

# MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT POLICIES: A CASE STUDY OF ODISHA STATE

## Abstract

Migration is a key component of evolutionary growth and has a long history in forming human society. People constantly move inside and between particular geographic locations. "Migration" refers to a person's temporary or permanent relocation from one place to another. It is derived from the Latin word "Migrate," which implies moving one's domicile. Unemployment is a major worry in both economic theory and policy formulation despite economies facing various internal and external challenges. Most people look for work to have a steady income, which improves their quality of life. If a person can't find work where they are, they may decide to relocate to a place with more jobs available. We call this "labour migration." Migration is a shift over a certain time from one place to another that frequently crosses administrative boundaries and entails a change in residence. People are driven to relocate from locations with fewer employment prospects to those where jobs are more readily available by the gap in development levels between various economies or regions within the same economy. Migrating within the same country is called internal migration, but migrating abroad is referred to as external migration or emigration. Finding work is one of the main reasons labourers move. Wage disparities can still be a factor in migration, as workers may move from locations with lower pay to those with higher incomes, even when employment prospects are identical in two places.

**Keywords:** Labour Migration, poverty, livelihood, developmental policies

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## **I. AN INTRODUCTION TO MIGRATION IN ODISHA**

The migration of rural workers has quickly emerged as a significant source of sustenance for rural communities in India during the country's escalating economic challenges. A constant flow of people from states like Odisha, one of India's most disadvantaged regions, has been turning into a torrent due to growing regional imbalances that have opened up new paths for migration. However, due to this migration, exploitative working circumstances frequently arise, such as sporadic, unprotected labour and even bondage.

In Odisha, migration plays a crucial part in sustaining rural livelihoods. A new "migration livelihood" model that combines farming and migration to account for 55–60% of annual household income has arisen in response to the declining returns from agriculture. However, the importance of migration to rural earnings is mainly disregarded by existing policies. A dysfunctional migrant labour market due to the lack of protective policies is fueled by easy access to inexpensive labour from rural Odisha.

Odisha is one of the poorest states in India, with some of the lowest socioeconomic statistics in the nation, including per capita income and the Human Development Index. Many of the population lives in rural areas where the economy is heavily dependent on agriculture, beset by difficulties such as poor irrigation, limited technological input, and little value addition. The severity of the problem is highlighted by the state's rising unemployment rate and incidences of farmer suicide.

In addition, there is a sizable quality disparity in the workforce in Odisha. Only a small fraction have formal training, and most are self-employed or working in agriculture, which pays poorly. Most of the workforce works in the unorganised sector, which is shrinking and frequently pays less than the minimum wage. This bleak outlook starkly contrasts a growing labour force, suggesting that migration will probably increase in the near future due to a lack of local jobs.

In conclusion, the economic situation in Odisha is severe, with underemployment, poverty, and diminishing agricultural profitability all present. An increase in migration has resulted, which, although offering some income, frequently exposes employees to subpar and exploitative conditions. Migration is disregarded in policy planning despite its significance in enhancing rural livelihoods, which feeds a cycle of exploitation and poverty.

### **Objectives of the Study**

- To understand the reason of migration
- To identify the government policies

## II. MAJOR REASONS OF MIGRATION IN ODISHA

The following are the main causes of migration out of Odisha:

1. **Local Conditions Pushing People to Migrate:** Several factors influence workers' decisions to relocate to new cities. Lack of employment possibilities, higher income in other places, and easier access to facilities like offices, hospitals, and schools are some causes. Compared to the local environment, the work culture in the new place is frequently regarded as superior.
2. **The Need for Loans:** People frequently have to move to pursue employment due to financial hardships. Although most people do not borrow money for daily costs, many nevertheless need loans for various purposes because their local revenue sources are often insufficient. To understand the bigger picture of migration, you must comprehend why people borrow.
3. **Seeking Better Opportunities:** Migration is influenced by several "pull" and "push" variables. Particularly, seasonal migration has emerged as a typical source of income for rural impoverished people.
4. **Social Motives:** People frequently relocate for social reasons, such as a better standard of living or proximity to friends and family.
5. **Political Aspects:** Some people migrate to flee political oppression or the devastation of war.
6. **Environmental Triggers:** Natural catastrophes like floods, famines, and droughts can all play a big role in the movement of people. Refugees have been compelled to flee their homes without a definite destination and frequently with minimal possessions. This is just another reason why people move.

## III. POLICIES AND INITIATIVES TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

To address concerns like migration and employment, the government of Odisha has implemented the following important policies and programmes:

1. **The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Work Guarantee Act (MGNREGA):** It attempts to increase the financial security of rural people by offering up to 100 days of wage-based work annually to households that volunteer for manual labour. MGNREGA serves as a safety net for the unemployed by boosting household income and preventing migration to cities, especially during drought or famine. The programme emphasises building long-lasting assets, bolstering the economic underpinnings of underdeveloped rural communities, and providing monetary incentives. It also addresses the underlying causes of protracted poverty, such as drought, deforestation, and soil erosion, to offer sustainable employment possibilities.
2. **Collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE):** The Government of Odisha and the Government of Andhra Pradesh started discussions

concerning exploitative labour practises, notably in sectors like brick manufacturing that frequently use migrant workers who are at risk. These conversations, facilitated by MoLE and the ILO, are meant to establish a system for coordination between countries that send and receive labour. The objective is to lessen migrant workers' reliance on lenders and employers, increase their knowledge of their rights, and utilise available support systems while lowering their danger of becoming trapped in bonds of servitude.

- 3. Odisha Dadan Labour Act of 1975:** Odisha has traditionally emphasised its circumstances which lead to seasons of migration. Its Dadan Labour (Control and Regulation) Act commonly referred to as ORLA it was initially adopted by the government of India in the year 1975. The law protects "debt migrants" or "dadan" workers through the enforcement of regulations regarding their housing and work environments. The Act contained provisions for the establishment of a "registration body" for the registration of agents as well as employees, the requirement of a minimum wages and the basic welfare amenities at the site of employment, the appointment of a Chief Inspector as well as others as well designation of a "competent authority" to resolve disputes. Following the example of the Odisha Dadan Labour Act of 1975 and the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India felt the need to pass the creation of a Central Act on similar lines like the ORLA and therefore it enacted the Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act (ISMWA) in 1979. In the end, the ORLA was dissolved upon passing of the revised Act. Odisha is among the states with the highest involvement in the implementation of this ISMW Act. But, even though a large number of contractors and employees are enrolled every year, they are only a small fraction of the total worker and contractor numbers based on the movement of workers. It is due in part to the absence of adequate enforcement, insufficient staffing and the inadequate infrastructure at the District Labour Office in Odisha. However, more significant is the it is the most impacted by implementation of the Act can be seen in the destinations states, who have been slow in controlling the quality working conditions of the immigrants.
- 4. District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) from 2001-2001:** In western districts of Odisha there has been a the majority of children are involved in movement. In 2001, the State Government initiated a single program called the "Residential Care Centre" for keeping and educating children who are migrant workers together with their parents. It was launched within the District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) in the year 2001-01, which resulted in the preservation of 3000 kids working in hostels. The program was later expanded and extended into Bargarh as well as Nuapada district. The SSA continues to provide aid to address the educational needs of migrants' children, both at the source as well as at destination. Through the participation of civil society groups recently, the training of child laborers who are migrant children on the way to destination has been introduced through Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. To provide health insurance for BPL as well as unorganized workers and unorganised workers, the Government of India launched the RashtriyaSwasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) in the year 2008. The provisions of this insurance program are designed to provide for the health insurance requirements of families who are migrants.

- 5. Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE):** Through the coordination of Government of India and the ILO in order to create a mechanism for the exchange of information between the receiving and sending states. The purpose for this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was to facilitate the access of brick furnace workers to social security benefits and other rights, aid in secure migration and help the migrants understand their rights, through coordinated efforts between both states. Be concerned about the development of unfair labour practices such as instances of repression in brick manufacturing processes that link vulnerable and vulnerable migrants, The Government of Odisha being initiated talks in conjunction with Government of Andhra Pradesh with assistance by the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE). The framework for this Harmonization was created in an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between GoI (MoLE) as well as the State Labour Department of Governments of Odisha as well as Andhra Pradesh in 2012 with aid from the ILO. The two states of Odisha as well as Andhra Pradesh have formulated a time-bound and goal-oriented strategy to help migrants, particularly those who work in the division of brick furnace. Following the signature of the MoU and an Inter State Coordination Committee was established on the Central Level on 6<sup>7</sup> July 2012, to develop a long-term institutional structure to examine the challenges that arise from inter-state migration throughout India.
- 6. District Labour Officers (DLOs):** To determine the location of migrant workers and details about their employers, agents / contractors, the Data Collection format was distributed to District Labour Officers (DLOs) in the month of October in 2012 for impounding information on the G.P. level. Discussion between ILO New Delhi and ILO New Delhi has been going on to design an Tracking Software for tracking the laborers on the move who moves into Andhra Pradesh every year to take part in the Brick furnace divisions. Clean conditions for the workers from Odisha located in Andhra Pradesh has been taken into consideration by a proposal for the construction of semi pucca homes for the migrant laborers. In addition, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been able to confirm the proposal and that the cost for it are to be split equally among includes Odisha as well as Andhra Pradesh.
- 7. Facility for Seasonal Worker:** During seasons of migration, Seasonal Hostels have been established in the three districts in Bargarh, Nuapada and Bolangir of Odisha through The School and Mass Education Department in order to offer education to children of migrants. It is the Odisha Primary Education Programme Authority (OPEPA) is providing Odiya Text Books and Odiya Teachers in response to requests from schools located in Andhra Pradesh to certify education on the sites of work to the youngsters of the Migrant Workers.
- 8. State-Wide Action Plan:** It was the Government of Odisha, in December 2014, released an entire state action plan to ensure the enforcement of welfare and entitlements, as well as welfare and the protection for the rights of citizens of states that are migrants who are moving between and across states for seasonal work. A comprehensive guidance and action plan were released by the Department of Panchayat Raj on 17<sup>17</sup> Dec. 2014. This Action Plan details, and is based on existing initiatives implemented by the administration. The plan of action was designed for eleven districts in Odisha that are considered to be a important districts for the migration of Odisha. The various targeted

district are- Rayagada, Bargarh, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Khorda, Ganjam, Koraput, Subranapur, Bolangir and Gajapati. Panchayat Raj department has set aside the budget amount of Rs.7.5 million to implement a various initiatives both on a district-wide as well as state-wide.

The action plan is built on coordinated action among several Departments of the State. The Labour as well as the Employees State Insurance (ESI) department within the Government of Odisha has been given the responsibility of conducting an periodic reviews of migrants in the district, to understand different aspects of and the movement of movement. Government officials have suggested that computers be used to store migrants' data as well as setting a separate program for purposes of monitoring. The strict implementation of the ISMW Act along with other labor laws have been emphasized. The helpline was set that will provide assistance to the repatriation and rescue of migrant workers in distress from different states. This ESI Department has also strong-minded to offer financial aid to send a the rescue team to save workers who are migrant in distress across other states.

**9. Increasing Awareness:** The action plan strongly emphasises informing migrant workers of their rights and entitlements under the law. To raise awareness of this issue, cooperation with Self-Help Groups (SHGs), regional government agencies, labour unions, and NGOs is highly advised. A district-level monitoring committee chaired by the District Collector must be established in each of the eleven targeted districts. The group, which will have a two-year term, will also include other municipal officials and members from NGOs. Additionally, plans are in place to create a State Level Migration Cell with all the necessary resources.

**10. The State Institute of Plumbing Technology (SIPT)** It was founded in Patamudai, Kendrapada district, by Odisha in 2010. This programme is a component of a larger action plan to address the problems faced by migrant workers who travel inside and between states. The government is putting out significant effort to enhance the welfare and rights of interstate migrant workers in response to legal pressure from institutions like the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and the Apex Court. This institute places a lot of emphasis on providing young migrants with skill training, notably in the plumbing industry.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Economic development is promoted by migration, which makes it easier for people to relocate from less productive areas to those with better production and growth. Internal migration, however, has been discouraged by barriers, including state-specific incentives linked to long-term residency and other factors. It has been suggested that these limitations be lifted to give migrants more benefit portability.

Several identifying and registration systems have been suggested or put into place to simplify this process. Although other states have started their own systems, they frequently complicate the benefit portability issue. Despite these obstacles, effective models exist, such

as the RashtriyaSwasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), which might be expanded if there was enough political and administrative will.

The World Bank and other organisations have long argued for reducing these barriers to promote more efficient migration. Migrant entitlements may become more transferable through the efficient deployment of registration systems and well-planned programmes financed by the central government. For instance, migrant children's school enrollments have increased due to clearly stated entitlements and lenient regulations.

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