

A report on migrant labour in the brick kilns industry at Quthbullapur Mandal, Rangareddy district

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Abstract

In Quthbullapur Mandal there are 97 Brick Kiln industries. In these above 65 are located at Dundigal and Nagloor and in gagillpur 32 are located. Most of kiln owners are from costal Districts of Andhra. Each owner having brick kiln 3 to 10 acres land. All these are continuing in this field form nearly 10 to 18 years. Andhra owners are come from Nellore, Krishna and West and East Godawari Districts. All these owners have kinship these are have agriculture lands, but the cause of drought and unemployment they business from their parents and grand Parents. Making of bricks duration is six-months that from Nove – Dec to May – June. Remaining six months they are in transactions. Most of the owners stying at Balanagar. Every owner having a muncshi his duties are to supervise the labour in process of bricks making munshi's role is key role. Most of the owners having their own transports (Lorries and tractors). Every year this business turn over in crores. Major part of busiess going onfrom Dundigal and Nagaoor. In ricks making main nedislabour, in Dundigal and Nagloor above 15 thousands labourers are working there. Owner has much support from political parties and using influence.

Keywords: Migrant Labour, Brick Kilns, Socio-economic Conditions, Migration Process

Introduction

In some regions of India, such as Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, there would be a migrant in three out of four households. It is conceptually difficult to define a migrant. A migrant worker's movement as part of work ranges from commuting every day to her/his place of work from residence to moving permanently from their locales to settle in the place of migration. Between these two extremes, there are several groups of people moving away from their places of origin for differing periods of time. When reviewing the different time periods of migration, it becomes apparent that the migrants themselves could be distinguished into several categories such as 'permanent', 'semi-permanent' and 'temporary'. Some of the factors influencing the categorizing of migrants include; how long they have been away from their native places, for how long or how many times they will be in touch with the persons (be it other family members or in the community) or if at all they plan to ever return home.

The National Commission of Rural Labour (NCRL) made a quick estimate of such labourers based on their numbers in industries employing migrant workers. According to the NCRL, there were approximately 10 million seasonal/circular migrants in the rural areas alone. This included an estimated 4.5 million inter-state migrants. There were large numbers of migrants in agriculture and plantations, brick kilns, quarries, construction sites and fish processing segments.

Who are the Brick Kiln Labourers?

The most of the labourers came from Orissa (Balangir, Bagargarh, Nunapara).these labourers are Bricks makers and remaining labour from Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh. The reasons for that Orissa labour are low-priced and very hard workers. They can work 14 to 16 hours day and night. These labourers are very skilled in this process. 90 per

cent labourers are SC, ST and Other backward class. Most of the labourers are coming from Balangir disitrcet around 4 lakh people accross the Andhra Pradesh.

Some Reasons

- Backward and drought districts are Balangir and Nowapara and Korapurt
- The state government is not taken any be bothered, so they moved towares these brick kiln for livelihood.
- They are migrating along with children, pregnant women and elder citizens.
- They have ignored and have not barging power among the Owners and Middlemen

Migration Process

- Andhra Pradesh owners have been approached for middlemen (Orissa) to the labourers.
- The labourers have taken advance forcely by the middlemen and owners.
- Transport of the labourers by passenger trains. The journey will take 3 to 4 days.
- In this transports the labourers face a lot of problems by railway security, in this issue Sardar/Middlemen cannot take any responsibility.
- After coming to Secunderabad station the owners transports them in Lorries and trucks.

Works in Brick Kilns

- There are two types in brick making that one is light weight and another is common/local.
- 3 labourers are called *PATURAS*, in these unit children and pregnant women have been included.
- Before coming to the labourers have contracted with the Sarder. He will give guarantee all responsibilities will take at the respective place. But they could not take any

care in the process of working in hosted state.

- Raw material used in brick making like that Block soil, Ash, Cole, Husk and Wood etc., its bring from Kurnool, Karimnager, Kamman Districts.
- All the raw material's costs became costly so the business is not swing.
- Land is the main need for bricks making, in Dundgial and neighboring villages 1 acre land demanding 3 to 4 lakhs.

Brick Rates

- Hyderabad and Secunrabad cities are light weight bricks have much demand, because these are used in multi-stored buildings.
- Light weight brick costs Rs. 2:00/- and common/locals bricks costs Rs. 1:50/-

Wages of the Labourers

- The labourers will be got Rs. 80/- to 120/- per 1000/1500 bricks making, it takes one day for 1 unit.
- They will get Rs. 200/- to 250/- for weekly
- The labours have not got proper wages according to their bricks production as well as Brick Kiln G.O of Andhra Pradesh.

Lifestyle of Orissa Labour

- Western Orissa laboures of lifestyle entirely different from other people; still they are in traditionally and with moves superstitions.
- Still they are not in a position to wear adequate clothes especially children and women.
- The people of Balangir have not interested to know education and to change the motto of the lifestyle.
- Very much interested to listen folk songs at the working place.
- The labours have not interested to health care at the working place.
- Still they are encouraging the child marriages in the rural areas.
- They are very accomplishing to take both at open places like at ponds, lakes and mud at the working site.

Socio-economic Conditions

The labours of Brick Kiln have not getting basic needs, they forcibly moved by the middlemen and owners. 90 percent of the labours will come under the below poverty (BPL). The labours will be getting Rs. 30 to 40 per day this is very adequate to move to life along with family. So the labour will struggle very day for shake of life. If the workers do not get the work they have to sleep with empty stomach, this was the situation existing in the entire brick kiln site bordering districts of the Hyderabad and other hoste state.

Housing circumstance

They have not proper houses in the kiln site temporary huts having for six to seven moths that are 4 feet height and 6 feet width without ventilation and flooring. Very hygienic condition faced at the kiln site.

Health and food habits

The labour are working till round the clack, these all have the common diseases like fever, cough, body pains, sunstroke, skin diseases in particularly women and children gynec

problems. They do not use soap and they use block soil as soap and shampoo. They have not taken nutrition food because of they cannot bear to spend money. They have got weekly basis Rs. 250/- to 300/-. So this amount has to be spend for all provisions, this amount is not to enough to week days. They bay only chicken-fed rise it may be Rs. 6/- for kg. They cannot bay the vegetables so they take chili-power beside of rice and pickles. Which they got the money by the owner that amount not fulfill their stomach. They take black tea (Dication) in every day.

Intervention the Government Department of Andhra Pradesh/Orissa By the collaboration of actionaid

- Sarva Shiskha Abhiyan, Andhra Pradesh/Orissa
 - Labour Department of Andhra Pradesh/Orissa
 - Police Department of Andhra Pradesh/Orissa
 - Women and child welfare Department Andhra Pradesh
 - Civil Supply Department of Andhra Pradesh
 - Health Department/PHCs
- Actionaid, Andhra Pradesh Regional Office in its efforts towards working with different vulnerable groups has decided to begin the work among the migrant Brick-Kiln community. The poor from the Balangir, Koraput, Naunpad, Kalhandi and Sambalpur districts of Western Orissa migrate every year to the brick kilns of Andhra Pradesh. In continuation with the physical mapping that was carried out in various locations around Hyderabad that is house to house around 255 kilns, the actionaid, Hyderabad has decided to start its work in Quthbullapur, Keesara, Maheswaram and Ibrahimpatnam (Rangareddy district) Pattancheru, Jinnaram (Medak district) and Bommalaramaram (Nalgonda district) Mandals. The target community consists of 2586 families the proposed intervention will be focused towards working with the above-mentioned community who migrate in distress conditions and whose children are deprived of minimum needs like home, food, school and shelter.

Project Back Ground

Every year, the illegally existing brick kilns of Andhra Pradesh employ thousands of seasonally migrating labourers numbering around one lakh from western parts of Orissa especially from the district of Balangir. These labourers migrate in semi-bonded conditions due to a total lack of sustainable livelihood options in their native soil after the monsoons have yielded their meager fruits. It is also been seen that there has been minimal or no help from the state and other agencies. This is further compounded because of exploitative practices of moneylenders who take advantage of this situation and charge high rates of interest. This debt forces the labourers to accept the advances given by the Sardars (middlemen) who have a nexus with the brick-kilns owners. These advances are given with the condition that the labourers fulfill their obligation with the Sardar by going to the pre-determined destinations where their labour is harnessed. Brick-kilns around Hyderabad namely Patancheru and Dindigal areas are such destinations. Children of these migrant labourers are most vulnerable in terms of lack of access to education, food, shelter and parental care.

Objectives

In the brick-kilns surrounding Hyderabad these labourers work in harsh conditions of labour and environment. Being outside

the realm of the welfare economics of state they do not have access to the basic minimum facilities of food, health care and education provided by the Host State. As of now actionaid, Andhra Pradesh is planning to start its interventions by making some basic amenities available to these migrant labourers. To start with it aims to address two basic needs viz. nutritional and health needs of the infants and educational needs of the children between 6-14 years age group.

The Specific Objectives of the project are to provide basic facilities of shelter and health care for infants and a bridge course for children between age group 6- 14 years in close proximity to the kilns (255). Efforts will be made to forge network with the concerned government departments of the Andhra Pradesh and non-government organizations for providing these amenities. The Women and Child Welfare department AP has agreed to extend its support to the migrant families.

In the long-term, the project aims to set up a model for mainstreaming the issue that is necessary to make policy-level changes possible in favor of the migrants working through Inter State Migrant Workmen's Act. The aim of the project is to show a demonstrable model to facilitate Government intervention on a long-term basis as well as impact creation.

Non-Residential Bridge Course Centers

Role of the SSA, AP/Orissa

ACTIONAID, AP has been working in brick kiln from past 5 years on Human Rights and education for the children who are the schooling age children.

As part of the academic year 30 NRBCs have been opened in three districts that are Rangareddy, Medak and Nalgonda. On the whole 2000 children of Orissa migrants have enrolled in above mention centers by the excellent 51 Oriya speaking Volunteers. The volunteers well trained in Bridge Course Method by the MV Foundation as well as Orissa DITE has given training in Teaching Learning Methodology. The SSA, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa have been supporting to the children to give good quality education by the coordination of the actionaid, Hyderabad. The children are having MDM at the respective Government Schools under the SHGs.

- Most of the dropout children are enrolling in NRBCs in host state.
- Who were engaged in the brick kilns by the owner and/or parents and never enrolled children will be enrolling with the efforts of the volunteers and Government teachers, MEOs, APCs are concerned representative.

Mainstreamed in Formal School at Orissa

The children who have been enrolled in the NRBCs in host state, they will be going to mainstream under the supervision of the Duped teachers.

Legal Interventions

During the year 2006-07, 300 laboures have been rescued by the actionaid with the help of the Police and labours Department of Andhra Pradesh. The victimized has got compensation awarded by the Kiln Owner on behalf of the actionaid staff.

Medical Interventions

For various reasons the Laborers and the children of the laborers will get so many ailments such as malaria, typhoid,

diarrhea and tuberculosis in general; and so many labourers will get injury and infections due to dog bites. Most pathetic condition would be of pregnant women would be benefit from the health camps

According the source

- When the Government takes pulse-polio immunization programme, the project staff will guide the personnel of the dept of the medical and health to reach the brick-kilns and ensure that all the children of 2 to 5 age group and the children who are going to school also avail this facility.
- 1751 infants from the brick kilns have got immunization during the Polio Vaccination Program.
- 96 Pregnant women have got registered in the nearest Primary Health Centers of the respective villages.

Programme Management

Education Volunteers

Tainted EVs have visited regularly to the kilns to being the children for schools and to motivate the parents regarding bright view of the children. They have interacted with the government teachers and local community to bind good rapport for the accomplishment of the program. They have been providing quality education under the supervision of SSA AP and Orissa.

Conversely the activists have been deal in human rights violation under the clutches of brick kiln Owners and Muncies as well as to rectify about the weekly payments and other provisions to favors of the laborers.

Coordinators

The coordinators have conducted weekly and monthly reviews about the Bridge Course methods, progress test to the children, what we have done work and what will be take further plan to the program for smooth function and to communicate concerned the Government Officers. The Coordinators have been faced a bone of contention among the labourers and kiln owners, when the labour rescue operation at the work site by actionaid. The kiln owners have influence by political power at kiln site under cover their security.

Programme Officer

Monthly review meetings were held among the activists, Group leaders, area coordinators along with the project coordinators and the Programme Officer to evolutes the programme works in the respective quarters and next quarter's action plan will be made. The Programmme Officer will be regular visits at the operation area and give appropriate available implication for the smooth function of the programme.

Regional Manager

The Regional Manager visits to the progamme operation area directly and indirectly and provide contribution to smooth function for the programme achievements as well as development.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

The Government school headmaster, Mandal Educational Officer, Additional Project Coordinators, does SSA regular monitoring of the Bridge Schools and checks to progress of the children. MEOs has conducted exams for the children and

provided Certificate who was promoted in the exams, the children will be mainstreamed in formal schools their hometown by the Certificate and Memorandum of Mark Sheet.

Respondents' suggestions to control migration

Since the main objective of the study was to get a closer acquaintance of the labourers and know their perceptions regarding their migration, their views and suggestions were elicited. Thus nearly 35 per cent suggested provision of self-employment schemes and nearly 34 per cent suggested distribution of land. 18.2 per cent wanted bank loans, to avoid loan advances from the contractors 6 per cent suggested irrigation facilities and a small percentage wanted guarantee of minimum wages that significant to note was that only 0.2 per cent felt that there was no need to check migration which clearly showed that given an alternative, these migrant labourers preferred to remain and work in their places of origin.

Most of them stated that they were quite exhausted with migrating year after year with no settled life and their conditions deteriorated with sickness and old age.

Conclusions

The most of the labourers came from Orissa (Balangir, Bagargarh, Nunapara).these labours are Bricks makers and remaining labour from Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh. Most of the labours are coming from Balangir disitrc around 4 lakh people accorss the Andhra Pradesh. It is may be due to the state government is not taken any be bothered, so they moved towares these brick kiln for livelihood. The labours have not got proper wages according to their bricks production as well as Brick Kiln G.O of Andhra Pradesh. The people of Balangir have not interested to know education and to change the motto of the lifestyle. The labours will be getting Rs. 30 to 40 per day this is very adequate to move to life along with family. So the labour will struggle very day for shake of life. They have not proper houses in the kiln site temporary huts having for six to seven moths that are 4 feet height and 6 feet width without ventilation and flooring. In my observation found that in Quthubllapur Mandal there are 97 Brick Kiln industries. In these above 65 are located at Dundigal and Nagloor and in gagillpur 32 are located. Most of kiln owners are from costal Districts of Andhra. Each owner having brick kiln 3 to 10 acres land. All these are continuing in this field form nearly 10 to 18 years. Andhra owners are come from Nellore, Krishna and West and East Godawari Districts. All these owners have kinship these are have agriculture lands, but the cause of drought and unemployment they business from their parents and grand Parents.

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