

Migrating Laborers and their Challenges

Migration for employment purposes is not a new phenomenon, but one that has grown and gained greater international attention in recent years. Migration of skilled workers have often been encouraged by developed countries. While migration of unskilled workers, i.e. laborers have been controversial as they are often subjected to fraud, mistreat, harassment, abuse by their employers. Management of labour migration are now acknowledged as central issues of concern for a number of western and middle east countries. This has affected the developing countries like Bangladesh where remittances from migrant labors represent a significant portion of foreign exchange earnings.

As per the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), a migrant worker is a person, who is to be engaged, or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which he or she is not a national and due to this very fact, they face discrimination with regards to basic human rights.

Migrant workers often do not enjoy ready access to legal protection or redress, making them particularly susceptible to exploitation and face difficulty in obtaining adequate housing, health care and other social services. They are often vulnerable to racism, xenophobia and discrimination.

Migrant workers are known to have been excluded from the scope of regulations covering working conditions such as due remuneration, healthy working conditions, proper terms of employment, rights to freedom of movement, to form associations and trade unions, basic medical benefits etc. There are incidences where they are also denied the right to maintain their cultural and religious identities.

Staying away from spouses and partners may make migrant workers vulnerable to involvement in immoral activities which may bring distress in their life. And

Those who are fortunate enough to be reunited with their spouses and families at the initiatives of their employers or the State have often found that their children are subjected much indifference and hostility at school

Migrant workers have higher communication needs. They are living away from their country of origin, most often away from spouses and family. They are also in the process of sending money home and need to ensure the safety and security of their monetary transfers.

This paper shall discuss the conditions of migrant workers from Bangladesh working in other regions of the world. It shall identify the unique requirements of migrant workers from a socio-psychological perspective and propose creative solutions to these issues with the aim to create a harmonious relationship between employer and employee adding to the benefit of the home and host countries. This paper shall conclude by highlighting the rights of migrant worker from a social, legal and religious perspective.