



'Work in Freedom': Evidence from Odisha, India
Participant Information Form, Community-based Research

Purpose of the study

The project, “‘Work in Freedom’: Evidence from Odisha, India” is an international research study looking at people’s opinions about - and experiences of - migrating for work within India. The study aims to create new evidence on how people understand and manage the risks and opportunities of this type of migration, and the kinds of policies and programmes that can help people, particularly women and adolescent girls, who might migrate for work.

Who will carry out the research?

The study is led by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, a University based in London, UK, in close collaboration with the Centre for Woman’s Development Studies, a Research Institute based in Delhi, India. Funding for this study has been provided by the Department for International Development, UK. The research team are also working closely with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Self-Employed Women’s Association (SEWA).

What will the research involve?

As part of this research we will carry out a census survey in 20 villages in Ganjam district, Odisha. One member of every household in each of these 20 villages will be invited to participate in the census survey. The census survey will ask some short questions about the people who usually or sometimes live in the household as well as some questions about the household in general. This census survey will take around 15 minutes to complete.

Around a quarter of households who take part in the census-survey will be asked to take part in a second, longer survey. This second survey will take place around one month after the census-survey. We will use a computer to randomly choose households to participate in the second survey. Whether your household is selected for the second survey will be up to chance. The second survey will take 60 to 90 minutes to complete.

The second survey will ask questions about all household member’s work histories, migration, memberships and affiliations, participation in government and NGO programmes, income, outgoings, assets, housing, and education. The second survey will also ask some more detailed questions about one working-age couple in each household. One woman and one man in each household (where both are available) will be asked about their future plans, and about their experiences of - and attitudes to - work, migration, and family/community relations.

Some of the people who take part in the second survey will also be asked to take part in some conversation-style interviews. These interviews will help us to learn more about people’s experiences and opinions of the topics raised in the surveys. Each conversation-style interview will take 45 to 60 minutes to complete. We will audio record interviews, with participant’s permission. We plan to conduct interviews with the same people up to four times over the next 18 months. The first time will be in the next few weeks or months. There will be a break of around six months between each interview.

We also plan to carry out interviews with a number of local officials and policy-makers. We will also interview staff and volunteers directly involved in the implementation of the Work in Freedom programme in Odisha.

What happens to the data that is collected?

After the surveys and the interviews are finished we will translate the information into English, organise it in computer software, and write articles and reports about what we have learnt. Some written articles and reports will be published in hard (paper) copy, and some will be available on the internet. We will also tell other researchers and interested groups about the findings in face-to-face meetings. The information collected during the study will be stored on a computer in India and the UK for ten years after the completion of this project.

How is participants' confidentiality maintained?

No names, addresses, or other identifying features of the research participants and study areas will be made public. No individual person, household, or village will be named in any of the published data-files, research articles, reports, and presentations. We will take steps to make sure that no person or community can be identified by anyone who is not a member of the research team. All electronic files containing identifying information will be stored on password protected devices. All paper documents containing identifying information will be stored in locked filing cabinets. A separate code sheet identifying made up names that protect respondent's identities (called 'pseudonyms') will be securely stored separately from the data. If you prefer that the comments you make in the conversation-style interviews are attributed to you, you can request this in writing. We can assist you with this if you notify us that it is your preference.

If you have any concerns about confidentiality now, or at any time during the study, then please tell us and we will explain things further.

What happens next?

We want to invite you to take part in this study. You do not need to agree to take part now. You can take some time to think about it, and to talk about it with your family, friends, and neighbours if you wish.

If you have any questions about the research you can ask us now, or we can arrange to come back in a few days time once you have had more time to think about it.

Will I be paid for participating in the research?

We are not able to offer payment to study participants for their time and contributions. We will try to minimise any disruption that participation might cause by arranging to meet at a time and place that is convenient for you.

What happens if I want to take part in the study?

If you agree to take part in the study we will arrange a time to come back that is convenient to you and your household members. We can meet at your home or at another nearby place if you prefer. We will ask to meet with you between one and three times over the next two months. If you are selected to take part in the conversation-style interviews, we will visit you three more times in the next 18 months.

What happens if I do not want to take part in the study?

Participation in this study is completely voluntary. You do not need to agree to take part if you don't want to. You do not need to give any reasons for refusing to take part. Even if you agree to take part in the study you remain completely free to withdraw at any time, without providing a reason and without detriment.

Do I benefit from participating in the study?

As researchers, we cannot provide services or help directly to people, families or communities. We hope that the knowledge we gain from the people who take part in the study will be useful to government officials, donor agencies, and non-governmental organisations involved in developing and modifying policies and programmes to improve people's lives in this region.

If you need any support on any question related to women's, workers', or migrants' issues we can help you to get in contact with a local group that can offer assistance or guidance.

You can contact us with any questions or concerns you may have about the survey by text or phone. Our project mobile phone number is: [number redacted for online]

If you have any concerns regarding this study that you would prefer not to discuss with members of the research team, or if you want to make a formal complaint about the conduct of the research, then please contact:

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