“WHY WE COME HOME”
Exploring Return Migration
Gogunda and Kelwada
RETURN MIGRATION

Classical definition: **Permanent and voluntary** return “home” to the source. The end of the migration trajectory. Natural part of the livelihood cycle throughout history.

“*Return migration is a relatively new area of migration that does not have a standard meaning in national or international policy or law.*” (International Organization for Migration, 2009).
JATAN, AAJEEVIKA BUREAU & RETURN MIGRATION

• Jatan/Railmagra Study:
• Surveyed 263 youth, identified 46% as returnee labor migrants.
• Significant pre-mature return of male youth, within productive age and ability
• Aajeevika Bureau took a step further to understand the universe and experiences of a returnee…
GOGUNDA & KELWADA
(Udaipur District)

Pilot study established criteria for survey sample; 17 to 35 years of age, minimum 6 months at destination with no intention of onward migration

- 90 surveys in Gogunda and Kelwada
- 6 Panchayats, 8 villages
- Contact with 110 Returnees
- Qualitative and Quantitative
- Series of standard and open ended questions
- Three Focus Group Discussions
- 5 Case Studies
- Significant focus on rapport/relationship building between investigator and interviewee

2010
AAJEEVIKA BUREAU NOTICED SOMETHING NEW…

• Observed a contrasting form of return migration → **IN VOLUNTARY**

• Seasonal labor migrants were being pulled back to the source due to unanticipated factors that impacted the security and regularity of the livelihood cycle.

• Triggered by a multitude of factors, including caste, location, trade, skill level, level of education, seasonal demands, crop yields, health status and the domestic situation of the migrant.
Who is the Returnee?

- 17-35 years old
- Minimum period of 6 months at destination
- Involuntary return due to unanticipated obstacles
- Intend to remain at source
FINDINGS...

Average age at First Migration: 17
Average age at return: 22 (minimum age 10, maximum 21)

- 83% of Returnees married
- Average, 1 child per returnee
- 84% own cultivable land
- 92% educated 4th standard and above

2010
THE UNIVERSE OF A RETURNEE
WHERE DID THEY GO?

First Migration Vs. Second migration

- Other
- Udaipur
- Ahmedabad
- Bombay
- Surat

Migrant Percentage (N=90)

2010
WHAT DID THEY DO?

First Migration Vs. Second Migration

- Other
- Udaipur
- Ahmedabad
- Bombay
- Surat

Migrant Percentage (N=90)

2010
WHY DO THEY RETURN?

- 33% Family health
- 22% Low wage/denied wage
- 14% Unable to Integrate
- 9% Personal health issues
- 7% Farm kaam
- 5% Self-enterprise
...AT THE SOURCE

• 16% Subsistence farming
• 13% Unemployed (time pass)
• 13% Daily wage labor (tractor driving, seasonal harvest)
• 10% Local construction
• 10% Self-Enterprise
• 5% NREGA

UTILIZATION OF SKILLS?
→ 28% used skills acquired as a migrant

2010

Lachi’ Ram Gamethi,
Gogunda, 25
RETURNEE VULNERABILITIES

• 20% are unable to re-migrate due to domestic demands/family health/personal health
• 13% Agriculture demands
• 12% Desire skill advancement/self-enterprise
• 8% Do not trust wage/income prospects at destination

34% stable livelihoods at source (retirees)
SIGNIFICANT RELATIONSHIPS

Wage \rightarrow Education

Wage \rightarrow Destination

Destination \rightarrow Integration

Caste \rightarrow Destination
# TARGET GROUPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vulnerable Returnee 49%</th>
<th>Invulnerable Returnee 34%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Low earning confidence</td>
<td>• Stable financial status</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Significant kheth/farm demands</td>
<td>• Relative success post-return</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Family health</td>
<td>• Stable health</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Require Skill acquisition</td>
<td>• Successful Transfer of skills</td>
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Invulnerable Returnees as a Resource to Vulnerable Returnees
VULNERABLE RETURNEES

- Build skill sets
- Focus on supporting families
- Rebuild confidence
- Encourage self-entrepreneurship via financial services
Returnee Words of Wisdom

1) Clarify your terms of employment, contract, rate of payment before performing any labor.

2) Find and work under a mentor. This will strengthen your chances of earning a higher income in the future, your job security and social connectivity.

4) Do not live alone and be wary of the water and the foods you eat, they can give you severe health problems.

5) **Stay in school as long as you are able**
THANK YOU!