

## Residential Care Centres in Odisha: Lokadrusti

Starting with a pilot in 2004 with the support of the American Indian Foundation (AIF) New Delhi, Lokadrusti set up seven seasonal hostels in seven of the most migration prone villages in the Khariar Block of Nuapada district, which experiences frequent distress migration of families to brick kilns in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Between 2004 and 2012 Lokadrusti opened 168 seasonal hostels in the migration-prone villages of Nuapada district, preventing the migration of 4,671 children (3,032 boys and 1,634 girls), and subsequent dropping out of school.

During the reporting period, three batches of migrant children have successfully completed higher secondary examination (class 12) with merit, and many have been enrolled in colleges. In addition to this, 2,153 migrant children have been reintegrated into their native schools through bridge courses. Figures from Lokadrusti show that by June 2012 they had been able to give learning support to 11,594 children.

The seasonal hostel approach that started on a pilot basis has become a successful model for the District Primary Education Programme, *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* (SSA). These seasonal hostels are called 'Residential Care Centres' (RCC) by the SSA authority and are maintained in the existing government schools of the respective villages, with the support of village SHGs, school teachers, sub inspectors of schools and Panchayati Raj Institution members.

Though it was difficult initially to convince parents to leave their children behind, parents now voluntarily bring their children to the Residential Care Centres. Lokadrusti firmly believes that the dropout rate of children has been reduced on account of RCCs and the bridge courses provided by them.

Source: American India Foundation ([www.aif.org](http://www.aif.org)); Lokadrusti ([www.lokadrusti.org](http://www.lokadrusti.org))  
Social Inclusion of Internal Migrants in India, UNESCO, 2013

