



In recent years, the migration of workers from North Indian states like Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand and North Eastern states like Assam is increasing and constitute 15% to 35% of the textile workers. In the Tamil Nadu garment and textile industry, there is a system of contractual employment of young, adolescent girls, mostly aged 16 and above. This practice of employing young female workers, known as **Sumangali** (or known by some other names) Scheme, contravenes the international standards, as established in the Palermo Protocol and borders on 'trafficking'. Exporters are strongly denying the existence of Sumangali practices in the textile and garment sector, while they admit the presence of the hostel facilities for migrant workers, which is called 'camp coolie system'.

READ - which has been working for implementation of better standards of workers in textiles and garment workers, realised that there is an urgent need to understand the situation of migrant workers, approached **Partners in Change** to undertake the study among migrant workers at the source area (Odisha) as it has been difficult to contact the migrant workers in Tamil Nadu.



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BUSINESSES 'REINVENT' SERVITUDE

Understanding The Status Of Female Migrant Labour
 From Odisha In The Tamil Nadu Garment Industry



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