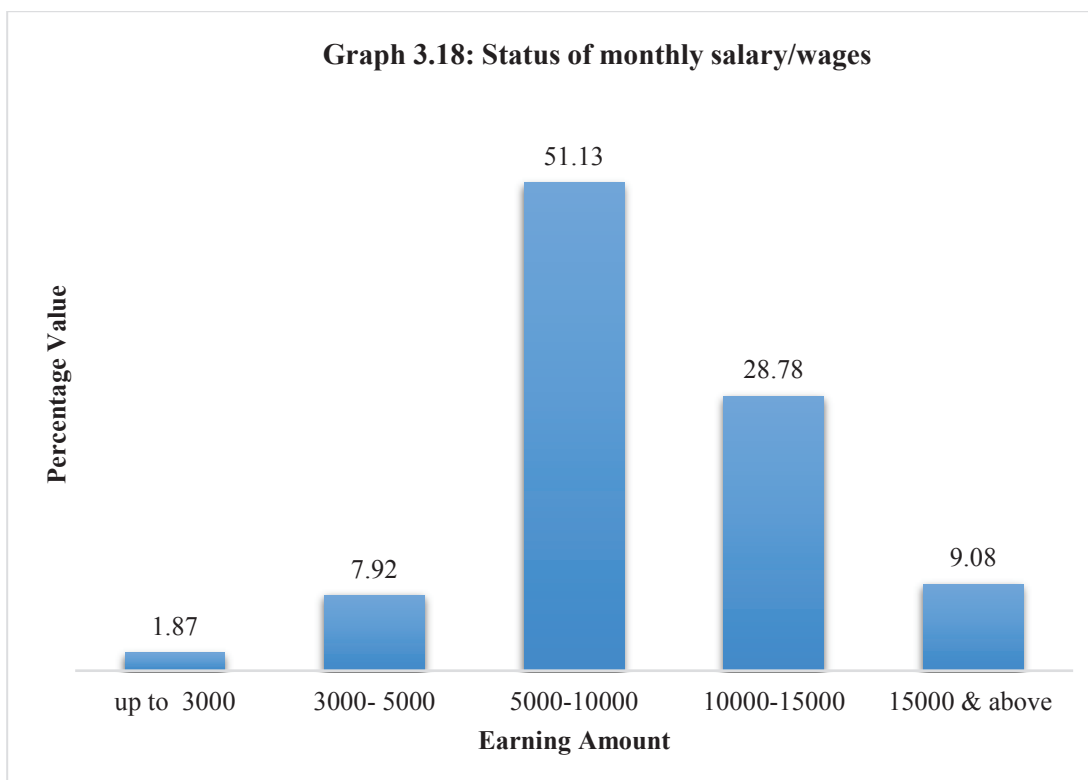
Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

2. High Rate of Wages

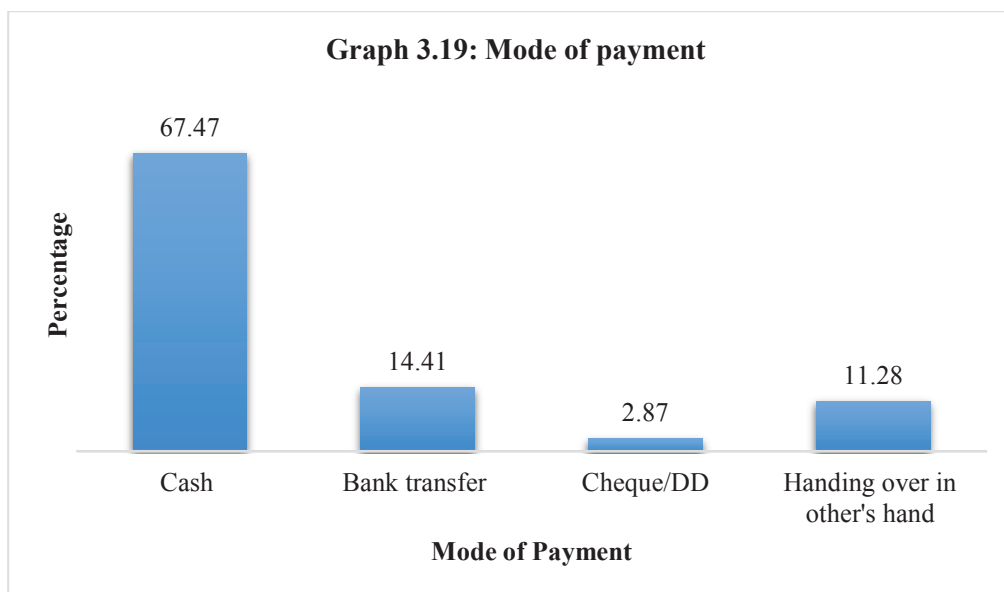
The rate of manual labour in the home states has poor remuneration. The migrant workers see greener pasture and opportunity in terms of better wages in the destination states. The study shows 51.13% migrants could earn of Rs. 5000-10000 a month, while 28.78% migrants could earn Rs. 10000-15000 a month and 9.08% earned more than Rs. 15000. The data shows that migrant workers look to earn more than Rs. 5000 in the destination states. In the home state people working in MGNREGA complain that the earning was not sufficient to meet their requirements and very often they don't receive it on time. The local contractual work in the home states offers low wages. Hence, they migrate to destination states.



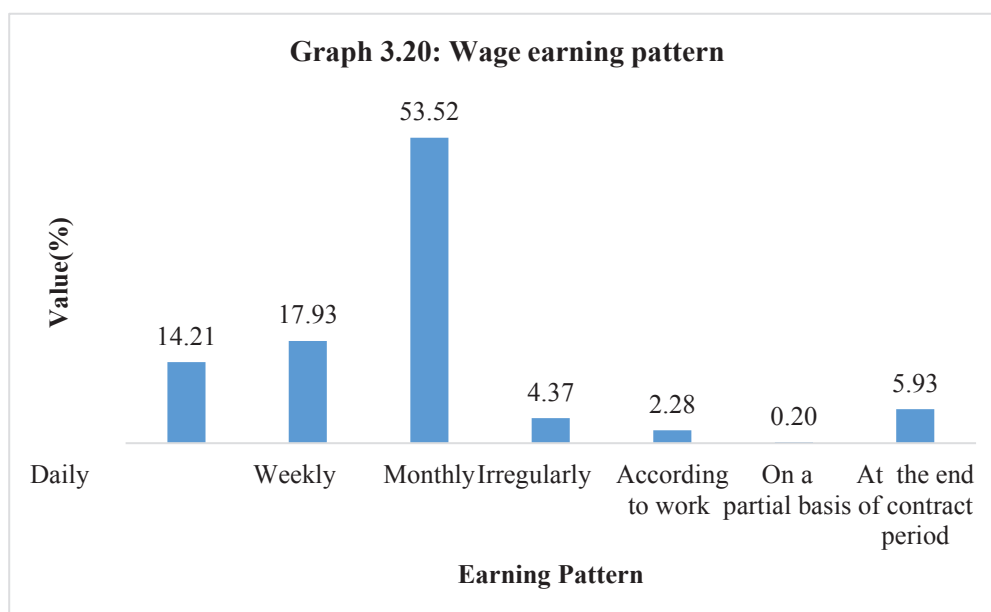
Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

3. Cash in Hand

The migrants usually get attracted to the works which offer earning cash in hand. This motivates them as they can use money to meet their immediate requirements. The graph 3.19 shows that more than half of the migrants i.e. 67.47% received their payment in cash while only 14.41% received payments in their bank accounts. 11.28% of the migrants received payment through some other person or contractor/agent. Only 2.87% received payment through cheques. On further analysis on their payment system as per graph 3.20, 53% of the migrants received their payment on a monthly basis, 14.21% received their payment daily and 17.93% received their payment on weekly basis, 5.93% received their payment after the contractual work while 4.37% received their payment irregularly. 2.28% received their payment according to their piecemeal work. The study found that the majority of migrant workers earn monthly in cash and meet their needs as well as of family.



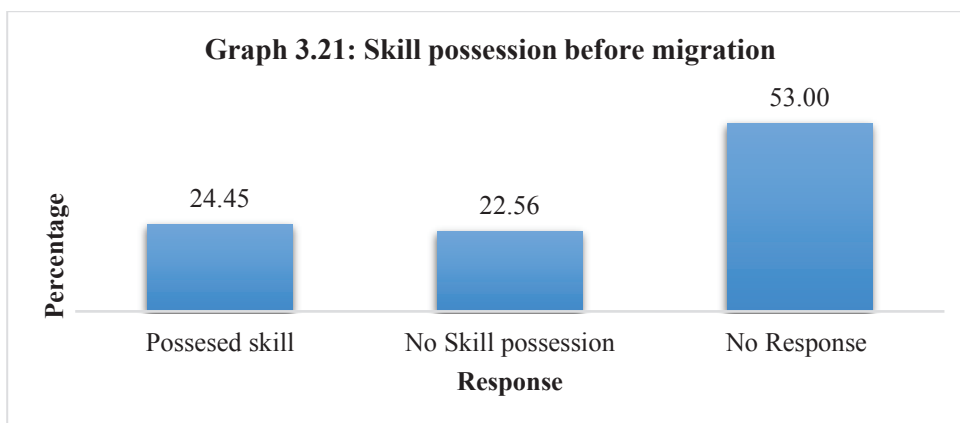
Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

4. Placement of Skilled Workers in the Destination States

It was observed that the majority of the migrants who move out in search of jobs in other states are either school dropouts or possess little or no skills to acquire a decent job in their home states. They usually move out because other developing states where infrastructure and developing activities take place at a good pace providing them a variety of options to work as manual labourer. This requires zero skills. The graph 3.21 shows 53% chose not to share their skill possession before migration. 24.45% migrants possessed some amounts of required skills to be used in jobs in their destination states like plumbing, mechanic, computer operator, etc. and 22.56% had no prior skills.



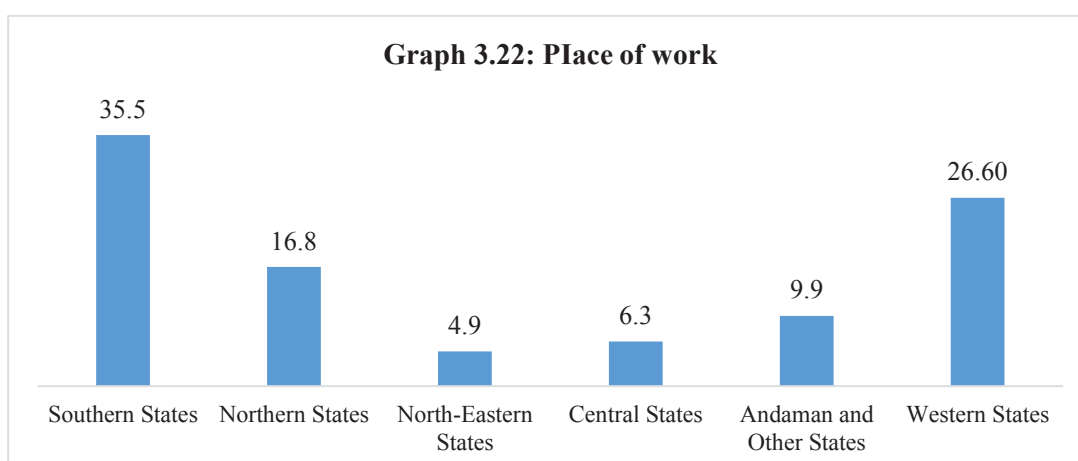
Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

III. Migrant Labourers in Relation to Interstate Migration

A. Status of Migrant Workers in the Destination States

1. Distribution of the Migrant Workers in Destination States

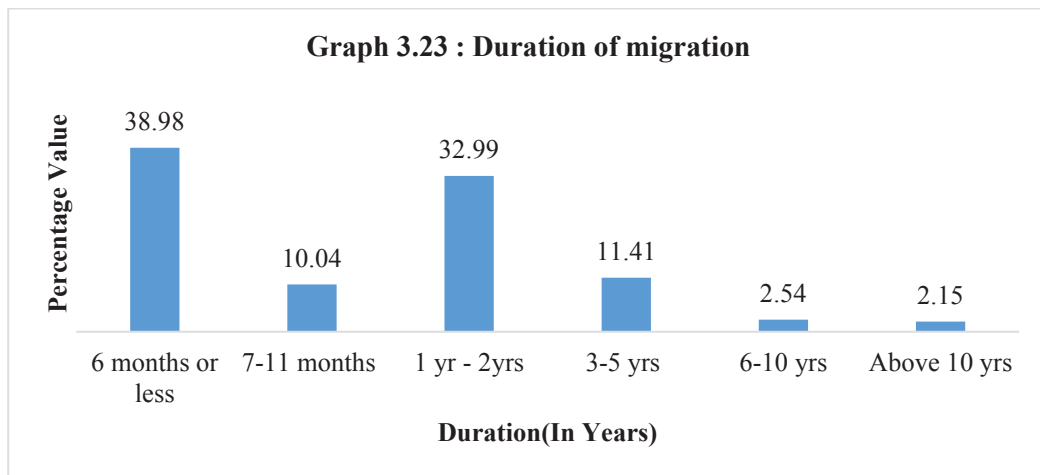
The following graph 3.22 shows the distribution of migrant labourers in destination states/places. 35.5% of migrants had moved to the southern states that south Indian states are hubs of developmental and industrial activities. Consequently, there is increased demand for labour. These states were unable to meet human resources from their own states, as most of the southern migrants moved to the Gulf and Western countries for better job opportunities. The labour deficit is covered by the migrants from Central/North Indian states like Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and UP/Uttrakhand. 26.5% of the migrants surveyed in the study have been found to be migrating to the western states. 16.8% of the migrants had gone to the Northern states especially Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. This is followed by 9.8% who migrated to the Andaman Islands and other states in search of jobs specially to work in fishery, construction, transportation, tourism, cooking, etc. 6.3% migrants moved to the Central States like Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal engaging in labour work. 4.9% of the migrants had returned from north-eastern states.



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

2. Trend of Migration

The migration is a continuous phenomenon people migrating from the rural areas to the urban centres in search of better livelihood options and to lead a better life. The process of migration is often observed to be seasonal for the rural migrants who go out during the agriculture off-season. 38.98% of the surveyed migrants who had migrated for 6 months or less were apparently the seasonal migrants and likely that they were forced to return due to lockdown. 10.04% migrants had migrated for 7-11 months i.e. for a period less than 1 year. 32.99% migrated for 1-2 years followed by 11.47% migrated for a period between 3-5 years. 2.54% returned after 6-10 years and 2.15% have returned after more than 10 years.

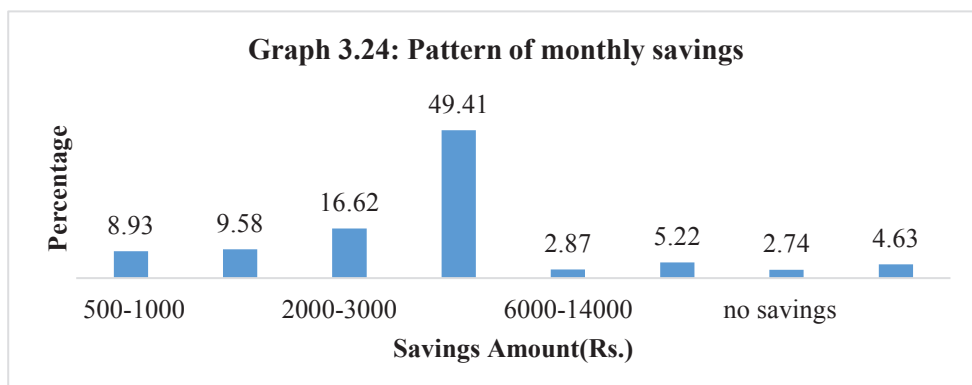


Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

B. Pattern of Saving and Expense

1. Pattern of Monthly Savings

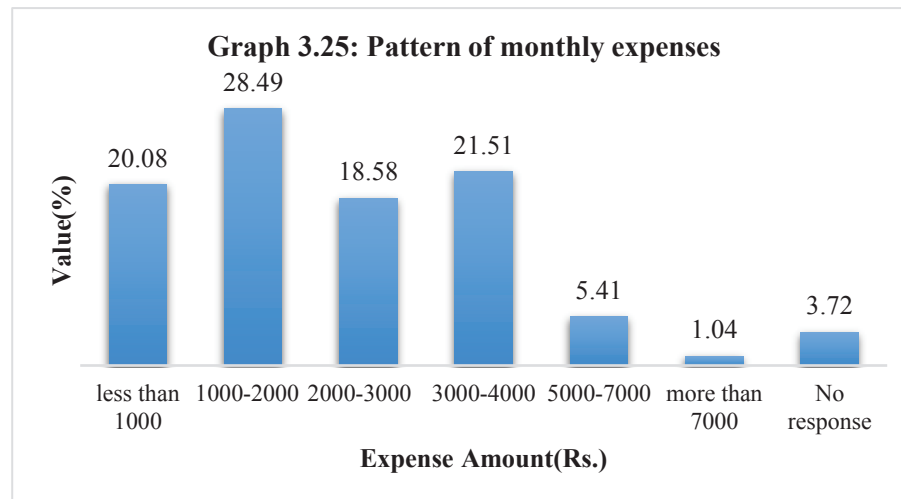
The study shows that the higher wage is a great motivating factor for the migrant workers which make them to save some amount to meet their needs. About 49.41% of the migrants saved their income ranging between Rs. 3000-5000 per month. 16.62% were able to save Rs. 2000-3000 per month. 9.58% were able to save Rs. 1000-2000 per month and 8.93% saved Rs. 500-1000 per month. Only 5.22% had saved an amount above Rs. 15000, while 2.74% said they could hardly save their income.



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

2. Pattern of Monthly Expenses

Migrant workers have to bear some monthly expenses in order to live and earn in the destination states/cities. The study shows, about 28.49% of the migrants have an average expenditure of Rs. 1000-2000 followed by 21.51% whose expenses range between Rs. 3000-4000. 20.08% spent less than Rs.1000. 18.58% had an average expenditure of Rs. 2000-3000 and 5.41% had expenditure of Rs. 5000-7000. Only 1.04% had expenditure of more than Rs. 7000.



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

Section Two: Skill Mapping and Skill Related Issues

The skill possession and migration has a close relation. Skilled people are more required in the industrial setups which offer more salary compared to the unskilled workers. Recent years, the Government has taken intervention in skill development to upgrade the skill of people which are preferred in the job market. Many labour communities have taken benefits of it but many still find it difficult to access it. This section discusses the levels of skills of the returnee migrants and related issues responsible for migration.

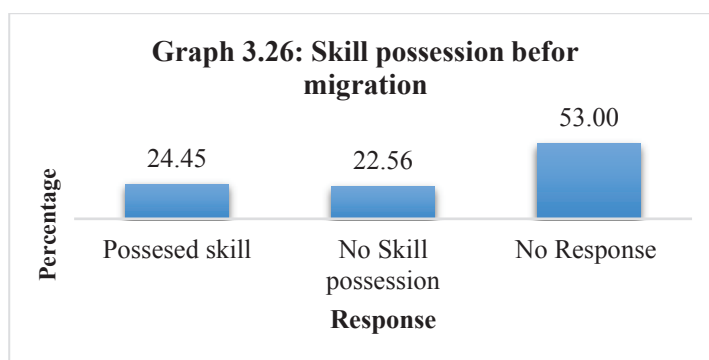
I. Skill Assessment of the Returnee Migrants

This section discusses the skill mapping of the returnee migrants and some scopes of skill development.

A. Skill Mapping

1. Skill Possession before Migrating

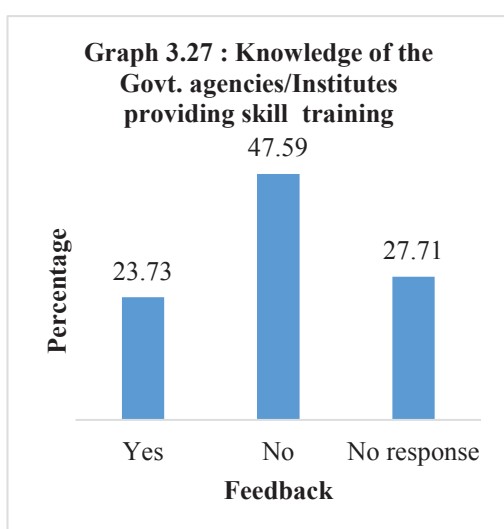
It was observed that the majority of the returnee migrants did not acquire skill through training before migration. Only 24.45% respondents mentioned having some skill before migration. The migrants with some skills were seen slightly higher in Odisha (30.3%) compared to Jharkhand (23.8%) and Chhattisgarh (20.1%). Interestingly, more than half of the respondents preferred not to share their skill information.



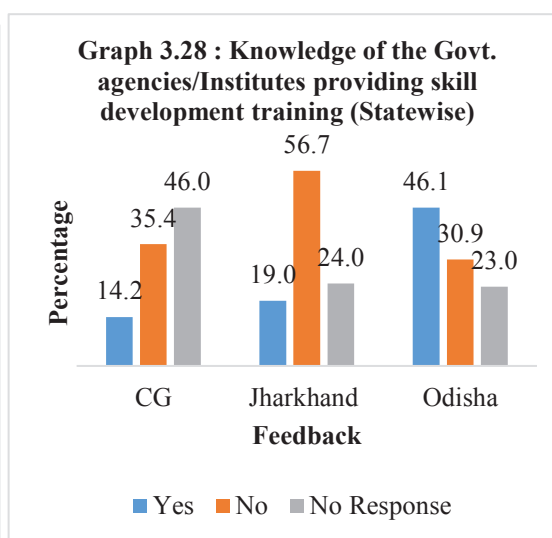
Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

2. Knowledge of the Government Agencies/Institutes for Skill Training

When the returnee migrants were asked their knowledge about the agencies providing skill development programmes in their locality, it was found that 47.59% migrants said that they had no knowledge about it. Only 23.73% migrants had some information about the skill training institutes and agencies. 46% migrants of Odisha were aware about it but the awareness level in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand was very low. 27.71% migrants preferred not to respond to the question. No responses were about 46% in Chhattisgarh which is higher than Jharkhand (24%) and Odisha (23%).



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

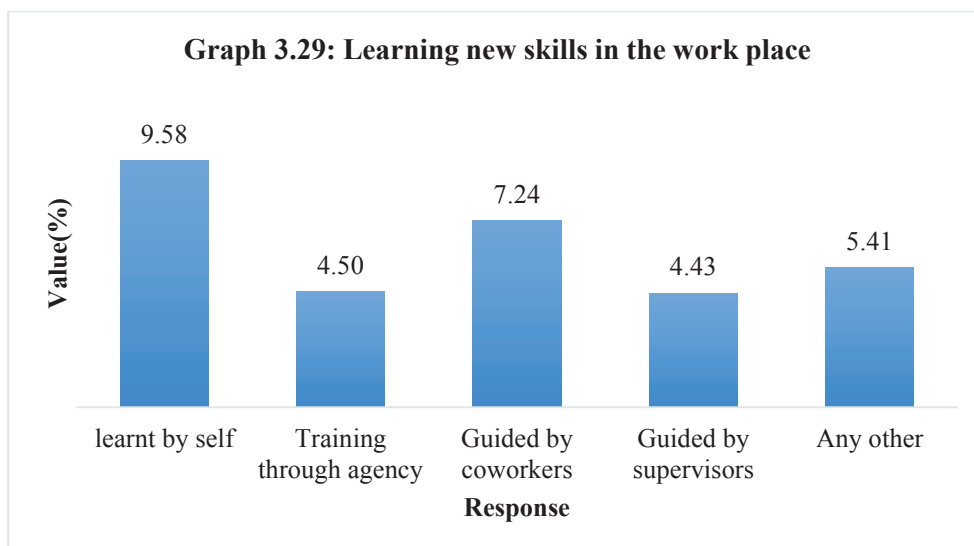


Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

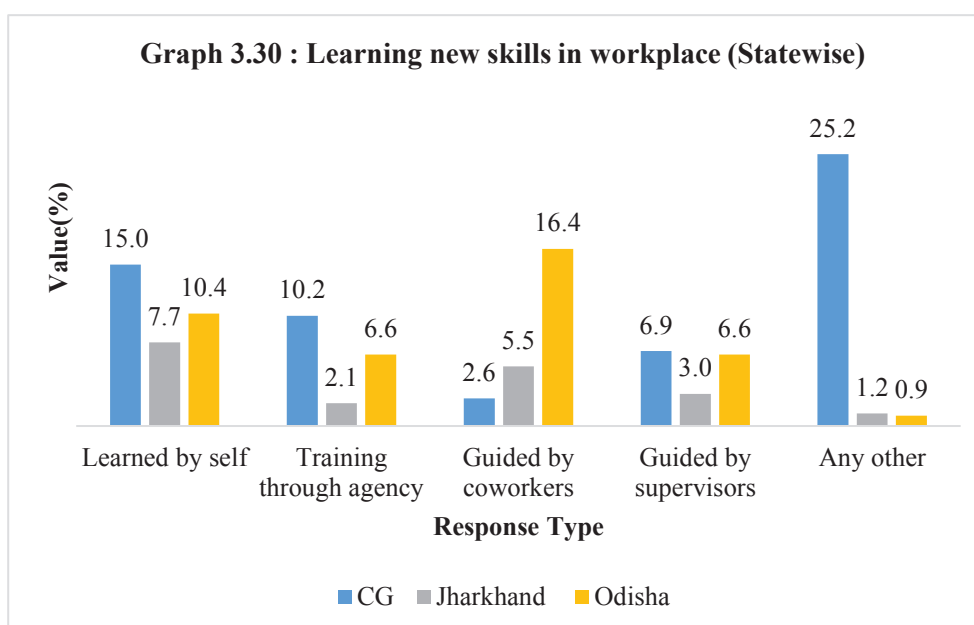
3. Learning New Skills at Workplace

The returnee migrants were found to have learnt some skills in the workplace which made them valuable for the employing agencies. The graph 3.29 shows that 9.58% have learnt some functional skills by self, 4.5% have learnt through training agencies, 7.24% mentioned that they learned by their co-workers and 4.43% migrants learnt from their supervisors.

The state wise data shows that the returnee migrants of Chhattisgarh learnt from other ways (25.2%) and self (15%). Migrants of Odisha found to have learnt mainly from their co-workers (16.4%) and self (10.4%). In Jharkhand, only 7.7% migrants found learning by self and very few from others.



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

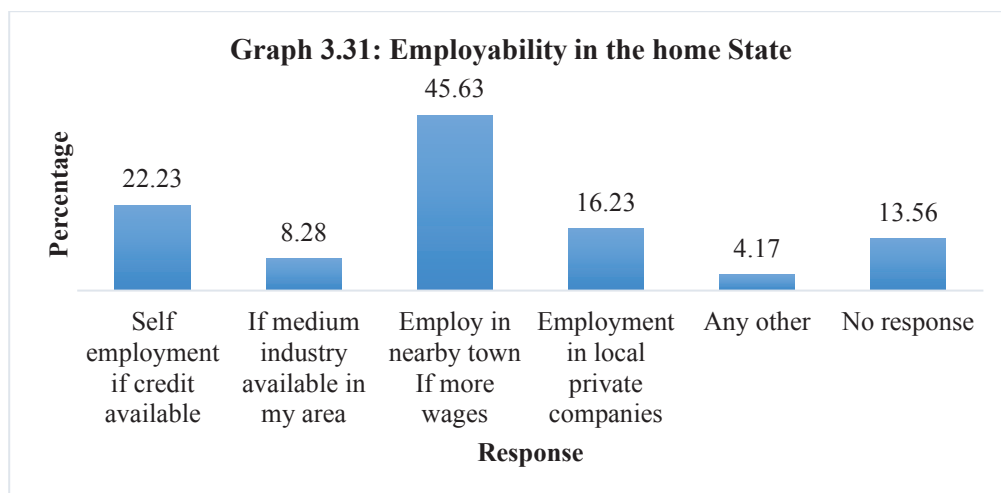


Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

B. Need for Skill Development Training

1. Skill Employability in Home State

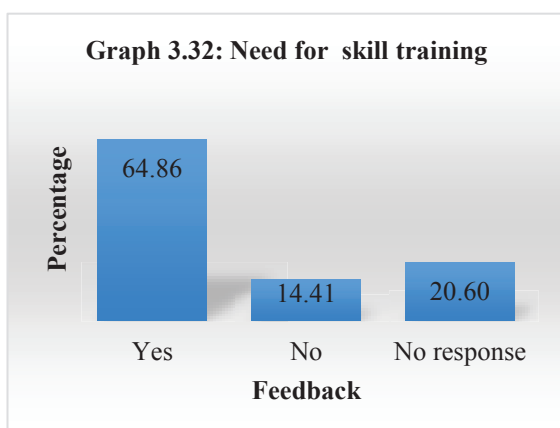
It was observed that the returnee migrants had a desire to work in the home states. As per graph 3.31, 45.63% migrants were interested to work in their nearby town if they got good wages. Wage is one of the important pull factors for the returnee migrant workers. They preferred to work in the destination states primarily because of high wages. 22.23% migrants shown interest to stay in the home state and carry out self-employment if they were provided credit facilities. This shows that the migrant workers have some self-employment activities in their minds but due to poor productivity and scaling up, they found difficulty in setting up their enterprises. 16.23% migrants were interested to work in local private companies.



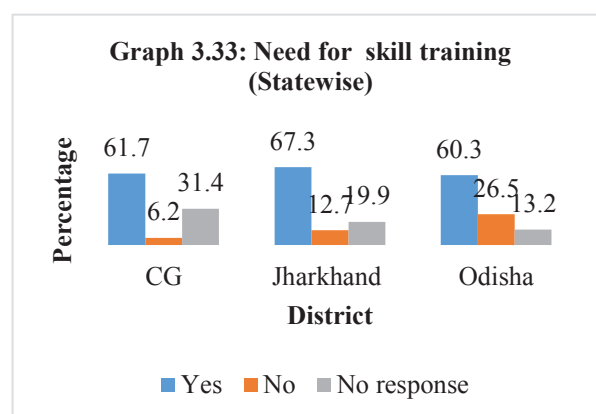
Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

2. Need for Skill Development Training

As discussed above about the desire of migrant workers to have good wages, it was also found that they have a desire to get skill training to increase their employability. As per graph 3.32, 64.86% migrants wanted to get skill development training. Surprisingly, 14.41% migrants thought that they didn't need skill development training. The state wise data also reflects the similar trend. Hence, skill development of migrant labourers should be planned and implemented properly.



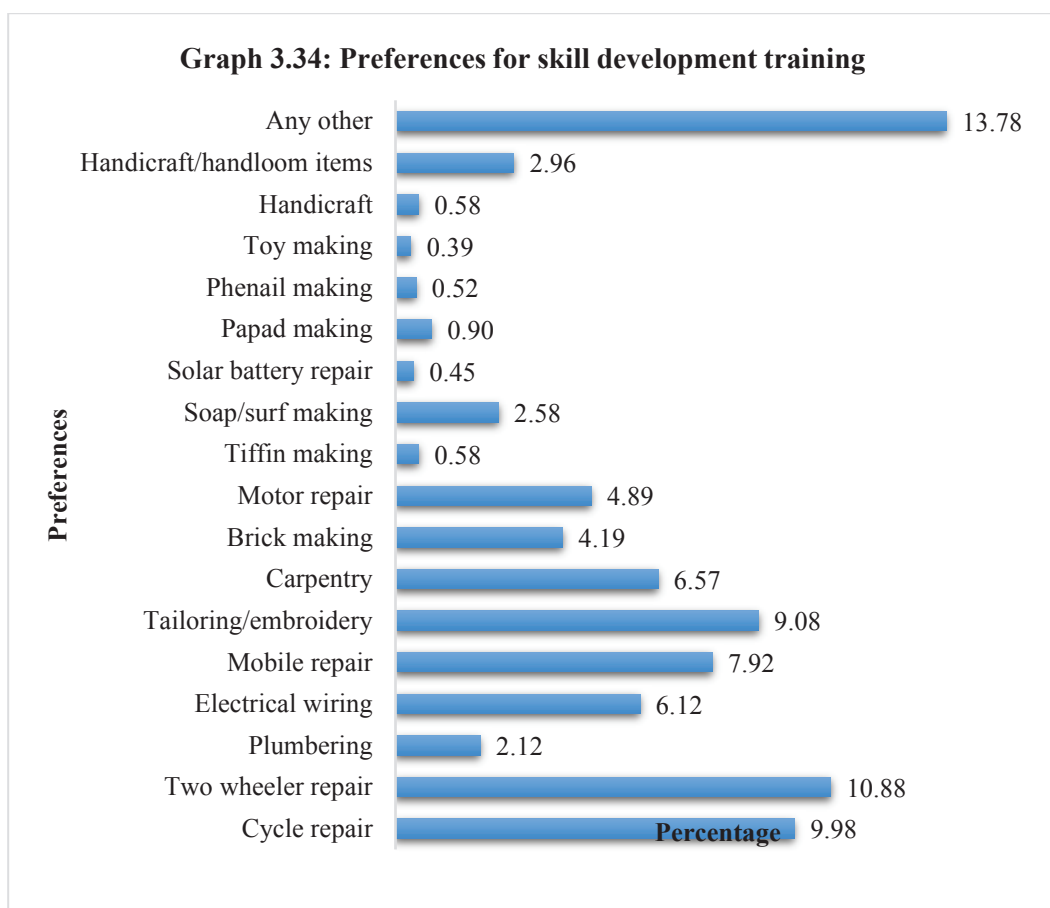
Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

3. Preferences for Skill Development Training

The returnee migrants showed interest in skill training of different trades. As per graph 3.34, 9.88% and 10.88% migrants were interested to learn cycle and two-wheeler repair. 7.92% were interested in mobile repairing. These groups of people think that cycle, two wheelers and mobiles are highly used by the people and so, there is scope for skill in repair work. 9.08% migrants were interested in learning tailoring/embroidery. 6.12% and 6.57% were interested in electrical wiring and carpentry. 13.78% were interested in learning other skills. Very few people were found interested in handicraft, toy making, *papad* making, phenol making, and solar battery repair.



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

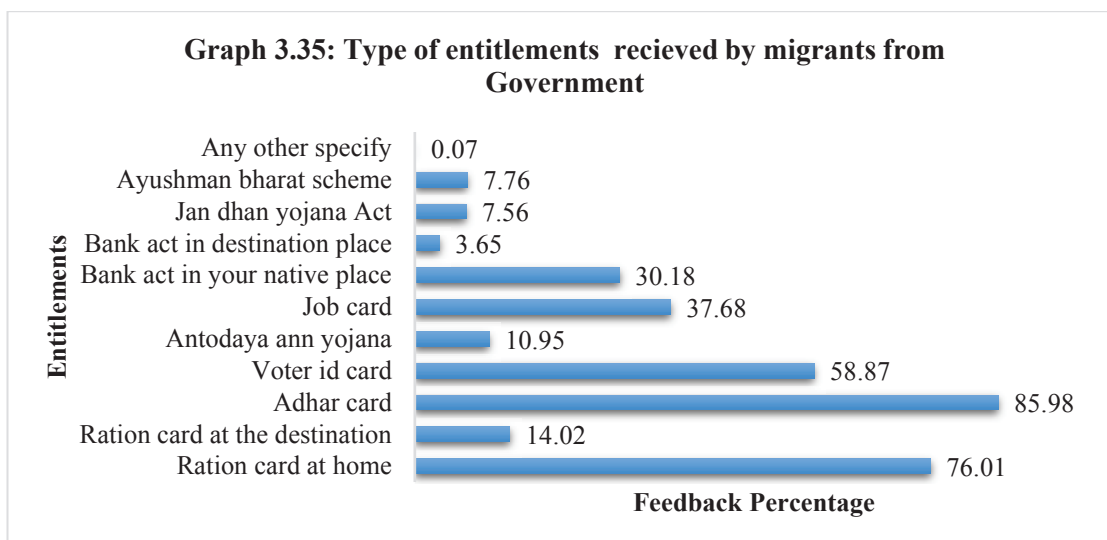
II. Rights and Entitlements of the Migrant Labourers

As mentioned by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare that migrants need to be treated with dignity and respect and, more practically, need to remain well informed about all sources of assistance available to them from Central as well as State Governments in order to explore the options, including at quarantine centres (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare 2020c). This largely relates to their basic rights and entitlements which are meant for socio-economic protection. This section discusses the situation of rights and entitlements of migrant workers.

A. Rights and Entitlements of the Migrant Labourers

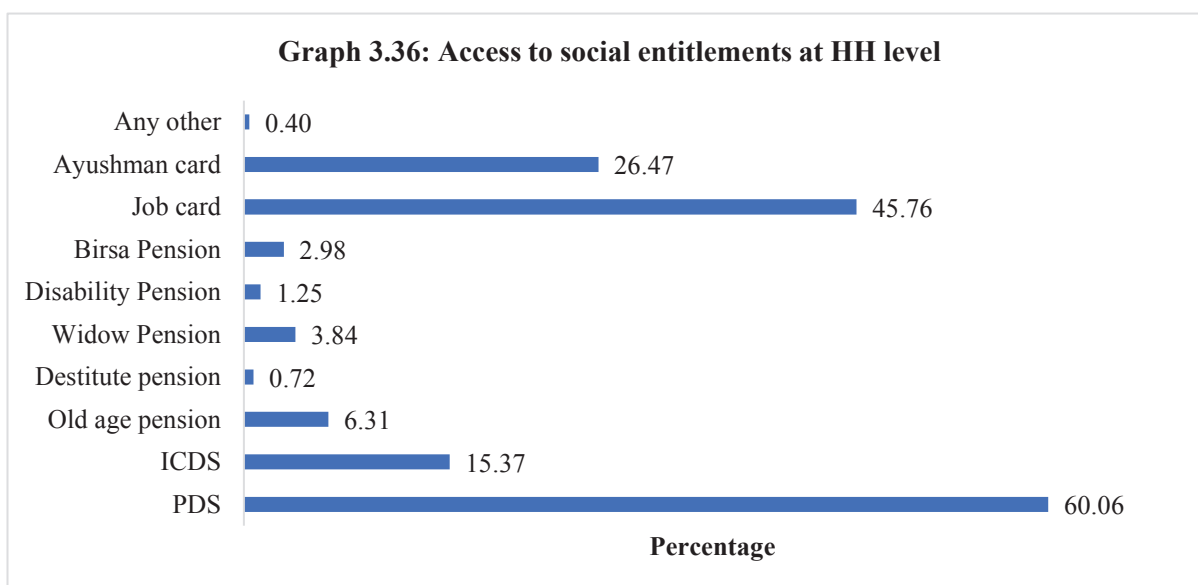
1. Govt. Entitlements for the Migrant Labourers

The study found that the returnee migrants were having basic Identity Documents (ID) such as *Aadhaar* and voter cards but apart from that very few people had proof of enrolment for Government entitlements. On the basis of multiple choices of answers, 85.98% migrants had *Aadhaar* card and 58.87% had voter card. 76.01% had ration card. About 37.68% had a MGNREGA job card and 30.18% had bank account in their native address. Besides these, the migrants were very few who had enrolled for *Ayushman Bharat* scheme (7.76%), *Jan dhan Yojana* (7.56%), *Antyodaya* (10.95%). These may be considered important for the migrant workers.



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

When the access to social entitlements were analysed at using household data, the result shows that the people did not have proper access to the Government entitlements. On multiple choices of answers, 60.06% of HHs had access to Public Distribution System (PDS), 45.76% had access to MGNREGA job card, 26.47% had access to *Ayushman* card and 15.37% said the beneficiaries from their family had access to Integrated Child Development Schemes (ICDS). All these are perceived to be the major entitlements of the Government. The access to pension schemes had fewer percentage, viz. 6.31%, 0.72%, 3.84%, 1.25% and 2.98% households had been availed to old age pension, destitute pension, widow pension, disability, and *Birsa* /PVTG pension.

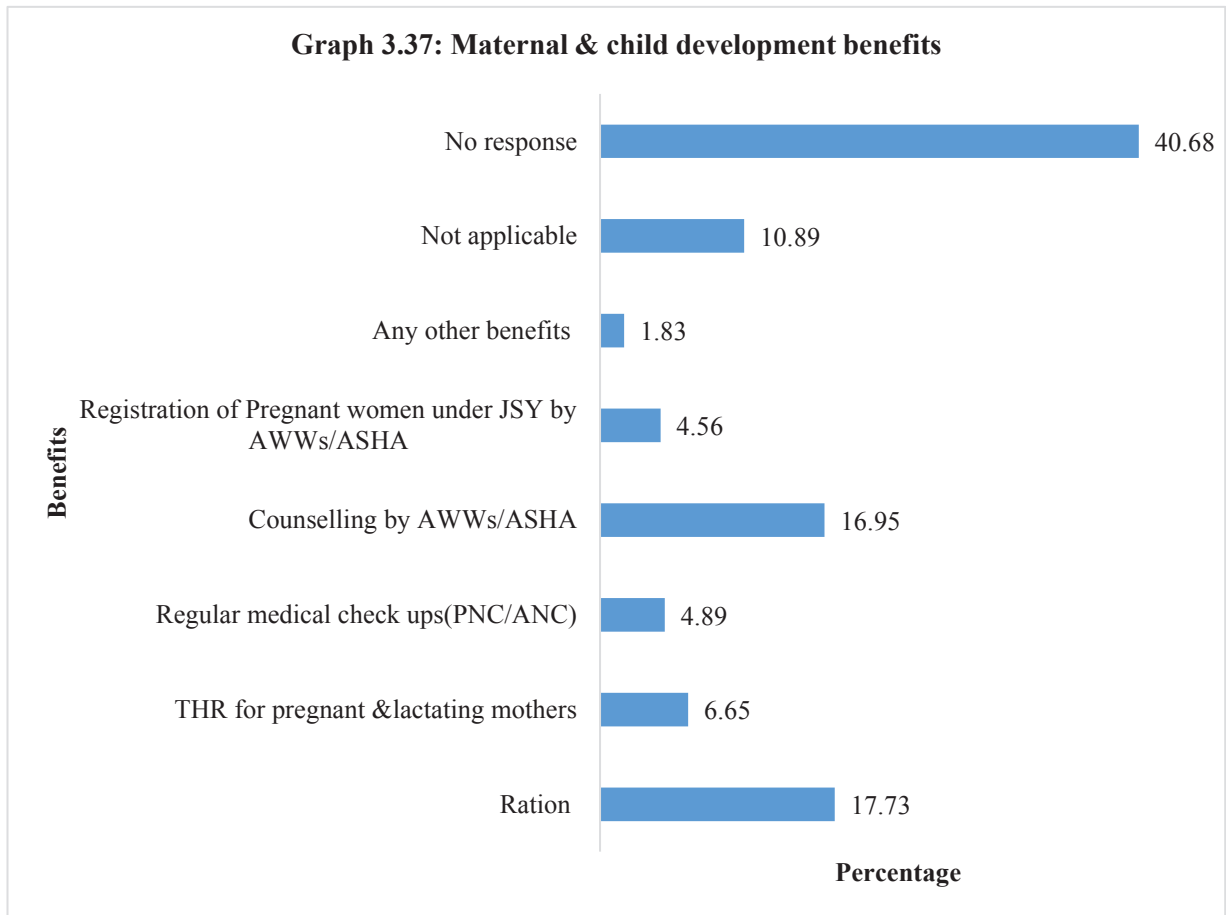


Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

2. Maternal and Child Development Benefits

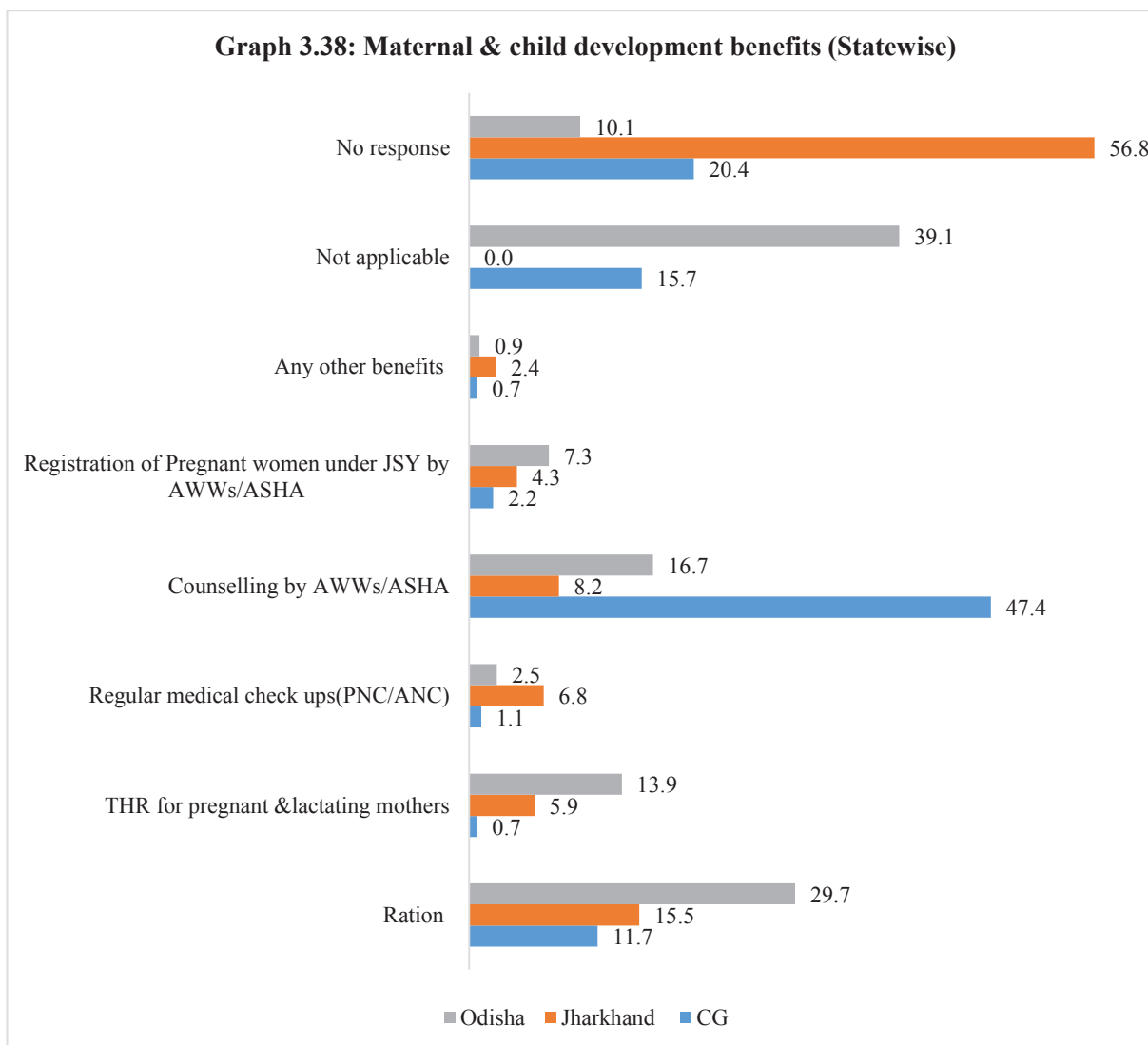
The opinion expressed by migrants for the beneficiaries of their family members on access to maternal and child benefits, 16.95% said that the beneficiary family members were counselled by *Angan Wadi* Workers (AWW) regarding health and entitlements. 6.65% migrants said that the beneficiaries (pregnant and lactating mothers) received Take Home Ration (THR), 4.89% migrants said that there were regular medical check-ups for the beneficiaries and only 4.56% migrants

mentioned that registration of such beneficiaries under (JSY) was in place. However, 40.68% migrants preferred not to respond to the question for lack of information about it.



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

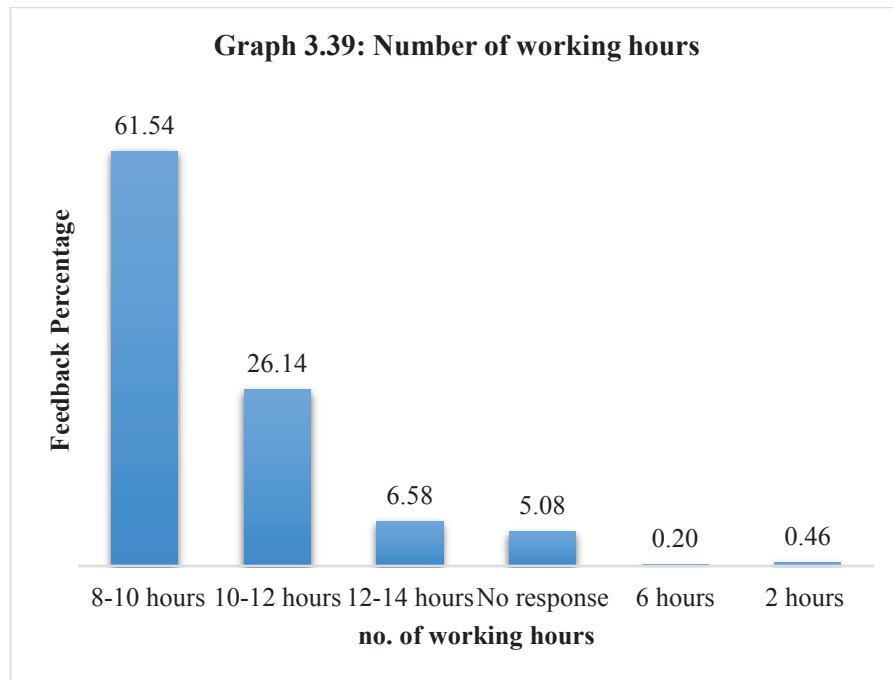
The state-wise data shows that migrants from Odisha (13.9%) expressed having more THR beneficiaries compared to Jharkhand (5.9%) and Chhattisgarh (0.7%). 47.4% migrants said that the beneficiaries were counselled by AWW in Chhattisgarh which was comparatively higher than Odisha (16.7%) and Jharkhand (8.2%). Opinion expressed in accessing to maternity benefits under JSY was substantially low in all the three states.



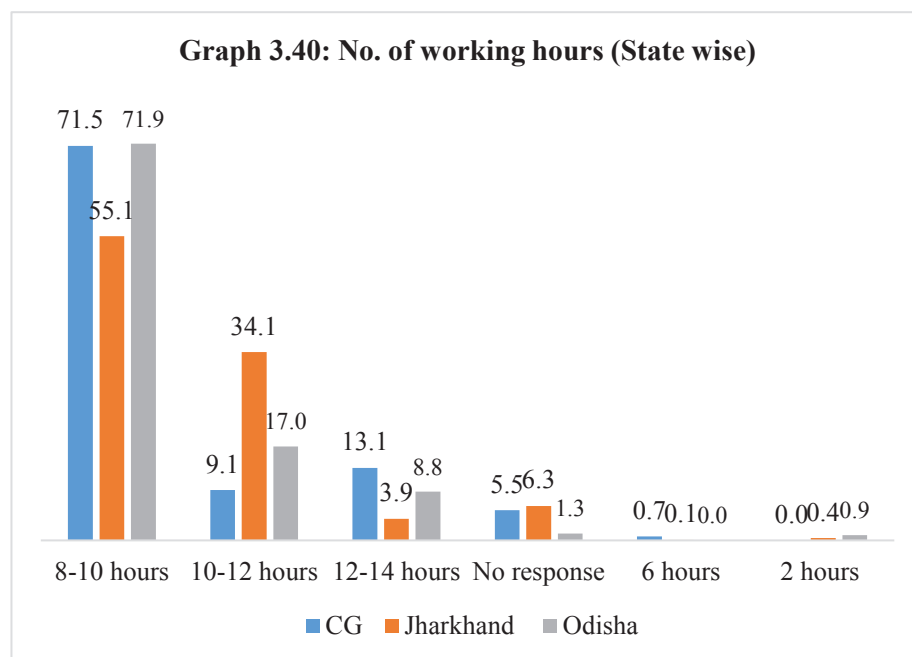
Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

3. Number of Working Hours

The study found that 61.54% migrants worked for 8-10 hours, whereas, 26.14% and 6.58% were found to be working for 10-12 hours and for 12-14 hours, respectively. This shows that approximately one third of the migrants were exposed to overtime work and likely to be vulnerable to exploitation in the workplace. The state-wise data shows that 34.1% migrants from Jharkhand, 17% from Odisha and 9.1% from Chhattisgarh worked for 10-12 hours. There was a marginal population who worked even more. 13.1% in Odisha, 3.9% in Jharkhand and 8.8% in Chhattisgarh worked 12-14 hours.



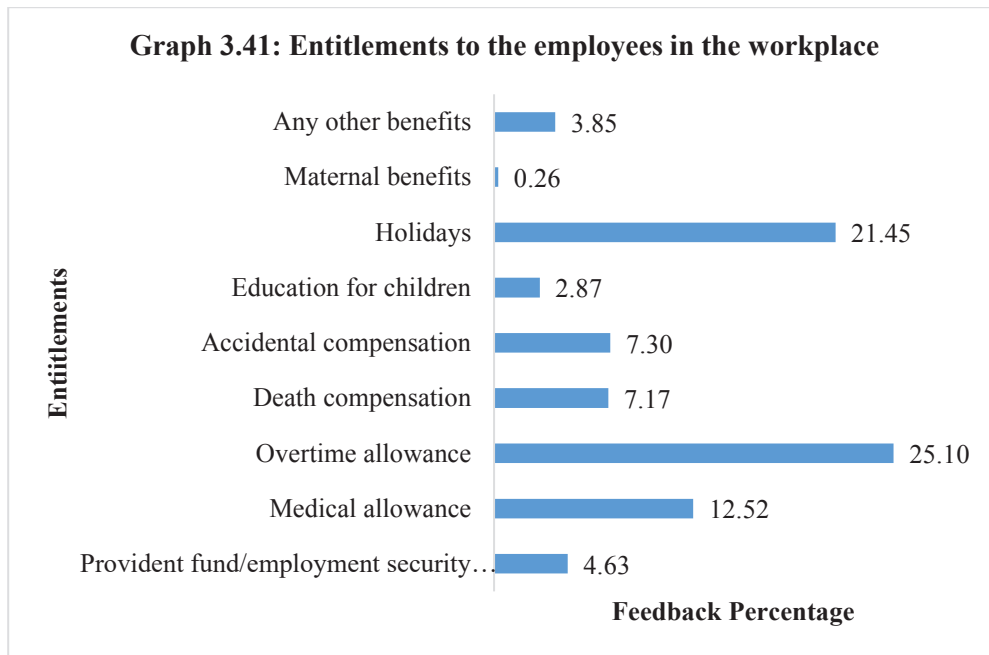
Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

4. Labour Rights and Entitlements

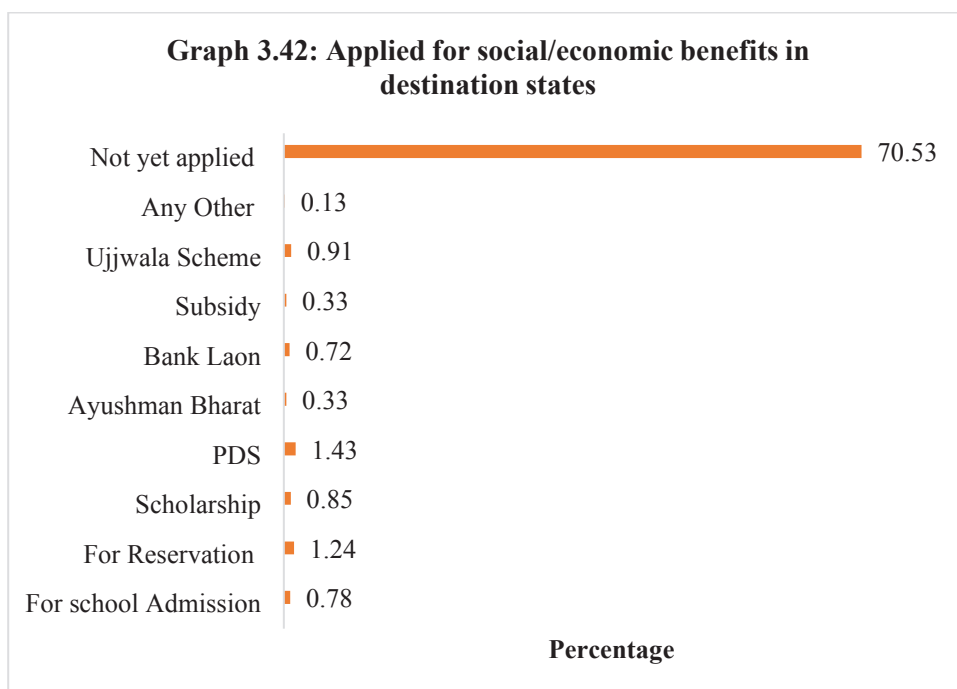
The migrant workers who received entitlements by the employer in the destination states were meagre percentage. It was observed that 25.10% migrants got entitlement for overtime allowance; 21.45% got weekly holidays; 12.52% were entitled for medical allowance. 7.30% and 7.17% had been entitled for accidental and death benefits. Only 4.63% were availed benefit of provident fund. This shows that a large portion of the migrant population did not get entitlements at the workplace.



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

5. Applied for Social/Economic Benefits in Destination

It is learnt that state of Kerala provided social/economic benefits to the migrant workers. Whether the migrant workers applied for any socio-economic benefits in destination states, the meagre percentage of responses, show that only few have responded to this question. And this population could be the migrant workers returning from Kerala. It was found that 70.53% migrants were yet to apply for the schemes. Around 1% of migrants mentioned they applied for schemes like *Ujjwala* scheme, bank loan, PDS, scholarships, school admission, etc. Socio-economic entitlements are especially meant for the welfare of the poor people, but this section of migrant workers found difficulty in accessing the schemes.

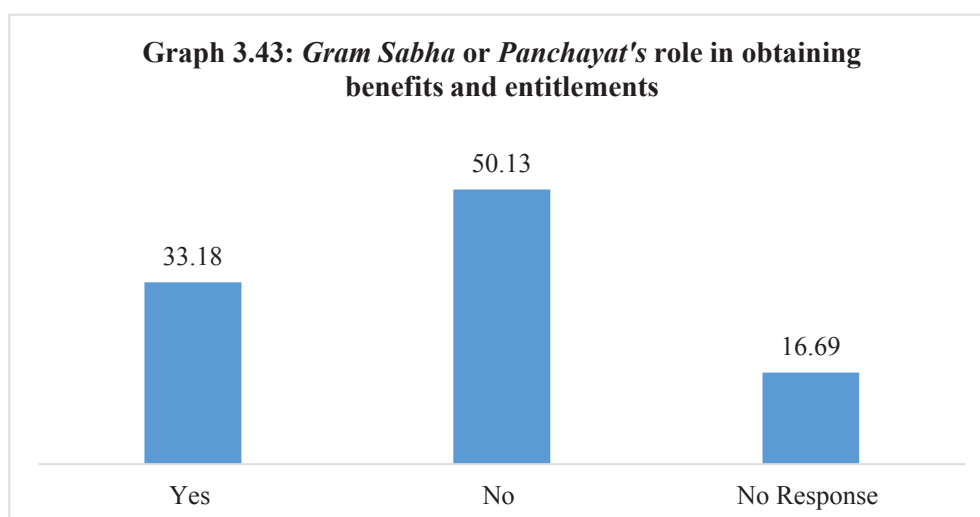


Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

B. Role of Gram Sabha/Panchayat in Facilitating Entitlements

1. Role of Gram Sabha /Panchayat in Obtaining Benefits and Entitlements

Lack of awareness about government schemes was evident among the migrant workers from previous discussion. Generally, *Gram Sabha*, the local governing body is to play an important role in informing and accessing government schemes to the people. 33.18% returnee migrants mentioned that *Gram Sabha* helped them in availing government benefits; whereas more than half of the migrant population i.e. 50.13% mentioned that *Gram Sabha* didn't help them in availing government schemes.



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

Section Three: Challenges and Experiences during Covid-19 Pandemic

I. Migrant Labourers and Pandemic

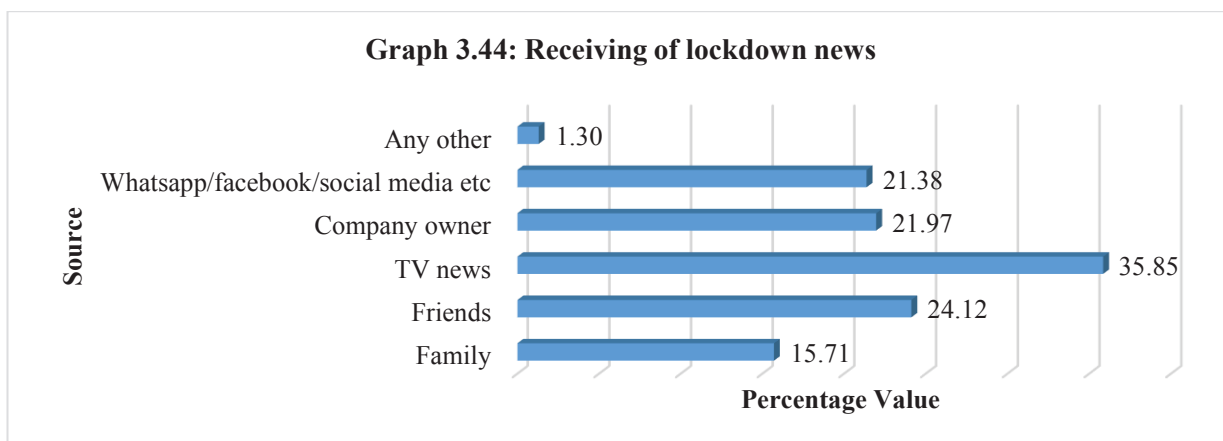
This section discusses the issues of migrant labourers' situation during the lockdown phases.

Migrant Labourers and Pandemic

The news of lockdown created a panic situation among the migrant workers. They arrived at bus stops and highways in large crowds hoping to reach their distant rural homes. But there was no way that the migrant workers could fulfil their wishful desires, and were forced to stay back in their temporary, cramped urban homes without work, income or social protection. Some decided to leave the place by all means. This section discusses the situation of migrant workers during the initial phase of the lockdown.

1. Receiving of Lockdown News

The social media and TV played a vital role in providing information about the news of lockdown across the country. Some of the stranded migrants across the country communicated through their phones with their family, friends and others to receive the news on lockdown. The graph 3.44 shows about 35.85% migrants said TV channels were the source of lockdown news; while 24.12% received news from their friends; 21.38% from social media (WhatsApp/Face book); 21.97% from Company owners; and 15.71% from family members as being channels for receiving lockdown news.



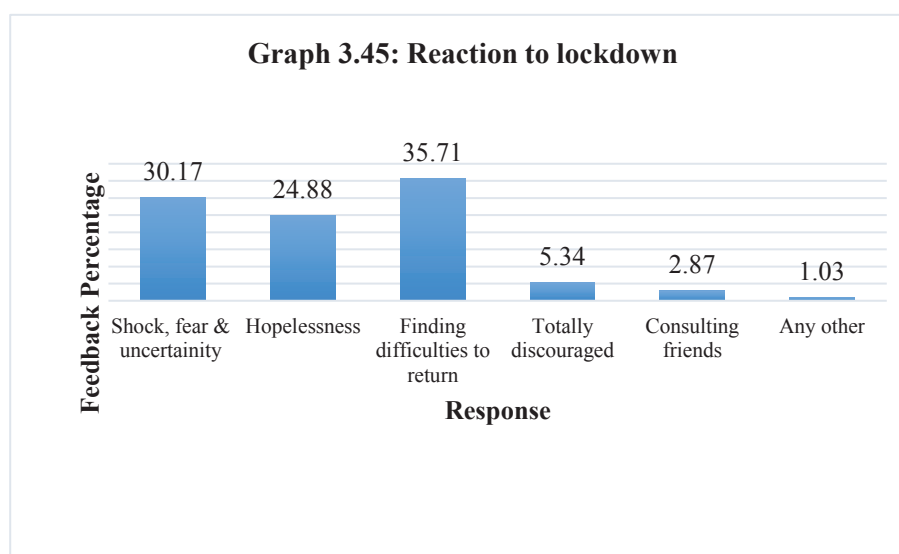
Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

It was observed that the usage of WhatsApp and Face book (social media applications) were very common and an easy channel to communicate one another, shared news of job availability, employability, working environments, scale of wages and other opportunities.

2. Reaction to the First Lockdown

A wave of shock, fear and confusion swept through many who heard about the news of lockdown in their destination states. There was a fear of the unknown future and the spread of the disease. The inability to be connected to the family in the time of despair and joblessness all combined to create a state of shock and stress among the general masses. For most, the first thing in their mind after receiving the news was the wish to return home to their families despite foreseen difficulties of everything being closed in lockdown including transport.

On the basis of multiple choices of answers, graph 3.45 shows the reactions of the migrant workers in the destination states/place in the first lockdown. About 35.71% migrant workers were desperate but finding difficulties to return home. Their psychological dispositions were of shock, fear, uncertainty, hopelessness and discouragement. When quantified, about 60.39% of the responses tell the workers psychological dispositions (shock, fear, hopelessness, discouragement) when they heard complete lockdown. About 2.87% answers show that the migrant workers were found consulting their friends.

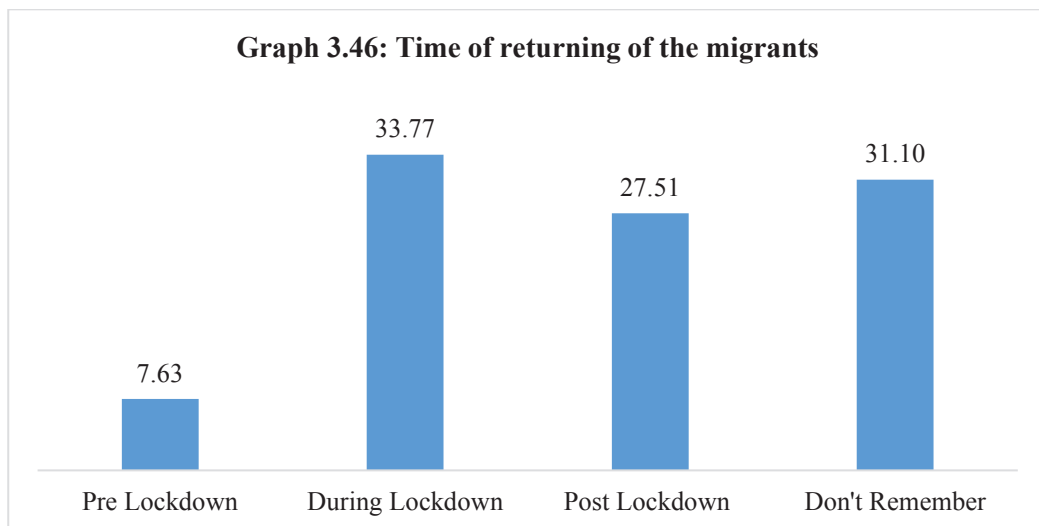


Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

3. Returning of the Migrant Workers to their Native Villages

Out of 1534 returnee migrants, only 1071 responded to this question. The graph 3.46 depicts about 33.77% migrant workers returned to their homes during lockdowns. Desperate returning of the migrant workers was marked in post-lock down with 27.51%.

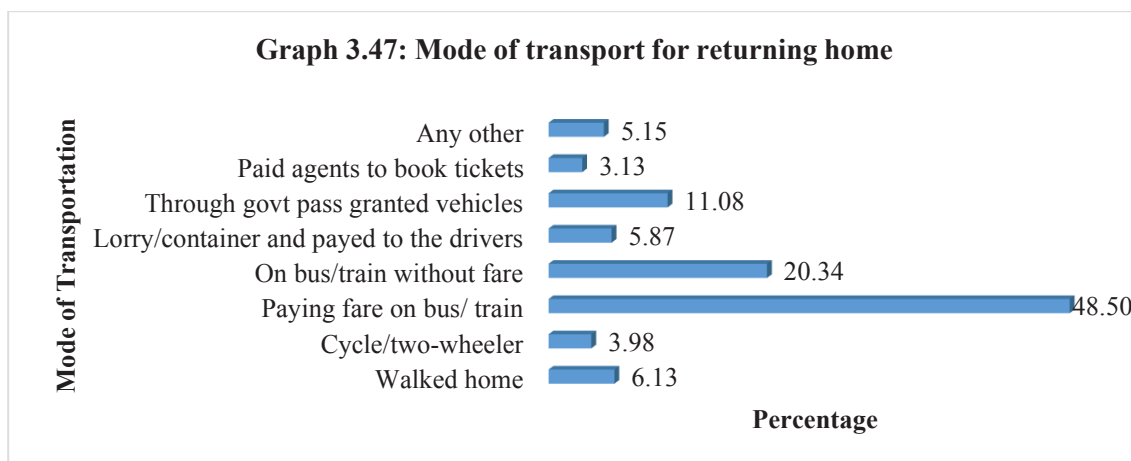
It is worth mentioning here that in the pre lockdown, about 7.63% migrants had come back home. Was it incidental or by their deliberate choice? Some would have come back home as they got the news of the breaking out of the Pandemic. In Kerala the news of a pandemic was announced from the first week of February 2020. It was learnt by the team members of MLSC during the visit of the migrant workers in the southern states (the end of January and beginning of February 2020) that many had planned to return home for the celebration of the Hindu festival *Holi*. The feast was celebrated on March 10th. It is coincidental that these migrant workers (7.63%) had returned to their home in the pre lockdown period. After the feast they apparently stayed back as their plan they did usually during home visit. Meanwhile, the news of the pandemic and imposition of lockdowns were announced. This could be one of the reasons for returning of the migrant workers in the pre-lock down period and thus, they escaped the tragedy of the lockdowns.



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

4. Mode of Transport for Returning Home

There was a rush and panic to come back home. Many used bicycles or motorcycles or any transport available. Some started walking the long distance with a hope to receive help on the way. Later, the announcement of special trains to transport migrant workers was based on a false assumption that costs of travel would be borne by the state. But most workers had to spend their money. In most cases they met the cost by borrowing. It was only from Kerala, that coordination between the two state Governments (Kerala and Jharkhand) facilitated workers to return home free of cost. Moreover, it was difficult to get their names registered online and ensure seats in the Government aided transport vehicles and trains due to lack of guidance and information.

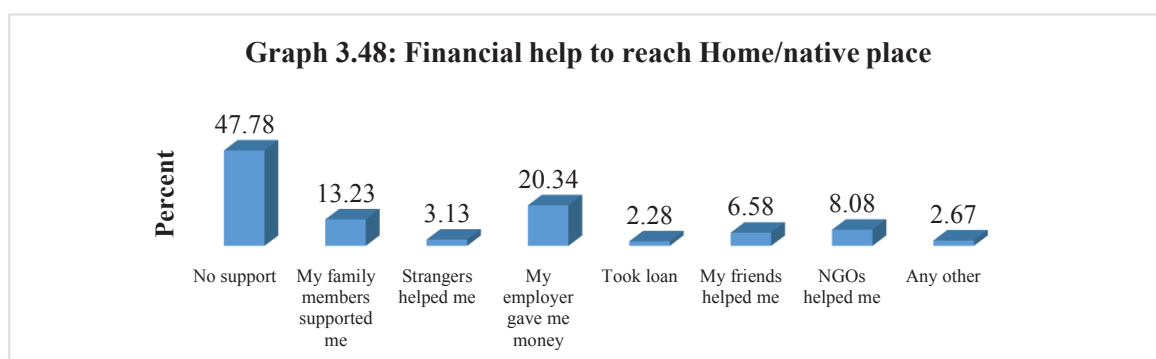


Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

On multiple choices of response, the study shows about 48.5% of the respondents said that the migrant workers had to pay travel costs. In some cases, it was charged at an exorbitant rate. About 20.34% of the responses indicated that the migrant workers returned home without paying transport fare. Approximately 11.08% responses indicated that the returnee migrant workers were commuted by the government pass vehicles and trains. About 6.13% responses said the horrific and pathetic stories of the migrant workers who walked their home; while 3.98% cycled or returned by two wheelers braving all the odds and challenges of the long journeys all by themselves and with their belongings. They had no choice but to walk back home hungry, thirsty, exhausting all their material resources and physical strength. Many lost their lives due to thirst, hunger and exhaustion, while others lost their lives on the road or train accidents. Despite of these distressing moments, it was heart breaking to learn that workers’ pathetic situation was a boon to other business class groups, particularly of transport operators and agents, including the Indian railway that charged high fare in reaching migrant workers to their native homes. Transport agents or railway agents charged high for assisting or hiring vehicle (trucks, Lorries or containers) or for booking train tickets in *shramik* trains.

5. Financial Help to Reach Home

Since the migrant workers had very little financial support from their families they had to depend on the ‘Good Samaritans’. Actually, it was the humanitarian concerns of the civil societies that helped and saved the helpless migrant workers.



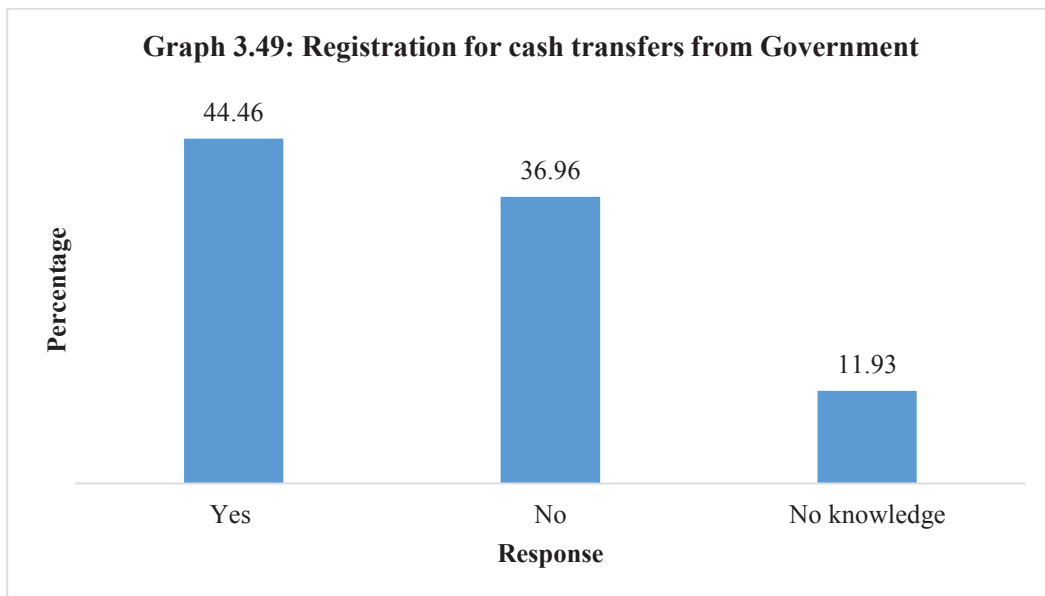
Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

The above graph3.48 shows the financial help offered to the distressed migrant workers walking back home during lockdown. About 47.78% of the returnee migrant workers did not get any support from others, while 20.34% of them were fortunate to be helped by their employers and

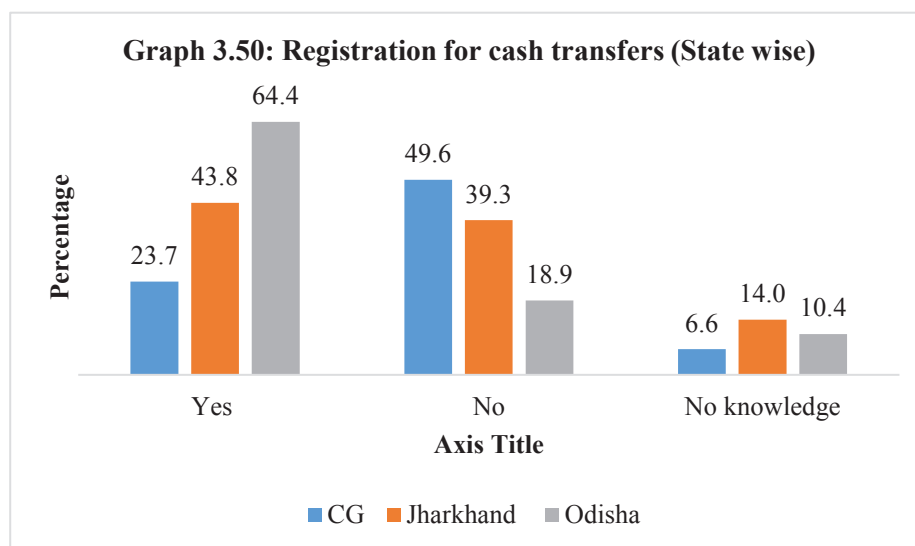
13.23% were helped by their family members. About 8.08% were helped by the NGOs, 6.58% by friends and 3.13% were helped by the strangers, the ‘Good Samaritans’.

6. Registration for Cash Transfers from Government

Migrants were also helped by the Government in the form of relief funds during Covid-19 lockdown. In many cases, the respective local authorities in the destination as well as in the source states helped the migrant workers in getting their names registered for cash transfer as announced by the Government.



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020



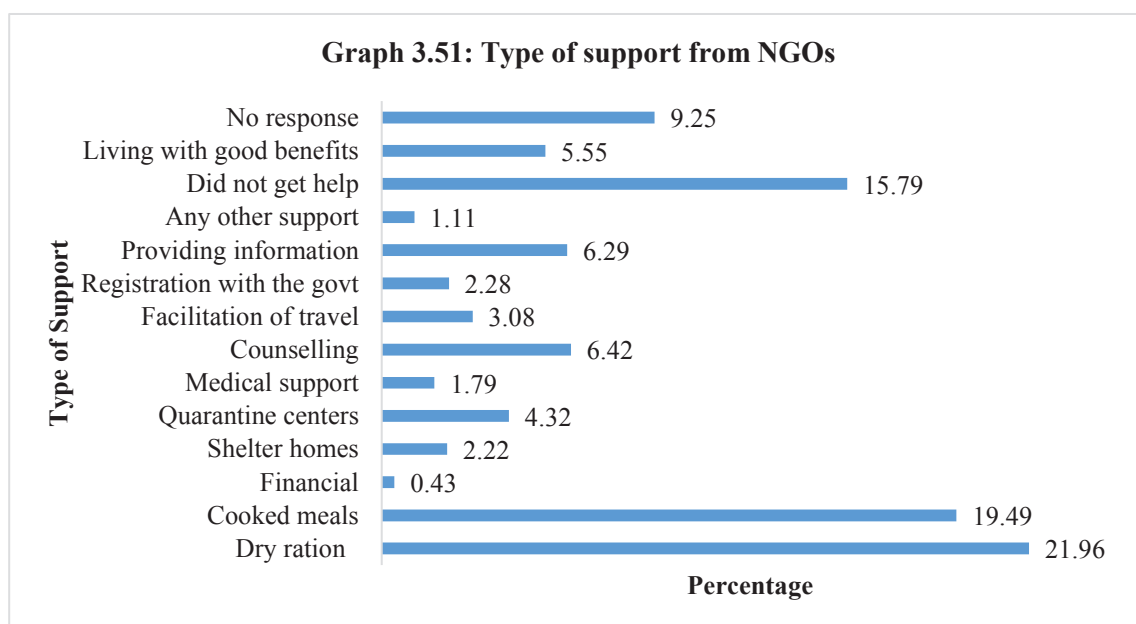
Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

The study shows the status of registration for cash transfer from the respective Governments. 44.46% registered by themselves or by the help of their family or friends for the cash transfer in their bank accounts; while 36.96% could not register because of some inability to register or for lack of bank account. 12.78% had no knowledge of such announcements of financial help for them by the Government.

Immediately after the lockdown, the Government also announced relief packages for elderly, women and farmers which included cash transfer into their accounts and the distribution of food grains through PDS. But soon after catering to about 200 million women, the cash transfers were stopped. The conscious municipal authorities, people’s representatives (municipal council members, Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) or Members of Parliament (MPs)) came forward to help the migrant workers who were stranded. As per graph 3.50, Odisha 64.4% migrants got the benefit of cash transfer whereas the scenario of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand were pathetic where more than half of the migrant population was unable to access.

7. Type of Support from the NGOs

The lockdown affected the daily wage workers and the migrants who were unaware of the situation. Although the Government had announced two days prior to the announcement of the lockdown about the distribution of food grains through PDS, it was difficult for the migrant workers to get these benefits because of the non-registration of the migrants in the destination states or the lack of proper database for the PDS. So, just as the lockdown was announced, migrants in hundreds and thousands in numbers took their way back home. On their way back, several individuals of good heart, neighbours, NGOs and civil societies came out to their help by providing them food, money, water and other essential commodities.



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

On the basis of the multiple choices of answers, the above graph 3.51 shows that 19.49% responses show that the returnee migrants were provided cooked meals by Government or civil society run kitchens, followed by 21.58% responses of the support of NGOs in providing dry ration. 15.79% migrants mentioned not to have received support from any agency. Very few claimed to have received other types of support from the NGOs.

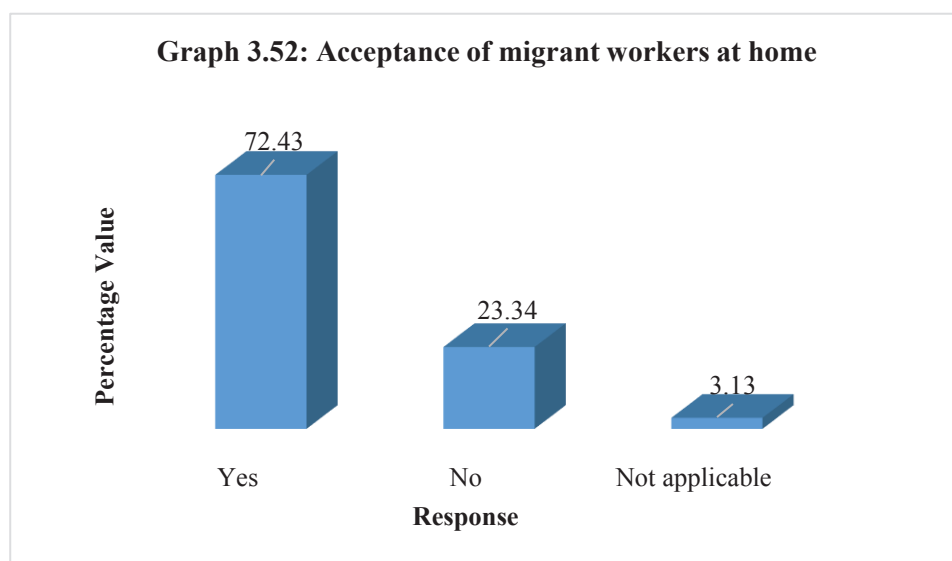
A. Migrant workers in their Native States

Though, the migrant workers reached their native states during lockdown walking or by means of transport, they had to spend some time in quarantine centres (schools or *Panchayat* buildings as were converted into quarantine homes) at the border of the states or villages/*Panchayats* before they reached their homes. Those arriving to the villages in the post lockdown period also had to

undergo home quarantine or quarantine centres. This section discusses the situation of the returnee migrant workers in their native states or villages that observed the Covid-19 protocols.

1. Treatment of Migrant Workers in Native State

During the lockdown due to the pandemic, there were confusion, fear and anxiety. People were scared about this new disease and its spread. So, when migrant workers started moving out of their destination states, they took all possible belongings with them to be reunited with their families back home. They suffered a lot due to lockdown. All transportation facilities were closed down, hence migrants decided to walk their home back. The government guidelines on lockdown were strict and the unplanned announcement made the situation worse. The migrants returned back crossing many districts and states to reach their home exhausted and almost starving. People who supported the unplanned lockdown saw this movement as a threat to their society and restricted the migrants into the villages by blocking their entry. Many were asked to quarantine themselves away from the villages.



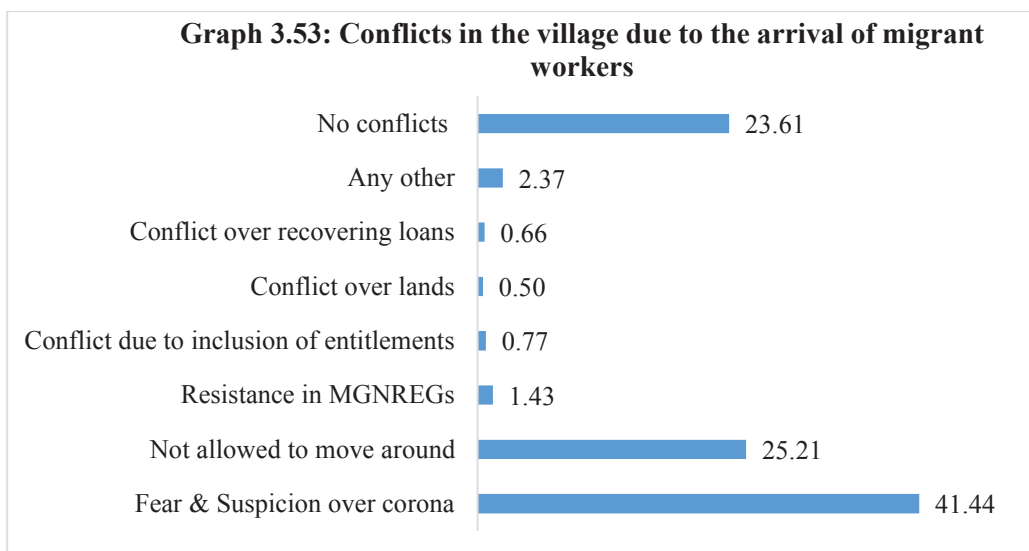
Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

The above graph 3.52 shows that the majority of the returnee migrants (72.43%) were accepted in their native villages. About 23.34% expressed that they were not accepted in their home villages. For the villagers, it created fear of being infected by Covid-19 with the incoming migrants from different states and cities. In many places the migrant workers faced hostility and ill treatment. They were looked down for the fear and suspicion of Covid-19 disease carriers.

2. Conflicts in the Village due to the Arrival of the Migrant Workers

The fear and suspicion on the spread of corona virus was evident among the general masses in India. So, when the migrants arrived in their respective villages, they were seen as a threat of spreading corona virus.

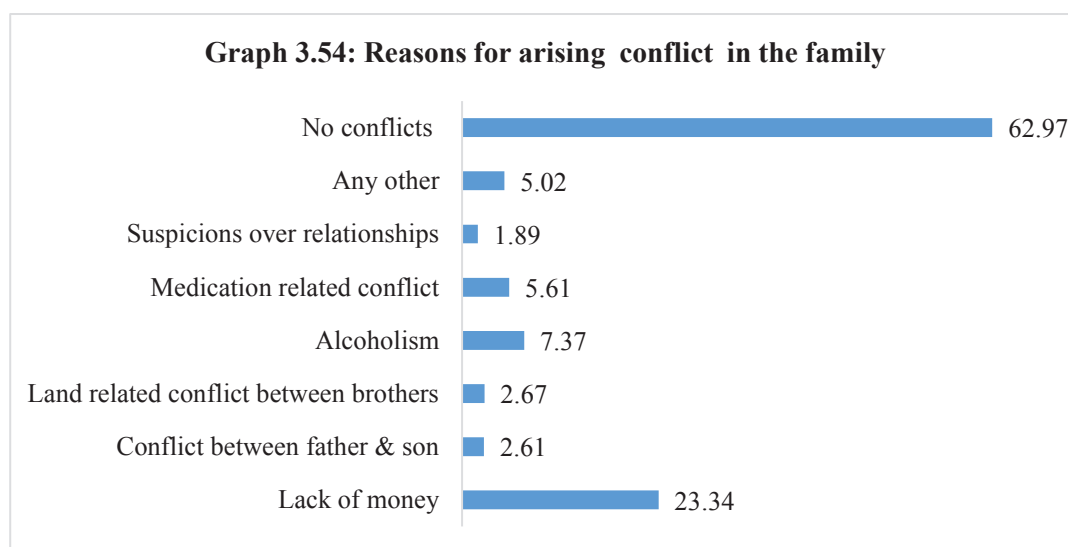
On the basis of multiple choices of answers, on the question whether there was conflict due to the arrival of the migrant workers in the village. The graph 3.53 shows 41.44% of the migrants said that they had faced conflict in their villages due to fear and suspicion of being corona disease carrier. About 25.21% responses stated that they were restricted movement in their villages, and more than 1.43% responses indicated that they were denied work in MNREGA, and 0.77% responses said conflict due to inclusion of entitlements to the returnee migrant workers. About 23.61% responses show there were no conflicts in the villages.



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

3. Reasons for Conflicts in the Family

Due to the increase in number in the family on return of migrant workers, people had to face problems. The returnee migrants with lost jobs and no money in hand were apparent reasons of conflicts in the family. There could be many reasons but lack of money and land issues were major reasons of conflicts.

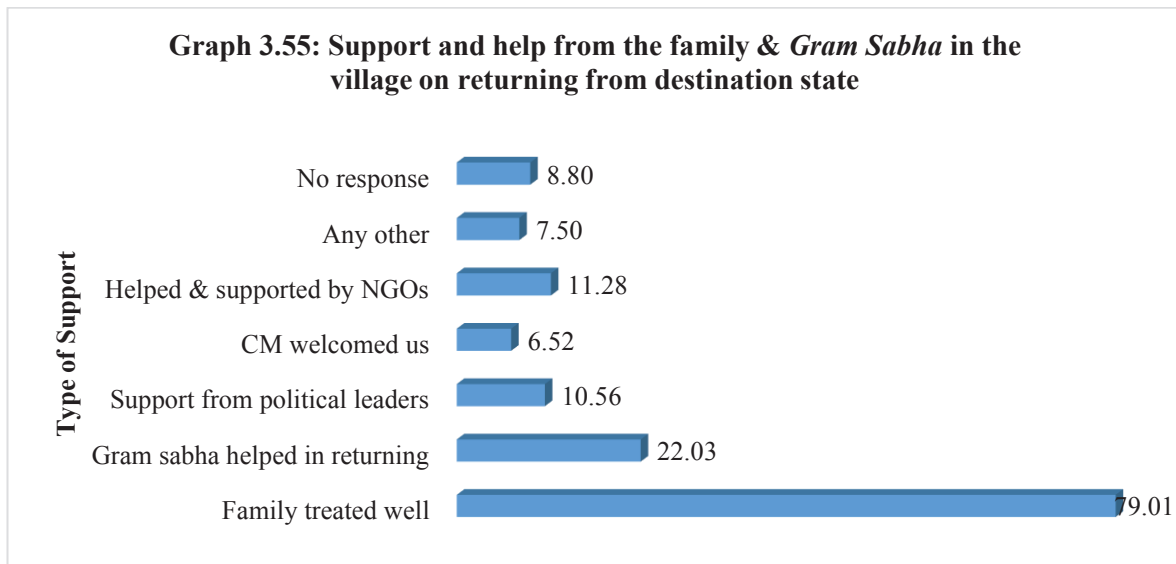


Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

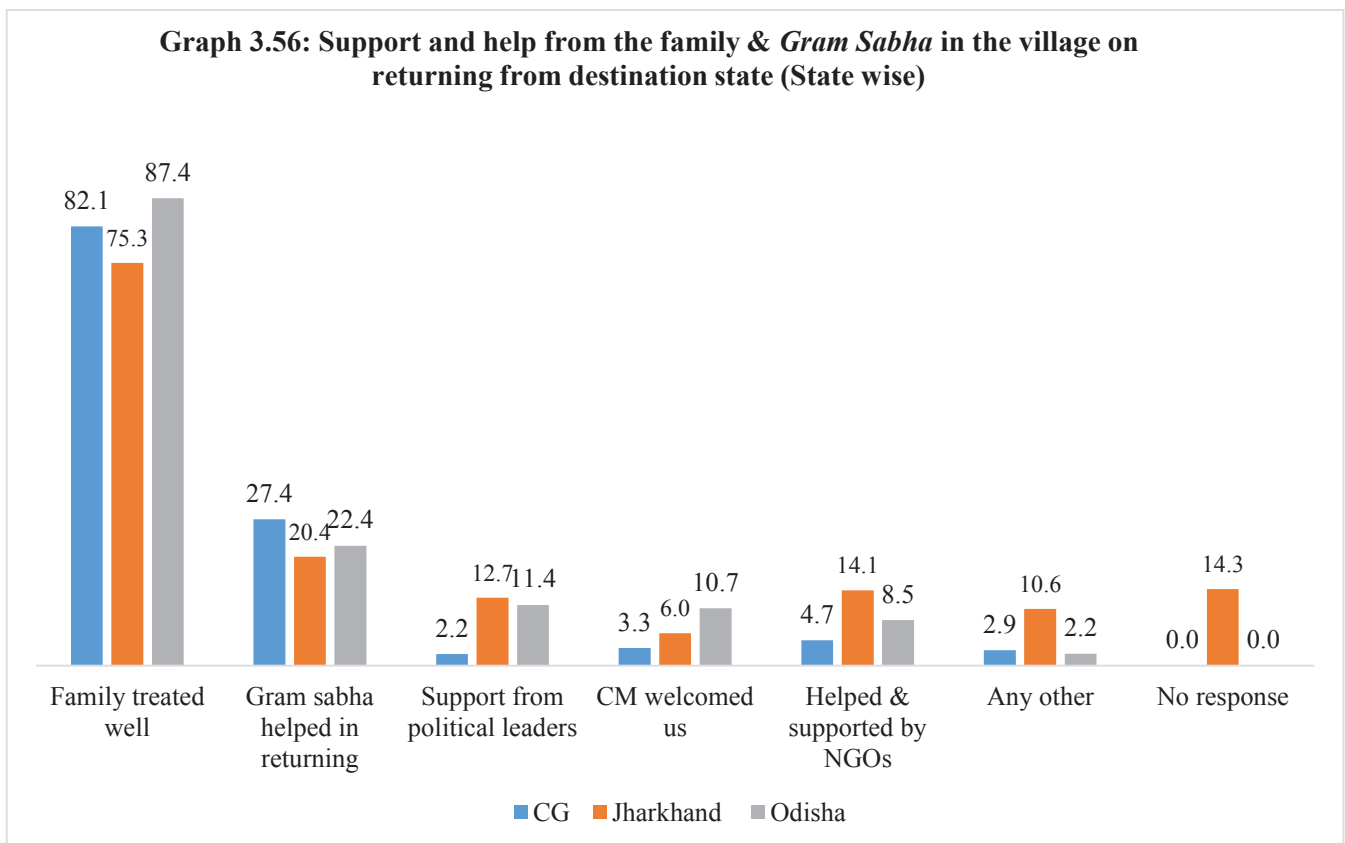
On the question whether there was conflict in the family due to the arrival of migrant workers, a good percentage (62.97%) of returnee migrant workers expressed having no conflicts at home. However, some conflicts arose due to the reason for not being able to bring money home. This was felt by 23.34% migrant workers, while 7.37% migrant workers expressed the reason for conflict in the family due to alcoholism. State-wise data shows the similar trend. Only in Chhattisgarh, the returnee migrants faced higher conflict due to alcoholism compared to other states.

4. Support and Help from the Family and *Gram Sabha* in the Village

On the basis of multiple choices of answers, the graph 3.55 shows about 79.01% responses agreed that the returnee migrant workers were treated well by their families and 22.03% responses indicated that the *Gram Sabha* of their villages helped them in returning home. About 17.08% (6.52+10.56%) responses showed the migrants were helped by the political leaders, while 11.28% responses showed that the migrant workers were supported by the NGOs. The state-wise data (graph 3.56) shows in all the three states people received nominal support from the *Gram Sabha* but got good support from their family members.



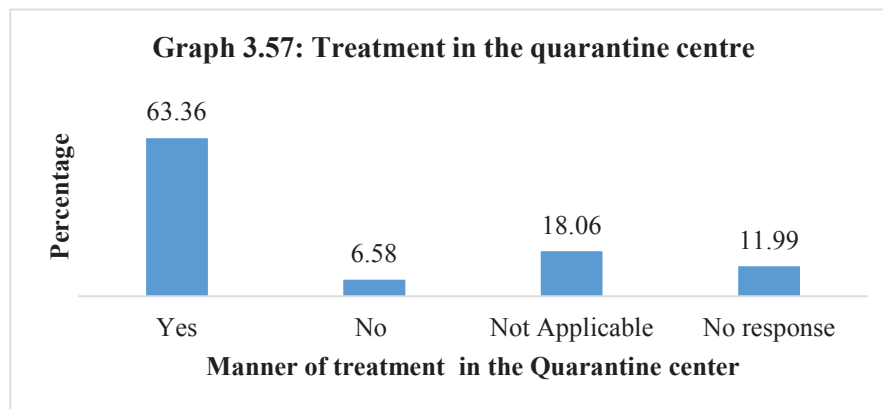
Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

5. Treatment in the Quarantine Centre

The graph 3.57 shows 63.36% of migrant workers received good treatment in the quarantine centres. About 6.58% said that their treatment at the quarantine centre was not satisfactory.



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

Section Four: Future Status of Migrants

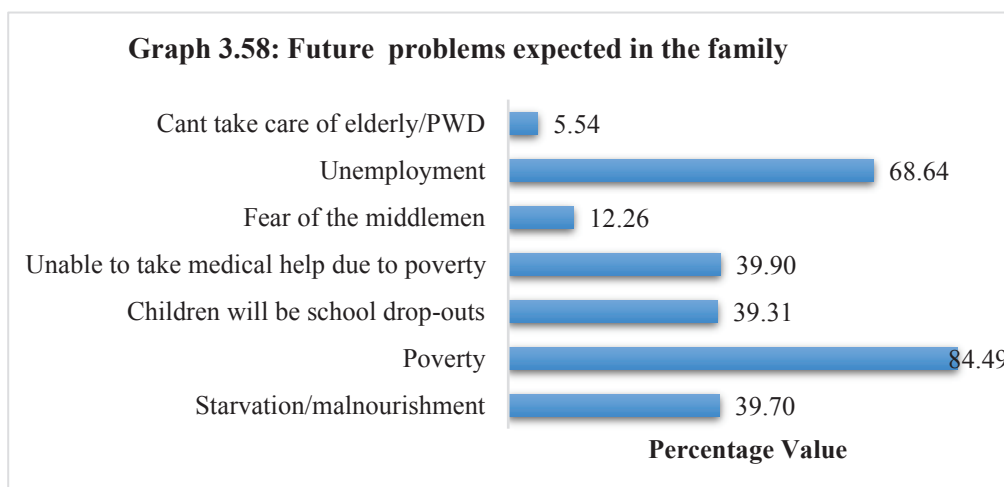
This section explores the future concerns of the returnee migrants. It discusses possible or expected problems and their likely return plan to work in destination states.

I. Future Plans of Migrant Workers

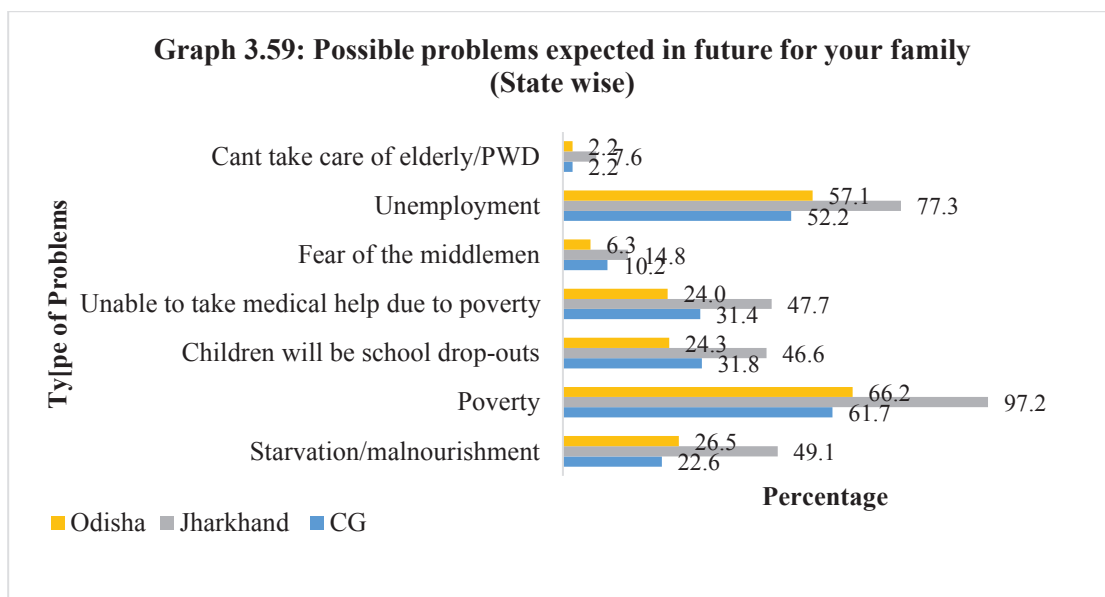
A. Possible Problems to be Faced by the Family

On the basis of multiple choices of answers, the returnee migrants were asked about their future challenges. It was found that 84.49% migrants said that they would be in acute poverty. 68.64% felt that the lack of employment would be a biggest problem for them. 39.70% talked about likely facing starvation; 39.31% mentioned that there would be an increase in school dropouts and 39.90% mentioned that due to poverty they would be unable to bear the medical expenses. Overall, the people were worried about the situation of extreme poverty and unemployment.

The state-wise data shows that in Jharkhand, 97.2% migrants feared of facing dire poverty and 77.3% said facing unemployment. This shows that people of Jharkhand were more worried than Chhattisgarh and Odisha where mitigating these issues was well handled.



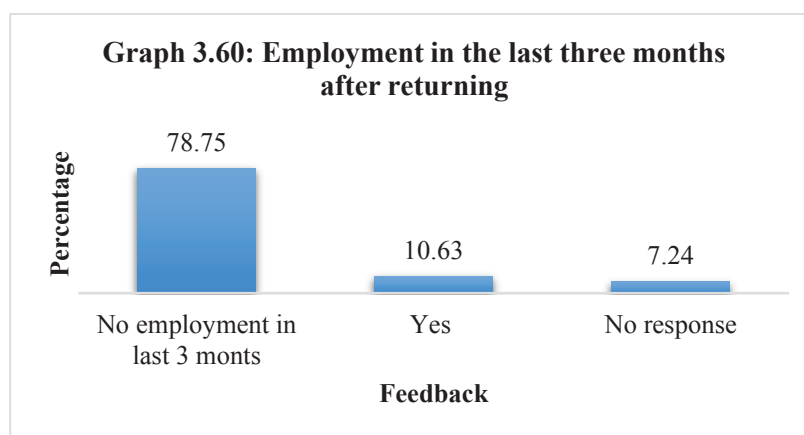
Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

B. Getting Employment by the Migrant Worker after Returning Home

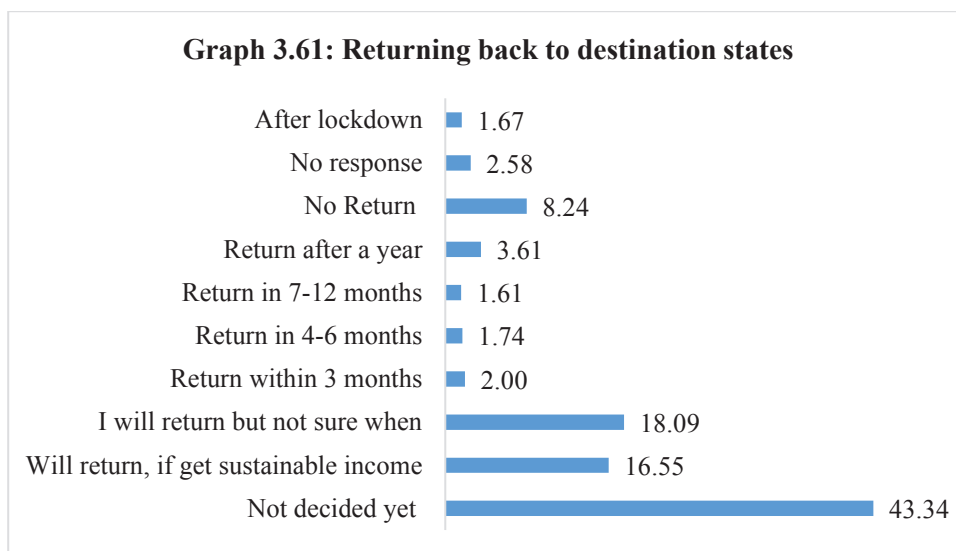
The returnee migrant workers immediately faced the scarcity of work in their native places. It was difficult time for the daily wage earners to live at home without work. The study showed that 78.75% migrants were unemployed in the last 3 months of their return and only 10.63% migrants were lucky enough to get work after their return.



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

C. Plans of Returning Back for Work in the Destination States

Lack of employment in the home state after their return, the migrant workers made up their mind to go back to the destination states despite the health concerns posed by Covid-19. As per graph 3.61, 43.34% were in a dilemma about their return and unable to give a clear response to it. 18.09% mentioned that they would return but not sure about the time. 16.55% mentioned that they would return whenever they got an offer of good wages. 3.61% decided to return after one year but few migrants wanted desperately to return as early as possible. 2%, 1.74% and 1.61% migrants wanted to return within 3 months, in 4-6 months and in 7-12 months respectively.



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

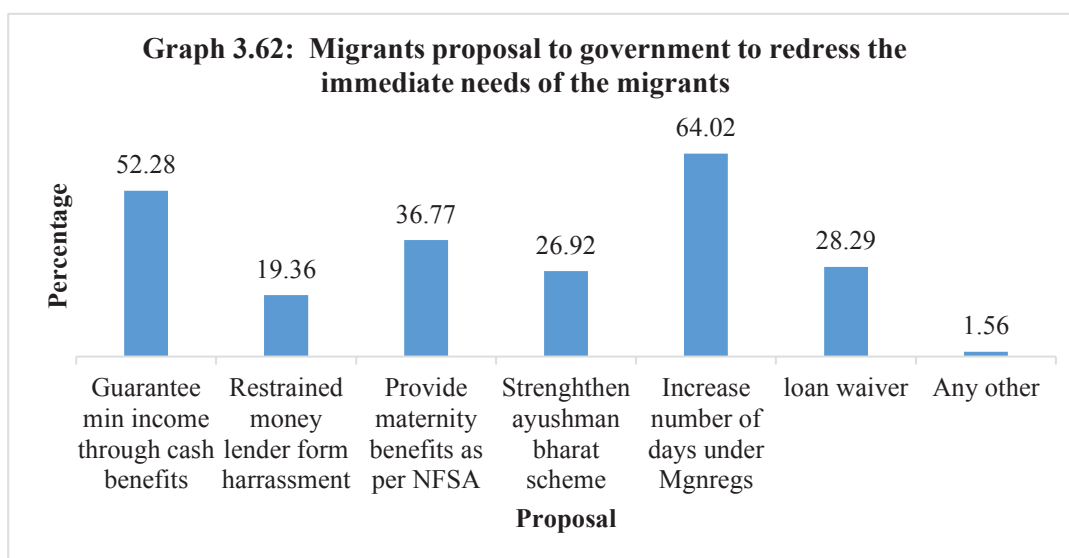
Section Five: Support Needed to Mitigate Vulnerability

This section discusses the areas where the returnee migrants need support and possible actions which can help to mitigate their vulnerability.

I. Plea to the Government

A. Migrants Proposal to the Government to Address their Needs

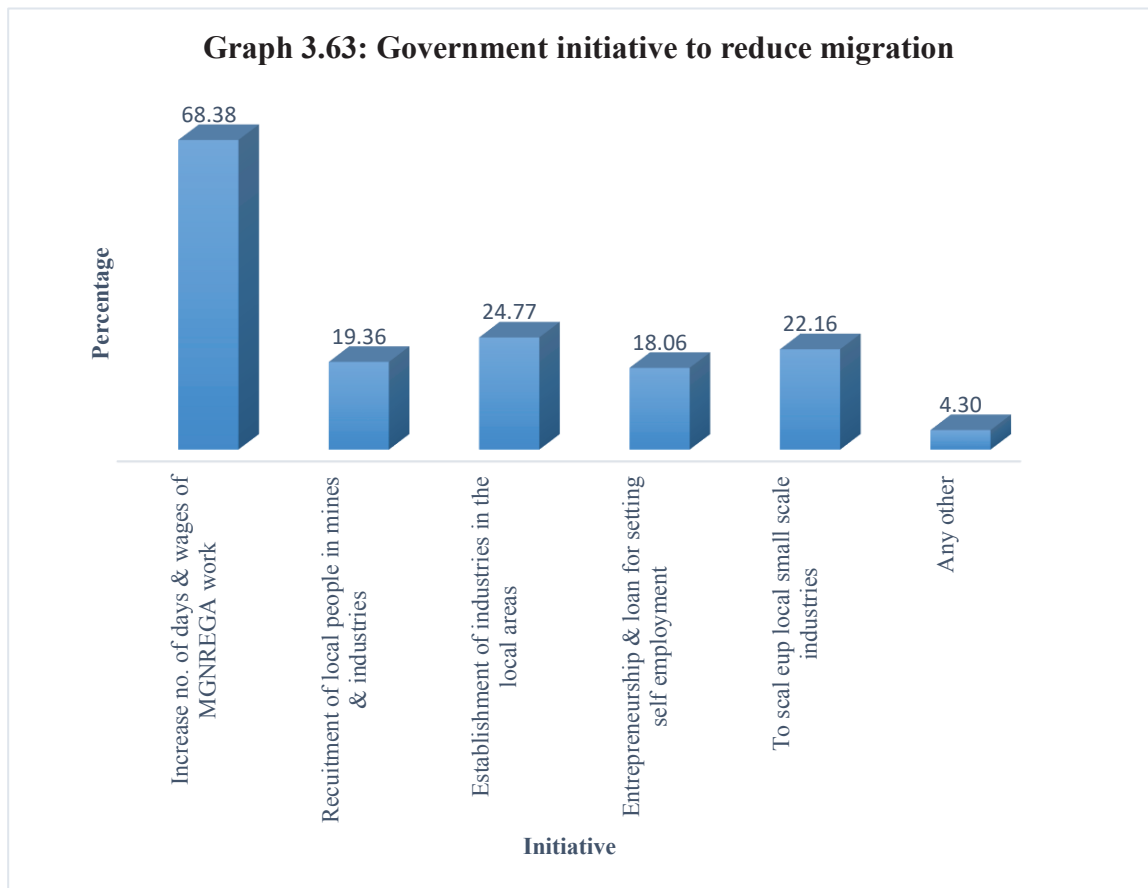
It was observed that the returnee migrants faced challenges of financial crisis after they returned home. They desired that some of the activities would be initiated by the Government to improve their conditions. As per graph 3.62, on multiple choices of answers 64.02% migrants said that an increase of Workdays in MGNREGA could help the migrant workers in overcoming their financial crisis. 52.28% said that the Government should provide minimum financial support, 36.77% said that ration support needed from PDS. 28.29% said that the Government should waive their loan and 19.36% said that they should not be harassed by the money lenders due to non- repayment of dues.



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

B. Government Initiative to Reduce Migration

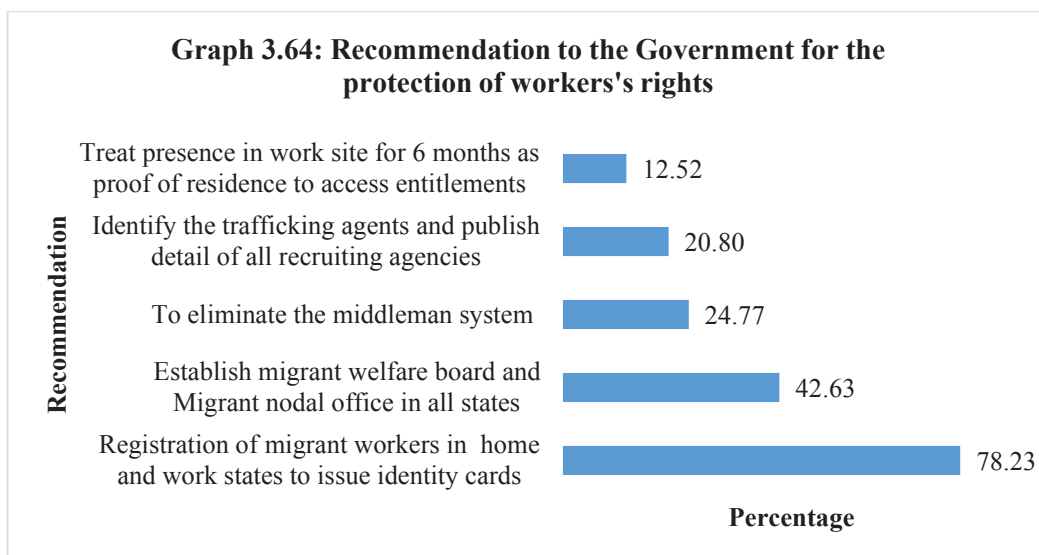
The returnee migrants also expected that some of the Government initiatives could reduce the migration in the long run. On the basis of multiple choices of answers; the graph 3.63 presents 68.38% expected that an increase in the workdays in MGNREGA could help them. 19.36% migrants who said that recruitment of local people in the job could make migrant workers to stay back in their home. 24.77% desired that setting up industries in their locality, 18.06% said that they should get support in self-employment to reduce the stress of migration. 22.16% also desired that the Government should scale up local small-scale industries to accommodate more employment.



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

C. Recommendation to the Government for the Protection of Workers Rights

The returnee migrants expressed their recommendation to the Government for the protection of worker's rights. Based on multiple choices of answers, the graph 3.64 presents 78.23% migrants said that they should get registered in the home state and issue them registration code for safe migration. 42.63% mentioned that the Government should establish migrant welfare boards or migrant nodal offices in all the states. 24.77% mentioned that the Government should eliminate middlemen in accessing schemes and benefits. 20.80% mentioned that the Government should identify the human trafficking agents and expose their details publically to protect migrant workers from their trap. 12.52% migrant workers said that the Government should consider staying of workers in a particular worksite as their proof of residence for accessing entitlements.



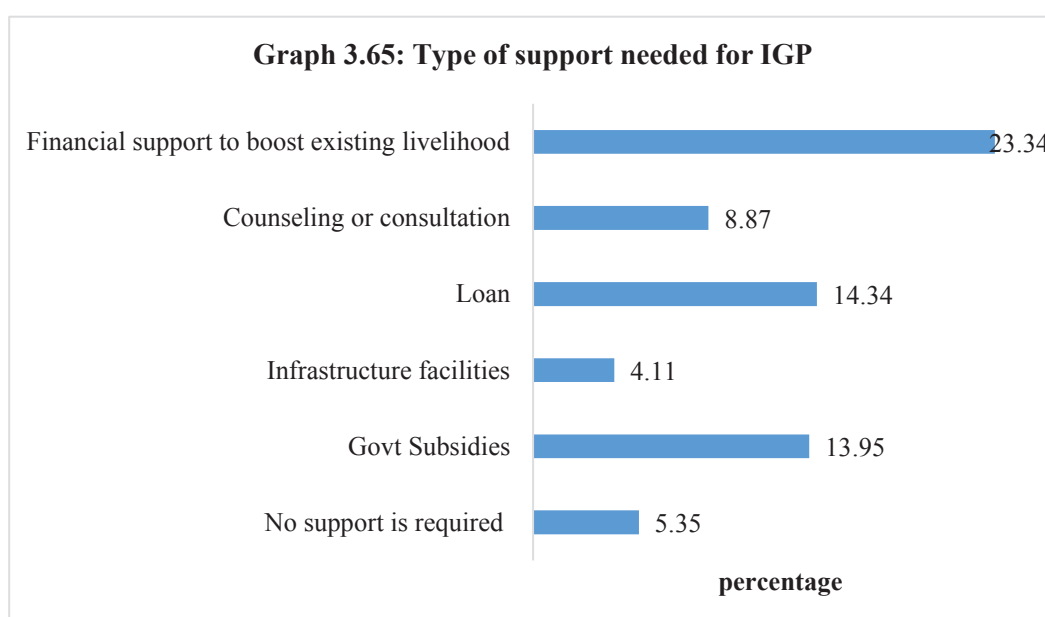
Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

II. Support Needed

This section discusses the migrant workers' views on various support needed to improve their conditions.

A. Support Needed for Income Generating Program

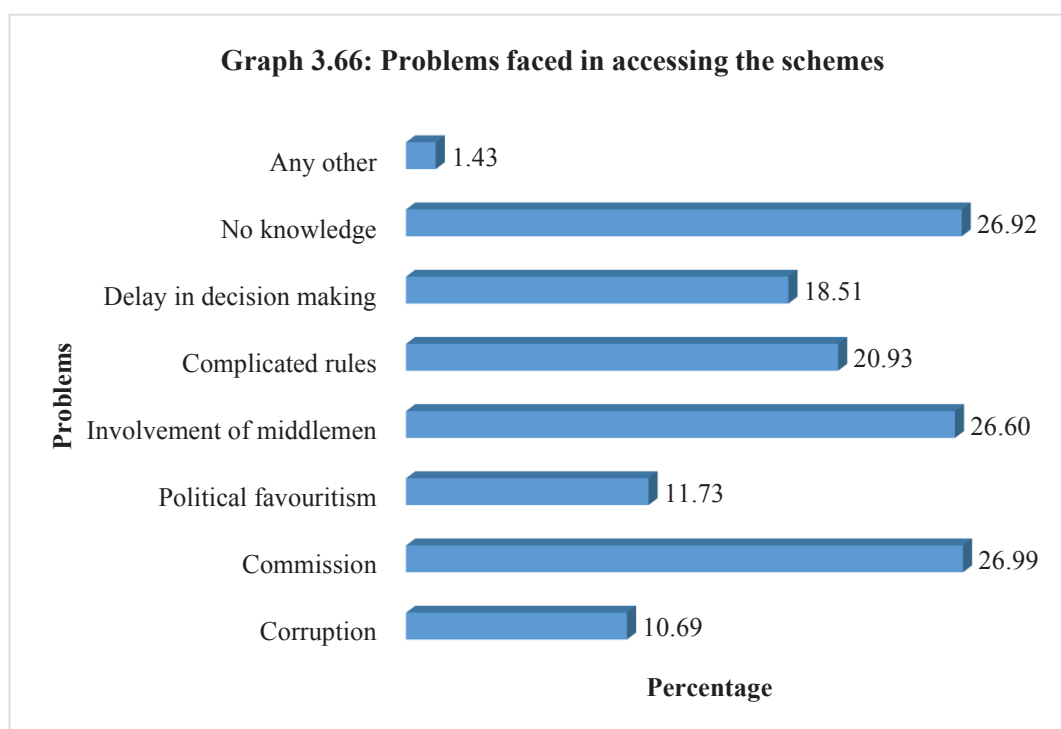
The returnee migrants expressed their views on support needed to improve their economic conditions through income generating activities. The study reveals 23.34% migrant workers wanted financial support to boost their livelihood; 14.34% wanted loan to solve their immediate problems, 13.95% wanted Government subsidy in various livelihood programmes. In a broader sense, the migrant workers mainly needed to be supported in skill development and financial support to alleviate their existing livelihoods.



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

B. Problems Faced in Accessing Government Schemes

The migrant workers also expressed their problems in accessing the Government schemes. Based on multiple choices of answers, the study showed 26.99% migrants said bribery/commission and 26.60% said involvement of middlemen was hindrances in accessing the schemes. 20.93% said complicated rules as one of the problems in accessing the schemes. This implies the people need more simplification of the schemes and projects to be accessed. 18.51% mentioned that the delay in processing the application created unwanted problems for them. 11.73% said political favouritism and 10.69% had viewed corruption as major problems in accessing the schemes.



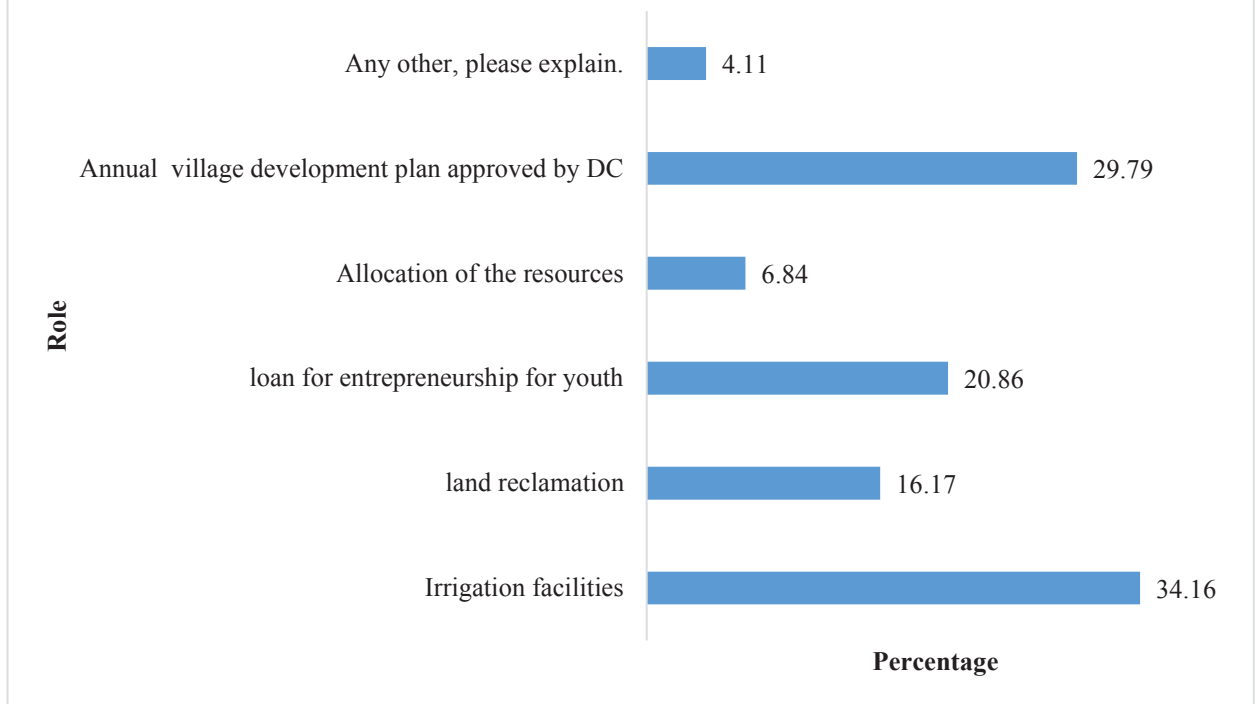
Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020

C. The Role of *Gram Sabha*, the Local Governing Body

The migrant communities, especially the tribal and other marginalized communities are in the lowest economic strata. They depend on agriculture and allied works for their livelihood. They usually migrate seasonally due to insufficient food supply for a full year. Here, the role of *Gram Sabha*, the local governing body is important in improving the agriculture and allied livelihoods. *Gram Sabha* as being the local body of governance has to play a decisive role for and up-lifting rural economy. It was observed that the returnee migrants were aware that the role of *Gram Sabha* was important.

Majority of the people i.e. 34.16% migrants wanted *Gram Sabha* to improve the irrigation facilities in the villages. 29.79% said that the *Gram Sabha* should prepare a village development plan, get it approved and engage villagers in the village development activities. 20.86% wanted *Gram Sabha* to play a role in availing loans for income generating activities. 16.17% migrants said the *Gram Sabha* should play active role in land development to increase the productivity of the land.

Graph 3.67: The role of Gram Sabha in accessing & improving livelihood opportunities



Source: MLSC Migrant Study, 2020



Fig. 3.1: Jharkhand Janadhikar Mahasabha

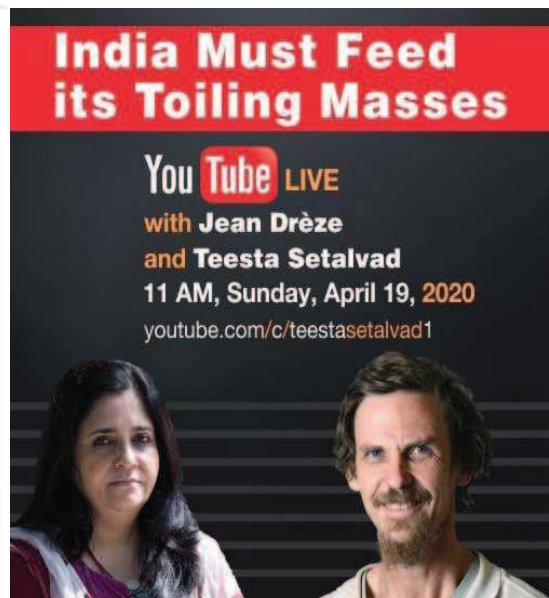


Fig.3.2: India must feed its toiling masses

CHAPTER IV

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

This chapter summarises the major findings of the study. It puts forth some recommendations and ends with conclusion.

I. Major Findings of the Study

The major findings of the study are as following-

A. Returnee Migrant Workers and their Issues

1. The need assessment study in the Central Zone was based on sample of 1534 returnee migrant workers: 274, 943, and 317 from Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha, respectively. 85.92% of the migrant workers had successfully reached their homes and stayed at home at the time of survey. Out of total sample, 89.63% were male and 10.37% female migrant workers. The highest portion of male migrant population depicts male being primarily responsible for earning in the nucleus family.
2. The caste distribution of the sample shows the dominance of the tribal population in the contribution to labour workforce. 70.47% of migrant workers belonged to STs, 16.23% to SCs and 12.26% to OBCs and 1.04% to General categories.
3. The social composition of HHs in the villages has similar pattern of migrant workers' caste composition under study shows. Out of the sample of 6244 HHs under survey, 72.04% HHs belonged to STs, 16.19% to SCs, 9.66% to OBCs and 0.50% to General categories.
4. Rural economy is based on agriculture and allied livelihoods. When assessing landholding in the villages of migrant workers: 88.13% HHs were landholders and 8.42% landless. Among the land holding 65.42% HHs were marginal farmers, 11.72% belonging to small farmers. 1.91% HHs middle farmers and 0.56% HHs big farmers.
5. 84.80% HHs have rain-fed agriculture; and only 1.35 HHs have access to lift/irrigation facilities. By and large, it is 'dry land agriculture'. Hence, they are seasonal and circular migrants. However, the type of land holding by the HHs viz. 53.86% and 51.27% for *doin khet* (low land, the best land for paddy cultivation) and *tanr khet* (up land) has good ratio of land holding by the HHs in combination.
6. The tribal and forest dwelling communities depend on the collection of Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) such as *Tendu* leaves, *sal* seed, *Mahua*, *Chironji*, *Lakh*, herbals, etc. They collect and sell them in the market.
7. It was found that the young migrant population go in migration. 47.59% migrant workers belonged to the age group of 21-30 years followed by 21.97% of age group 31-40 years. It was observed that 17.28% of migrant workers were from the age 20 years or below. This shows that the young migrant population has substantial percentage. This was equally visible in the education status where 41.98% migrant workers have obtained school education i.e. primary to higher secondary schools and 41.07% didn't share their educational details so, it gives a general impression that young migrate after becoming school dropouts.
8. When Covid-19 lockdowns were imposed in India, access to TV, mobile and internet had played a great role in the disseminating information among the migrant workers. Awareness through TV (35.85%) was high compared to other media as it broadcasted the live news.

However, in the digital age, social media platforms (21.38%) also played a great role along with friends (24.12%) and information shared by employers (21.97%).

9. Immediately after the news of the lockdown announced, 35.71% returnee migrant workers said they were desperate to return but were helpless. More than half of the migrant population was in deep shock, fear, and uncertainty. Anyhow, 33.77% of migrant workers were to come back to their native home during the lockdown facing all risks and struggles. 27.51% migrant workers came back home in the post lockdown phase. 48.50% returned home via bus or train by paying requisite fare and 20.24% returned via train/bus freely. It was observed that 47.78% migrant workers received no financial support during their return. They managed everything by themselves. 20.34% received support from their respective employers and very few cases were found where migrant workers had to take support from their family, strangers, friends, NGO and others.
10. Although 72.43% migrant workers said that they were accepted by family in their native place, 41.44% faced conflicts over fear of spreading corona and 25.21% were not allowed entry or move around in the villages.

B. Destinations States and Nature of Work

1. The study found that the 35.5% returnee migrant workers preferred to work in southern states - Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana; and 26.6% preferred to work in western states such as Goa, Gujarat and Maharashtra. Overall, the states of southern India were the most preferred destination for migration.
2. The study found that approximately 62.96% returnee migrant workers were engaged in unskilled works, 16.57% were engaged as semi-skilled workers, and 10.4% were as skilled workers.
3. The pattern of saving shows that the majority of the migrant workers saved money from their earnings to meet their needs and support their families. 49.41% migrants said that they save Rs. 3000-5000 monthly and 16.62% could save Rs. 2000-3000 monthly.

C. Push and Pull Factors

The major push and pull factors for migration in Central India were as following-

1. Most of the victims of land acquisition for mining or other infrastructural development in the areas belong to tribal and marginalized forest dwelling communities. Thus, these displaced or evicted persons (tribal and marginalized communities in Central Indian States) tend to become inter-state migrant workers. They go in search of work for their survival.
2. The study found that the financial crisis was among push factors for migration. 38.98% returnee migrant workers said that they migrated because of poverty and 32.99% said due to lack of employment in the home states. This resulted into a weak family bond. 53.51% returnee migrant workers did not receive any support from their family.
3. Taking a closer look at the family- indebtedness (33.35%), children's education (42.24%) and inability to meet the medical expenses of the family members (32.39%) were other major problems faced by nuclear families.
4. The food insufficiency of 54.53% households of the migrants' villages compelled the able persons to migrate for ensuring food security of the family. Off season agriculture is minimum e.g. 20.44% households cultivated *Rabi* (winter) crop and only 2.53% households cultivated vegetables. The income accrued from the off-season agriculture: 12.22% households growing *Rabi* crops could earn worth Rs. 5000 and above and 20.89%

households earned more than Rs. 5000 from vegetable cultivation. In other words, though the *Rabi* and vegetable cultivation potentially could be alternative options to income generation, but in terms of input and production it is not viable means of survival. Hence, marginal farmers migrate seasonally.

5. Social discrimination at source states was not significant among the workers but the presence of meagre forms of discriminations was evident from the study. Caste prejudices and discrimination were prominent challenges to be faced by the migrant workers.
6. It was found that 42.83% migrant workers had some educational background. It was also evident that 17.28% migrant workers were of age 20 years or less. These show the people desiring to migrate were of young age and indicating the strong presence of school dropouts. Lack of interest in education among youths coupled with existing financial problems pushes them into migration.
7. The study shows that 62.96% migrant workers were unskilled. These unskilled workers, presumably, illiterate and school dropout, found difficulty in getting work in source states but they easily got absorbed in low wage labour work in the destination states. Thus, availability of cheap labour despite being unskilled played as push factor in interstate migration.
8. A large segment of unskilled workers finding jobs in the destination states as cheap labourers reflects the vulnerability of unskilled work force. 51.13% and 28.78% migrant workers earned monthly salaries of Rs. 5000-10,000 and Rs. 10,000-15,000, respectively. All these features considerably attracted workers from the source states to the destination states.
9. Wages paid in cash were a great boon to the migrant workers. 67.47% returnee migrant workers received their wages in cash which was handy in fulfilling their family needs.

D. Skill Mapping and Future Employability

1. It was observed that only 24.45% migrant workers had some skill before migrating to the destination states. This could be largely due to lack of awareness about the skill development programmes among the migrant labourers. The study found that 47.59% migrant workers had no knowledge about the skill development centres run by the Government or other agencies. This showed there was information gap among the migrant workers.
2. 64.86% migrant workers felt that they should get proper skill development to increase their employability. It was further observed that migrant workers were interested in repair of two-wheeler (10.88%), cycle repair (9.98%) and tailoring (9.08%), and mobile repair (7.92%) trainings.
3. It was also found that only few people learnt new skills in the workplace. 9.58% learnt working skills by self, 4.5% through the training agencies, and 7.24% mentioned that they learned by their co-workers and 4.43% migrant workers learnt from their supervisors who taught them. In other words, a total of 25.75% migrant workers learned skills in their respective workplace.

E. Workers' Rights and Entitlements

1. It was found that people had mainly access to ration (76.01%) and MGNREGA job card (37.68%). People from labour community should have good coverage of job cards but it was not so. Apart from it, only few people accessed the Government entitlements such as *Ayushman Bharat* scheme (7.76%), *Jan dhan Yojana* (7.56%), *Antyodaya* (10.95%) which were considered as important for the migrant workers. Similar opinions of migrant workers

were observed for maternal and child benefits of their family member beneficiaries. On the basis of above findings, it can be said that there was hardly access to the Government entitlements among the migrant workers; and this got affirmed by the HH survey in the migrant workers' villages.

2. It was also found that migrant workers did not get entitlements from their employers. 32.72% migrant workers said that they worked beyond 10 hours a day but only 25.10% got overtime allowance. A few migrant workers viz. 12.52%, 7.30%, 7.17% and 4.63% got other entitlements for medical allowance, accidental, death benefits and provident fund, respectively.

F. Policy Decisions

There could be many policy level interventions on poor access to social security schemes, support for livelihood, and increase in number of Workdays in MGNREGA, etc., for the welfare of migrant workers. They could be addressed through proper advocacy, follow ups and empowering of people.

G. Support Needed

1. It was found that financial support needed for scaling up their existing livelihood activities as expressed by 23.34% migrant workers. They do have some livelihood activities in villages; but due to inability to meet their financial needs, they migrated.
2. Awareness of the Government schemes and entitlements needed for the migrant workers. Advocacy is needed for reducing the challenges in the application and claim of the schemes. The study found that the bribery/commission (26.99%) and involvement of middlemen (26.60%) were observed as major problems in accessing schemes and projects. 20.93% migrant workers found complexities in the schemes.

H. The role of *Gram Sabha* and Local Governance

Gram Sabhas and local governance should be strengthened to improve the awareness among the people, and accessibility of various government schemes and entitlements for migrant workers. The *Gram Sabha* should actively work in consultation with the Government administrative system to initiate developmental works in the villages. 34.16% migrant workers desired *Gram Sabha* to improve the irrigation facilities in the villages. 29.79% expected *Gram Sabha* to prepare village development plans; get it approved and engage villagers in the village development activities.

II. Recommendations

On the basis of the findings, this section deals with recommendations that can be taken up for the future actions and advocacy.

A. Registration of the Migrant Workers

There is an urgent need of registration of migrant labourers with local Governing/ Administrative bodies to keep track of all migrating people. This will help source states as well as destination states to ensure tracking and communication with the migrant workers. This will also help the welfare agencies to extend their immediate support at any distress call or crisis. Secondly, the number of the migrant workers will only be known accurately, if the migrant workers are registered on the source point. The *Gram Sabha* through its *Panchayat* must be the best agency to enrol all the outgoing migrant workers with their personal details; and then issue a registration code/number of the migrant worker. This registration code then availed to the District/State labour office or

nodal office to regulate and monitor the outgoing migrant workers. Through this registration code, a worker can be tracked and monitored his/her whereabouts, safety and protection, rights and entitlements.

B. Mitigation of Distress Migration by Enhancing Agriculture and Allied Livelihoods

The Government provisions and schemes should be made available to migrant workers so that they can scale up their existing livelihood activities. It was found that people were interested to scale up their livelihood but poor access to the schemes may discourage them to take up the activities. Advocacy with the Government departments is a need to minimize the bureaucratic hurdles and unnecessary delay in accessing and claim benefits of various entitlements meant for the migrant workers. Awareness on Government schemes and entitlements should be increased among the migrant labourers for easy accessibility of the scheme. Number of Workdays in MNREGA should be increased so that the returnee migrant workers can earn some income in the native place.

The study shows that the majority of the migrant workers are male. Their migration is seasonal and circular. The caste category of the migrant workers is of scheduled tribes and scheduled castes. By and large, they are marginal or small farmers and have dry land agricultural practices. The dry land agriculture is practiced in diverse climates, particularly in rain fed, mountains and hilly terrains in the country, habited generally by the tribal communities. These areas are estimated to include 65% of the country's cropped area and termed as 'organic by default'. This refers to the small farmers who have no choice but to farm without chemicals and fertilizers or pesticides; practiced particularly by the indigenous people who occupy hilly regions of the country. Agriculture in Central Indian States is 'dry land agriculture' and it is 'organic by default'. If it is enhanced to 'official organic farming' it would increase the viability and sustainability of agriculture. Small scale irrigation facilities (lift irrigation) under such *Neelamber Pitamber Jal SamridhiYojna* (NPJSY) will enable the farmers to cultivate *Rabi* crops and grow vegetables in the agricultural off seasons in Jharkhand. The much-acclaimed *Narwa-Garuwa-Ghurwa* and *Bari* concept of integrated rural development model will help in Chhattisgarh. These sustainable agricultural models viz, *Narwa-Garuwa-Ghurwa* (Rao,2019), (C.f. Annexure- IV (A)), *Gram Utthan* (NGO) model of rural development in Gumla (C.f. Annexure-IV (B)), permaculture⁵ (Mahesh, 2021) (C.f. Annexure- IV (C)) may be helpful to change traditional agriculture into organic agriculture. Ragi, millets, pulses, and other cereals grown in the upland (*Tanr khet*) in Central Indian plateau have high amounts of calories, iron and proteins. In other words, they are nutri- cereals. Dry land agriculture has potential for production of organic food. By adopting or replicating these agricultural models could be economically cost effective, environmentally conducive and sustainable. Apart from *Neelamber Pitamber Jal SamridhiYojna* (NPJSY), *Birsa Harit Gram Yojana* (BHGY), and *Veer Sahid Poto Ho Khel Vikas* Scheme (VSPHKVS) as launched these labour-intensive programmes in May 2020 to restore the rural economy, will be good steps in mitigating distress migration in Jharkhand.

C. Promotion of Traditional Livelihood

⁵ 'The challenge came in the form of rice cultivation ushered in with the Green Revolution, which accentuated excessive use of groundwater, chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and has led to the degradation of soil biodiversity over the years. The new varieties of rice, with its shorter, weaker stalks, can't even be used as thatching or cattle fodder. The use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides directly impacted the health of farmers. Some Santals claimed that their cattle had been falling sick and dying after eating the straw or drinking the water from local rice fields.' Hence, 'Santals of Bengal go back to their roots, champion agriculture that nurtures ecosystems today the Santals are attempting to turn back the clock; banking on traditional wisdom, with some modern scientific ideas, to reclaim some of what has been lost by adopting permaculture'.

There is an urgent need to boost the traditional livelihood of people such as agriculture, animal husbandry, artisan-based occupations, etc. It is need of the hour for advocacy with Government through awareness building about existing schemes and projects, benefits and entitlements, providing technical support in up scaling income generating activities, processing and marketing of agro-forestry products. The artisan-based occupation and livelihoods need to be supported and enhanced. Products of the artisans should be promoted and confederated through co-operative markets. This will ensure their livelihoods and protect the traditional production systems. The products of traditional weavers, agricultural implements supplied by black smiths, earthen wares from the potters, leather products and dyes, puffed rice, basket making, the drums and musical items, and other traditional arts should be preserved by promoting them. Many young people have abandoned these artisan-based occupations and go as migrant workers. Such people should be provided artisan-based skills and helped them to make their traditional profession a viable source of income for livelihood. Apart from these, micro-financing for Self Help Groups, confederating them into co-operatives would enable the rural poor to take up self-reliant income generating activities. For these National Small Industries Corporation (A Government of India Enterprise) and Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) can be approached.

D. Migrant Workers -Human Resource Rather a Social Liability

The study found that young migrants were unskilled but interested to upscale their skills through skill development training centres. So, there is a huge scope of skill development in migrant workers to increase their employability. The migrants' communities should be made aware and mobilized for skill development trainings in all the three states.

Migrant workers are young, healthy male working force with some educational qualifications coming from marginalized communities with some functional skills. So much so, majority of them belong to scheduled tribes and scheduled castes, having some land but are marginal farmers. At one point of time, these migrant workers had been school dropouts for reasons unknown. On the issue of being high rate of school dropouts, the different stakeholders should study the causes of being school dropouts and then, measures be taken to minimize it. All these could be treated under human resource development. At least skill development drive should be a priority of the stakeholders to make this work force more viable, productive and remunerative.

E. Mitigation of Unsafe Migration

There is also a need to establish a migrant welfare board or migration nodal office at various levels to regulate, encourage safe migration for all. There is a need to facilitate access to proper information about the employment, government entitlements and grievances for migrant labour. There is also a scope of increasing awareness. This will boost safe inter-state migration.

Registration of the migrant workers is a key step in the mitigation of unsafe migration. There is a good number of migrant workers as illiterates including those who are able to make signature only as to be in the category of literates. About 60% migrants were unskilled workers mostly engaged in manual labour. They are most vulnerable. They are easy prey to bonded labour through dubious contractors and a chain of agents operating as labour contractor in the company (local supervisor and language speaking agents). They extract their lion's share from the workers' hard-earned money. The middlemen/agents and contractors allure and take the workers to destination states should be checked and only be allowed under proper contract/work agreement. Those exploiters in the guise of middlemen and contractors should be taken into legal action. The dubious work placement agencies should be exposed. Cash payment, though, fulfils the needs of the migrant workers and hence boon to them but induces subtle forms of corruption and exploitation of the workers. It implies non-transparency in the just wage payment. Hence, bank payment should be encouraged for transparent wage payment. Irregular wage payment, non-payment of over duty

hours, absence of workers social security (provident fund, accident or death compensation) contributes to the category of unsafe migration of the workers. Hence, registration of the workers should be a concern in the source state for mitigating unsafe interstate migration.

F. Helping the Migrant Workers through Network Partners

It was the humanitarian concern of the NGOs and Civil Societies that helped the migrant workers during lockdowns providing rations, cooked meals, medicines, shelters, travels, etc. The migrant workers' place of work was diversified (35.50% in Southern States, 26.60% in Western States, 16.80% in Northern States, 4.9% in North-Eastern States, 6.3% in Central States and 9.9% in other States). Tracking the workers, monitoring them, ensuring transparency in wage payment, helping them in need and emergencies (accidents or death), ensuring workers' rights and entitlements, health and hygiene of the workplace, could be taken up through network partners and alliance building with NGOs and civil societies in the source as well as in the destination states. The NGOs could help the migrant workers in counselling in psychological stress and distress, alcoholic syndromes, indulging in anti-social elements and activities, etc. Monitoring and accompanying them are the need of the hour while they take up their self-reliant activities and enterprises. For skill development and training, trade guidance, counselling and support could be expected from the institutes working for self-reliance of the rural people. There is a need for awareness building among the people on the availability of government projects and helping the beneficiaries in accessing such projects and schemes. There is a need for proper identification and collaboration with like-minded humanitarian agencies to extend social services to the people working in the destination states. The Migrant Workers Help Desk could be established by Network partners in collaboration with the Government and worked jointly. The NGOs could guide the migrant workers in terms of counselling, skill training, trade guidance, and support.

G. Strengthening Gram Sabha and PRI

It is observed that most of the *Gram Sabha* in the villages are not effective and hence need to be strengthened and facilitated to take up welfare activities of villages in consultation with the Government. This will foster participatory development process. 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1996 has Provision of *Panchayat* Extension to Scheduled Areas. This univocally articulates the system of self-governance as the indispensable need of the communities living in Scheduled Areas and recognised their traditional collective rights over natural resources. The powers vested in the *Gram Sabha* have immense rights and responsibilities for local governance and village development in particular. *Gram Sabha* committee members need to be trained to play an active role in ensuring self-governance and sustainable rural development by facilitating government schemes, especially the provisions of loan, agricultural support, and other livelihood support to the economic condition of the people.

H. Alliance Building for Policy Change

Alliance building of the like-minded organizations should be networked to address the different policy level issues concerning migrant workers. The issues could be institutional mechanisms, monitoring and improving labour laws, ensuring the correct usage of worker unions or civil society organisations to stand out and act as a representative of the migrants for protection of their rights, ensuring the accessibility of PDS and other social security and welfare schemes in the source and destination states.

Alliance building and networking for policy change that safeguards interstate migrant workers' interest and rights. The advocacy and alliance building should be for promotion of labour laws that protects the interests of the migrant workers, ensuring healthy and hygienic working conditions, accessibility to basic facilities like accommodation, water and sanitation in the place

of residence. States ensure registration of all interstates migrant workers for safe migration, setting up of District facilitation centres for disseminating information and helping migrant workers. Networking is to ensure PDS and other social security and welfare benefits in the source and destination states. Increasing the number of workdays and rate of wages in MGNREGA, ensuring regular wage payment, strengthening of *Gram Sabha* and PRI should be the area of advocacy. There is a need of advocacy for policy change in recruiting the local workers in the companies and industries in the source states.

Most of the migrant workers face the problem of accessing government schemes in their home states. The advocacy should be taken on awareness building among people on the available government schemes for easy access, curbing different forms of corruption (commission agents or middlemen, political favouritism) in accessing the projects and schemes, ensuring rules and procedures for easy access.

People's representatives (MLAs, MPs, municipal council members, *Sarpanches*) who came forward to help the migrant workers in lockdowns and post lockdowns, should be approached. They have resources for helping the people in need. There should be alliance building and advocacy networks for making people aware for utilization of such existing resources under these people's representatives.

III. Conclusion

The study concludes that the Covid-19 pandemic crisis exposed the existing gaps in the current "model of development." The increasing gaps between urban and rural, privileged and under-privileged, formal and informal were very much evident in the pandemic crisis. This gap can also be seen in the states as well. The economically poor states have become more and more source states and well-off states have become destination states in interstate migration. The flow of migrant workers from source to destination states has increased rapidly in neo-liberalism.

Although migration is a natural process since the beginning of mankind in its human civilizations; however, distress migration in respect to present day situation, bears risks. The migrant workers form a class of workers who usually work in poor conditions to heighten the economy of the country silently and invisibly posing a threat to their lives and the family members who depend on them. It is also the migrant workers who are involved in most dangerous works like unguarded construction work, chemically exposed factories and industries, handling machineries that can sometimes be uncontrollably fatal, manual scavenging (which have been criticized for using workers from *Dalits* and other marginalized communities) without being given job and social security. Many migrant workers complain of not being allowed to have the basic accessibility of rights, entitlements and services like PDS or other welfare schemes including education and healthcare for their children and dependents. More often they are vulnerable, exploited and work in conditions where their rights are not protected. The data reveals that nearly one-third of India's population is migrant population. More than half of this population migrates from rural areas to cities in search of work. Lack of alternate livelihoods and skill development in source states are among the primary causes of migration from rural to urban centres. Workers migrate seasonally, temporarily, either within a state or other state to earn living.

The data on returnee migrants of Central Zone States i.e. Odisha, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh has highlighted that poor and marginalised communities, especially the schedule tribe and schedule caste mainly migrated to the southern and western states. The southern states are the most preferred destination in the interstate migration. These migrants are vulnerable. The Covid-19 lockdown had greatly affected these sections of the population. During the initial phase of lock-down, modern communication technologies and social media played a great role in reaching out to the stranded migrant workers across the country, but they faced harsh situations while returning back their

homes. Half of the population reached their home without external financial support. They were in the extreme crisis. This underlines the helplessness of the interstate migrants.

The large portion of the returnee migrant population was male and young in age that were characterized with school dropouts, poverty, and lack of support from family for their career aspirations. These sections of the population desperately look for alternative source of income for their survival. They prefer to migrate to southern and western states due to the presence of huge employment opportunities; employers offering good wages compared to their native states; immediate earning in cash, and they could save some amount to support their life and family. There were very few skilled migrant workers found in the sample population that may be largely due to the lack of awareness and opportunities to take part on such skill training programmes. It was surprising to note that approximately one third of the migrant workers were unaware of the skill training programmes run by the Government or other agencies. However, they have a desire to increase their employability through skill training courses. Besides, there appeared very little access to the government schemes and entitlements by the migrant workers. These may be the reasons for their migration and being vulnerable. Through alliance building and networking for policy changes, proper implementation of basic human rights and entitlements should be worked towards enforcing the Governments to implement laws and acts safeguarding the migrants' rights.

To mitigate intra or interstate migration, three forked approaches needed. First, attending and responding the distress calls of the migrants. Responding effectively is possible by using and widening networks to reach out to the distress migrants. Second, would be mitigation of unsafe migration. This means that the workers are in the safe hands, free from the clutches and exploitations of contractors, middlemen and agents. It is to ensure their healthy and hygienic working conditions, protect their rights, entitlements, and social security. They are paid regularly and transparently, viz. through bank payment. Safe migration also implies skill enhancement of the workers. Migrants' skills are to be enhanced through skill training and then under registration they are to be allowed for interstate migration. The registration of the workers in the source state must be under Government policy as a key step for safe migration. The state is to ensure that migrant workers are employed under policy complying registration code/ number in the destination states. Through their registration code, the migrant workers are to be tracked, monitored by stakeholders in need or emergency. By registration drive in the source states, workers' issues of exploitation could be curbed to a great extent. Thus, it enables organizing the unorganized working force, the labourers and the migrant workers. Once they are employed under policy of registration, the issues of the workers' entitlements and rights could be followed up and monitored by the stakeholders. The Government should take effective measures in ensuring social protection and entitlements. This can mitigate distress situation of the migrant labourers irrespective of their place and conditions. For emergency help of the migrant workers- the State Nodal Offices could be approached. Through alliance building and network- workers' issues, rights and entitlements could be taken up. In these, the stakeholders need to work in mutual consultation and collaboration.

The third approach, the efforts must be made for mitigating distress migration. Complete mitigation of interstate migration may not be possible, for carrying capacity of the population in the source states as may be limited. However, promoting safe migration is a balancing act of state's holding capacity of workers in the source states. Moreover, all stones must be unturned in mitigating distress migration. The effort should be to make agriculture and allied livelihoods sustainable and viable. Among the tribal groups, agriculture is the main source of livelihood. The study (household survey of the villages to which returnee migrant workers belonged) shows the majority of the households own land and only a few are landless. However, they are marginal farmers, their agricultural practices are dry land agriculture but organic by default. If efforts are made to enhance dry land agriculture into 'Official Organic Farming' adapting or replicating *Narwa-Garuwa-Ghurwa* and *Bari* concept of integrated rural development model of Chhattisgarh.

The seasonal migration or distress migration to some extent will be mitigated, for it potentially, ensures food security in sustainable agriculture. Potentially, in the agriculture sector, the holding capacity of workers could be increased and strengthened. For, invariably, tribal households of Central Indian States own land and cattle, the basic elements for agriculture. The three states populated with indigenous peoples are endowed with water (rivulets, streams) and forest resources; in addition to these basic elements for agriculture and allied production they have indigenous knowledge and practices. Hence, natural resources could be potentially and sustainably used towards mitigating distress migration.

It is a fact that the surface water is available plentiful in rice fields (*doins*) (low land) and by digging shallow wells at a depth of 15 ft. suffices water for vegetable cultivation. Hence, developing such water bodies in cooperation, start cultivating and earn by value addition and trading the products. The erstwhile used or underused 'energy of people' (labour) - invested in collective production, processing and marketing as found in *Gram Uthhan* model by Arouse in Gumla. The 'Santhal model of perma-culture or going back to the root- banking on native wisdom, with some modern scientific ideas, to reclaim some of what has been lost' is sustainable agriculture that nurtures ecosystem. The Central Indian plateaus have immense potential for growing *Ragi (Madua)* and other nutri-cereals, millets and legumes. The upland is suitable for horticulture, and agro forestry. Sericulture, fisheries, honey production, lakh production, and bio-diesel/fuel could be alternative Agri-based livelihood systems in this dry land agriculture.

Revival of traditional systems of grain banks, seed banks, confederation of SHGs, *Kissan Clubs*, Youth Clubs and channelizing them into co-operative production, processing and marketing- tapping the potential markets available at hand could be systematically developed under the umbrella of Catholic Cooperative Bank Ranchi. For another bigger umbrella, help could be taken from Federation of Jharkhand Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME). For sustainable agriculture and allied livelihoods, the Government run schemes and projects by the State or Centre could be explored and approached. Similarly, the collection of NTFP, processing and marketing could be supported and strengthened through cooperatives. For skill development, help could be taken from the Government and Non-government organizations. It is a high time to tap resources from Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in strengthening the rural and tribal economy.

To mitigate the migrant worker's issues, employment creation and recruitment of the local workers with skill training/development is envisaged and sought help under policy. The State Government needs to check and balance its carrying capacity in absorbing the workers locally and only may allow the workers under safe migration. The *Gram Sabha* can play a vital role in registering, monitoring migrant workers. Hence, *Gram Sabha* needs to be strengthened to take active roles in the village governance, and in implementation of integrated rural development schemes aiming at mitigation of distress migration. Enhancement of indigenous agricultural practices into organic farming and promotion of sustainable livelihood systems can be harbingers in mitigating distress migrant workers in Central Indian States. The State Governments, along with boosting their existing livelihood opportunities, traditional or artisan-based livelihoods, and skill development, should increase the number of Workdays in MGNREGA. Potentially, this can absorb the large size of the labour force in the source states.

The Post Covid-19 crisis has exposed the vulnerabilities and related problems of migrant workers. In addition to this, the findings of the study are sufficient to strategies in mitigation of distress migration. It is necessary for all the stakeholders to reflect and take actions for the wellbeing of the most vulnerable section of the society, the tribals, *Dalits* and other forest dwelling communities.

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Annexure

Annexure- I: *Girmitiya* Labourers (Excerpts from *Encyclopaedia Mundarica*)

(Hoffmann, J. (1930). Art. *dipu*. *Encyclopaedia Mundarica*: By John Hoffmann, S.J. In collaboration with Arthur Van Emelen, S.J. Assisted by the Jesuit Missionaries mentioned in the Preface. Vol.IV D-D. Patna Government Printing. P. 1238-1241.)

‘..*girmiti* (the Mundarised English *agreement*)’. ‘In order to suppress or at least to diminish the horrid abuses, which at the very beginning, crept into and prevailed in the recruitment of labour for the Assam tea plantations, the Bengal Government enacted a law forbidding emigration agents to present and planters to accept any coolies (whether men or women) for work in the tea plantations, who had not been placed before the magistrate of the district in which they were recruited. The magistrate had to ask them whether they knew where they were being taken to and whether they were going of their own free will to Assam and whether they were ready to bind themselves to work there for 5 years at Rs. 5 per month. One might expect that a law so clear and precise should have sufficed to preclude and forcible abduction of collies. And yet the simplicity or stupidity of the Mundas, coupled with heartless cunning of the labour agency servants, assisted by Mundari and Oraon abettors and favoured by the lower ranks of the police, succeeded in making the law well-nigh nugatory’. The very means used by the Government to safeguard the liberty of the emigrants were by these scoundrels used to ensnare the aborigines all the more easily. Magistrate could not be expected to interrupt their ordinary work to examine emigrants whether single individuals or small groups would be presented to them. Hence *Dépôts*, i.e. large sheds were established on the outskirts of stations having a resident magistrate and a law court. In these *dépôts* intending emigrants were lodged and fed at the expenses of the labour agencies until a sufficiently large number were got together to be presented at a fixed time to the magistrate’ Thus, *dipu* (from English *dépôt*): a coolie recruiting *dépôt*, an emigrants *dépôt* were established. *Dipu* Lohardaga, *Dipu* Garha (Hazaribag) is still known today. ‘In the intention of the Government they served also the additional purpose of offering to parents, husbands or wives an opportunity of seeing and regaining members of their families, whom they suspected to have been enticed away from home by force or deceit. Anybody desiring to visit these *dépôts* was given a pass by the magistrate and, with that, was entitled to search the *dépôt*. Since the inmates were kept at the expenses of the agencies, they were under the care and charge of agency servants, the *dipu babu*, generally a more or less educated English speaking Hindu, and the *dipu chaprassies*, invariably recruited from that low class of Hindus and Mahomedans who are ready to do anything and everything for money. The *dipu babu* and the *dipu chaprassies* transformed the *dépôts* into veritable mazes, in which the individuals looked for disappeared as effectively as a pin disappears in a haystack. And so, the *dipus* became dens, in which the most reluctant men and women were effectively drilled into repeating before the magistrate anything the *dipu babu* wished them to say. In these mal practices the public *dépôts* were effectively assisted by the so called *chorta dipus*, secret *dépôts*, spread over the whole country. The *chorta dipus* were generally the private houses of accomplices of the man-sellers, the *horo -akriṅko* as all recruiting agents are called by Mundas. In them the most recalcitrant cases were belaboured into compliances by words and deeds.’ Further, the writer Rev. Hoffman writes, “By 1897 I had gained a full insight into every kind and form of abuses connected with the prevailing system and collected enough facts in support of all the statements I advanced. Then I laid the matter before Sir John Woodburn, then Governor of Bengal. He took immediate and energetic action and did not rest until the Government of India put a stop to the worst abuses by a new and special legislation.”

“What I have myself seen and credibly heard may be summed up as follows. Heartening tragedies were enacted so to say constantly within the ordinary as well as the *chorta dipus*. It is therefore not surprising that the word *dipus* soon acquired in the Mundas mind a connotation as evil and ominous as that of the words *arūkaṭi*, *daroga*, *diguar* and *diku*.”

“ People here in Europe will find it difficult, perhaps impossible, to understand how such things can happen under a European Government in spite of precautions inspired by the best intentions. To explain this possibility at least partially I here subjoin the following fact with the reasons accounting for it. In a famine which swept over the country shortly before I sent in my memorandum to the Governor of Bengal, Government offered famine loans to the Mundas, but in those parts where coolie recruiting was most active, the people refused this help. On enquiring why, they told me that if they accepted this money from the Government, they would be forced to go to Assam from where, so few ever returned. When asked whether they would accept the loans if offered in my name, they agreed on condition that they be allowed to repay directly to me and not to any Government officer. Government agreed to this most readily, and so I was able to rescue the poor wretches from the last extremity. From this fact it appears that the recruiters, their helpers and abettors had succeeded in beguiling the aborigines into the conviction that the whole recruiting agency was nothing but a Government concern. The very measures the Government took for their protection were turned into arguments to demonstrate this. Was it not a Government officer who took down their names in the law court and then despatched them the very next day to Assam? Was it not another Government officer before whom, over there in Assam, they had to sign the 5 years contract (by their thumb mark), this dreadful *girmiti* (the Mundarised English *agreement*) which somehow, they were so often cheated into renewing? And if some more energetic young man,

driven by his irresistible longing, to find back his recently married wife, and see the child he was expecting, broke the *girmiti* and the two months journey on foot without money, was he not almost invariably caught on the way by the Government police, dragged back to the accursed tea plantation and there punished by a Government officer for breach of contract? These arguments dinned into them continually and could not fail to their effect.”

“Add to this fact, that the *diguars*, constables and other lower policemen who so often helped the recruiters, are real representatives of the Government. And did not the *aṛākaṭis* themselves generally appear with high *pugries* and *chaprasses* which in the eyes of the Mundas identified them with Court peons and policemen! It is therefore not astonishing that the Mundas should have stuck stubbornly to the belief that it was the British Government itself, which deported yearly between 36,000 and 40,000 people of all ages from Chhotanagpur to the Assam tea plantations. At the time when, on account of this conviction, a large number of Mundas refused to accept famine loans from the Government, the district was under the administrative care of Mr. H.C. Streatfield, one of the most kindhearted officers to Ranchi district ever had and who did everything in his power to alleviate a lot of the aborigines. Notwithstanding this the diffidence remained until the new measures taken by Sir J. Woodburn, carried out energetically by Mr. Streadfeild, made the Mundas realize that now at last they were really free to emigrate or to remain at home. Then the number of emigrants dropped in one year from nearly 40,000 to between 4 and 5,000. This number increased again gradually when the Mundas saw that the change for the better was really stable. For a free emigration with the assured liberty of returning home with money earned, is an advantage, which they know how to appreciate.”

“It may appear strange that, in spite of this incipient confidence in the good intentions of Government and just during the period of offices of Mr. Streatfield, a new revolt should have broken out, which had to be quelled by calling in the military. In reality however it is easily explained. Hardly at any other time had the destruction of the rights of the aborigines and their losses of fields by ill-advised court decisions and by the unrestricted activity of money lenders and coolie recruiters made such devastating progress as during the decennium preceding Mr. Streatfield’s administration. Hence, when the jubilee amnesty set free Birsa, the then still most popular champion of Munda liberty, it was an easy matter for him, to fan the sense of accumulated wrongs into the last open rebellion.”

dipu-babu sbst., a native gentleman, generally a Bengali, who keeps the registers of a coolie dépôt and who is in general charge.

dipu-caprasi sbst., one of that class of Mahomedans or low caste Hindus who might be called the police or warders of a coolie dépôt.

dipu-gomke sbst., a European or Eurasian labour recruiting agent.

Annexure-II: *bhuiñāri* Settlements (Excerpts from *Encyclopaedia Mundarica*)

(H. *bhuiñ*, the earth, ground; *bhuiñāri*, land let at a low rent to military retainers) sbst. Any of the aborigines of Chota Nagpur claiming to be a lineal descendant of the original founder of the village he lives in, and therefore claiming the land he cultivates, as ancestral property for which either no rent is due to anybody or only a small quit-rent payable originally to his village chief for the rajah. The form of this word as used by officials has varied considerably. In 1830 Major Hanyngton writes Bhooi; in 1839 Dr. Davidson writes Bhoonear; in 1862 Mr. Rakhaldas Haldar, the first bhuinhari Commissioner, writes Bhooinaree. The spelling then officially adopted in the court language of the Ranchi district is *bhuinhar*.

bhuiñāri adj., belonging, pertaining, relating to bhuinhars or original settlers in a Chota Nagpur village; *bhuiñāri* hatu, A village in which there are legally recognised bhuinhars; the village of which one is a bhuinhar. *Bhuiñāri* ote, ancestral land, legally recognised as such.

Bhuiñāri pa..mus, the *bhuiñāri* settlement commenced in 1869, for the purpose of ascertaining and registering the exact amount of land claimed in each village as ancestral property by the Aborigines on the one hand, and those which were claimed as personal property by the newly intruded middlemen on the other.

This settlement reveals the full extent of the appalling ruin brought on the Mundas' economic and social system by their contact with the Aryans. The first ascertainable *jagir*, i.e. grant of a village, made by the hinduised rajahs of Chota Nagpur to one of the Hindu middlemen called into the country by them, is dated 1667. Up to that date every Mundari village had been in full enjoyment of the rights, privileges and the social and moral safeguards the race had laid down in the immemorial customs regulating the life of the village community. And now in 1869, it was found that in the 35 parganas alone, to which this settlement extended, 2,482 villages had lost all these rights and advantages, only comparatively, few scrapes of land being left to them as ancestral property. In the other parganas things were not much better; and the last settlement of 1902 found in the whole of the estate under the maharaja of Chhotanagpur only 152 villages in the poorest parts of the province, where there was little to rob, which still preserved the greater part of the ancient rights. The area within which these 152 villages lie, is hardly more than one per cent of the maharaja's estate.

In 1765, just 98 years after the first grant to an alien, Chhotanagpur fell under British suzerainty together with Bihar, Bengal and Odisha; in 1772 Captain Comac led the first English force into the Palamu district and received the rajah of Chhotanagpur as tributary chief. In 1806, the zamindari police, with Hindu zamindar as darogas and aliens as chowkidars, was introduced by the order of the E.I. Company, and in 1817 the country was brought under direct British administration. It is an undeniable fact that the years elapsing between 1805 and 1895 were the most fatal ones for the Mundas in particular and the aborigines in general. This is the more surprising because all that we find recorded about that very period, shows that the first English officers were favourably impressed by the Mundas' courage and truthfulness. All of them discovered almost immediately that they were severely wronged by their zamindars, all of them tried personally to remedy their grievances and several of them recommended very wise measures to the Government. Though these were not always accepted as they stood, the Government took measures upon measure inspired solely by the very best intentions. Several of the first officers clearly recognised some of the essential features of the Mundas' land-system, and at least one of them Dr. Davidson, who had spent more time than any other among them, admitted their intelligences; for he writes, "The Kols are an intelligent people, as much if not more so, than the labouring class of any part of India which I have visited." It is strange but true that this opinion was not shared by most others, for Mr. Rickets in his report of 1855 regretfully admits this when he states that in spite of the opinion of that very intelligent officer, the Kols had, with very few exceptions, been regarded by the authorities as unfit to run with a letter or carry a spear. In spite of this, it is quite sure that the Government and the great majority of its officers were full of the best intentions for the good of the race. And yet all the measures taken invariably failed to have the intended effect. Where then have we to look for the solution of this riddle.

Nearly all the circumstances concurred to bring about this result; but the main causes may be classed under the following heads: I. The general inability of two entirely different civilizations to understand each other. II. The general character of the Hindus and Mahomedans was introduced into the country by the rajah. III. The ever increasing demoralizing and disconcerting effect the successive phases of the struggle had on the Mundas.

The *Diku* intruding into Munda land system, village democracy can be learned in detail from these three broadly classified main causes that robbed the Munda social and economic system.

(Hoffmann, J. (1930). *Encyclopaedia Mundarica: By John Hoffmann, S.J. In collaboration with Arthur Van Emelen, S.J. Assisted by the Jesuit Missionaries mentioned in the Preface. Vol.II. B. Patna Government Printing. Pp. 511-521*)

Annexure- III: Push Factors (Excerpts from Concept Note: Need Assessment of Migrant Workers)

Rural agricultural distress is the major push factor for migration. Agriculture failure- land being unproductive and the vagaries of monsoon, climate change (excessive rain or drought) cause to distress migration. The lands owned by the scheduled tribes are dry land agriculture. So, people from tribal areas migrate in a large number. As the states in which the tribal communities live are rich in mineral resources, mining, Dams and other projects displaced them in large numbers. As Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) they are prone to become inter-state migrants. The influxes of non-Tribals into the tribal land for industrialization, deforestation displace the local inhabitants. Agronomic industrial growth is negligible in such states. Lack of job results poverty. Conflicts based on caste and religion is another reason for people to evacuate. The red-corridor-where people are either caught with the security forces or Maoists, have left with their children seeking a secure future, as is the case of Bastar in Chhattisgarh. Low human development indicators such as lack of educational facilities for children, poor or no medical facilities, transport, water facilities- all reduce the quality or standard of life. Natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes and drought lead to migration. Feudal system and bonded labour which still prevails in some parts of the central, northern and eastern India have considerably contributed to inter- state migration.

Migration is widespread especially among the socio-economically deprived groups, such as the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Castes (OBCs) who are asset-poor and face resources and livelihood deficits (Denzil, 2019). The same study reaffirms the fact that the less affluent states have more out-migrants and the most affluent states are the largest recipients of migrants.

Tribal communities in India, especially central states, are facing a tragic situation. The development structures and models are on the cost of the natives. The simple, innocent and submissive tribals are displaced and made to suffer with utmost violation of their rights. All these pose serious questions and challenges in the making of sustainable development of the nation, particularly tribal dominated states in central Indian viz. Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. The government envisages a rapid development of the states by land acquisition for industries, indiscriminate exploitation of natural resources, neo-liberalised policy giving way to mega domestic and foreign corporate houses. This process of development is inducing unwanted migration and forced displacement, environmental degradation, and widening the gap between the rich and the poor in the state. The poor people of the state are pushed away to the margins. The caste and class conflicts are surfacing with sharper edges. Bountiful nature has bestowed tribal lands of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh with vast reserves of all important minerals. Recognizing the pivotal role of minerals in the industrialization of the states, the governments of central India have taken a number of policy decisions to eliminate procedural hindrances to create the inroads for corporations. The following discussion of two states will help us to understand situations inbreeding migration issues in the central Indian states.

A. Scenario in Jharkhand

The statistics indicate the magnitude in understanding the issues of migration of the tribal people in the state. Jharkhand possessed total land 196.942 Lakh acres. Forest Land: 57.11 Lakh acres. The land acquired for the construction of the Dam and the construction of irrigation channels was 507952 acres from which about 232968 persons were displaced. For the industrialization (Bokaro Steel Plant, HEC Ranchi, TISCO Jamshedpur, Tenughat Thermal Power) 175730.18 acres of land was acquired and from which 66097 persons were displaced, and 21809 persons were displaced for establishing smaller units of industry. For mining by the Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) acquired 409883.24 acres of land displacing 268588 persons by coal mining alone and 13294 persons were displaced due to other mines and minerals. For Défense purposes 112289.11 acres of land was acquired which displaced 264353 persons. For other development projects viz. wild animal sanctuaries or Parks: 178824.29 acres of land acquired which displaced 509918 persons. For infrastructure development 50000 acres of land was taken which displaced 50000 persons. The total acquired land was 1545947.04 for development projects and industrialization which displaced a total of 1503017 persons. (Source: Indian Social Institute New Delhi –1991 to 1995 records).

B. Scenario in Chhattisgarh

Chhattisgarh has 1,35361 sq km geographical area. It is endowed with rich natural resources. It has about 12% of the country's forests. Rich flora and fauna, natural biodiversity, and cultural diversity are the unique features of the state. It has enormous deposits of mines and minerals, having potential of industrial growth. It is also known as *Chawal ka Katora* (Rice Bowl) of India. The state has bountiful goodness on one hand, while on the other it bears the side effects of the mining and development projects.

The coal deposit in Chhattisgarh according to the Mineral Resources Department, Government of Chhattisgarh, about 44483 million tons of coal has been estimated in 12 coal fields in Raigarh, Surguja, Koriya and Korba, Surajpur and

Balrampur districts. These districts are Fifth scheduled districts. SECL⁶ is the main coal producing company with 88% of the total coal production in the state. The remaining 28 coal blocks have been thrown open to various private companies. NTPC & CSEB in Korba are the major producers of thermal power and a new plant of NTPC has been started in Seepat, Bilaspur. Major producers of thermal power in the State are 14 units of Central Sector, 12 units of State Sector and 32 units of Private Sector. Chhattisgarh also has vast reserves of other important minerals, with a few of them holding large economic deposits while other minerals are as occurrences. There are about 28 minerals in Chhattisgarh predominantly deposits in the fifth scheduled districts. The coming up of Special Economic Zone (SEZ) (Atherya, 2007, pp. 13-14)⁷ in Chhattisgarh could be seen as red carpeting for the corporate in the state as is evident by the MOUs signed. In the sector of renewable energy equipment market MoUs are signed for developing a SEZ of solar cell and solar panel in Chhattisgarh. Likewise, MoU for developing Station Wagon industry in Chhattisgarh⁸ is signed. The urbanization in Raipur, Durg, Bhilai, Bilaspur, and few smaller cities in the state is impending displacement of Dalits in large numbers.

Displacement of the tribals in particular is seen due to the industrialization, coal mining and establishment of power plants where tribal people have been forced or displaced in thousands from Surguja to Bastar. It has been observed since last ten years, that there are strong opposition and continual conflicts between industrialists and tribal people from Gharghoda, Tamnar Blocks (Raigarh Dist.) to Prem Nagar Block of Surguja, Korba and Koirya Dists. The Baiga, a PVTG community of Daldali, Kawardha Dist., have been evicted and displaced by Vedanta Bauxite mining. There are continually conflicting situations for Jindal's mining and production plants in Raigarh while in Surguja disputes arose due to the handing over of coal mining of the public sector to Rajasthan based Adani group of industry and against the privatization of iron ore mining in Bailadila. The source indicates that 200 major industries had been established ten years prior to state formation and currently 115 MOUs (Memorandum of Understanding) have been signed by the State with private companies. Along with coal production, the process of extraction of the other mineral resources, establishment of the power plants and other industries, land acquisition in the state goes on under SEZ and industrial policy (Atherya, 2007, pp. 13-14).

The environment and ecology are badly affected when the forest land is taken for the coal mining, e.g. Hasdeo Arand Open Cast Mine⁹ since February 2018, "the proposal is being continually pursued despite several regulatory violations, from Gram *Sabhas* and pending recognition of forest rights. The push for getting clearances of Parsa coal block extends to many more in the area. If any is granted, it will be disastrous for the ecology. This will destroy the livelihoods of thousands of tribals and forest dwellers¹⁰. The Hasdeo Arand spans more than 1,70,000 hectares of dense forest land. The Union Environment Ministry's Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) has given a nod for diverting more than 841.5 hectares of forest land for mining coal of Parsa block in Chhattisgarh. The proposed mining site is part of rich forest areas of the scheduled districts of Surguja and Surajpur. Coal will be mined from this area by Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RRVUNL) and Rajasthan Collieries Limited, a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises¹¹.

The forest cover in Chhattisgarh is about 44%. One third of population (32%) viz 80 lakh out of 2.50 Crore population is of the tribes in the state, mostly inhabit in the thickly forested areas of the Northern and Southern Chhattisgarh with unique and distinctive cultural heritage. These forested areas are the abode of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) viz. Abujh Marias of Bastar (Narayanpur, Bijapur and Dantewada districts), Baigas in the ridges of Mikal Range (Bilaspur, Mungeli, Kawardha, Durg, and Rajnandgaon Districts), Pahadi (Hill) Korwas (Jashpur, Surguja, and Balrampur districts), Birhors (Bilaspur, Jashpur, Surguja, Raigarh and Korba and Raigarh district), Kamars live

⁶South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) is the single largest Coal producing Company of India, with 144.71 Million Tonnes of coal production in 2017-18. Coal reserves of SECL are spread over the States of Chhattisgarh & Madhya Pradesh (MP) and the Company is operating 75 mines (47 mines in CG & 28 mines in MP); https://www.coalindia.in/Portals/13/PDF/SECL_ANNUAL_REPORT_17_18.pdf, accessed on May 28, 2019, 9.34 a.m.

⁷The Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Act- provides huge tax-gives to the corporate sector, besides facilitating both land grab and evasion of even minimal observance of labour laws. The keenness of the rulers (State) to open up retail trade to foreign investors and their reluctance to impose regulations on domestic large capital entering this sector is proof of State indifference to the crisis of livelihoods in the countryside and in urban India.

⁸(Source: <https://www.dailypioneer.com/2016/state-editions/cgarh-govt-working-on-developing-two-more-new-sezs.html>, accessed at 3pm, on Feb. 13, 2019).

⁹ (<https://thewire.in/rights/chhattisgarh-coal-mining-hasdeo-arand>; accessed on May 2, 2019 (3.55p.m.)

841.5 hectares of forestland for mining coal in Chhattisgarh's Parsa block (<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/mining/central-panel-opens-up-forest-for-adani-mine-despite-chhattisgarh-s-reservation-63221>; accessed on May 2, 2019 (4.04 p.m.)

¹⁰(<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/mining/central-panel-opens-up-forest-for-adani-mine-despite-chhattisgarh-s-reservation-63221>; accessed on May 2, 2019 (4.04 p.m.)

¹¹(<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/mining/central-panel-opens-up-forest-for-adani-mine-despite-chhattisgarh-s-reservation-63221>; accessed on May 2, 2019 (4.04 p.m.)

principally in Bindra Nawagarh Zamindari of Gariaband District. They still adhere to traditional system of *jhuming* cultivation. Surguja and Bastar Divisions of Chhattisgarh are scheduled tribes. The tribal groups inhabited in the forest villages of Bastar, Jashpur, Surguja, Raigarh, Kawardha, Gariyaband, Rajnandgaon and Kanker traditionally depend on the Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) of *Tendu* leave, *Mahua*, *Chirounji*, *Lakh*, for their livelihood. About 4.50 lakh tribal and traditional forest dwellers whose claims for title deeds (*Patta*) on forest occupant land is denied and thus faced impending eviction from forest habitation in the light of the Supreme Court Order in the past (February 13, 2019). In the country it is about 11.8 lakh forest dwellers who would face impending eviction from 21 states¹².

Chhattisgarh was known as the *Chawal ka Katora* ('Rice Bowl') in India. However, the land distributions in the state give a different picture. There are 58.26% marginal farmers while small farmers are 22.18%. Combined the two, it constitutes about 80.44% land owned by marginal and small farmers. The situation is still bad among the SCs which have 71.81% as marginal farmers and 18.47% as small farmers. Similar scenario is found among the STs which have 45.25% as marginal farmers and 25.16% as small farmers. The average landscape is 0.88 hectare of SCs and 1.88 hectare of STs. 80.44% of marginal farmers and small farmers, by and large grow rice cultivation in the state.

The Surguja Division has faced elephant menace for three decades. The mammals entering human habitation and the number of houses, crops, garden vegetation are being damaged. Number of instances is reported of the loss of human life, being attacked or trampled by these mammals. It is reported more than 250 persons are killed by the elephants and in turn 100 elephants have been victimized by human beings spreading high voltage current to kill the elephants. Further, instances of human-elephant conflict, in the last one decade, have increased. This is seen as a result of the allotment of 30 coal mines for opencast mining of 1878 KM of wildlife sanctuary areas. The human-elephant conflict has affected half of the state viz. 17 districts. In the last five years 199 persons have lost their life due to the attacks of elephants, 7000 houses have been damaged and standing crops of 32952.891 ha have been damaged. The government compensation is meagre, and the tribal people are left to face the menace of the elephants. Human-elephant conflicts are faced mostly by the tribal dominated districts - Jashpur, Surguja, Balrampur, Korea, Korba and Raigarh. Of late this conflict is being faced by the people living in the dense forests of Billaspur and Mahasamund districts as well where the concentration is of Dalit population.

The situation in other states: Western Odisha, Jharkhand face similar human- elephant conflicts. While mining, industrialization and dam construction in Madhya Pradesh, Odisha are not far different and people, particularly the tribals and Dalits have similar issues of land alienation, displacement due to industrialization and mega development projects. The social cost of these development projects is more than the economic benefits accrued. In this regard, the policies and laws of the states are unfavourable to the tribal and Dalits. Industrialization, privatization, urbanization is a boon for some while it is a curse to the aborigines and Dalits in the state. The PESA Act, 1996, and the provision of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, are to safeguard the tribals and forest dwellers but they are made redundant. The tribals and traditional forest dwellers are kept away from the purview of the entitlements of the Act. On these backgrounds, there arise urgent needs to work for the migrating people from the central Indian states. The Jesuits in the Central Zone covering practically four states (Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh) need to take steps jointly for up-lifting marginalized groups and communities.

¹²Times Nation (Times of India), New Delhi: March 1, 2019.

Annexure-IV: Sustainable Agriculture and Livelihood Models

A. Narwa-Garuwa-Ghurwa and Baadi: Concept of Integrated Rural Development

Narwa-Garuwa-Ghurwa and Baadi is a much acclaimed rural development model of Chhattisgarh. *Narwa* means river lets, streams and natural seasonal canals. *Narwa* program “focuses on low-cost water conservation structures as check dams, gully controls, underground dykes at strategic locations on water streams in order to ensure harvesting surface water and recharge subsoil as well as groundwater. National watershed mission and MGNREGA will jointly execute the program. The direct result will be an increase in arable area with a double crop.” *Garuwa* (livestock) program is for protection and improvement of livestock, especially milch cattle through the provision of cattle sheds (*Goathan*) in each village. Managed by *Gram Sabha*, they would function as ‘Day care centres’ equipped with fodder, water and AI facilities. Bio-fertilizer through manure and energy from *Gobar Gas* will accrue benefits to villagers. Cultivation of fodder in wastelands is part of *Garuwa*.

Ghurwa (compost) program is designed to encourage villagers to produce bio- fertiliser with the help of various schemes under agriculture and horticulture. In today's expensive chemical driven farming, *Ghurwa* is seen as an inexpensive traditional alternative which can pave the way for increased organic farming. Encouraging use of bio fertilizers, vermin compost, and native rural compost is essential in order to restore soil fertility. *Baadi* program is to encourage cultivation of fruits and vegetables in the backyard of village homes not only as a source of additional income for villagers but also as a handy nutritional supplement. Departments of Horticulture, Land administration will help in developing the backyard kitchen gardens by providing seedlings, fertilisers, and energised community dug wells.

The growth rate of the value of food grains has plummeted by 1.83 per cent between 2011 and 2014 in the country, whereas that of fruits and vegetables accelerated by 5.37 per cent. Increase in fruit and vegetable cultivation can offset the risk in food crops. Evidently, the priority is inclusive agriculture and farmers' welfare. A high power committee headed by the Chief Secretary was constituted at the state level to execute '*Suraaj Gaon Yojna*' in C.G., while the Collectors were designated as mission leaders in the districts. Various government departments and PRIs to work together at the village level as a focal point, and ensure optimal use of resources towards achieving quantifiable outputs under the 'four' basic indigenous inputs of agriculture. The mission, in no time, has become popular among rural folks. The commitment to farmer's wellbeing is further amplified by the fact that the largest allocation i.e., rupees twenty one thousand crores, a fifth of state budget 2019-20, was made for agriculture and related departments. The *Suraji Gaon Yojana*, has the potential to emerge as a trendsetter in reviving Indian agriculture. (Rao, KDP. (2019).

B. Tribal Development Gram Utthan, Model

Gram Utthan is an NGO based a tribal development model in Gumla, Jharkhand. It is to be learnt and replicated. Fr. M. De Brouwer SJ, the director of the NGO says, “*Gram Utthan* has rather a practical way of approach and we like to do something straight away with the information we already have.” Further he says, ‘*Gram Utthan's* own experience is also rather widespread’, as we work regularly in some 600 hamlets, mainly tribals and overwhelmingly non-Rc’.

It is interesting to note that in the project area, ‘though the number of migrants varied much. E.g., in Olmunda Panchayat - some ten villages – it was reported of 900 returnee migrant workers. ‘In other villages the number goes by small numbers: 5 or 8 or 12 etc. Still, we are constrained by our own capacity of organising people, and the financial project funding’. What *Gram Utthan* is doing: ‘Considers the resources of tribal villages: they have land, plenty of water and especially the human resource. They are eager to work and are specialists in agriculture of every kind: Rice, vegetable, fruit tree grafting etc.’ ‘the neglected area is the formation of small cooperating groups, which can put their brain power together; because, they have good brain power. The actions we see here are only about the ‘*pet*’, the stomach. But people have brains and hearts.

‘GUK has capitalised on this richness by forming *KISAN CLUBS* - 185 clubs and asked them to integrate the returnees. This seems to work. The returnees are kept busy earning through vegetable production and trade. The majority swears they will not migrate again. ... They were offered an alternative which they seemed to like.’

The two key plus points are: first, ‘their sense of cooperation in their surroundings. So, they can easily form *Kisan Clubs* (an initiative of SIGN (Sustainable Initiatives Growth Network) when Fr. Christodas was there) and apply the general principle that poverty can be beaten by group cooperation’. Second, ‘the availability of irrigation water through digging shallow wells in the *doins*. There is plenty of water there at a depth of 15 ft. So, each group digs a large well (25 ft dais) and starts cultivating and earning trading the product’. The director further mentions, ‘though this may be a small initiative, at least it serves some villages and it is spreading and spreading, mainly through the fact that we are organising “*Marg darshan* Seminars” in all these villages to explain the system. We also have the necessary supervisors and trainers. This requires a funded project, which is within easy possibility’.

The director emphasises, “I have been mentioning this because I see that most NGOs - who are really the grassroot workers - are working on a narrow view of income generating and missing the two main resources namely the energy of our people and the availability of water in rice fields 1 and 2 doins.” Further he adds, “Apart from agricultural ways, skill training should be available. We had started in SRI Bariatu but had to close for lack of finance. How happy we would be if this initiative could be revived!”

C. Santhals Adopt Permaculture

Permaculture is the development of agricultural ecosystems intended to be sustainable and self-sufficient; Expert consultants and volunteers from different parts of the world support them in integrating the methods of permaculture with traditional agriculture. Recognizing the perils of conventional farming, a women-led group integrated native wisdom for a sustainable economic alternative to the way agriculture and forestry is being practised. Recognising this, Dr Sharmishtha Dattagupta, a former Geo-biology professor from the University of Göttingen, introduced permaculture techniques to the Santali women with the support of an Israeli permaculture consultant. According to Yuval Leibovich, Israeli permaculture consultant, co-founder of the initiative, “Before we started on this small plot of land, rain would fall on the hard soil and flow away, carrying precious topsoil with it. To capture rainwater and restore the groundwater, we figured out slopes, created a system of drains called ‘swales’ where water seeps into the ground and recharges the water table. Organic matter added to swales acts like leaves on a forest floor and retains water even in the dry seasons.”

The group from Khanjanpur village of Bolpur (West Bengal) has transformed a plot of land that was rendered dry with cracked soil and transformed into a lush green ecosystem. Their success inspired many villagers to natural farming of native rice varieties that not only preserves ground water but saves them and their future generations from having to wade through chemical-laden water in order to ensure higher yields.

The community now follows permaculture-based principles such as minimal or shallow tilling, no intervention of tractors, zero use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, adding nitrogen to the soil by growing leguminous plants and growing separate crops that attract pests so that rest of the food can be grown undisturbed. The initiative prompted the Santali community to revert to traditional farming techniques and growing native varieties of rice like ‘*Gobindobhog*’ which is grown in sync with the monsoons and does not require groundwater use.

Annexure-V: In Solidarity with Migrant Workers

A. Reconciliation and Justice

Migrant Solidarity Centre listened, discerned in common with partners, and took steps in not merely providing assurances. Actions were taken to ensure that families were united; groups stay together, families help one another, and government workers not only follow procedures but act in compassion. There were numerous incidents when Migrants got angry, annoyed and shouted at our animator who tried to counsel them. Migrant workers staying in Ladakh, who were airlifted at a later stage first had to be calmed down. The anger within them had to be managed; patient listening and assuring them of safety and security and fulfilling their expectations in some way or other brings tremendous spiritual responses from migrants. That some people are there for them gives hope. A migrant worker stranded with the wife who was about to go into labour pain felt alone without shelter or finance. Suman Kapri, young wife of the migrant worker Sawan Kapri, thought of committing suicide; Fr. Sebastian Lakra our HOD Migration handled so well by mobilizing resources that the family today is blessed with the child. He feels confident that he can handle any situation.

Another instance of Hopna Murmu: a Santal boy working in a company of bore well Trucks at Palamedu, Madurai in Tamil Nadu took risk and sent a video of three Santal Boys caught up and pleaded to free them. He set in motion activities, networking and contacting officials resulting in liberating 14 Tribal bonded labourers (3 Santhals (Jharkhand), 2 from Chhattisgarh, and 9 from Garh Chiroli (Maharashtra). The networking partners consulted and formed a committee of three members: Fr. Solomon, Bagaicha, Mr. Joy Tudu and Mr. Raseal the ka Hembrom (AISWACS). We contacted People's watch at Madurai. Bagaicha and AISWACS wanted the whole issue discreetly. However, they left the procedures to be adopted to Fr. Philemon Raj of IDEAS and Henry Dephane of People's Watch at Madurai. We on our turn talked to family members, made sure that we had all the documents.

Fr. Philomen Raj and his companions felt that they should go to the area and find out. Along with two North Indian nuns, they went taking enormous risks although with the permission of the administrative and police officials. With the consent of the migrant labourers and the help of the officials, they were taken out of the situation and brought to IDEAS centre and kept there. Later the group in Jharkhand informed the officials here who made sure that the Tamil Nadu Government machinery acts according to the Law. Jesuit IDEAS centre at Madurai TN is to be acknowledged for their courageous role. All the migrant workers have received their pending salaries over and above TN government will be paying further compensations.

B. Migrant Worker Dies in Wardha of Over Exhaustion

16 migrant labourers were coming to Jharkhand on foot from Pune, Maharashtra. One of the workers, Vijay Khandait (29), suddenly became ill. As soon as we came to know about this, we contacted our network colleagues there and asked for their help. They helped him, admitted for treatment in the district government hospital at Netaji Chowk, Wardha. But he died in the course of treatment. After this incident his companions became despondent, then other companions of Vijay were sympathized and helped in providing them basic facilities and helped to bring them back. We reached out to them through our partner organization and along with the migrant help desk of the Jharkhand government to bring the dead body to his village. Financial help has been reached to his family.

C. Rescue of Girls Working in a Garment Industry in South India

Girls working in a garment industry in South India, expressed their desire to leave the work and come home. Their hostel warden and managers got into conflict and such a situation was blown out of proportion in the local media. Bagaicha talked to a legal networking partner on the legal aspect of the case; we conversed with the correspondent through local friends. Then we reached out to the Loyola College Migrant service at Chennai. They in turn talked with government officials who negotiated with private firms. Bagaicha also negotiated directly with the hostel warden and thus set in motion a series of consultation processes ending in safe return of eighty girls. This process took three days involving 10 networking partners. These conversations were almost like having communitarian discernment sessions. Patience, negotiation skills, assurance of safety and security, trusting in the government working patterns were some of the learning trajectories that we went through.

D. Reaching out through Radio Waves

The Pandemic was gradually invading us and threatened to envelop our homes, villages, cities and Nation. Physical distancing, mistakenly called social distancing, was presented as the only solution. Our mobile ringtones sounded like a war cry exhorting us to stay at home and maintain distance ending with a war cry that Nation will win over Corona. Fear was palpable in the air. And then like bolt from blue, emerged the images of thousands walking, gathering, pushing, jostling, Men, women and Children. Let alone the Physical distancing, here thousands on the road breaking absolutely the rules of lockdown. Was it fear of catching Covid-19 or was it fear of hunger that drove out a large number of men women children walking, pushing carts pulling rickshaws, on motorcycle, cycles and walking. It was indeed an image of Exodus. The images interrogated us; jolted us out of our slow planning for the migration desk to

be established in Bagaicha that has been in the offing for the last one year. Fr. Sebastian Lakra from M.P had joined the community. The reality of the Pandemic and consequent Migrant crisis forced the community to plunge into action rather than wait for the fruits of our planning to emerge. A short meeting and with a rudimentary knowledge of social media Bagaicha plunged into reaching out to the Migrants.

Our help in the last one and half months entirely depended on our using communication tools efficiently, conversing with migrants offering hope, gathering reliable information on rules and directions that would help migrants; A simple message flashed through social media some days after the Lock down I was announced, our phones were clogged with messages, photos and video messages. Messages were seeking ways to get out of the cities the migrants built; messages were pleading for rations and food; messages were asking us to arrange for shelter.

As a Jesuit trained to listen, at times our brain would go numb, hearing the amount of suffering and uniqueness of the tragic stories. Every cell of the brain would be strained to offer a response that could give out hope. Fr. Sebastian begins talking with someone or other at five o'clock in the morning and perhaps would end at eleven o'clock at night. We started with a rudimentary knowledge of social media and strongly the need of upgrading the skills. But perhaps that upgrading of the skill would not be sufficient if we do not communicate the hope of the Risen Lord; nor had we not exercised divine patience. Oh! What could be our expressions when one of the migrants rings up to say that his walking companion died of exhaustion having walked three hundred kilometers as it happened with a group walking from Pune to Jharkhand. The cell phone is indeed a miracle for communication but that too fails at the time of death, suffering, helplessness and sheer bureaucratic drag. Fr. Sebastian's face writhed in pain when he narrated the events leading to the death of 29 year old migrant labourer Vijay Khandait at Wardha, Maharashtra on the way to Jharkhand. Silence enveloped us. Radio waves and social media enabled us to accompany them, communicate hope and network with people of good will and organizations. It is high time to learn to properly use the social media platform for the poor.

David M. Solomon, S.J., Director, Bagaicha

E. Helping Migrant Workers in Lockdown Crisis through Networking

As the Lock down-I announced, after a few days issues of migrant workers started pouring in our phones, mails and WhatsApp. The food crises, unemployment, homelessness were the issues in the first phase of the lock down, while in the second Phase of Lockdown- desperate situations arose to get back home. People started walking hundreds or thousand miles thirsty, hungry and with little money or no money at hand. They depended on the providence of God through good Samaritans. To facilitate and reach out the migrant workers and help them through network partners Migrant Help Desk, Bagaicha rendered its services. The following aspects of the migrants' issues reflect our approach and nature of help; we are trying to reach out.

Lockdown I and II: As the country went for the Lock down I- affected most the migrant workers. All the works that employed the migrant workers in the urban centres were in halt. Consequently, the workers were on the street due to food crisis and homelessness. The Bagaicha Migrant Workers' Help Desk took a quick response to deal with this crisis due to the lockdown. The Help Desk started reaching out to the migrant workers through phones, Whatsapp and emails. We started getting to the people through phone calls, video clips, still photos talking about the stranded migrant workers. Each story was unique in itself. Immediately, we started using our network partners of Bangalore, Chennai, Kerala and Goa. We also started widening our networks, joining the new network partners who could be of some help in the time of crisis. The result was encouraging. Ration and food crisis, shelter homes were taken care by the individuals, groups, NGOs and local administration. Our help was through Fr. Martin Putthusserry, SJ (Labour Migration Unit, ISI, Bangalore), Fr. Arul Williams, SJ (Jesuit Migrant Service, Loyola College Chennai), and Fr. Shin, SJ (Jeevika Migrant Workers, Calady (Kerala)) and in turn their response to the crisis was outpouring. Themselves or through their network partners the help was reached to the needy. This made us aware about the other network partners who were ready and reaching out the services in the contact of Jesuits in the south. New network partners were approached and added not only in the southern states but also to Goa Jesuit networks. Further to Andhra and Telangana, Maharashtra, Gujrat, Haryana, Delhi and Jammu-Kashmir. Prof. John Paul (Loyola College MSW (Chennai) and its networks, Banga Shreekanth Bangalore, Frs. Simon and Joseph (Jesuits from Goa Province), Fr. Paul Amal, SJ (Lokmanch) Andhra Pradesh, Sr. Mukta Minj (Provincial JMJ (Sikandrabad), Mr. Muthu Xtian and his family (Mumbai) that provides food and shelter for the migrant workers in Mumbai, TISS Help Centres that coordinate help for Migrant workers in Mumbai, Fr. John Toppo (Baroda Diocese) Gujraat who works with his networks to Hyderabad, Indore and Gujrat, Fr. Vincent Ekka SJ, ISI (Delhi) who networks in Punjab, Haryana and Delhi. Resources were mobilized and facilitated through Networks, and frantic efforts were made to reach out helping -distributing ration, food, facilitating ration from PDS systems, helping and reaching homeless in the shelter homes. On the source states, Help Desk, Bagaicha also worked in networks with *Jharkhand Janadhikar Maha Sabha* (An

association of 35+ NGOs), PUCL, Lok Manch (Central Zone), Central Zone Jesuit Social Action (JESA) , DK Behera's Young Scholars (Sambalpur, Odisha), Adi Vasi Jeevan Jyoti (Arvinnd Gond) UP, AISWACS CO Jharkhand, AISWACS CO, Odisha, St. Anne Social Work Centre Jashpur (CG), Fr. Alok SJ (AICUF State Advisor, Bhopal), Networks were widely used for mobilizing resources and helping for relief work. Apart from this help, requests were made through tweeter handling. Siraaj (*Jharkhand Janadhikar MahaSabha*) and Prashant Kumar Hembrome (AISWACS CO Jharkhand) were two tweeter handlers who constantly sent the help request through Administration in the source and destination States (Migrant workers where they stranded). This included Tagging (Central and State govts. DCs, Police administration), local police and Municipal administration, etc... 5000+ migrant workers were reached out and helped with food, ration, shelter homes, money and through counselling.

Lock down III: Reaching out to the migrant workers who were facing problems of food and ration distribution and hence we continued facilitating and networking the partners wherever problems of food scarcity were informed to us. Some monetary help was also reached. In Angul (Andhra Pradesh) a group of nursing students were stranded and were in need of money. With the intervention of Fr. Bosco (Andhra Pradesh Jesuit), the local people helped 10 girls for their ration and hostel fee. The stranded migrant workers in Goa for ration, Sawan Kumar Kapri (Tripur, Tamil Nadu) for his wife's maternity expenses was helped with Rs. 2500 by Prof. John Paul (Loyola College MSW (Chennai) and Rs. 8000 by Praveer (*Jharkhand Janadhikar MahaSabha*), Stephen Murmu and 30 workers were helped with money of Rs. ten thousand for their journey from Cherlapli Sicandrabad to Dumka Jharkhand by JMJ provincial, Sicandrabad. A member from a group of DK Behera's Young Scholars helped Niranjan Mohanty stranded in Dhar district of M.P.

Lockdown IV: In this phase we continued to reach out to the needy. At this time, we helped the migrant workers in getting registered for the transfer of money in the migrant workers' account as relief from Jharkhand and Bihar Govts. All those who had bank accounts were fortunate. Later we tried to facilitate filling up the online forms for travelling back to respective native states. And this facilitation from our Help Desk continued. However, migrant workers started their journey back home on foot, or by truck. Wherever possible we tried to counsel them not to start their journey on foot. It had of little impact. Hence, we accompanied them helping the walking migrant workers through network partners requesting them to help the migrants with food, water and biscuits.

Every migrant worker had tragic stories of its own kind. Moreover, we strategized our approach in helping the migrant workers. Along with *Jharkhand Janadhikar Maha Sabha* Webinar, we formed smaller groups as a core team to take on specific issues of the migrant workers of one's own field of expertise. Thus, a core group focussed on MGNREGA to absorb and employ the migrant workers in the local employment scheme; another would focus on public health, yet other teams would take public distribution System and Pension schemes. This approach has helped us to be more organized in rendering services. Local partners also started food stalls for the walking migrant workers who requested the migrant workers to take food, rest a while, and guide or reach them to the transport arrangements made by the government. Thus, they reached by bus or local transport as per the guideline of the state government.

Counselling, facilitating, and helping the migrant workers were in limited resources. However, it has taught us to work through networks. It has helped us to cull out some issues for further advocacy. It has helped us to build documentation.

Fr. Sebastian Lakra, SJ
Migrant Help Desk
ATC, Namkum, Ranchi

Visuals of Migrant Workers

1. Sawan Kumar Kapri,



2. Suman Kapri with New-born Baby in Tamilnadu



3. Migrant workers released from bonded labour



4. Migrant Workers Stranded in Vishakhapatnam



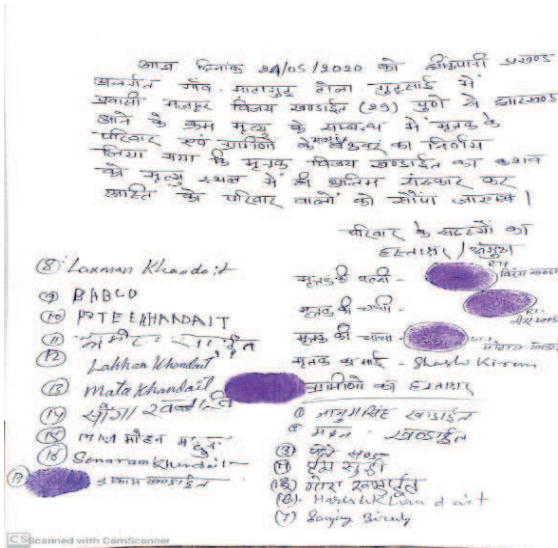
5. MJM Sisters (Sikandrabad) helping migrants



6. Nursing students of CG & Odisha in AP Helped out



7. Letter: On Vijay Khandit's Death



8. 34 Migrants Stranded (Tirumalla Factory, Karnatka)



9. Migrant Labour Chalk (cross-road) in Kalady, Kerala



10. Migrant Labour Chalk in Kalady, Kerala



11. Santhal Migrants Stranded in Jammu & Kashmir during Lockdown



12. Group of teachers from Odisha were helped out from Dhar, MP.



13. Stranded Jharkhand youth working in garment industry, Tamilnadu (brought back by *Shramik Train*)



14. Migrant Workers Celebrating Santal Feast '*Sohrai*' in Bangaluru (26th Jan.2020)



15. Migrant Workers Celebrating 'Sohrai' in Bangaluru (26th Jan. 2020)



16. Food packets reached out to the Needy



17. Homage to the Migrant workers killed in Railway and Road accidents



18. Frs. Stan Swamy and David M. Solomon paying homage to the migrant victims of Railway and Road accidents



19. Br. Jacob Leading Ration Distribution for the villagers in Kharsidag, Namkum Block



20. Kitchen and Food Packing Centre run by Patratoli and Bagaicha Team for walking Migrants



21. Data Collection Training (Prema, Hazaribag)



24. Data Collection Training (Arouse, Gumla)



25. Data collection Training (Gumla)



26. Jayanta Mahapatra (pilot study, Madhuguda (Kandhmal))





Migrant Labourers Solidarity Centre (MLSC)



UNITS

- **MAIN** – Migrant Assistance & Information Network
- **ESM** – Ensuring Safe Migration
- **SDI** – Sustainable Devt. Initiatives
- **DSC** – Day Study Centre

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MAiN

MIGRANT ASSISTANCE AND
INFORMATION NETWORK
Ensuring Better Migration

www.mainindia.org

Vision

Accompanying distress migrants to live with dignity by building a caring humanity.

Mission

To Accompany, Serve and Advocate for Distress Migrants.

Structure

- **Central Hub:** Indian Social Institute (ISI), New Delhi - 110003
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Email: info@mainindia.org
- **Zonal Hub:** Southern States Indian Social Institute (ISI), Bangaluru – 560046
- **Zonal Hub:** Central – Northern States MLSC, ATC Namkum, Ranchi - 834010
- **State Hub:** Jharkhand MLSC, ATC Namkum, Ranchi – 834010
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