

## **A Study On The Issues Of Distress Migration Of Kbk Districts Of Odisha And The Role Of Reverse Migration (Urban-Rural) In Augmenting Various Measures Taken By The Government For It's Solution**

Lopamudra Lenka Samantaray

*Research Scholar, Symbiosis Centre for Research and Innovation, Pune, India*

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**Abstract:-** People of a particular area tend to move from one place to another with a scope of earning and better standard of living. This particular drift is primarily driven by the socio-cultural, political and environmental factors. India is growing rapidly with a huge investment plans and policy implications. Some initiatives have been taken forward by the government to channelize growth potentials of different states of India. Odisha situated in the east coast of India, is predominantly known for investment destination both for India and south Asia. However despite having growth potentials and the implementation of major schemes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), it suffers from large scale distress migration especially from KBK regions. As per the planning commission of India, these KBK districts are the most backward regions of Odisha. Though these areas are said to be mineral rich regions but unfortunately people struggle to fulfil the basic necessities of life. They suffer from varied socio-economic problems like, poverty, malnutrition and starvation. In the present article, a focus has been made to analyse the trend and issues of distress migration from KBK regions of Odisha. A specific emphasis has been made on a reverse trend of migration to wipe out the problems of unemployment and poor economic growth. A modest attempt has been made to study over a socio-economic aspects of KBK regions. Finally, some of the measures have been suggested for the development of these regions through reverse drift of distress migrants.

**Keywords-***Distress, Migration, Reverse, Odisha, KBK.*

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

In simple words migration refers to a movement of human beings from one's native place to other with an intention to get a better scope of living along with other amenities of life. The distress migrants comprise of the particular group of people who are landless labourers, seasonally unemployed labourers, agricultural labourers, poor farmers and the people belong to socially back ward classes like SC (Schedule class) and ST (Schedule tribe). Nationally the distress migrants are the working population of some regions of Karnataka, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. Studies show that a majority of migrants deal with stone quarries in Rajasthan and Karnataka, salt pans in Gujarat, brick kilns in Andhra Pradesh, rice mills in Tamil Nadu, and sugarcane fields in Maharashtra are found to be from the most marginalized sections of society (Srivastava, 2003). Fundamentally from the motivation point of view, the migrants can be categorically divided under three categories. Those include enforced migrants, voluntary migrants and distress migrants. The migrants who migrate because of the external forces are included under first category. The bonded labourers who are forced to migrate and accept the work are the migrants of this category. The second category of migrants include the people who choose migration as a better option with an intent of having better education, job and to settle themselves after marriage. The third category of migrants are caused due to deprivation and absence of livelihood in a particular regions. Migrants under this category leave their native place due to poverty, absence of better alternatives, natural hazards like crop failure, flood, drought and other natural calamities. The study reveals that about 69.49% of people in India migrate to other states due to social causes. The migration due to household comprises of 26.23%. About 35.88 % comprises of the reasons of work and employment. About 1.9% of people migrate due to business related factors. The migration due to marriage and education comprises of 23.14% and 2.39% respectively (Census, 2001). The different parts of India have specific reasons for internal rural-urban migration. The high rate of rural out migration is observed with central-eastern states due to employment opportunities. In northern states people move to urban areas with huge number with their households. Similarly it is because of education the north eastern state migrate to urban areas. The western and north western states are observed for rural-out migration with the purpose of getting education facilities (Jabir Hasan Khan, Tarique Hassan, 2011).

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

1-To analyse the trend and issues of distress migration from KBK regions of Odisha.

2-To focus on a trend of reverse migration to deal with the issues associated with distress migration.

3-To suggest corrective measures for the growth of income/employment in enhancing the drift of reverse migration to KBK regions of Odisha.

Odisha located on the east coast has been surrounded by West Bengal and Jharkhand in the north, Chhattisgarh in the west and Andhra Pradesh in the south. It has been endowed with 480 km long of coastline with dense forests and rich mineral resources. The ecosystem of the state is extensively featured by the vast wild forest, ranges of hills, wide river system, mangroves, salt water lake, coastal plains and rich flora and fauna. Geographically the state is divided into four specific zones. Those include, Northern Plateau comprising Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Sundargarh districts and covering about 18.3 percent area of the State, Central Land comprising undivided Bolangir, Dhenkanal and Sambalpur districts and covering about 23.9 percent area, Eastern Ghats mainly comprising undivided Kalahandi, Kandhamal and Koraput districts and covering 32.0 percent area, and Coastal Plain consisting of undivided Balasore, Cuttack, Ganjam and Puri districts with 25.8 percent area of the State (Annual plan of Odisha 2015-16). The industrial sector's contribution to the state's GSDP was estimated at 33.45% in 2014-15. The service sector contributed an estimated 51% to the GSDP in 2014-15. According to the 2011 Census of India, about 61.8% of the working population are engaged in agricultural activities. However apart from all these positive indicators, the state suffers from the major issues of inter-state and intra state migration. Migration has been considered as the persistent problem of Odisha for a long time. The state suffers from distress migration mostly from south west regions including KBK districts. According to the 2011 Census of India, Odisha has got a working population of 17,541,589, among them 61% are main workers and rest are marginal workers. It had a rural unemployment rate of 8.7% and an urban unemployment rate 5.8% as per the 68th National Sample Survey (2011-2012). The State witnessed the falling share of agriculture sector to overall GSDP as well as fluctuating trend of growth rates for last few years. Even though Odisha has been blessed with all natural and mineral resources, every year ten out of thousand workers migrate to other states in search of work. While analysing the issues of KBK regions, this study makes an attempt to show the remedial path to deal with distress migration from different angles.

#### **THE PROBLEM OF DISTRESS MIGRATION IN KBK REGIONS OF ODISHA**

During the last few years a socio-economic growth has steadily widened the gap between agriculture and industry as well as rural and urban sector. Consequently people are motivated to migrate from their own dwelling to comparatively advanced locations. It in turn, brings both regional and spatial imbalances. Though the migrants are used as a cheap source of labourers for industries but they continue to create unnecessary pressure over land, water and climate. Similarly their own homeland suffers from lack of agricultural production, underutilization of resources, low productivity and lack of skill development of that sector.

In Odisha this peculiar type of situation is faced by the KBK regions. In the year 1992-93, the three districts of KBK regions namely Koraput, Balangir and Kalahandi were re-organized into eight districts. These districts are namely, Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabrangpur, Kalahandi, Rayagada, Nuapada, Balangir and Sonepur. The KBK districts account for 19.80% population over 30.60% geographical area of the State. 89.95% people of this region still live in villages. Tribal communities dominate this region. As per 2001 Census, about 38.41% people of these districts belong to the Scheduled Tribes (ST) communities including four primitive tribal groups (PTG), i.e., Bondas, Dadai, Langia, Sauras and Dangaria Kandhas. 44 CD blocks are incorporated in Tribal Sub Plan (TSP). In addition, 16.25% population belongs to the Scheduled Castes (SC) communities.

Tribal areas are the hubs for cheap labour forces in western Odisha. Employers often cross state boundaries and arrange to send ten out of thousand labourers across long distances from tribal districts (Bolangir, Kalahandi, Bargarh, Sonepur and Koraput) to find work (Smita, 2007). A prominent example of this kind of migration is brick kiln migrants from Western Odisha to Andhra Pradesh. Similarly over one lakh workers were sent to other states from Odisha in the year 2014. As of the latest reports by ministry of labour and state employees insurance corporation on migrants about 1, 19001 workers were sent to other states through 3,044 labour agents under interstate migrant workmen act 1979. However it is believed that about 3 lakhs workers migrate to other states whose report has not been conventionally published. "The MGNREGA had shown tremendous responses for rural and tribal regions but unfortunately it fails to show any fruitful result for rural Odisha. More over the preference for daily wages is one of the major factors for which people prefer to migrate and join as daily labourers. The multifaceted factors such as geographical, economic and social factors are responsible for the deprivation and backwardness of this regions

#### **THE TREND OF URBANISATION AND THE REVERSE DRIFT OF MIGRATION**

Since independence the urban sector has been growing rapidly as compared to rural sector. In the period 2001–2011, urban population has risen from 286 million to 377 million. Among the different reasons, the focus of Government policy initiatives for urban growth is the major reason for which the sector grows rapidly (Kundu, 2011). As per the census 2011, the slowdown in the growth rate of overall population is significantly lower which decreased from 21.5% (2001) to 17.6% (2011). The substantial decline in the population is found in the rural areas from 18.1% (2001) to 12.2% (2011) respectively. On the other hand in urban areas, a marginal increase of population has been found from 3.15 % ( 2001) to 3.18% (2011) respectively. However the growing trend of population, urge to shift urban areas, growth of industries, hospitals, educational institutes are some of the factors which help to bring this trend globally. The level of urbanisation increased from 27.86 per cent to 31.16 per cent in the census 2001-2011, while the proportion of rural population declined from 72.19 per cent to 68.84 per cent. In the present day situation, a significant change in the growth trend of population is found in the rural areas. Internal migration is considered as one of the major factors responsible for this situation. People shift from their native rural area to the comparatively affluent area for the betterment of life. Even though they are ready to engage themselves in various activities, due to policy failure, people either migrate or they remain to be backward. Subsequently the whole sector suffers from the issues like poverty, malnutrition, illiteracy and unemployment.

Following table shows the growth trend of urban population from the year 1901 to 2011.

CENSUS YEAR	URBAN POPULATION(IN MILLIONS)	PERCENTAGE GROWTH OF URBAN SECTOR
1901	25.85	10.84%
1911	25.94	10.29%
1921	28.07	11.17%
1931	33.46	11.99%
1941	44.15	13.86%
1951	62.44	17.29%
1961	78.94	17.97%
1971	109.11	19.91%
1981	159.46	23.34%
1991	217.18	25.72%
2001	286.12	27.86%
2011	377.11	31.16%

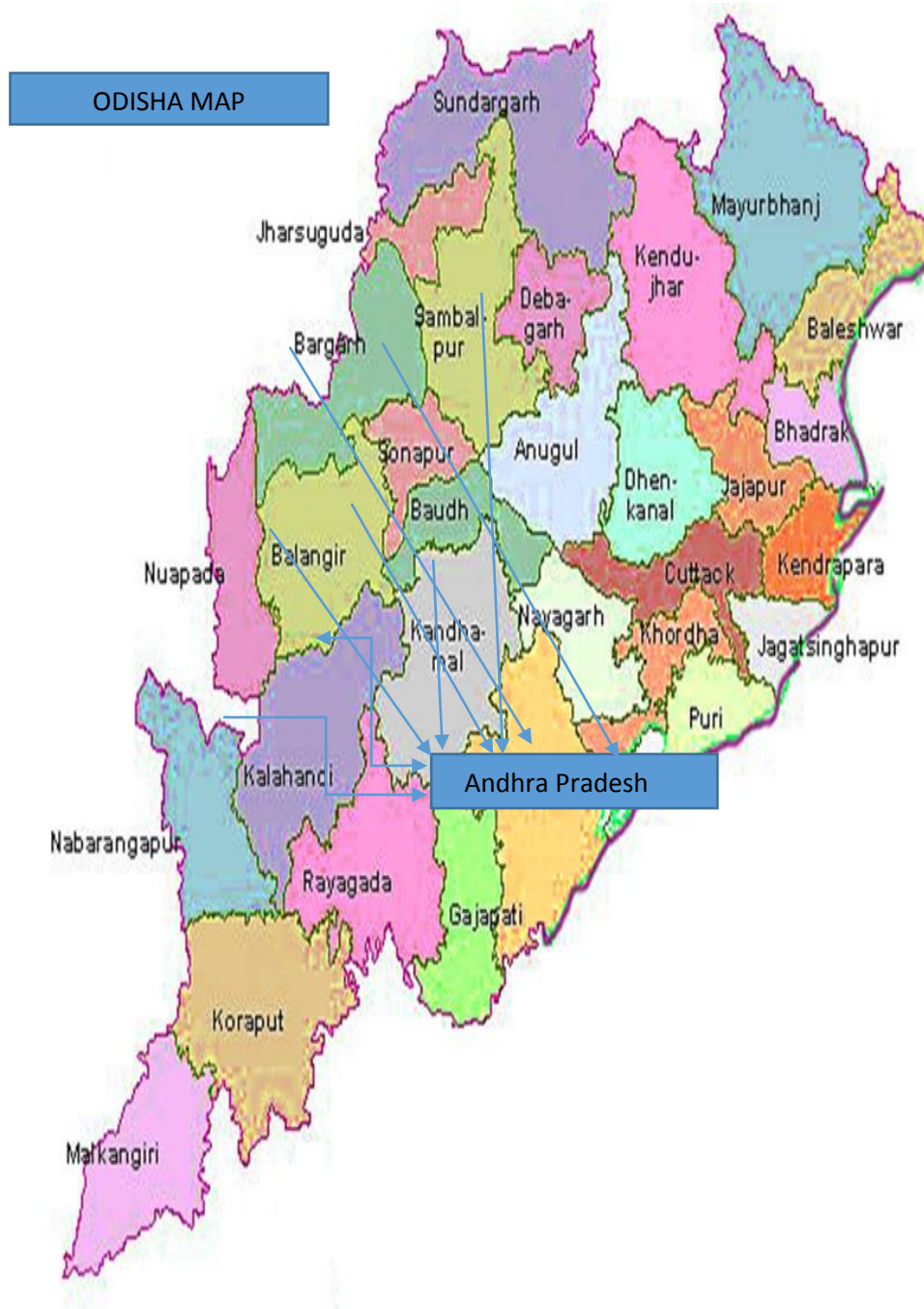
Source: Bhagat and Mohanty (2009); Bhagat (2011), UNESCO-UNICEF National Workshop on Internal Migration and Human Development in India.

The above fig. indicates that, there is a persistent rise in urban population from the year 1901 to 2011. In the year 2011 it reached up to 377.11 million. The same is the case with regard to percentage growth of urban areas. It has reached to 31.16% in the year 2011. However as of latest observation, rural-urban migration seems to be surprisingly slow due to both economic and environmental reasons. No doubt the urban life has become stressful and poor people are not able to get toehold in the urban areas. Similarly urban migration has become male and employment oriented. Bhagat (2011) has estimated that the contribution of natural increase to urban growth during 2001– 2011 has further dropped down to 44 per cent. However the state like Odisha needs an immediate force of actions, to bring development of these regions.

The trend of reverse migration has been widely recognized by the global researchers to maintain the pace of balanced growth of different sectors. The distress migrants cannot receive government benefits due to locational constraints. Women and children are the worst sufferer of this category of migrants. They not only work under an unhealthy condition but also face the problems of massive dropouts from school and exploitations.

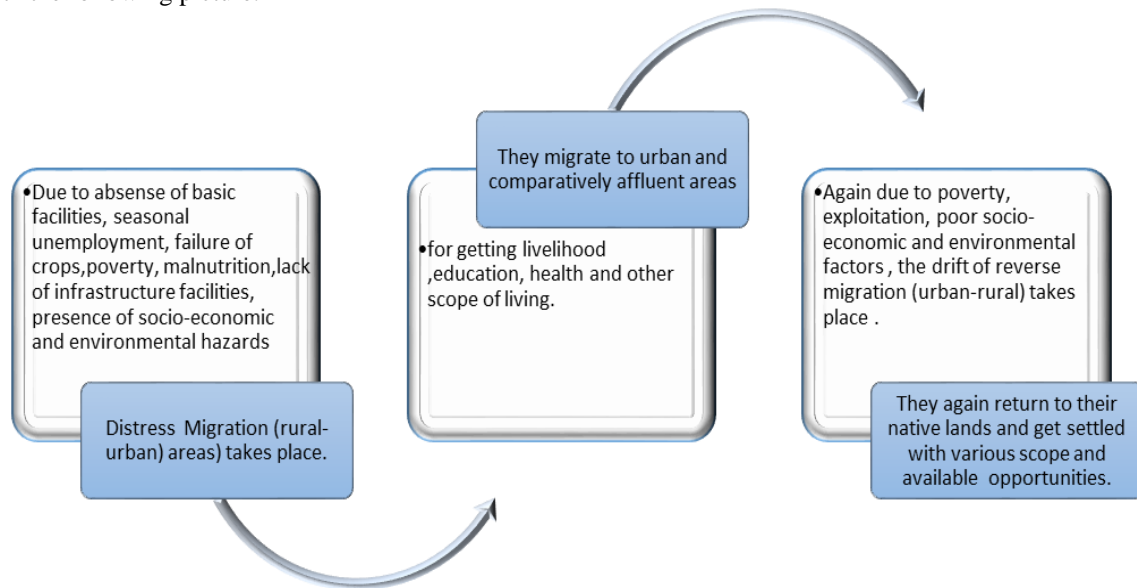
The brick kiln workers of Odisha mostly migrate to Andhra Pradesh and a work unit is comprised of a man, a woman and a child (who is more or less unpaid). They even fail to participate in election and census study. This labour force remain to be largely ‘invisible’ as migration sites are located in remote areas, far away from habitations and the general public view (Smita, 2007). Sometimes these figures are kept secret from the governmental agents. In order to trap this trend of migrants, due care must be taken into account. Subsequently

the drive for reverse migration can be highly encouraged to deal with these adverse conditions of migrants. Their life is often impacted with unpredictable pattern of movements.



The reverse trend of distress migration for the districts of Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabrangpur, Kalahandi, Rayagada, Nuapada, Balangir and Sonapur have been illustrated in the above map where the drive is towards Andhra Pradesh. An anti-poverty agency called Action plan had done detail study over the state of Odisha on distress migration in the year 2005. As per this, approximately 2 million people migrate from the predominantly tribal districts of Western Odisha (Bolangir, Nuapada, Kalahandi, Bargarh, and Sonepur) to brick kilns surrounding major cities of Andhra Pradesh. It has estimated that about 100,000 to 150,000 people from Balangir migrate every year to the peripheries of Hyderabad for brick works. Similarly some unpublished study over 300 brick kilns around Hyderabad reveals that about 35% of the total migrants were children, of which 22% were of elementary school age category. While the bulk of this migration is to Andhra Pradesh, some

migrants also go to Mumbai, Surat, Varanasi, Raipur and other cities to work in construction sites, in weaving units and hotels, and as rickshaw pullers. The pattern of both distress and reverse migration has been pointed out with the following picture.



Thus the reverse migration is the driving factor through which the problem of rural areas can be positively settled down. The rural people can be productively employed in various activities. It in turn would help them to earn their livelihood by staying in their own native lands. The children can continue to go to their schools. Similarly apart from agriculture, other benefits like health, infrastructure, education and employment growth can be widely facilitated for these regions.

The following positive steps have been suggested to bring a holistic development of distress migrants. These measures generate maximum benefits to boost the growth potentials of KBK regions and rural inhabitants. Consequently the trend of reverse migration can be highly successful over a long period of time.

#### **MEASURES TO CHECK DISTRESS MIGRATION THROUGH REVERSE DRIFT OF MIGRATION.**

A) The pro-poor development policy must be highly encouraged in the rural areas. The initiation must begin right from the backward regions like KBK areas. The land and water management policy must be highly driven forward. Various irrigation projects, infrastructure development projects must be promoted to deal with the issues of seasonal migration and distress migration. The state government of Odisha is taking care of these aspects by implementing various poverty reduction programmes including SGSY, MGNREGA and other programmes for generation of wage employment and gainful self-employment.

B) The trend of migration should be thoroughly checked to avoid various socio-economic hazards. Both the state and central government has to adopt thorough statistical measures to represent realistic assessment. As per the Tendulkar Committee methodology, the southern region which includes the KBK region (i.e., Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput districts), has the highest incidence of poverty followed by the northern region. From 2004-05 to 2011-12, all these regions have witnessed substantial reduction of poverty. Among these regions, the northern region has recorded the highest reduction of poverty with 30.53 percentage points, followed by the southern region with 25.40 percentage points and the coastal region with 19.95 percentage points.

C) The UID concept must be highly encouraged to deal with any issues of migrants. The UID should integrate its project with the organizations working with migrant workers throughout the country. The migrant workers can avail the facilities of health, education and public distribution services and the services of banks for savings, credit and remittances (12<sup>th</sup> annual plan report).

D) The state government should focus for agriculture and food safety programmes in order to avoid malnutrition in such areas. The food security act, public distribution system, cold storage facilities all other information and awareness system must be facilitated to bring overall improvement of these regions. For refining the livelihood of tribal and other susceptible communities, several provisions have been executed with active support from a number of external donors. These schemes include the Odisha Tribal Empowerment and Livelihood Programme

(OTELP), Western Odisha Rural Livelihood Programme (WORLP), Jeebika, Targeted Rural Initiative for Poverty Termination and Infrastructure (TRIPTI), and improvement of traditional water bodies and tanks through Odisha Community Tank Management Project (OCTMP) by way of community involvement.

E) There should be the proper enforcement of labour law, migrants' workforce act, minimum wage act, child labour act and labourers' welfare schemes to bring upliftment of the entire regions. Similarly various social auditing and financial decision must be ethically made for the development of grass root level. The state government has made nine key initiatives, which aims at addressing problems of underdevelopment and regional disparities. These are (i) Special Plan for KBK districts, (ii) Biju KBK Plan for KBK districts, (iii) Biju Kandhamal 'O' Gajapati Yojana, (iv) Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF), (v) ACA for Left wing Extremism (LWE) Affected Districts (vi) Gopabandhu Gramin Yojana (GGY), (vii) Western Odisha Development Council (WODC) for backward western districts, (viii) Grants-in-aid received under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India to bridge critical infrastructure gaps in identified sectors in the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) areas, and (ix) implementation of development programmes in TSP areas funded out of Special Central Assistance (Annual plan draft of Odisha Government 2015-16).

## **II. CONCLUSION**

The problem of migration is complex and varied. Even though the migration cannot be entirely stopped but due focus must be made for the holistic development of the migrants and worst affected regions. The proper growth and development strategy must be implemented to utilise both manpower and natural resources. As per latest RBI report, Odisha is considered as the hottest investment destination for new projects, attracting 27 percent of what the entire country received. However due to lack of awareness, failure of planning and coordination, it fails to grasp the yield of growth. Even though a huge employment opportunities can be created through the set of industries, but ideally no compensation strategy has been successful to meet the socio-economic and environmental challenges of these regions. Even though Odisha has about 28 percent of India's iron ore, 24 percent of coal, 59 percent of bauxite and 98 percent of chromite but it fails to meet multiple issues with regard to growth and development (Business standard Report, 2016). Hence, with the coordination of private sector, public sector and stakeholders an entire theme of growth can be ideally realised.

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