From the Desk of State Program Co-ordinator...

It's been more than six months that we have initiated the community level interventions by JATN members in the project locations on the new approaches of Safe Migration and Stop Trafficking. The initial community based interventions have exposed with mixed reactions, some community were taking positively and are ready to accept the two new ideas and approaches but in some community and particular the local stakeholders is opposing the thought. We all being a grass root level organization understand it well that it is bound to happen. May be the communities initial experiences of migrants and also due to the very thought that women should not migrate as it brings shame to the family, society and the state.

But what very clearly learned out from the community intervention that JATN need to work on customizing the information to all the target groups that will be articulated to meet the need and aspirations of various target groups involved in the community intervention process.

I am pleased to share the collective effort of the JATN members through this newsletter.

Highlights of 2nd Core Committee Meet

Second Core Committee Meet was organized on 2nd of May, 2016 to discuss about the status of the activities at the grass root level of the Network partners and giving a systematic process to regulate better functioning of the Network. Focus was laid on giving a collective vision on the Safe Mobility Concept in the State.

Establishing Information Centre on pilot basis was also a key point of discussion. It was decided that Information Centre will be established in the AHTU premises and in those districts where AALI is directly working. Thus at the end Chaibasa and Khunti was the selected districts for piloting the information centre.

Analyzing situation through survey

There is no convincing information or data available on Migration and trafficking of Women from Jharkhand. The lack of data makes impossible to develop strategies to combat trafficking and unsafe migration.

Thus the network is conducting Household Survey and Indepth study of 13 prone Migration Panchayats areas of 13 different districts of Jharkhand. The former is done to capture simple quantity information like number of people in the household, ages, caste, whether or not anyone in the household has migrated, when, and to what state while the latter is conducted to get the quality information of the vulnerabilities and concerns of migrant workers.

Exposure Visit To Adhikar Ngo, Bhubaneswar

One of the important activities of JATN includes exposure visit to organization that is effectively working on Safe Migration and Trafficking so that it would give a platform for the team to expand their understanding on the issue. This year the 13 Second Line Leaders of JATN got an opportunity to visit to ADHIKAR NGO, Bhubaneswar from 1st June-3rd June 2016 which is working with the migrant labour workers in the context of protecting their rights.

The visit provided the partners a platform to share, interact and learn from each other. It allowed them to
view the best practices adopted by the organization for Safe Migration and community based prevention of exploitation. The visit instilled a sense of enthusiasm and motivation among the second line leaders as they are able to see the process and the results of migrating safely for work.

DISCUSSION ON BIILS

TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS (PREVENTION, PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION ) BILL 2016

The Minister of Women and Child Development Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi released the draft of “Trafficking of Persons Bill 2016” on 30th June 2016 for stakeholders’ consultations and suggestions. After it got released JATN invited women and child led organizations of Jharkhand for a discussion on the bill to give their inputs and feedbacks.

The Bill was intensively discussed in two Platforms:

I) JATN partners as well as some of the Jharkhand based organization working on the issues of Women and Children like Save the Children, Diya Seva Sanstha, Bal Sakha, Action Aid, Mrignaini Community Members were invited for the discussion on 10th June 2016. The changes and the feedback from the discussion was shared with the State.

II) JATN was invited to share the flaws of the bill by CREA where organization from Bihar , Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand had participated.

III) At the state level, Jharkhand Department of Women and Child Development (JWDS) had organized a discussion on the Bill where JATN Network partners were invited for their active participation and feedback on the Bill.

After discussing it in three platforms the feedbacks and comments was shared with the Central.

DRAFT NATIONAL POLICY OF WOMEN 2016

The discussion involved JATN members along with local partners and activists with a focus to look in the policy in Jharkhand context so that issues affecting women in Jharkhand gets a space. The suggestions from the discussions were shared with the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

INFORMATION CENTRE

With the approved consensus of the core committee second meet organized on 2nd May 2016, two Information Centre in pilot basis will be established in Khunti and Chaibasa District of Jharkhand.

The Information centre in general will provide migrating women with the information related to safer migration, the process of registration in the Labour Department, information of various government related schemes, information of destination along with the minimum wage rate set up by the government as well, legal provisions etc.

The concept note for the same has been developed and shared with the network partners.
GLIMPSE OF COMMUNITY WORK

The technical unit team of JRC made a visit to 11 Network Partners to explore and understand the community and stakeholders at the grass root level. Since we are in the initial stage of grass root intervention, noted changes were observed like through meetings and awareness women are now coming forward with the problems like no wages, long working hours, ill treatment of employers etc.

Sukarmani 26 yrs from Hazaribagh says “If I will get good amount of pay outside Jharkhand then I will certainly go.” While Purnima Lakra from Tukupani village of Simdega says, “If a girl wishes to go outside and work then she should go as it is her choice and moreover her right.”

Stigmatization of domestic work among the target groups came into highlight where it was very important for the second line leaders to deliver the message that all it matters was any kind of work or labour that in return gives you money. Attaching dignity to type of work can make a domestic worker, brick klin labour feel embarrass and ashamed about their work.

The involvement of stakeholders like ANM, Sahiya, Ward Member, Mukhiya during the meetings have somewhat made them think that by stopping migration they are generally violating the right to mobility; the need for the family to migrate because of the unavailability of options in the village. Sensitizing them on Safe Migration has helped to reach out to the maximum in the community and even helpful for the advocacy.

CUSTOMIZED INFORMATION

The field visit conducted by JRC team brought light to the need for the customized information to different target groups (adolescents, women, migrants, returnee, PRI) at the grass root level. The information transmitted was in general in the community but there was need based awareness essential for each target group. Thus the team is working on developing a module for the same.

VISITS

The network visibility has started to bring the visitors from different parts of the world to understand the work of JATN in promoting Safe Migration and to combat Trafficking.

On 30th December we had visitors from Freedom Fund and Geneva Global to have a glimpse of our work. The meeting brought an insight to the visitors about the region wise migration pattern of Jharkhand and the ongoing activities implemented at the grass root level. Valuable inputs for the study tools were also shared that would provide deeper analysis in understanding and mapping the vulnerability of migrant women labourers.

JATN PARTNERS QUARTERLY MEET

2nd quarterly meet with the First Line Members of JATN was conducted on 21st July 2016. The main objectives of the meet was to discuss the quarterly progress of the network, sharing of feedbacks on
the field visit conducted by JRC team members, feedbacks given by the representatives of SAWF and Oak Foundation and the strategies to be developed on the same.

Establishing Information Centre on pilot basis is one of the major activity of the JATN. Each member had their own point of view on the concept of Information Centre. Few assumed that the Information Centre were persons itself carrying information on Safe Migration in the community while others believed that it was a physical structure established either in the district or block level, railway station where the community people especially the migrants would easily come and seek the information. There was another question whether the information centre will be established at district level or block level. The participants after detailed discussion came to the consensus that Information Centre will be a structure built at a block level where migrating women could easily access the safe migration, government related schemes, legal provisions information, from the centre.

One of the main objectives of JATN is the evidence based advocacy with the government, media to promote Safe Migration. There are numerous stories of women migrants who have benefitted from migration. They are earning well and are able to strengthen their family financially, education wise etc. These stories of successful migration need to be captured and documented. The participants were particularly told to identify those families in their work area and share their stories to JRC so that it would be a tool for advocacy.

After the field visits conducted by JRC there was a felt need to upgrade the questioning skills in terms of case work and fact finding so that qualitative report will be developed. Thus the date for the Refresher training on Case Work and Fact finding for the Second Line Leaders was finalized on 22nd and 23rd of August, 2016.

**STORY OF TWO SISTERS**

Ratiya Marandi 45 years residing from Naukanya village of Pirnad Panchayat, Giridih district was facing a difficult time to run his family. He and wife worked hard as a daily labourers in others field so that they could survive and support the education of their two young daughters. Unfortunately owing to family circumstances, two sisters Leela and Runiya who were only 14 and 13 years forcibly left for Dhanbad in the year 2011 to work as a caretaker in a family but unfortunately they were not paid for their work. Both fled from there and came to search for work in Giridih town. While searching for job they came across a lady named Niti Khatri. She promised to employ them as domestic maid in Delhi which was her in-laws place.

Leela 19, the elder sister proudly says “We earn Rs.3000 per month each and this has really helped to stable the condition of our family. We both are treated well by our “Maalik and Maalkin” whom we now address as “Maa and Papa”. They are like family to us.”

Runiya 18, the younger one says “ We have a separate room for us and even we get time to rest and watch television.”

Badki Devi (mother) says “I have even been to Delhi to meet my daughters. We often talk over the phone. We really get concerned when they become sick but our daughters say that the family takes very good care of them and tells us not to worry. We are very happy because they are safe.”

The second Line leader of JATN have asked the two sisters to register themselves in the Panchayat so that if they face any kind of problem in future while working than they would be able to contact them. The two sisters had come home for a short vacation and they would return back to their work.