

MAINSTREAMING MIGRATION, ENHANCING DEVELOPMENT: BUILDING BRIDGES, IMPROVING LIVES

Addressing Distress Migration and Livelihood.....

Migration Scenario:

Seasonal migration for livelihood among poor groups is a growing phenomenon in India due to rural impoverishment, rapid industrialization and urbanization. The latest 64th round of NSS survey puts a figure of 30 million on internal migration from rural to urban areas. Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes groups are more prominent among such migrant population in India. While various estimates based on micro-level studies suggest that the figure of migrant workers is close to 100-120 million (~10% of India's population) who contribute 10% of the national GDP.

Maharashtra has attracted major such migration from other states. Nasik is important destination of migrants both from within and outside Maharashtra.

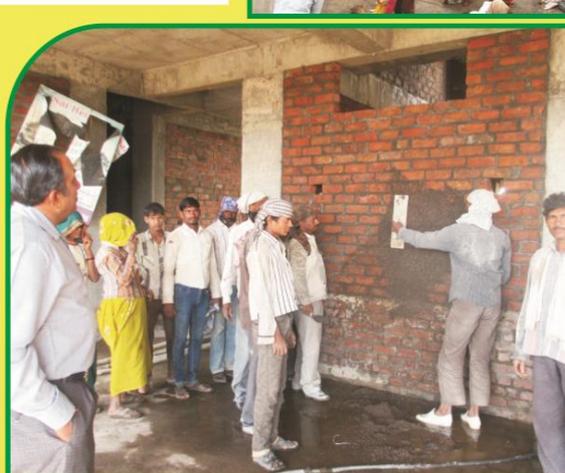
Situation in Nasik:

Disha's recent study revealed that there are approximately 4 lakh temporary labour migrants in Nasik city who are engaged as unskilled and semi-skilled workers in construction, agriculture and other informal economy. These migrants are mainly from tribal blocks around Nasik, drought prone areas of Maharashtra and other states such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh. While migration has been shown to have economic and other development benefits, it also has serious negative repercussions. Over 25% of the urban Indian poor live in overcrowded, polluted slums and lack access to basic civic amenities like clean drinking water, sanitation and public health facilities. Migrant urban poor are particularly vulnerable because of their alien status, irregular employment, widespread illiteracy and reduced capacity to negotiate better access to basic civic amenities. They mainly reside in unauthorized slums, open spaces as squatters, where they often face constant threat of eviction, removal, confiscation of goods and almost non-existent social security cover. Further, the urban poor often face exclusion from basic water, sanitation and public health services rendering themselves even more susceptible to increased ill health and disease.

Disha Foundation's Initiatives to Address Distress Migration for Livelihood:

Disha Foundation is the pioneering non-governmental organization working with migrants and governments to respond to contemporary migration challenges in Maharashtra and at national level in India. Disha believes that migration is positive for development, and migrants should be facilitated to ensure safe and productive migration. Disha Foundation works with rights based approach to ensure Safe Labour Migration (both interstate and intrastate migration) in Nashik region since December 2002. Disha addresses issues that include food security, identity, education, livelihood skill building and job linkages, improving living conditions and access to public services.

Disha works with local, regional and national level policy makers and implementers to institutionalize pro-migrants programs and policies with rights based approach, complementing with research, education and information.



Key Objectives of Disha's Migration Initiatives:

Disha aims to reduce distress migration for livelihood at source as well at destination cities, and promote safe and productive labour migration, via direct interventions, research, advocacy and policy dialogue.

Special Initiatives at Source and Destination Areas of Migrants:

Facilitation for positive migration through Migration Information and Resource Centers (MIRC) is core of all activities of Disha. MIRCs covers Nasik city (as destination) and 26 panchayats of 3 blocks – Nasik, Peth and Trymbak of Nasik district (source areas). These MIRCs facilitates migrating families for skill training, job placement, and access to all basic social security services before and during migration at source and destination level.

Strategies of the Work Done So Far:

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Disha's Key Support For Migrants: Migration Information & Resource Center



Source level Activities

1. Mapping Household level migration data
2. Collating geographical information, and available natural resources
3. Registration of out-migrating families
4. Pre-departure migration training for safe migration
5. Strengthening local livelihood
 - Awareness generation and empowerment to access available government programs
 - Strengthening local agriculture via trainings
 - Strengthening water management for agriculture
 - Development of village agriculture plan
 - Need based trainings for landholders on agriculture management
 - Trainings and assistance for agriculture allied business
 - Need based Training to landless and support for job linkages
 - Need based legal aid and support
6. Special assistance for obtaining documents to avail benefits of government schemes
 1. Caste certificate
 2. Birth certificate
 3. Aadhar card
 4. Financial inclusion-opening bank account

Destination level Activities

1. Awareness and empowerment for access to public services
 - Health services
 - Education for children
 - Sanitation and drinking water
 - Temporary provision for access to food security
2. Financial inclusion and access to insurance programs
3. Certified vocational Training and support for job linkages in below industries
 - Construction
 - Agriculture
 - Hospitality
 - Retail marketing
 - Security agencies
4. Legal aid and support in case of exploitation at workplace



OUR STAKEHOLDERS

GOVT STAKEHOLDERS

- Disha coordinate and liaison with different government department for effective implementation of their respective schemes, to address diverse needs of migrants.
- Labour Department
 - District Legal Service Society
 - Agriculture Development Dept.
 - Forest Development Dept.
 - Tribal Development Dept.
 - Health and Family Welfare Dept.
 - Women and Child Welfare Dept.
 - Skill Development Mission

NON-GOVT STAKEHOLDERS

- TATA & Allied Trusts
- CREDAI, Nasik
- National Skill Development Corporation
- Gramsamruddhi Foundation
- Institute of Catering & Management
- MVP Medical College, Nasik
- Rotary Club, Nasik

Disha's Key Achievements in past 10 years

Disha's Outreach in Migrant Communities

- Outreach to more than 200,000 migrant workers through different social protection programs.
- Trained more than 3,000 migrant workers in agriculture and construction and hospitality industry. 80% Placement of migrants after training, and more than double increment in wages.
- More than 10,000 migrants are referred and linked to government health services.
- More than 1,000 migrant children are mainstreamed into education
- More than 1,500 migrants have received ration cards.
- More than 3,000 grievance cases have been addressed and around Rs 40 lakhs have been recovered against different wages exploitation cases.

Major Milestones

Major Milestones of Disha Foundation in past years.....

Recognized as leading and pioneering NGOs in creating institutional response on labour migration at below levels:

- 1 Member of National Taskforce for amendment of Interstate Migrant Workman's Act 1979, constituted by Ministry of Labour and Employment, GOI, New Delhi
- 2 GOI and Maharashtra Government's Tribal Migration Research and Resource center - Disha is lead agency for technical support and operation of the center
- 3 Disha has led National Convenership of National Coalition for security of Migrant workers - network of NGOs, academia's and researcher's during 2010-2013
- 4 Based on Planning Commission's meet in October 2013, Commission has advised keyministries to work on Disha's recommendations for migrant's inclusive programs and policies. Disha is in follow up with them.
- 5 Bihar Government has invited Disha for technical support to set up Bihar migration program.
- 6 Andhra Pradesh government and Maharashtra government pilot initiative in pipeline for education of migrant children- Disha Foundation is facilitating NGO.
- 7 Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies has commissioned a Background paper on emerging need of National policy for migrant workers to Disha Foundation.
- 8 National Commission of Scheduled Tribes has commissioned special report on Tribal Migration in India to Disha Foundation.

Successes' and the Way Forward:

Disha's initiatives with migrants has some success in galvanizing the administration such as temporary food ration cards, education benefits to migrant children, grievance handling with Labour Department, developing health referral system with government health services, and creating pro-migrant response of central and state government to address migration issue in totality in Maharashtra (Mainly migration of SC/ST communities). But it is apparent that the administration will need encouragement as well support while developing institutional frameworks for migrant inclusive programs till the mainstream of migration happens at larger scale.

Disha is uniquely positioned to build on its grassroots experience and provide strategic leadership on migration governance and management. Disha provides information, advice and support to further the efforts of its stakeholders to develop effective national, regional and local migration management policies and strategies. One of Disha's strategic priorities in the area of migration management is to contribute to increased dialogue between migration stakeholders at national, regional and local levels. This complements and enhances another of Disha's strategic priorities, which is to strengthen governmental capacity to monitor and manage migration flows through effective policy making, policy dialogue, and information sharing.

For further information please contact :

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