**DB4M Ministry with Migrants in India**

**A Framework for Action**

Don Bosco for Migrants, All-India initative for migration, warmly welcome His Grace Alwyn Dsilva, FABC, Fr.Santiagu, Provincial of Hyderabad and Incharge of Don Bosco for Migrants for south Asia, Fr.Joe Prabhu, the Executive Director of Don Bosco for Young at Rsik, south asia, Fr.Jaison Vadassery, the Director for CCBI, migrants, Fr.George , the director for CBCI for labour and all the delegates of SDBs, other relgiios, ngos and tradeunions

I am here to brief you on the Frame work for DB Salesian mininstry with Migrant s In India.

**Our Father and Founder Don Bosco**

Between 1845 and 1870, Turin experienced a significant shift from pre-industrialization, characterized by artisans’ crafts and cottage industries, to the emergence of mid-sized businesses in the textiles and mechanical sectors. This transition created new job opportunities. During this period, a steady influx of young immigrants seeking employment became a defining feature of Turin. These youths came from rural farm villages and market towns, They werr often as young as 11 or 12 years old, arrived in Turin in search of immediate job placement. Unfortunately, educational opportunities in their home regions had been extremely limited. As they sought their first employemtn – into the most menial and undesirable jobs, particularly in the construction industry, which were often difficult and poorly compensated.

Don Bosco reached out to these immigrant youths became part of the working class, specifically the underclass of Turin's labor force. They faced significant marginalization, lacking both material and moral support. He saw the plight of their working and living conditions. He himself started mediating with the employers, agents, to the extent of writing working agreement. His first work contract agreement is preserved.

**Salesians in India**

Our origins trace back to the migrant children ministry established in the 1980s. The Don Bosco Fathers began reaching out to children living on the streets, creating shelters near railway and bus stations. Children from various states across India were found in major cities such as Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai, and Bangalore. Currently, we are supporting over one lakh children through Child Care Institutions (CCIs) across India.

The foundation for our migration ministry can be traced to the National YaR Seminar on the theme “Migrant Youth/Children in the Unorganized Sector,” which was held in Guwahati in March 2012. This theme was revisited in February 2015 as part of the broader theme “Reaching the Unreached - the 18+ Young at Risk” for the YaR National Seminar of 2016.

At the Don Bosco Bicentennial Salesian Family Congress in September 2015, a call was made for the entire Salesian Family to unite in addressing the concerns of migrants in India. This call was promptly taken up by the Salesian Provincial Conference of South Asia (SPCSA) for follow-up action.

**DB4M**

The All India initiative of the Don Bosco Organisation, known as Don Bosco for Migrants (DB4M), focuses on the safety, well-being, and dignity of migrant workers in India. DB4M reaches out to vulnerable internal migrants across various sectors, including construction, brick kilns, loaders and unloaders, housekeeping, domestic work, garment manufacturing, sanitation, massage parlors, spas, malls, salons, and the hotel industry.

Currently, we operate 43 migrant help desks across India, with 33 managed by the Don Bosco Fathers and the remaining desks run by other religious organizations and NGOs. Payanam, suraksha, etc

**Networking Partners**

DB4M includes collaboration and networking with church, religious, ngos, movement and tradeunions. Religious congregations in our network are – CBCI, CCBI, Diocese migrant commissions, OMIs, SAJ, Jesuits, Sacred Heart brothers, OFM, SVD,FMA, MSMHC, UFC, Save Tiruppur, Ajeevika bureau, Apna schools, pratham,Surat, Nirman mazdoor panchayat sangh, Delhi, Uorgnaised workers federation, TN, National Federation Unorganised and migrant workers, Delhi, Bandkam Shramik Sankalan SamitiVipulji, Gujarat, UP

**State/District level protection forums**

To bring in inclusiveness, integration, stand with migrants who are in emergencies, conflict, hate, xenophobia, police atrocities, drinking water, sanitation, shelter, education and health – State /District level migrant protection forums been established in Chennai, Coimbatore, tirupur, salem, AP, Telenganna, Vadodara, Delhi, Meghalaya, Guwahati, and Nagaland. There 200 ngos, religious, government labour allied departments, and trade unions in this forum.

**Source and destination connect**

 Safety, wellbeing and dignity of the vulnerable migrants approach needs not only in the destination. Source and destination states to be focuessed for the right of migrants. MoUs between states labour, education, health – compulsory registeration in the source in labour, health, bank, aadhar– predeparture counselling in the source, province & partners, source and destination connect for followup, emergencies, death etc.

Inter states consultations for the above challenges– Goa and the North east states, Tamilnadu and Odissa, Maharshtra and Assam, North east with Bangalore, Chennai, Tirupur and Kerala and WBengal. Identifying existing Northeast, Adivasis, Dalits Association in destination towards safety, welllbein and dignity.

**Networking Partners**

DB4M collaborates with various organizations, including:Church and religious organizations: CBCI, CCBI, Diocese Migrant Commissions, OMIs, SAJ, Jesuits, Sacred Heart Brothers, OFM, SVD, FMA, MSMHC, UFC, Save Tiruppur, Ajeevika Bureau, Apna Schools, Pratham, Surat Nirman Mazdoor Panchayat Sangh, Delhi, Uorganised Workers Federation, TN, National Federation of Unorganised and Migrant Workers, Delhi, and Bandkam Shramik Sankalan SamitiVipulji, Gujarat.Over 200 organizations are part of the State/District level migrant protection forums.

**State/District Level Protection Forums**

To promote inclusiveness and integration, DB4M has established State/District level migrant protection forums in: Chennai, Coimbatore, Tirupur,Salem, AP, Telengana, Vadodara, Dwarka, Mehalaya, Guwahati, NagalandThese forums bring together 200 NGOs, religious organizations, government labor departments, and trade unions.

**Source and Destination Connect**

To ensure the safety, wellbeing, and dignity of vulnerable migrants, DB4M focuses on both source and destination states. This includes:Compulsory registration in the source state for labor, health, bank, and Aadhar purposes, Pre-departure counseling in the source state, MoUs between states on labor, education, and health issues, Source and destination connect for follow-up, emergencies, and deaths. DB4M also conducts inter-state consultations to address challenges faced by migrants. These consultations have been held between: Goa and North East states,Tamil Nadu and Odisha, Maharashtra and Assam, North East states with Bangalore, Chennai, Tirupur, and Kerala and WBengal.

**24x7 All India Helpline**

The 24x7 All India Helpline is a dedicated support system for young migrant workers across India. The helpline number is 9642 373 372, and it is available in 11 languages - Tamil, Hindi, Telugu, Kannada, Konkani, English, Assamese, Nagamese, Manipuri, and Gujarati. Additionally, the helpline has 22 call reeivers across India. This service is designed to provide speedy actions and follow-ups to ensure that the concerns of migrant workers are addressed promptly. Introduced in 2019 as part of DB4M, the helpline has established desks in various locations across the country, including Chennai, Tiruppur, Bangalore, Kerala, Hyderabad, Odisha, Mumbai, Kolkata, Goa, Delhi, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Assam, and Dimapur. Through this platform, migrant workers can report grievances and seek assistance for their labour rights violations.DB4M also collaborates with other Migrant Helpline services, including India Labourline, MAIN (Migrant Action and Information Network), and state labour department Migrant Helplines.

For 2023-24, the helpline has reached out to 190 male workers and 26 female workers, providing support and assistance to address their concerns. In addition, the helpline has received compensation of ₹3,53,000 for labour rights violations and ₹21,00,000 for the death of migrant workers.

**Comprehensive Legislation for Informal Workers**

As you know the NDA government came up with 44 Central Legislations and over a hundred laws enacted by the States, were to be replaced with Industrial realtions, wages, social security and occupational health and safety. Labour law and policy in India has been designed for formal labour, where work arrangements are characterized by a single, identifiable employer, an employer-employee relationship, and a designated workplace. Areas where informal workers, or different sectors within informal work deserve special attention, and separate legislations designed to cover the requirements of the nature of their work? Informal workers collectives of tradeunions, school of law Bangalore prepared a separate bill for different sectors in the unorganized workers and also presented to INDIA alliance parties before election.

**Thanks.** Migration is a significant issue that requires our collective effort. All of us gathered here must work in unison to develop a robust labor framework for migrant and informal workers. This workshop aims to unite you all to address the challenges faced by migrants and to advocate for policy-level changes in India. Let’s collaborate and network to make a meaningful impact.