

Asian Human Rights and Culture Development Forum AHRCDF Migrants' Center



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The chairperson Note

Namaste

I am very delighted to share and update the programs and activities conducted by AHRCDF Migrants' center inclined to the welfare of the needy, deprived and low strata people, focused on the rights of migrant workers and their families with upholding the notion of "Migrant rights is human rights". This issue is the compilation of all the program and activities executed considering the rights of migrant workers and their troubles.

Till date Migrants' center has been successful in facilitating the migrant workers and their families as anticipated however we believe that affiliated in the national and regional networks, we would definitely strengthen our consistent and determined motive to reform the inadequacy in foreign employment with the joint effort more effectively in days to come.

We welcome and appreciate all the suggestion, complains, and comments on our programs.



Shiddhi Chandra Baral

**"WE COMMIT
OURSELVES TO BE THE
VOICE OF THE
VOICELESS THAT CAN
BE HEARD"**

Migrants' Center introduction

Asian Human Rights and Cultural development Forum, AHRCDF Migrants' Center is an independent non-governmental organization, established in the year 2005, by the returnee migrant workers upholding the notion of "Migrants' right is Human right". Consequently Migrants' Center have been working in strengthening the marginalized, deprived and the less-fortunate people in different aspects of human rights like education, health, skill development along with various aspect of awareness of the migrant workers. The organization is determined to assure "Access to Justice" to the migrant workers and their families by facilitating them with the issues related to migration considering the vulnerable condition of migrant workers during the cycle of foreign employment to the process of reintegration upon return. However, the gravity of foreign employment is inevitably intense to anticipate the government taking the sole liability for the amendment of foreign employment as a result AHRCDF Migrants' Center has been conducting various awareness program and campaigns throughout the country by mobilizing its own network with an aim to acquire the positive changes in the sector of migration.



PROGRAMS

- **Awareness on the foreign employment (SaMi/HELVETAS)**
- **Skill Development trainings**
Stitching and Knitting training
Motorcycle maintenance and repairing training
- **Social Enterprises**
Hamro Product
Hamro Car wash
- **School support**
Shree Saraswati primary School, Manohara, Bhaktapur
- **Scholarships program**
- **Health Services**
Weekly Health Camp
Annual Health Camp
- **Social Enterprises Activation (SEA) center**
Mifini Café and Shop
MAP- Nepal Travel
Design Academy
- **Community Development programs**
Goat lending program (Bakhra Paincho Karyakram)

ACTIVITIES

- Co-organized "Lawyer's training on foreign employment and legal remedies" on 3rd and 4th August 2012 at Hotel Outlook Inn
- Organized Book Launch Program "Pharkera Herda" Written by Sarita Aryal, the member of AHRCDF Migrants' Center at Nepal Bar Association on 29th May 2013
- Co-organized "1st National Conference on Migration" at Everest Hotel, Baneshwor on 10th and 11th May 2013
- Co-organized UNHLD pre-consultation meeting at Hotel Malla on 12th and 13th April 2013
- Organized International Migration Day (December 18th) in Pokhara
- Organized Roundtable meeting on "Reintegration of Migrant workers and their families on 29th June 2013 at SEA Center, Lazimpat
- Coordinated Recent Government Policy on Women's foreign Employment on 5th September 2012 at Sap Phalcha, Babarmahal

➤ "The information sharing outreach activities for the migrant workers and their families" have been ongoing in the support of SaMi/HELVETAS

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AHRCDF Migrants' center is delighted to publish the third issue of our newsletter which would not be possible without the skills, expertise, perseverance and the dedication of every individual who supported us in the enhancement of organizational program and activities, carried out for the welfare of people working in foreign land along with their families. This issue comprises all the program and activities that we have conducted since July 2012 to July 2013 with the continuation of programs covered in the previous issues. We have tried to improvise the issue by taking the suggestions from various dimensions considering their experience and knowledge in the particular sector with the tendency to share it among the readers.

We believe that we could keep up with our attempt to inform you about the programs and activities that has been undergoing till date along with the program that shall conduct in days to come.

The suggestions and advice from our readers are always welcome and treasured. It has helped us to overcome the weakness and move ahead on the path of success to great extent.

On behalf of the editorial board I would like to enunciate the words of gratitude for all the support and anticipate the same in future. Nonetheless we will try our best to continue with our programs and activities with the effective and efficient outcome followed by the intension of sustainable programs for the welfare of people.

Samrachana Shakya

Objectives of AHRCDF Migrants' Center

- Education to the children, women and youth specially the internally displaced and migrant workers for the better living
- Awareness and support in the social and financial planning of the migrant workers
- Health Services to the underprivileged and marginalized population
- Advocacy for the human rights of the migrant workers and their families
- Research on human rights, migrant workers and their families
- Counseling services to the migrant workers
- Trainings to the youths and the women for the graceful and as the alternative to the migration for the foreign employment



PROGRAMS and ACTIVITIES

Awareness on the foreign employment

AHRCDF Migrants' Center have been working in the field of migration since the time of its inception throughout the country however the essentiality for the effective implementation along with the monitoring mechanism emerge the idea of joint collaboration with other concerned organization working in the same field. Taking this into consideration, the program entitled "The counseling and interaction program for the migrant workers and their families" has been conducted with the support of SaMi/HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation since May 2012. The program is explicitly focused on the safe and productive migration. The counseling and interaction program along with the outreach activities has been conducted at the places of concentration of migrant workers however out of scrutinized places the Tribhuvan International Airport and Central Passport Office has proved to be effective place for outreach program as the number of migrant workers and their families are accessible in great number. Till date the program has been successful in achieving the set goal and more yet to be acknowledged in days to come.

Reunion Program



One month special training

The one month special "Motorcycle Electrical Wiring" training was conducted to the trainees after completing their basic course in order to facilitate them with the latest trend of technology and provide them theoretical and practical knowledge to update themselves.

Stitching and knitting program

Farewell and certificate distribution to 13th batch tailoring trainees

The farewell of the 13th batch trainees of the tailoring program was celebrated on the day of AHRCDF Migrants' Center 8th year anniversary. In this program, all the trainees were given the certificate by the chairperson along with gifts as appreciation to some of the trainees for their outstanding performance throughout the training. The trainees shared their experience of training and the future planning to execute the gained skill in the productive way whereas the committee members counsel them the way-out to improve their skill.

Hamro automobile service

Hamro Automobile service center has been relocated in new spot at Sitapaila, Kathmandu considering the applicability and effective result to meet the demand of people. The 13th batch motorcycle repairing and maintenance has been planned in the same place.



Automobile trainees - Orientation program



Social Enterprises

Hamro product

Hamro product has been participating in the exhibition with the anticipation of promoting the products in the national and international market to sensitize the people, the benefit of using the recycle-based items in the environment. Hamro Product has participated in the "Surya Nepal Asha Social Entrepreneurship Award 2012, "MADE IN NEPAL- Product & Service Exhibition 2012.

Hamro product has been performing different campaigns considering the prevailing menace of environmental pollution by introducing the recycle-based items like menstruation pad and eco-friendly bags. The attempt to retain the Nepali culture and tradition by manufacturing the goods with the Nepali touch has been undergoing with the tendency to preserve the culture and tradition. Formerly, Hamro Product had been producing the baby items and bags in large scale however of late it has taken initiation of producing the youth items as well. Hamro Product shall be manufacturing the new products considering the need of the market and society in days to come.



Social Enterprise Activation Center (SEA)

Social Enterprise Activation Center SEA center, one of the program of AHRCDF Migrant Center, has been formulated with the motive of supporting the returnee migrant workers to start their own enterprise and rehabilitating the families of migrant workers. **The Mitini Café and shop, MAP Nepal (Make an Amazing Planet) and Design Academy** operated under the umbrella of SEA Center has set the developing entrepreneurship of the returnee migrant workers and the family of the migrant workers left back home through the promotion of the local authentic products and sustainable community based tourism as the objectives.

Lately the guide training course has been conducted to the returnee migrant workers by MAP Nepal (travelers Nepal) to endorse the returnee migrant worker to make the best use of their skill. The selected trainees from Hamro Social Enterprises are provided with the advance training in the Design Academy to enhance their knowledge. The handmade items from different manufacturers are exhibited in the Mitini shop to encourage the Nepali handmade products and promote it.



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

School Support (Shree Saraswati Primary School)

AHRCDF Migrants' Center has been supporting the operation and infrastructure development of the school since last 8 years. The school has become successful in gradually upgrading quality of education to lower secondary level till date. Taking into account the necessity of extracurricular activities in order to motivate and expose the latent talent of the students, "Dream Art School" has been operated where the students get to learn dance, music and play different kinds of instruments focused on the Nepali Tradition and perform their talent in cultural exchange programs. However, considering the limitations of the students to continue their education after lower secondary, AHRCDF Migrants' center has consider to provide scholarship to the top 5 students scoring the highest marks in grade 8 from this year and the selected top 5 students are enrolled in the Adharsha Higher Secondary school considering the efficiency. The school has become successful in drawing the attention of government to consider its responsibilities towards the students who are likely to be deprived from access to education if not facilitated.



Mitni Café and Shop in SEA Center

Students' Excursion

Students of grade 6th, 7th and 8th accompanied by the teachers of Saraswati Primary School were taken to Pokhara, the beautiful lake city and surrounding historical places on 9th November 2012 for two nights and 3 days as the continuation of the educational excursion program. The students got opportunity to explore the places like Gashi Kuwa, Bindabasini temple, Mahendra Cave, Seti Gorge, International Mountain Museum, World Peace monastery of Pokhara, Gupteshwor Cave, Devis Fall, Fewa lake, talbarahi temple, Marsyandi Hydropower, Kurentar (Cable car) and Aabukhareni. The sight-seeing of various religious, cultural and archeological sites endorsed the fact of Nepal's recognition as one of the countries with natural beauty that the students got to comprehend it themselves during the excursion to Pokhara.

Scholarship

The on-going scholarship programs inclined to the children of victimized migrant workers has been benefitting the life of many. Some of the scholarship holder have completed their higher education and started supporting their parents by earning themselves. Lately the AHRCDF Migrants' Center has been providing the scholarship to the ___ students throughout the country and monitoring and evaluation of the students' performance have been considered to encourage them and to make sure that the needy and eligible students are being facilitated.



HEALTH SERVICES

Weekly Health Camp

The weekly health camp is still ongoing with anticipation to serve as many dwellers as possible from the Manohara, Bhaktapur area and the patients who come over for check up from other places. The camp serves the patients with the free medication and health counseling regarding the sanitation for the healthy and happy living.

Annual Health Camp

Apropos to the annual health Camp, the 6th annual 5 days health camp is going to be conducted at Bhanu VDC in Tanahu on November 2013. The scrutinizing and feasibility study was performed before decision on the selection of place consequently Bhanu VDC is considered to be appropriate place considering the need-based and convenience to operate. Along with that health clinic, We-Friends, Bhanu Sarang health clinic, is going to be operated in the same district. The project shall continue for next three years with the good cause of social welfare.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Bakhra paincho Karyakram (Goat lending program)

The continuation of Bakhra Paincho Karyakram at Pandavkhani VDC of Baglung district is ongoing. The review on the program procedure has been completed and as a result families get to rare the goat for whole two years and the new born kids are planned to be provided to next family/community after the two years.



Home Stay

The home stay program has been initiated in Manankamana VDC of Beteni, Bhanchyak VDC of Namki and changunararyan of Bhaktapur. The place has proved to be viable considering the motive of facilitating the migrant workers as the large number of migrant worker and their families were found abiding in that place. The program has become the income generating source for the migrant workers whereas the use of ethnical culture and traditional things for the decoration is likely to draw the attention of the visitors. The ten houses from each VDC are chosen for operating home stay program. The houses of different ethnical groups like Newar, Magar, Gurung, Bahun etc were selected so that visitors could enjoy the decoration of different culture and tradition. The support system for the monitoring mechanism has been facilitated by the community of respective VDC.

The home stay program shall comprise the other district if it proved to be effective and convenient. However the program efficiency is yet to be analyzed.



Stitching and knitting training at Baglung

The initiation of supporting the community people of Baglung, specially the 'Dalit' and 'Janajati' population considering the relation with the migrant workers and their families has taken the next step of comprising the population of Riga VDC of Baglung after the successful completion of stitching and knitting training in the Harichaur VDC of Baglung. The 36 women are benefitted with the 5 months stitching and knitting training in the coordination with Ghumte Dalit Sanjal on July 2012 and certificate of completion was distributed to trainees on December 2012.

With concern to the development of all possible communities and tendency to comprise all ethnic people, the stitching and knitting training was conducted in the Pandpkhani VDC of Baglung in the coordination of "Mahila Jagaran Samuha" on December 2012. 54 women, specifically 'Janajati' and family of migrant workers were selected from the Pandapkhani VDC for the 4 months stitching and knitting training and certificate was distributed on May 2013. AHRCDF Migrants' Center has been providing the consistent support by facilitating the stitching machine and other necessary tools for the training. The team of AHRCDF Migrants' Center has been scrutinizing the service area for the effective monitoring mechanism.



The interaction with the community people at Namki, Gorkha for the operation of Home stay program

EXPOSURE VISIT

Exposure visit to Korea

The representative of Hamro Automobile service center had the opportunity to go for exposure visit to South Korea concerning the deployment of the latest technology appliance in motorcycle service and maintenance center on September 2012. The Senior Mechanic and the program Coordinator of Hamro automobile service center participated in the training in Korea where they got opportunity to visit different servicing, repair and maintenance center like Sangyoung Auto mobile service center and Deliv motor cycle maintenance center at Puchnasho and learn their working modality to implement the applicable method in Nepal.



Exposure visit to Qatar

The representative from AHRCDF Migrants' center got opportunity to participate in the exposure visit to Qatar which was held from 15th to 20th January 2013 in the support of SaMi/HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation accompanied by the representatives of other partner organizations. The visit to Qatar gave the chance to have high level dialogue with the concerned personal of Qatar like Sri Lankan team, HELVETAS central office representative, American Center for International Labor Solidarity at National Human Rights committee, President of NRN and Nepalese Ambassador to Qatar regarding the issues of foreign employment at the country of destination and propound the queries and questions along with getting to know the living condition of migrant workers in Qatar in real.



Exposure visit to Sarlahi

The team of AHRCDF Migrants' Center, the implementing partner of the SaMi/HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation visited the local service providers working in the Sarlahi district from 20th to 25th December 2012. The team visited the Rastriya Rojgar Prawadhan Kendra (RRPK) information center at Malangwa and Rural Women (RWUA) information center at Hariwon followed by the outreach program at Kushwaha Tole, Tribhuvan Nagar-06 organized by RRPK team and Rajghat tole organized by RUWA. The exposure visit to Sarlahi helped to strengthen the relation between the team of information centers considering their identical nature of service along with sharing of ideas and working modalities helped to learn and implement them considering the effectiveness and reform the working procedure to aware and advocate migrant workers in the effective way.



Outreach Experience "getting to know migrant workers and their peril better than ever"

"I haven't gone through my contract, agent is bringing my documents in a while"; "I haven't left copy of documents at home; why do I need to leave it"; "How much money do I need to give you for your counseling"; "I can't write my name"; "One of my relatives wants to return from Malaysia as his salary and working hours is different than what he had been told, what can he do in this situation" the migrant workers and their families met at TIA and CPO are often heard saying while the agents interrupt between the counseling stating, "Why are you disturbing these migrant workers they don't need your counseling".

I participated in the outreach activities continuously for one and half years as an outreach team leader in the places like Central Passport Officer and Tribhuvan International Airport, which proved to be efficient among other places of migrants and their families concentration due to their massive presence. I had interaction and experience sharing with thousands of potential migrant workers, returnee migrant workers, the family members of the migrant workers, victimized migrant workers, recruitment agencies officials and registered and unregistered agents in the course of outreach.

I had faced lots of queries and questions during my outreach visit. I am quite surprised to know that people believe "nothing comes for free". I feel glad when they share the things and even show some interest in my work. However, their questions sometimes make me question myself "is there any legal provision effective or rather is there anything like foreign employment act workable", when will people respect rights of migrant workers?" However, whatever I am doing might not necessarily be the best thing but I believe it is for their own welfare and would be effective if we get support from the migrant workers and even from the concerned government line agencies.

The response of migrant workers made me realize that they are compelled to go abroad even after they realized the contract has been violated because, by the time they had known they would have been already debt bondage and are left with no other option rather than going and being exploited, undocumented and the consequences are always likely to be plight. I realized that migrant workers are very incognizant and highly guided and manipulated by agent and recruiting agencies. They don't believe in government and they are not aware of legal provision for the compensation in case of frauds and deception in foreign employment.

During my outreach work I have never found the presence of concern government officials or even media to reveal the fraudulent activities around the airport entrance. I had received the appreciation from the migrant workers and their families for sharing information whereas sometimes reflection of frustration of the migrant workers who were victimized and got no support from anyone. I should not forget to mention the threats of agents and recruiting agency as well.

The outreach activities have been always challenging but it has proved to be very effective to consistent and persistent ongoing program. I must say it has drawn the attention of concerned line agencies and program efficiency has been appreciated.

Dev Chandra Rai



For Donation

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