

Dissemination of the Study “Protection of Children Affected by Seasonal Migration: A Study in Jalna District, Maharashtra”

The findings of the study conducted by IIPS titled "**Protection of Children Affected by Seasonal Migration: A Study in Jalna District, Maharashtra**" was disseminated and the study report was released on 22nd November 2022, by the Chief Secretary, Maharashtra at Mantralaya, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai, India. Following the release of the report, the findings of the study were presented and followed by a panel discussion of Principle Secretaries and other government officials of the concerned departments. Two major decisions were taken: (i) formation of an Apex committee to look at migration issues in Maharashtra and (ii) setting up a task force at state and district levels to develop a policy for migrants.

The study was a collaboration between the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, Government of Maharashtra, and UNICEF, Mumbai. The project aimed to study the issues, vulnerabilities, needs, and challenges related to education, health, nutrition, and protection of children affected by seasonal migration and to recommends sustainable solutions for strengthening policies and programmes for seasonal migrant families. The study adopted a qualitative approach and the study is unique as it places the voices and perceptions of children affected by seasonal migration at its core. These children face multi-dimensional issues, whether they stay-back or migrate with their parents, and are at increased risk of school dropout, malnutrition, child labour, child marriage, abuse, violence, and neglect. The seasonal migration of parents aggravates the already existing vulnerabilities of their children, raising concerns for their safety and protection of children especially for the girls.

The dissemination program, was attended by government officials including Mr. Manu Kumar Srivastava, Chief Secretary, Ms. Sujata Saunik, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, General Administration, Ms. I. A. Kundan, Principal Secretary, Women and Child Development, Ms. Vinita Vaid Singal, (IAS) Principal Secretary, Labour, Mr. Nand Kumar, Secretary of School Education and Sports, Mr. Shekher Gaikwad, Sugar Commissioner, Divisional Commissioner, Aurangabad, District Collector, Jalna, CEO of Chandrapur District; and other government officials attended the programme. Team of International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai included Prof. K. S James, (Director), Prof. R. B. Bhagat (Former professor and HoD), Prof. K. C. Das (professor and HOD), Prof. Archana K. Roy (professor), and IIPS research team. Team of UNICEF India Included Ms. Rajeshwari Chandrasekar (Chief, MFO).

Ms. Hyun Hee Ban, (Chief, SPME), and Ms. Vandana Kandhari (Child Protection Specialist), Ms. Alpa Vora (Child Protection Specialist), and Dr. Yamini Suvarana (UNICEF Consultant).

Some pictures of the dissemination programs are given below



Figure 1 : Official Launch of the Book by the Chief Secretary Mr. Manu Kumar Srivastava, Ms. Sujata Saunik, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, General Administration Department, Principal Secretary, Women and Child Development, Secretary, School Education and Sports, Prof James, Director and Sr Professor, IIPS, Ms. Rajeshwari Chandrasekar, Chief, UNICEF MFO, Prof R.B Bhagat, Former HoD, Dept of Migration and Urban Studies, IIPS.



Figure 2 : Panel Discussion on the recommendations of the study, policy directions



Figure 3 : Panel Discussion with the WCD, Labour , Education Department



Figure 4 IIPS and UNICEF Team