

Nepali newspaper 'The Himalayan Times' on 18th January 2010.

South Asia Study Centre (SASC) is a research and community-based organisation registered in India under the society registration act 1860 of India. The organisation conducts research on the issue of migrant labours and dedicated acts upon the welfare and the protection of their rights. Very soon, SASC is going to register in Spain, because in Spain lots of south Asian migrants living there. SASC is committed to working for the rights of the migrants in any part of the world.

PRESS RELEASE

International Migrant Workers' Day

Contemplating the rights of Nepali migrants in Delhi

Today, 18 December, on the occasion of International Migrants' Day, South Asia Study Centre (SASC) and Centre for Education and Communication (CEC) organised a workshop "Contemplating the rights of Nepali migrants in Delhi". Hundreds of Nepali migrants participated in the programme. A panel discussion was organised on at the programme focusing on the issues of harassment faced by the Nepali migrants from their employees and the police. On the panel were three lawyers, Rajesh Pandey from Human Rights Law Network, Rahul Verma from Social Jurists and Mohammed Sarim from MARG, the organisations providing legal aid to common people.

The programme started with a welcome address by J. John, Director CEC. Mr John highlighted the right of every person to migrate and said that migrants had played the most important role in human development since the beginning of civilisation. Dr Shekhar Lal Das of CEC elaborated upon the importance of the day and its history.

Then the main session began. The participants, consisting mainly of the migrant Nepali watchmen in Delhi, put their queries before the panel, and the panel answered all their queries and informed them about the rights of migrants and the workers.

In view of the Peace and Friendship Treaty of 1950 between Nepal and India, the panel described the rights of Nepali migrants in India as different from the migrants from other countries. Most of the questions of the migrant Nepali participants were concerned with harassment by police, employers and the issues related to accident compensation.

Many participants put their testimonies before the panel and the panel while answering their queries assured them of full cooperation on behalf of their respective organisations.

Two documentaries were also shown on the occasion. One of them was on the issues of police violations named Bol Basanto made by MARG and directed by Ashok Chakradhar. The other was the video of the first convention of Migrant Nepalese Watchmen Labour Committee held on May 1, 2005.

After the workshop, the participants expressed their satisfaction and said that they had immensely benefited by it. They said it was the first occasion that they had interacted with legal experts with the problems faced by them on a daily basis.

The programme was presided by Arun D. Joshi, Convener, South Asia Study Centre, and conducted by Raju Bhattraï from SASC.