



ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର
ରାଜସ୍ୱ ଓ ବିପର୍ଯ୍ୟୟ ପରିଚାଳନା ବିଭାଗ
(ବିପର୍ଯ୍ୟୟ ପରିଚାଳନା)
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
REVENUE & DISASTER MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
(DISASTER MANAGEMENT)

By Fax/e-mail/Post

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From

Pradeep Jena, IAS
Additional Chief Secretary &
Special Relief Commissioner

To

1. The Agriculture Production Commissioner
2. The Principal Secretary to Govt. Women & Child Development & Mission Shakti Department and Labour & Employees' State Insurance Department
3. The Principal Secretary to Govt., Health & Family Welfare Department
4. Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Govt. Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

Sub: Suggestion received from Civil Society Organizations on COVID—19 response for migrant workers and persons with disabilities

Sir,

I am enclosing herewith a copy of the suggestions received from Civil Society Organizations on COVID-19 response for migrant workers and persons with disabilities for consideration and necessary action, if any.

Yours faithfully,


Additional Chief Secretary &
Special Relief Commissioner

COVID19 response for internal migrant workers safety and social inclusion

Odisha has a large population of migrants moving within and outside of the state for seasonal, semi permanent and permanent employment. The interstate migrant workers who are registered with the labour department under the Inter State Migrant Workers Act of 1979 (ISMWA 1979) is close to 1.40 lakh covering all the 30 districts with highest number of interstate migrant workers are hailing from western Odisha.

However, the number of unregistered intra and interstate migrant workers are estimated to be huge in number. There is no any authentic data available with government on the exact number of migrant workers in Odisha. However, it is estimated that close to 1.5 million people are migrant workers with Ganjam district having higher share of more than 60% of the all interstate migrant workers population. All most all the district of Odisha are today reporting migrant workers.

The Government of Odisha has identified 11 districts in Odisha which has been reporting higher number of distress migrant workers. However, there are other districts which are reporting large number of out migration of people to other state for employment.

High intensity out migration district identified by government of Odisha	Other key migration districts in Odisha with incidence of migrant workers
Bolangir, Bargarh, Subranapur, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Gajapati, Ganjam, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Rayagada and Khorda	Boudh, Kandhamal, Keonjhar, Sundergarh, Balasore, Jajpur, Mayurbhanj, Kendrapada, Bhadrak, Puri, Nayagarh.

Migration pattern	Key Sectors	Key destinations states
Migrants with family members	Brick kiln, construction sector, agriculture harvesting, power looms.	Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Gujrat, Uttar pradesh and within key urban locations in Odisha.
Single male migration	Plumbing, hospitality sector, garments, spinning mills, Power loom, construction, plywood, fish processing, Service sector, domestic help	Delhi, Maharastra, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujrat, Goa and within Odisha.
Single women migration	Domestic help, garment sectors, fish processing	Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Telangana,

Migrant returnees:

The seasonal migrant workers generally return their native villages during April-June. However, due to closing down of informal establishment and workplace, large numbers of migrant workers have started returning their native villages due to the Corona virus scar.

Migrant workers will be having multiple vulnerabilities which need to be addressed as part of the Covid19 emergency.

1. Large number of migrant workers may crowd the public transport as well as the point of disembarkment or entry points.
2. People may have travelled without any precaution or basic hygiene management and subjected infection during travel.
3. People having certain communicable ailments needing emergency support and counseling.
4. Migrant returnees may be subjected to stigma and discrimination by the local communities.
5. Contingency plan for quarantine of returnee migrants at the arrival or disembarkment points.

Covid19 response for Returnee Migrant workers safety and social inclusion:

Keeping in mind the large influx of inter and intra state migrant workers (estimated to be around 1 million) Following are some key strategies and action which may be taken up at the 22 high migrations intensive districts.

1. The department of labour need to provide information about the people registered under the ISMWA about the number of people who will be returning the states and coordinate with the labour contactors about their return movement.
2. The database managed by ORMAS for the DDUGKY skill training placement may provide key information about the possibilities of people returning from the sectors which are on the verge of close down.
3. Various NGOs are also keeping database about migrant at the sources and destination and the same need to be obtained for creating database of possible returnee migrant workers from inter and intra state destination.
4. Each disembarkment points should register the details of returnee migrant workers and may be useful in case of any emergency tracking.
5. It is feared that, most of the returnee workers may get infected while traveling in the public transport from the work destination. Effective IEC in Odiya language collaboration with the India Railway should be promoted for the Odisha bound train and buses.
6. Mass hand wash facility at the disembarkment or entry point should be set up.
7. Creation helpdesk at the entry points (railways, bus stand and other village bus stop) is crucial to register incoming migrant workers and provide counseling on Corona precautions.
8. Inter-state coordination with the key neighbouring and destination states to know the movement of migrant people to Odisha. The data and information will be helpful for the administration to help the incoming migrant workers for smooth inclusion.

9. Awareness generation at the source villages should be done with key messages for non discriminatory and social inclusion of migrant returnees in the villages. Set up Panchayat level helpline or a dedicated helpline at the local police station to help migrants to seek support if there is any discrimination or stigma is reported.
10. A dedicated quarantine facility may be set up near the key entry points or panchayat level with adequate arrangement for stay, food and other essential medical emergencies. Safety, wellbeing and security of quarantined person is crucial.
11. Provision of immediate relief measures for the incoming migrant workers and their families for meeting their emergency need for a period of 15 days should be facilitated.
12. On long term, employment generation for the returnee migrants should be emphasized.

Suggested Measures To Make The Fight Against Corona Disability Inclusive

Here are some suggested measures the Government may adopt to make the fight against Corona, in the State, disability inclusive.

- 1) Disabled friendly facilities should be made available for the screening test or treatment of persons with disabilities.
- 2) Quarantine facilities should be made disabled friendly by making some of the rooms and washrooms wheelchair accessible.
- 3) Professionals and care givers who are trained in managing disability specific issues should be made available if a person with disability is needed to be put in isolation.
- 4) Special provision should be made for persons with disabilities so that they continue to get essential supplies to keep themselves safe, such as hand sanitizer, masks and sterilizing equipment, particularly when they are running low and if they need to self-isolate.
- 5) The Govt. should ensure that all communications relating to COVID-19, is made available in accessible format for people with disabilities.
- 6) In view of the possible Virus Outbreak, the Govt. may plan to educate and provide training not only to people with disabilities and their caregivers, but also to emergency planners, first responders, and other members of the community who play an important role in making sure that people with disabilities are also included in emergency preparedness and response plans in the present scenario.
- 7) Persons with disabilities must be considered as a group while formulating contingency plans to fight against this deadly virus.