

Labour Migration

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Abstract: This paper analyses recent trends in the labour migration of workers/labourers of Shalbari, a tiny village in Cooch Behar district, West Bengal, India. The economy of the village is based on agriculture. There is absence of facilities like better educational institutions, health centres, sufficient agricultural land, and alternative job opportunities. It analyses the primary data based on my selected area. On the basis of these sources as well as the available micro-studies, it analyses the trends and characteristics of permanent and semi-permanent labour migration as well as short duration seasonal/circular migration. It shows the negative impacts of labour migration on village economy. It concludes by examining that labour migration have become a sheer reality in Bengal as well as India like many other developing countries, is one of the major socio-economic problems in our country. The male working population, as a socio-economic group, happened to be the most suffered of migration. Because for survival of self and family members.

Keywords: Labour Migration, Employment, GST, Migration Laws

1. INTRODUCTION

Labour migration is generally defined as a cross-border movement for purposes of employment in a foreign country. However, there is no universally accepted definition of labour migration. The term "economic migrant" is sometimes used as an equivalent to the term labour migrant or migrant worker.

Migrant labour, casual and unskilled workers who move about systematically from one region to another offering their services on a temporary, usually seasonal, basis. Migrant labour in various forms is found in South Africa, the Middle East, Western Europe, North America, and India.

The trend of labour migration is from village areas to urban centres.

Labour migration is a great problem for the places from where migration is happening. That is the source place where maximum of its working population group migrate to other places and the place is experiencing shortage of male working population group.

So to clarify the impacts of labour migration, I had chosen this topic of labour migration in our area. To develop a better knowledge a detail survey is done in the study area.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my special thanks of gratitude to my professor & supervisor Dr. Ram Krishna Maity,

As well I also thanking to our head of the department Dr. Asish Kumar Paul who give me such golden opportunity to do this wonderful project on the topic of "An analytical study on labour migration in Shalbari village".

Which helped me a lot in doing research and I came to know more about our village, and also so many new things became clear about the socio-economic condition of our village. I am really enjoyed a lot in doing this research work.

Secondly I would also like to thank my parents and village friends who helped me a lot in getting the data and also thankful to scholar brothers to help me their level best for finalizing this project within the limited time period.

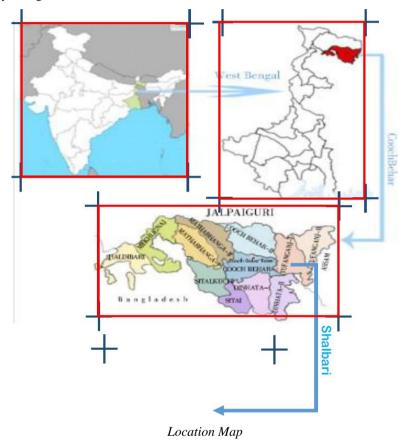
3. ABOUT THE STUDY AREA

Labour force has the capability to define the growth and development of any country. It plays the most important role in any economic activity. It is in this context that the labour welfare poses major

challenge for the policy makers in any country in terms of creating decent work environment and ensuring wellbeing and prosperity of its labour force.

As in this context, in my research paper I am working on labour migration. Study area is Shalbari, a tiny village in Cooch Behar district. Labour migration is a general phenomenon in present time. Due to lack of job opportunities and unemployment conditions people used to migrate from underdeveloped areas to better places in search of employment. Our villagers also follow this trend.

Actually I realise that it is a major problem in our village. Especially when I see that my childhood friends are also following this trend. So I decided to do a complete research on them and as a friend I will try to help them in my way by studying details about them. And finally I will suggest them about the steps taken by our government for their betterment.



Scale: 1 cm = 500 meter

4. OBJECTIVES

- To examine the socio-economic background of the study area.
- To examine the reasons behind labour migration.
- To examine the working condition of the migrating workers.
- To examine the impacts of labour migration on study area.
- Conclusion and suggestion.

5. METHODS AND METHODOLOGY

SI.	Major	Applicable Methods	Tools & Techniques	Remarks
No.	Stages			
1.	Pre-field	Study Area Selection		Preparatory
	Stage	Problem Selection		Phase
		Formulation of Problems		
		Statement of the Problem		
		Literature Review	Offline/ Library Research	
			Online Literature Review	
		Research Design Making		

		Objectives & Hypot	hesis Formulation		
		Preparation of Data	Collection Tools	Sampling Techniques Fixation	
		& Techniques		Survey Schedule/ Questionnaire Making	
2.	Field Stage	Data Collection	Primary	Different kinds of Socio-econom ic &	
				Physical Survey, Sample Survey, Photo	Phase
				Documentation, etc.	
			Secondary	Historical Records, Books, Reports,	
				Articles, Journals, Documents from	
				various sources	
3.	Post Field	Data Processing &	Data	Different laws/ formulas and MS Excel,	Processing
	Stage	Analysis	Organization	SPSS, Mat Lab, etc. software	& Impleme
			Data Compilation		ntation
			Data Generation		Phase
			Data Calculation		
			& Presentation		
		Photographic Analy	sis	Photo Selection, Photo Editing, Photo	
				Arrangement, etc	
		Result & Discussion	l		
		Hypothesis Justifica	tion		
		Draft Report Writing			
		Final Report Writing	5		
		Preparation for Preser	ntation/ Publication		

6. METHODOLOGY

6.1. Literature Review

P. Wickramasekera (2002) elaborates causes of migration, origin of migration ideas, reasons for migration, impact of such migration trend and policy implications in brief.

Anzelika Zaiceva a``nd Klaus F. Zimmermann (2008) said about background of migration, decision of migration and so many statistical analysis were given to study about the scale and diversity.

K. C. Zachariah E. T. Mathew S. IrudayaRajan (2000) discussed about socio-economic and demographic consequences of migration in Kerala.

Robert E.B. Lucas (1997) have studied about selectivity of destination place, effects of migration and policy issues.

NiranjanSaggurtia, Ravi K. Vermab, AnrudhJainc, SaumyaRamaRaoc, K. Anil Kumard, AnjaneyaluSubbiahe, Hamini Reddy Moduguf, Shiva Hallig and ShaliniBharatd (2015) said about HIV risk behaviours of male migrant (contracted and non-contracted) labourers in India and to understand how they were affected by HIV-AIDS, due to malpractices and beware them about the devices and techniques for use in HIV prevention efforts.

Krishna C. Poudel, MasamineJimba, Junko Okumura, Anand B. Joshi and Susumu Wakai (2004) discussed that Nepali migrants' vulnerability to HIV/sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and their possible role in causing the epidemic in far western Nepal.

Barbara L. Brush (2008) said about rapid changes in nurse migration and how the effects are significantly challenging for nurse workforce management efforts in both donor and recipient nations.

Balkrishna B. Adsul, Payal S. Laad, Prashant V. Howal, and Ramesh M. Chaturved(2011) tried to study about the socio-demographic profile and morbidity pattern of construction workers in china, japan, India and Europe.

Robert C. Allen, Jean Pascal Bassino, Debin Ma Christine Moll-Murata, JanLuitenVanZanden(2009) has tried to calculate by assembling systematic data on wages and prices from Imperial ministry records, merchant account books, and local gazetteers a brief study was constructed. It is an attempt to discuss about the loving standard of labours.

Ben Rogaly (2007) has illustrated with case study material from research with workers in the agriculture sector in India and the UK, and concludes with more general implications for labour geographers engaged with other sectors and places.

Barbara Harriss-White with Valentina Prosperi (2014) said that the migrant labour appears to bring several socio-economic, political effects on labour markets. On the one hand, an increase in the supply of compliant labour threatens employment opportunities as well as wages of workers in the destination sector and site.

BinodKhadria (2006) said that the relationship between labour migration and poverty in India, during a period of rapidly growing inequalities. This is placed against the on-going debates on changes in the patterns of employment and job creation, during the period of economic liberalisation, under the Inclusive Growth policies that are being followed since 2004, and under the impact of the global financial crisis.

Arjan de Haan (2011) discussed about decision-Making Process and Journey, Employment and Income in the Destination Country/places, Perceptions of Safe Labour Migration, Cross-Border Irregular Migration, and Policy Recommendations for Labour Migration in brief.

Gordon H. Hanson (2009) has selectively discussed that the recent empirical work on the consequences of global labour mobility. Examine how international migration affects the incomes of individuals in sending and receiving countries and of migrants themselves. Migration policies that would maximize global welfare.

Iman M. Hashim (2005) through a review of the available literature and a discussion of the implications a preliminary effort was taken to foreground the issue of children in work on migration of their findings.

Patrick McGovern (2007) argues that immigration presents employment researchers with a promising strategic research site because it raises a number of theoretically significant problems with mainstream economic approaches to labour and labour markets.

Frances Hunt (2008) has talked about the background factors of labour migration like-household Income and Financial Circumstances, Household Contexts and Motivations, Health, Social and Political Contexts, the Role of School in Dropping Out of students for labour migration were briefly discussed.

J. Edward Taylor and Philip L. Martin (2001) elaborates the movement of labour out of agriculture is a universal concomitant of economic modernization and growth, complexity of migration determinants and impacts in rural economies.

John Page and Sonia Plazathe(2005) discussed the evidences on how migrants contribute to the economic development of their countries of origin. In addition to describing the state of knowledge regarding flows of people and migrant remittances worldwide, it focuses on the current literature dealing with the development impact of transfers of money, knowledge, and skills by migrants back to their home countries. The paper also examines the complex question of the impact of highly skilled migration on labour sending countries.

Chihiro Ito (2010) said that migratory labour is recognized as an important source of non-agricultural income, securing a livelihood in rural Africa is a distinctly complex process involving interactions between the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors and between urban and rural activities.

7. SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

7.1. Household Survey

Household survey	Frequency	%
Labour migration	44	78
Others	12	22
Total	56	100

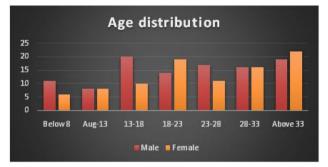


Findings: In my research paper work on labour migration. I had selected my study area at Shalbari village of Cooch Behar district. A tiny village near the foothill of Dooars Mountain. The main problem of Shalbari

village is that maximum of its male population use to migrate to other places in search of employment. Out of total (56) household, I had found 44 household practicing this labour migration. As the job opportunity in Shalbari village is very low or with very low wage rate works are exits there.

Table1. Age group

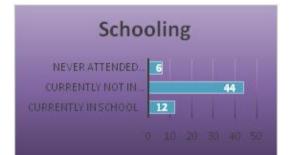
Age group.	Male		Female		Total	Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	
Below 8	11	10	6	7	17	7	
08-13	8	8	8	9	16	8	
13-18	20	19	10	11	30	15	
18-23	14	13	19	21	33	17	
23-28	17	16	11	12	28	14	
28-33	16	15	16	17	32	16	
Above 33	19	19	22	23	41	23	
Total	105	100	92	100	197	100	



Findings: While discussing about age structure, total population is (197). Male (105) and female (92). Leaving other age groups most concentration of labour migration people are in the age groups of (18-23), (23-28), and (28-33).

Table2. Schooling Status

Schooling Status.	Frequency	%
Currently in School	12	19
Currently Not in School	44	71
Never Attended School	6	10
Total	62	100



Findings: Educational status of Shalbari village is not so good. Of the labour migrants (12) students are currently studying at school, (44) labour migrants has dropped out of school, and (6) has never attended to school. The dropped out of the students are mainly because of the issue of employment. Either of family trend or they are forced to quit school and began to earn money to support their family.

Table3. Occupation

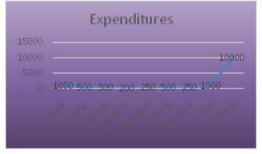
Occupation type	Income/ Month	People engaged
Cultivator	2000	24
Daily labour	1500	15
Labour migration	15000	44
Small business	10000	10
Service	25000	8
Total		101



Findings: People of Shalbari village engaged in various economic activities. Out of then maximum of their occupation is labour migration. As it is the most easiest and simple option for them to earn money. Where minimum or sometimes no experience if required to opt the work. There are (44) people are engaged in labour migration, followed by cultivators (24) and daily labour (15).

Table4. Expenditures

Expenditures	Average Amount	%
Food	1000	7
Living	500	3
Travelling	300	2
Mobile	200	1
Addiction	250	1
Cloth	500	3
Medicine	250	1
Kits education	1000	7
Bank deposit	10000	75
Total	14000	1000



Findings: Every person have some expenditures for life existence and daily use items. Of most the expenditure on food and children's education having second position followed by bank deposits. This is the expenditure nature of the people of Shalbari village.

Table5. Assets

Assets	When purchase			
	At home	%	On returning home	%
Land	18	21	26	25
Mobile	20	24	24	23
Cycle	30	36	5	5
Bike	2	2	13	13
TV	5	6	20	19
Others	9	11	15	15
Total	84	100	103	100



Findings: Generally people purchase their assets when they income more. This is the nature of people of Shalbari also. Cycle (30) is the maximum purchased item when the people are at home, followed by land (18).

On returning home maximum of the people purchase land (26), followed by mobile (24) and TV (20).

7.2. Migration Details

Table6. Causes of migration

Cause of migration	Frequency	%
Family trend	14	32
Employment	30	68
Total	44	100

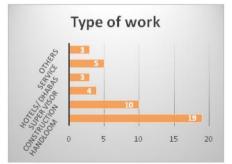


Findings: Cause of migration of the people are mainly of two types. Cause of migration due to family trend is (14), and cause of migration for employment is (30).

We can conclude that the job opportunity is less in this area. As the village is isolated from nearby towns. Also the land for agriculture for the people is very few. That is why people have to migrate to other places for income generation.

Table7. Type of work

Type of work	Frequency	%
Handloom	19	43
Construction	10	23
Super visor	4	9
Hotels/ Dhabas	3	7
Service	5	11
others	3	7
Total	44	100



Findings: As work needs knowledge and experience. In this instance maximum of the people used to do those works which does not requires much knowledge and experiences.

As a consequence in handloom sector maximum people were engaged (19). Followed by construction works(10).

The general trend shows that all the works are non-agricultural in nature. If land was available in hand then they may be work on their fields.

Table8. Kinds of work

Kinds of work	Frequency	%
Hazardous	29	66
Non hazardous	15	34
Total	44	100



Findings: People working in different activities faces different types of problems. Hazardness of the kind of work depends the trend of migration to destination place. Out of total people surveyed, (29) people are engaged in hazardous working conditions.

This can be the construction works.

 Table9. Destination place

Destination place	Frequency	%
Nadia (Dhatrigram)	19	43
Bhutan	4	9
Guwahati	2	5
Kerala	4	9
Rajasthan	5	11
Siliguri	10	23
Total	44	100



Findings:-The best destination place for migration is likely to be Nadia district. As of family trend maximum (19) people of Shalbari village used to do the handloom works. And for them Dhatrigram, in Nadia district is the suitable place for them. Asking them I found that in Dhatrigram the availability of work is prevailing throughout the year.

Followed by Siliguri (10), as in north Bengal Siliguri is a big city like that of Kolkata. Where anyone can get construction works under the supervision of contractors. As a result people used to migrate to Siliguri in search of employment.

Table10. Duration of stay

Duration of stay	Frequency	%
2 Months	10	23
3 Months	14	32
6 Months	20	45
Total	400	100

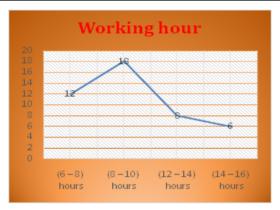


Findings: Normally the labour migration of Shalbari village has a great significance to its people. People who migrate to long distances used to stay more. A total number of (20) people stays for (6) months.

People who go to places like Assam and Bhutan used to stay (3) months, total (14) people are in this category.

Table11.	Working	hour
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Number of Working Hours	Frequency.	%
(6-8) hours	12	27
(8 – 10) hours	18	41
(12 – 14) hours	8	18
(14 – 16) hours	6	14
Total	44	100



Findings: Service works generally requires (6-8) hours. A total of (12) people works.

Working hour is the time a person should do work per day. As maximum of the people are engaged in handloom works, they have to work for (8-10) hours daily to complete a shree. A total of (18) people works.

Construction works begin at early in the morning and ends until the work is done for example concretetation of floor.

Long duration of works are generally like night guards, supervisors and hotel bell boys. They works for (14-16) hours.

Payment basis	Frequency.	%
Daily basis	16	36
Weekly basis	13	30
Monthly basis	10	23
Six-monthly basis	5	11
Total	44	100

 Table12. Mode of payment



Findings: Wage get by the workers varies in different basis of payment. Out of these on daily basis is of maximum number (16) followed by weekly basis (13) and monthly basis (10). Last but not least six month basis having (5) people.

Normally the daily labours get their payments daily. Some of the daily works payment was given to the workers after a week.

In case hotel bell boy jobs and service payments are on monthly basis.

Lastly for the contract labours payment was made six month basis.

Table13. Types of health problem

Types of health problem	Frequency.	%
Cold andFever	2	10
Skin Rashes/Disease	5	24
Headache	1	5
Body ache	9	43
Breathing Difficulty	3	14
Eye side week	1	4
Total	21	100



Findings: Health problem is a normal phenomenon for human being. With the ageing of people and sometimes with weather change human beings are suffered from different diseases.

But the point of discussion here is health problem due to migration or work at different places. Here it is found that (9) people are suffering from body ache. As the maximum people are engaged in handloom and construction works, they are mostly suffered from body ache problem.

Followed by skin diseases (5) and breathing difficulty (3).

 Table14. Satisfaction of work

Satisfaction of work.	Frequency.	%
Yes	20	45
No	22	55
Total	44	100



Findings: As shown in diagram the level of satisfaction of the labour migration workers is of (45%), where the maximum (55%) of the workers were not satisfied.

As the migrant labours stays away from home so it is obvious for them that they should not satisfied of their work.

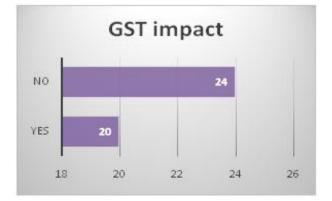
Obligation to work.	Frequency.	%
Yes	25	57
No	19	43
Total	44	100



Findings: Obligation to work that is wheather they were forced to do work by migration. Yes there is a trend in Shalbari village that the workers were forced to migrate to other places for employment. As the job opportunity in this village is very low. And in some where the workers were forced due to their family trend.

Table16.	Impact	of GST
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Impact of GST	Frequency	%
Yes	20	45
No	24	55
Total	44	100

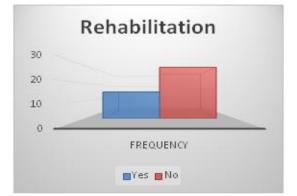


Findings:-As we know previous year our government start GST for goods and services. So the production farms owns workers has suffered from this GST taxation policy.

We can see that (22) workers said that they were suffered from GST. On the contrary (24) workers said that they were not suffered from GST taxation policy.

 Table17. Whether get rehabilitation

Get Rehabilitation	Frequency	%
Yes	15	34
No	29	66
Total	44	100

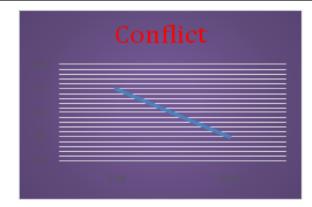


Findings: Government gives rehabilitation as the workers are facing problems due to GST taxation.

In Shalbari the migrant workers said that a very few people (15) get the rehabilitation facilities. And the maximum people (29) have not get any rehabilitation facilities from the government.

 Table18. Having conflict or not

Having conflict	Frequency.	%
Yes	23	52
Not	21	48
Total	44	100



Findings:- It is a common thing that the migrating people will definitely face conflicts. In case of labour migrants of Shalbari village also the workers were facing conflicts. A total of (23) people were facing conflict with owners and supervisors. But (21) people said that they does not face any conflict.

Table19. Types of conflict

Types of torture	Frequency.	%
Physical	5	11
Monetary	30	69
others	9	20
Total	44	100



Findings: Generally male people were migrating as labours. So the rate of physical conflict is only (11%).

Whereas maximum people (69%) were suffering from monetary conflicts.

There are others type of conflicts also, like the place where the migration is happen the local people of that area exercise dominancy over the migration workers.

7.3. Impact of Migration on Village

Table20. Working activity at home

Nature of work.	Frequency.	%
Agriculture	15	34
Vendors/ small business	5	11
Daily labours	20	45
No work	4	10
Total	44	100



Findings: Labour migration is not only the main employment option for the people of Shalbari village.

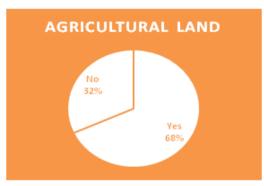
When the workers return to their home they got engaged in different types of works.

Among them Daily labour is a good choice, as very few of them having agricultural land.

Some of them also remained unemployment when they are at home.

Table21. Agricultural land

Having Agricultural land	Frequency	%
Yes	30	68
No	14	32
Total	44	100

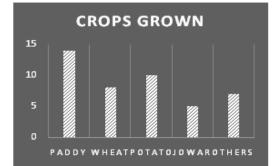


Findings:- People having agricultural land is (34). But the amount of land they having is not efficient for them to survive for the whole year and got engaged in growing crops in their fields.

Some of them (14) have not agricultural land and if so they just have 1 or 2 kathas of land. So it is one of the main reason for their migration to other place for work.

Table22. Crops grown

What crops are grown	Amount in quintals	%
Paddy	14	32
Wheat	8	18
Potato	10	23
Jowar	5	11
Others	7	16
Total	44	100



Findings: People having agricultural land used to grow different types of crops. Paddy and potato are the main crops.

Others crops like Wheat, Jowar, and vegetables are also grown in the agricultural field.

The economy of the village is also based on agriculture. But there is no any type of cold storage facilities.

Table23. Opinion about awareness of labour migration laws

Opinion	Frequency.	%
Yes	7	15
No	37	85
Total	44	100



Findings: Awareness about the laws of labour migration laws is very little among the people of Shalbari village. As maximum of the people left education and engaged in labour migration works.

But few people (7) have idea and were aware of the labour migration laws.

 Table24. Expectation for future

Opinion	Frequency.	%
Leave when sick	8	18
Increase wage	20	45
Reduce work loads	10	23
No idea	6	14
Total	44	100



Findings: Expectation for the future is of different kind.

A total of (20) people said that they expect for increase of wage in the future.

Whereas (10) people said to reduce the work load.

That is we can say that if the wage rate will be high they were ready to migrate to get employment.

8. MAJOR FINDINGS

- Maximum number of people in the village is engaged with labour migration process, specially the male population of different age group.
- Socio-economic condition of the village is based on agricultural practice as well as on people who were engaged in labour migration.

- Causes behind the labour migration.
- Impacts of labour migration on village economy.
- Knowledge of people about labour migration.
- Awareness among the people.
- Impacts of GST on people used to migrate for employment.
- Government rehabilitation programme for the betterment of conditions of labour migration.

9. LIMITATION

- Limited period of time to conduct the survey work. If sufficient time could be available then a detailed survey could be made on this topic.
- The location of the study area is far away from our university. So proper observation is not done.
- As the topic is on labour migration so during my survey some of them were at their destination place. As a result I have not get all of the people who were migrating.
- Secondary data is not there for the study area.

10. CONCLUSION

Labour migration have become a sheer reality in Bengal as well as India like many other developing countries, is one of the major socio-economic problems in our country. The working population, as a socio-economic group, happened to be the most suffered of migration. Because for survival of self and family members.

They are unwillingly or willingly forced to work for living. They are generally suffered from different conflicts, many times not even in cases of workplace accidents. Migrants with the compulsion of taking up work at early age do not get the proper supporting environment for their physical and mental development.

Many working people, especially males, are also subjected monetary conflict. Since the main reason for labour migrants to work is the family trend and economic hardship, it may be unwise to eliminate all forms of labour migration.

However, migrants should be preferred to do jobs, including constructional work, work in hotel, and agricultural work in their own areas.

In addition, work load and working hour, wage rate regulations should set and strictly enforced. And work safety regulations should be set and standardized for workers.

The awareness about labour migration should be popularised. Government rehabilitation programmes should be strictly maintained and applied.

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A SURVEY SCHEDULE FOR

"AN ANALYTICAL STUDY ON LABOUR MIGRATION IN SHALBARI VILLAGE, BOXIRHAT BLOCK OF COOCH BEHAR DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL"

Department of Geography, Vidyasagar University (2017-2018)

SL. NO.:-	Vill:-
Name: -	P.O:-
P.S:-	Date:-

Block: -

District: -

Family background

Name of family	Age	Gender	Marital status	Educational qualification	Occupation	Income
members						

Expenditure

Expenditure	Amount

Assets

Name	No	When purchase	Cause

Migration details

Cause of migration	Name of work	Kind of work	Destination place	Duration of stay	Starting age/year	Wage per month

Impacts of migration

At source place	At destination place

Work activity and working conditions

Working hour	Risk type	Payment mode	Health problem		
1. Are you satisfied wi	th this work? Yes	No			
-	r not? Yes				
3. Impact of GST on y					
4. Have you get any fa	cilities from government f	or rehabilitation program	me?		
	U	1 0			
5. Have you face any conflict with contractor/employer?					
6. What is your job wh	en you were at home?				
Name of work	Where you work	Income	Reason for work		
Agricultural details					
• Do you have agric	ultural land? Yes	NO			
If yes:-					
-					

Amount of land	Crops grown there	Who works for cultivation	Amount of production	Is that amount efficient

Knowledge about awareness programmers

1.	Are you aware about labour migration laws?
••••	
	Any expectation for betterment labour migration options?

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3. General opinion about impact of labour migration
4. Do you have heard about 100 days' work scheme? Are you interested to work in your area?
5. Special note.
DATE
PLACE
SIGNATURE:

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