



CHILDHOOD ON THE MOVE

Lives of young migrants
living in brick kilns



Changing the world through Education

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FOREWORD

In India close to 100 million people are seasonal migrants who are basically poor and disadvantaged unorganized labourers. They belong to and often migrate to cities and urban areas for seasonal employment. Children constitute 15-20% of the total seasonal migrant population who accompany their parents and live in various informal sectors such as brick kilns, construction sites, and stone crusher units.

These migrant children are invisible and undocumented and spend half of their lives in unhealthy, polluted, congested, dusty and unfriendly environment and get excluded from accessing basic services and entitlements.

Childhood on the move is a story about these children who suffer in silence and live a life of invisibility. It is an effort to highlight the plight of seasonal migrant children and engage and advocate for inclusive policies and programmes for the protection and welfare of internal migrant children.

Umi Daniel
Regional Head - Migration
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Informal estimate suggests that each year close to 100 million people migrate seasonally. As per UNESCO's 2013 report on Social Inclusion of Internal Migrants in India, children constitute around 15 percent of the total migrant population who work in semi urban locations as wage earners.



Lack of employment opportunities, poverty, destitution and debt force people to leave their village and migrate to urban areas to work as seasonal migrant labourers, in search of livelihood and survival.







Migrant children live a life of invisibility and are hardly figured out in any state run enumeration or survey.



Most often, working migrant women bring their small kids close to their workplace where worksite tools replace toys as playing materials for these children.

While parents work, migrant kids from an early age are left alone in their huts to take responsibility of the household chores.





Lack of nutritious food, medical care and poor living conditions make children fall into severe malnutrition related diseases.




Pollution, hazardous materials, open-dugouts unventilated house become the living environment of migrant children. Also, damp air, unsanitary conditions and inadequate nutrition prompt health issues in them.





Migrant children
dropout from schools
looking after their
siblings at the worksites
and work with their
parents for mere
survival and livelihood.





Adolescent girls get engaged in household activities or join the labour force risking their personal healthcare and hygiene need. Quite often they become the victims of gender based violence like sexual exploitation.





Children of migrant workers have a voice too.
It's time someone heard them!

To create an inclusive environment for the migrant children, Aide et Action has been collaborating with the government, NGOs and business houses in four states of India viz. Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Tamil Nadu. This collaborative effort endeavours to create a safe & healthy living environment for children living in various unorganized sectors like brick kilns, construction sites, stone crushers etc. so that they could get access to early childhood care & learning, education, and be protected from all kinds of violations.

Aide et Action in collaboration with Bernard van Leer Foundation has set up 65 worksite Child Care & Learning Centres (CCLC) in four cities- Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chennai and Hyderabad. A CCLC centre facilitates creative engagement with young migrant children enhancing their skills, learning, development and access to nutritional and health programmes in a temporary settlement.





The centres create favourable living conditions and school readiness of migrant children. It works on developing the cognitive and motor skills of children through a number of creative child centric activities.



Facilitators at the centres provide personal attention to each of the child, respecting their individual life context. They actively engage all children in conversations that encourage them to question, imagine and expand their thinking.



Crèches for children below 3 years helped working migrant mothers to drop their child with a care giver. Such day care centres provided care, nurturance and protected young migrants from various hazards.



Aide et Action link the migrant families with the local Primary Health Centres for preventive & curative diseases. It organises periodic immunization and health camps for children, pregnant women & lactating mothers.



Aide et Action create access to government run supplementary nutrition programme for young migrants and mothers at the worksites.



We organize working migrant mothers in the worksites and educate them about childcare, health, protection and need for education and safety of migrant children and adolescent girls.



Migrant children's access to education is a challenge. Aide et Action persuaded the government and created access to education in the neighbourhood schools closer to their place of stay at the destination.



To facilitate continuation of migrant children's education, Aide et Action created mechanism for mainstreaming them into their native school after their return to villages at the end of the migration season. It also enrolled them into the government run seasonal hostels to prevent them from further migration.



Aide et Action made efforts to provide exposure to migrant children with various learning institutions and creative centres. Children of a worksite were linked with Bakul Foundation in Bhubaneswar for enhancing their learning and creativity.



Unorganized workers need decent space for their children. Aide et Action demonstrated decent dwellings for migrants and their families at brick kilns, with the effort of a professional architect, to not just provide better opportunities to migrants but also to ensure safe and healthy living environment to their children.



Migrant children's issues are yet to take centre stage in the policy discourse. In India, changing phase of migration is increasing and as per estimate by 2030, half of the people will be living in cities.

Equal access to education, healthcare, nutrition and inclusion of migrants and children in urban areas will be a huge challenge.

We Care For Children
On The Move!

- Team Aide et Action International - South Asia

Migration Information & Resource Centre (MiRC)

Migration Information & Resource Centre (MiRC) is an approach of AEAI to support, facilitate, and provide critical support in grounding migration related interventions; build capacities and knowledge on the issue as well as support and strengthen policy advocacy initiatives.

It acts as a catalyst in research, information sharing, micro-level experimentations, networking and influencing policies at the national level and in various migration source and destination states and cities of India.

We work closely with academic institutions, government departments, and civil society organizations dealing with labour, education and rural development to engage in research and advocacy on social and economic, child rights and education issues surrounding migration.

We have partnered with the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Odisha and also with international agencies like UNICEF, ILO, Google Inc and Bernard van Leer Foundation in our effort to better the lives of poor migrant workers and children.

The Aide et Action regional offices have been reaching out to migrant children and making their access to education, pre-school, decent housing and mainstreaming of children back to school.



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Migration Information & Resource Centre (MiRC)

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