

# CASTE, LABOUR AND MIGRATION

*A Study of Balangir District*



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**KUNAL BOOKS**

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## PREFACE

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Balangir district is an important region of western Odisha so far as the migration of labourers from tribals and lower castes are concerned. The most sufferers are the service provider castes if the social, economic and political concerns are taken into account in the rural areas. The service provider classes are the Schedule Caste (SCs) and tribal people of Balangir district migrating for the entire year, some time twice (seasonal migration) and some times thrice in a year. Migration in Balangir district is mostly understood as 'Dadan' and this system has been in practice since a long time. Many years have passed since the independent of the country but the district is still a largely feudal and agricultural region of Odisha. The climate change effects have induced large scale human migration which is both intra-state and inter-state. This change in climate is responsible for problems like water shortage, overcrowding, unemployment, pollution and poverty. Therefore, undivided Balangir district in western Odisha has received extensive media attention in the Country today. Still nothing concrete has been done in this regard to overcome the problem.

The attempts made by Priya Deshinker (Labour Migration and Policy Reform in Orissa, 2009), M.Rajshekhar (Why Lakhs of People Leave Odisha to Work in Distant Unsafe Brick Kilns, 2015), many scholars like *Deepak Kumar Nanda, (Development History and Distress Migration of Scheduled Caste Households : Understanding the Dynamics in Balangir District of Odisha, 2018)*, Roshni Kujur (Underdevelopment and Patterns of Labour Migration: A Reflection from Balangir District, Odisha,2019), Pravas Mishra and Tiago Wandschneider ( The Rule of Small Towns in Balangir District, India: A Village Level Perspective, 2003), MP Singh (Out-Migration and the Cycle of Exclusion: A Study on Construction Workers Families in Balangir , Odisha, 2016) R Bandyapadhyay, A N Mukherjee ( Impact Assessment of Poverty Alleviation Programmes from Human Rights Perspective: A Case Study of Balangir District, Orissa, India, 2004), M Nayak (Drought, Agriculture and Rural Livelihood: A Case Study of Balangir District, Orissa,2005), A Mukherjee ( Hunger :Theory, Perspective and Reality-2017) and R Pramanik (Knowledge Cultures, 2018) do not reflect the facts of the

caste , labour and migration problems of Balangir district. This work therefore, is the first humble attempt to bring out the facts in their right perspective. This work has been divided into the following six chapters.

-the first chapter begins with the introduction of caste, labour and migration of Balangir district.

-historical background of Balangir district has been highlighted in the second chapter.

-the third chapter deals with the socio-economic condition of Balangir.

-the fourth chapter of this book describes the labour and the labourer in the district.

-the fifth chapter describes Migration-Factors and their Impacts

and the last chapter which is the concluding chapter sums up the findings with some possible remedial suggestions.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to Prem Singh Bisht of Kunal Books, New Delhi, India for their valued support to design and Bringing out this book in time.

*Sadananda Nayak*

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# CONTENTS

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<i>Preface</i>	<i>v</i>
<i>List of Tables</i>	<i>ix</i>
<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>xi</i>
<i>List of Photographs</i>	<i>xiii</i>
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	<i>xv</i>
<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. Historical Background of Balangir District</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>3. Socio-Economic Conditions of Balangir</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>4. Labour and Labourer in Balangir</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>5. Migration-Factors and Impacts</b>	<b>132</b>
<b>6. Conclusion</b>	<b>181</b>
<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>196</b>
<b>Glossory</b>	<b>219</b>
<b>Photographs</b>	<b>222</b>
<b>Index</b>	<b>232</b>