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STATUS OF BRICK KILN WORKERS: A STUDY ON SOME SELECTED BRICK KILNS IN KALIABOR UNDER NAGAON DISTRICT OF ASSAM

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Abstract:

The working population of the brick manufacturing sector has several labour issues like security threat, discomfort working conditions, migrating work force, seasonal employment, occupational hazards, child labor, poor wages and non-implementation of various provisions of factories Act etc. The different social security schemes present in the State system for the labourers of unorganized sector even its impact on grass root level was very less or not identical. As a result, the negative outcomes of brick manufacturing found the violation of human rights in the working premises of the industry. This bonded conception of labour force working in the informal unorganized sector is determined by modern form of slavery. The present study is designed to describe the status of the working population in the brick kiln in terms of wages, housing infrastructure, working condition, health status, security arrangement, child labour, and factors of migration as well as the nature of migration of brick kiln workers in Kaliabor sub-division, Nagaon District of Assam.

Key words: Brick kiln worker, working condition, health status, child labour, nature of migration and brick manufacturing industry.

1. Introduction:

Brick manufacturing industry is one of the intensive informal unorganized sectors and it has a huge contribution for increasing the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in India. It is predominantly a rural industry and belongs to small and industrial sector. This industry is characterized by short duration, instability and poor technology. Working population of this sector has several labour issues like security threat, discomfort working conditions, migrating work force, seasonal employment, occupational hazards, child labor, poor wages and non implementation of various provisions of factories Act. There are different provisions in the International Charter/law/declaration; State Constitution and different social security schemes in the State system for the labour of unorganized sector or especially for brick kiln workers but its impact on grass root level was very less or not identical. That is the reason may be the workers problems did not abolish from the brick manufacturing sector even today. It is to be pointed out that the workers are the important part of man power resources in brick manufacturing. The work pressure of this unorganized sector is always very high resulted heavy and discomfort situation can create several health problems of brick workers too. However, instead of looking the emerging problems of the workers, the owners of brick kilns has shown too much of interested on to expand their business area with high grade of brick making. As negative outcomes of brick manufacturing found the violation of human rights in the working premises of the industry. The brick kiln workers do not have adequate shelter, drinking water, toilet facilities and even lack of basic minimum security arrangement although they constitute 92 percent of the total workforce in the country. Hence, the present study is designed to describe the status of the working population in the brick kiln in terms of wages, housing infrastructure, working condition, health status, security arrangement, child labour, and factors of migration as well as the nature of migration of brick kiln workers in some selected brick kilns in Kaliabor sub-division under Nagaon District of Assam.