1. Name of the Initiative:
Seasonal hostels for educational continuum of children of migrating families

2. Objective (Need of the initiative or challenges faced before the implementation of the initiative)
➤ Discontinuity in the studies of the children when they seasonally migrate with the families for more than three months.   ➤ Difficulty in making them become regular after the break during the time the children have migrated to different location with the families.   ➤ Difficulty in enrolling them in schools in the destination where the parents migrate to because many a times the location keep changing.

3. Coverage of the initiatives (Details of coverage of the targeted population eg. State, District, block, cluster, school, student, teacher, parents etc.)
The main beneficiaries of this initiative are students and their families. In the year 2019-20, a total of 31,139 students have been reached out to by means of 696 seasonal hostels run across the state Through School management committee. 44 hostels with the intact capacity of 50 children have been constructed from the fund of the state government in 8 tribal and 6 salt pan area districts.

4. Description of the Initiative including innovative aspects of the solution

In order to ensure that the continuity of the students whose families migrate during a particular period of the year for economic reasons, it was decided that the families should be convinced to move while leaving the children behind to stay in the seasonal hostels or schools. The two ways in which the students are supported to stay back is to either convert the existing primary school in a hostel post school hours and second is to construct hostel buildings in the upper primary/ secondary schools where there was available land for the construction in the campus of the school itself. The creation of seasonal hostels and converting schools into hostels has had very positive impact on ensuring that students continue to study and hence their learning levels don't drop during the period of seasonal migration.

The challenge has been in convincing the parents to leave the children behind while they migrate to new locations. Following initiatives have been taken to convince them for the same-

➤ Involving SMCs of the schools very actively in the process. SMC members could best convince the parents to leave their children behind.
➤ Assuring the parents of the facilities available to the students while they will be on their own. Also ensuring that the Bal mitras placed there would take good care of the students.
➤ Allowing elder siblings of some young students to stay back too so that the younger

ones can get proper support and care.

➢ Encouraging the students to have healthy routines of playing, self study, etc post school hours so that they enjoy their stay without the parents.

➢ Tracking of the Migration pattern(Migration monitoring System)

➢ Sharing best practices and examples of success stories of students who have benefitted and performed really well in the past.

5.	Date of Launch of the initiatives/ Start date of the initiative

1st October 2010

6.	Implementation details (Process followed for deployment/implementation)

➢ For this, a month or two before the major migration of the families of a particular block begins, the Block coordinators of STP branch along with the CRCs and the schoolteachers' collective ask the parents to apply for the hostel facilities. They also mobilize the parents and create a list of the students who wish to stay back.

➢ Each case is studied, and the requirement is shared with the state office based on the number of children who are willing to stay back in the hostels during the migration period.

➢ Based on the approval of the state, the seasonal hostels and the schools are made ready for the stay. The cook and Bal Mitras are appointed for creating the spaces ready for the state and to be there till the families return.

➢ Based on the guidelines from the state, the schedule of the children post school hours, food, cleanliness and hygiene and availability of main daily requirements are planned and ensured.

➢ The Block coordinators and CRCs ensure regular visits to the hostel to ensure that the students are benefitting really well from the programme and are learning well.

➢ The block coordinators also ensure that the basic materials for running the hostels are available and utilized as per the plan.

➢ Monitoring and positive supervision visits are ensured by the district and state team members.

7.	Challenges faced during the deployment/implementation

Initially it was difficult to convince the parents to trust the officials in leaving their children behind while they move to other cities for work. Regular community contact and the help of SMCs and school head teachers really supported in convincing the parents for availing the seasonal hostel facilities.

Funds are also one of the challenges. Though the government is trying to support the complete cost and ensure quality living during the period students are in hostels, more expenditure is to be made to ensure that the students have a more comfortable stay. This requires an increase in the allotted budget.

8.	Outcomes/Impact of the initiative

The following are the outcomes of the initiative-

- ➤ Reduction in drop out of the students.
- ➤ Better learning levels as the continuity of attendance is ensured.
- ➤ Improvement in overall personality and autonomy of the students as they stay together in a group and undertake their daily activities independently.
- ➤ Peer and group learning.
- ➤ Students learn important life skills like problem solving, conflict resolution, helping each other, negotiation, taking their responsibilities, etc while they stay independent of the parents.
- ➤ Parents are more assured of the learning of their children and it is easier for them to move to different places for work while the children are not along.

9.	Documents/media related to initiatives (Submit any of the below as a documentary proof with short description on the same)
	a. Testimonials
	b. Quotes from stakeholders
	c. Press release
	d. Video/Audio

e. Others