

"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood"
 Universal Declaration of Human Rights
 (December 10, 1948) Article -1

Migration

Association for Community Development-ACD

ACD and Overseas Migration

Migration for job in overseas plays a vital and indispensable role in the national economy of Bangladesh in two major ways, such as making opportunities for young people's employment, and its results in remittance flows to the country's economic development. Over the last decade, an average of 250,000 Bangladeshis migrated every year for employment purposes. They are mostly destined in the countries of Middle East, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman. Though the results of peoples' employment in overseas countries are necessities for its familial and country's



economic development, it causes of frustration and agonies due to abuse and exploitation in the whole process of migration. In addition, illegal process of migration causes to hamper the benefits and the country's eminence. North-western part of Bangladesh, which is situated at extreme border belt areas of India and Bangladesh and where poverty incidence, decreasing agricultural production, and pauperization remain very high, people are forced to cross border and overseas migration illegally in search of livelihood strategy. Exploitative labour, forced labour, and sexual exploitation are consequent forms of human rights violations and increasing the risk of affecting to HIV/AIDS/STDs and worst forms of violations like forced labour.

Feminization of migration is another important issue in the development process, which has specific attention regarding gender security as it has differential in causes, process and vulnerability of migration

between two sexes. In the process of deteriorating socio-economic conditions, women are victimized to forced migration, which is increased in the recent time. In the perspective of protecting human rights of migrants, ACD emerged to response towards

- community mobilization on migrants' rights, safe jobs
- knowledge building on adaptation to social vulnerability and health hazardous,
- advocacy to protect irregular migration,
- conduct research and field based investigation on illegal migration, and
- conduct workshop and seminar on research.

ACD also provided cares and supports to those who rescued from cross border illegal migration and trafficking.

What Needs for Safe Migration in Overseas?

- Mass awareness on safe employment in demand countries
- Mass awareness on employment policy prevailed in destinations
- Capacity building of youth potential migrants
- Education for jobs
- Implementation of laws and polices
- Ensure the accurate and valid information on overseas jobs, environment and benefits
- Development of data bank for the potential migrants
- Ensure the legality and transparency of recruiting agencies
- Inter-cooperation strengthening between demand and supply countries
- Ensure the demand and supply sides of employment
- Pro-departure orientation on risks and vulnerability
- Ensure the rights of employers
- Ensure the fundamental principles of UN convention 1990 and ILO conventions for migrant workers and its follow-up
- Ensure the health fitness of migrants workers
- Ensure the punishment for abusers
- Strengthening networking with national and international organization
- The government have to ensure the migrants'
 - Economic security
 - Social and Family security
 - Physical and health security
 - Mental security
 - Legal security

Observation International Migrants' Day

Migrants are still discriminated against in an unacceptable manner in almost all societies, and are usually subject to working conditions and pay far below the standards enjoyed by citizens. Migrants are consistently denied entitlements to social security or housing, and excluded from employment and other opportunities. We have to give them the dignity they deserve as human beings and the respect they deserve as workers. It is ACD's commitment that give them respect and dignity and appreciate their enormous contributions to foster the development and betterment of migrants. With the commitment, ACD observed International Migrants' Day with a colourful rally in both rural and urban areas. The rally encountered all segments of people, young generation and prospective migrants.



Migration

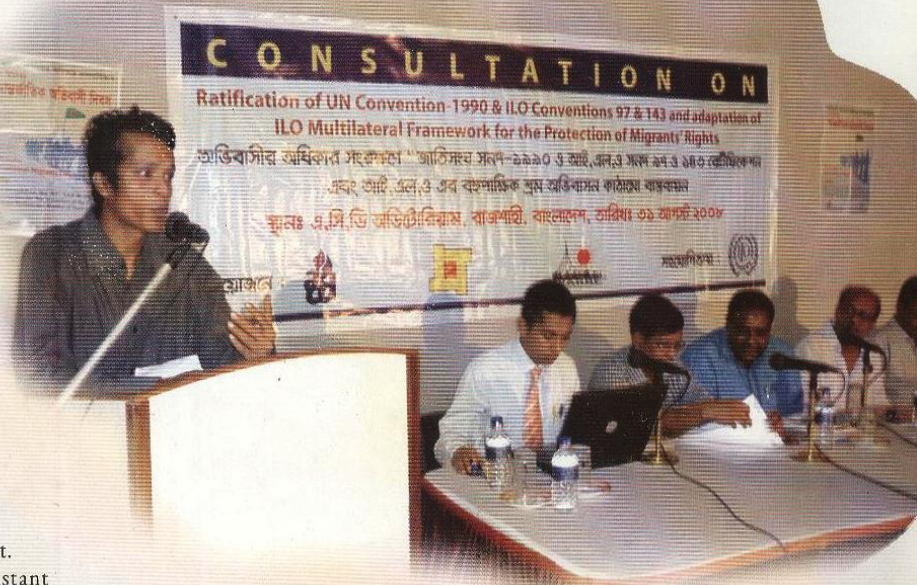
Association for Community Development-ACD

"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood"
Universal Declaration of Human Rights
(December 10, 1948) Article -1

Consultation on the Protection of Migrants' Rights

ACD in collaborated with BRAC and WARBE organized a consultations on UN Convention 1990, ILO conventions 97, 143 & 181, and ILO multilateral Framework. The consultation was conducted with the support of ILO. Additional Deputy Commissioner (revenue) named Md. Jahangir Alam took part and presided over the consultation as a chief guest.

Among the others, Assistant Commissioner, Executive Magistrate, and delegations from Rajshahi Trade union, National and local NGOs, MJF, BRAC, ACD took part in the consultation. Mr. Itrat Jahan, MIS Rahman, delegation of WARBE gave their valuable welcome speech.



Manager and Anisur

Most of the world's migrants are those who migrated for employment and their family. Migrant workers are contributing to their family and community and thus boost the economy of the country by remittance flow. In addition, transnational migrant communities promote home country development through trade, investments and technology transfers. Migration is a very much decent work and labour market issue in our country. ILO research has highlighted widespread labour marker discrimination against migrant workers in destination countries. The ILO instruments and the International Conventions on the Protection of All Migrant Workers and their Families adopted by the United Nations on 18 December 1990 defined a comprehensive framework for the promotion and protection of migrant rights. The ILO instruments and Conventions were supplemented by the 2006 ILO multilateral Framework on Labour Migration a nonbinding framework negotiated within the ILO's tripartite structure comprised of government, employers' and workers' organizations, which spell out principles, guidelines and good practices for the development and implementation of sound labour migration policies consistent with the protection of migrants' rights.

The consultation was conducted aiming to address different issues regarding ILO labour standards and UN Conventions. It involved different representatives from civil societies, Journalists, youth clubs, Local NGOs, young generation from different educational institutions, and community. Sayed Saimul Haque, Finance Director of WARBE, articulated the following issues through his speech:

- Challenges and complications of labour migration in Bangladesh
- Migrants' human rights and ILO labour standards
- Slogans of ILO conventions and Multilateral Framework
- Legal complications regarding labour migration

"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood"
Universal Declaration of Human Rights
(December 10, 1948) Article -1

Migration

Association for Community Development-ACD

An Appeal to Home Ministry to Rescue 3 youths in Dubai

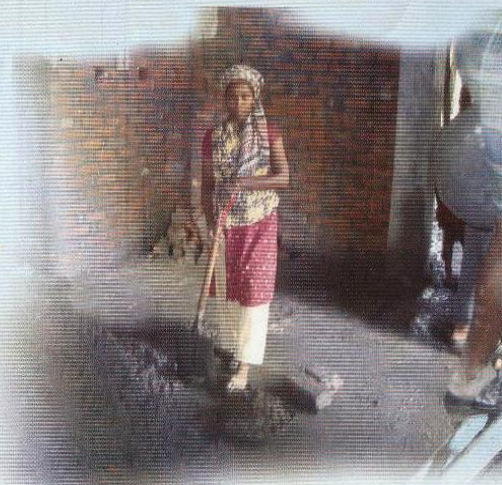
Three (3) youths of the Pachandar of Tanore Upazila of Rajshahi districts has been leading a prison life in a company in Duabai since four (4) months as a result of falling in the trap of brokers. The guardians of them have made an appeal to the home ministry including other relevant departments to rescue them as soon as possible. The youths are kept as prisoners roping their hands and legs. They are provided with food once in a day. They are starving an inhuman life.

In the 30th December, 2008, taking 185,000 Taka per person, a youth named Sumon sentenced the three youths namely, Rajaul Karim of Tolpara, Kawshar Ali of Badawpur, and Matuir of Shibpur village to Emrat City Ajmal Tower in Dubai in the name of work. Some days later, his father is known to the fact by telephonic conversation with Rajaul Karim that they have been sentenced to Dubai by false visa. Now, they are leading an inhuman live with starvation there. In this regard, Rajaul Karim's father and others have made an appeal to the home ministry to take necessary initiatives to rescue them and take action against Sumon.

Women Migration and Vulnerability

International migration in the globalised world is posing challenges on societies and economies particularly for the labour surplus countries like Bangladesh. "Feminization" of migration is the most noteworthy trends in recent migration trends. Today women account over half of the migrant population that is occurring in irregular process, that is, the cross border illegal migration of women. Where women migration is a flow of rural residence streaming from villages to urban areas for domestic works but in recent time it has an issue of the international boundaries. Today women account over half of the migrant population that is occurring in irregular process, that is, the cross border illegal migration of women. women's movement, which is increasing day by day with the increase of people's mobility, global job market, specification of women's works and demand of women etc. On the other hand, with the increase of women's demand in overseas countries, the illegal process of migration, especially cross border migration, women smuggling and trafficking has been increased dramatically.

The overseas women migrant workers are become victims of sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking which render them extremely vulnerable to contracting HIV/AIDS. Women and adolescent girls are sold in brothels, where they face high chance of becoming the victims of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS. Because lack of information at the community level, the migrant often do not know what the kinds of job they are going to do, and they are unaware of the threat of STD and HIV/AIDS at the destination countries. Women and children are especial target groups of the brokers due to they have special demand in India. They can earn more than men. The young women are offered into dance bar, domestic work and prostitution and they are subjected to the works by their husband. Children are subjected to begging and domestic works by their parents. It is also revealed that some men came back home making their wives and children in working. Some commented that they are intended to cross the border with all family members, where all engage them in the works, and thus the children are falling in prostitution and lost their parents.



Migration

Association for Community Development-ACD

"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood"
Universal Declaration of Human Rights
(December 10, 1948) Article -1

Human Migration and Economic Development



International labour migration is typically an important feature of Bangladesh, which has drastically touched the rural areas of the country. Overseas migrant workers are our assets for country's economic development not only sending remittances, but also sharing their skill, knowledge, and contribution of their investment to small trading as entrepreneurship. So, migration should be seen as a development issue. Unfortunately, the migrants rarely receive recognition and appreciation for their contribution. It has both positive and negative repercussions on the country and its inhabitants, and its economic policy and development planning. Indeed Bangladesh suffers a high rate of unemployment. The market of migrant workers is highly defective, which drastically characterized unsafe or irregular migration due to lack of awareness, the absence of migration regulation policies and laws, high transaction cost, and recruiting agencies centered in the capital. The unscrupulous recruiting agents, middlemen, smugglers and traffickers violate the fundamental rights of the migrants. In addition, migrants are low skilled with very little education, which expose them

to high risks of exploitation in the destination country. Due to development of recruiting agencies at capital city centers, the simple-minded rural youths are falling in the trap of middlemen and thus lost their money that is collected by buying land and wealth. As a result, the young people are being hopeless and lost his/her contribution to his/her family economy as well as country's. So, for effective utilization of global labour market for country's economic development, the governmental development policy should facilitate to develop recruiting agencies at divisional level to deliver transparent information to the potential migrants.

Migrant Domestic Workers' Association MDWA

Migration has emerged as a key livelihood strategy for Bangladeshis which has significant effects on the country's socio-economic situation. Apart from legally authorized private recruiting agencies, many migrants use irregular routes influenced by middlemen and brokers. In the process they face considerable challenges and risks, such as fraud and deception from recruiters and middlemen; abuse and exploitation from employers in host countries. It is most important pre-migration information and pre-departure orientation along with support for migrant families and returnee migrants to enhance development impact on their family and country at large.

ACD has developed two (2) Migrant Domestic Workers' Associations; each is consisted of 14 members of returnee migrants. The association aims to disseminate information among the prospective and potential migrants regarding safe channel of migration and checking of visa and employment documents, migration cost, social security, economic security etc. Under the programme, it intended to orient the migrant returnees and rescued from cross border and forced migration on life skill for sustainable integration. The orientation addressed labour migration, reintegration experience, options of migrant returnees' involvement in small entrepreneurship, ways to enhance savings and financial management. Under the programme, ACD is conducting day long orientations with women prospect migrants at border belt areas. ACD is also providing micro entrepreneur support to the prospect women workers, which objects to enhance decision making power and strengthen at pre-employment stage.

MDWA



Association for Community Development-ACD
H-41, Sagarpara, Ghoramara, Rajshahi-6100, Bangladesh.
Phone : 880-721-770660, Fax: 880-721-775383
e-mail: rajacd@librabd.net