

Outbound call centre service for women migrants

High rate of abuse and exploitation of women migrants working as domestic workers is often attributed to their working environment where they remain disconnected from the world. Sometimes the local recruiting agencies fail to keep contact with them. An out-bound call centre, established in Bangladesh, may randomly and periodically call the migrant workers, especially women migrants to know if they are alright. This major suggestion was identified during IID's Policy Forum on Migration at Comilla.

Speakers at the forum also came up with other suggestions related to migration cost, language, visa, brokers, awareness, and government services at home and abroad.

The Policy Forum was organised in partnership with WARBE Development Foundation in Comilla, as part of IID's policy advocacy initiative to promote fairer labour migration.

Speakers included returnee and aspiring migrants, political leaders, social and NGO campaigners, business people, relatives of victim migrants, civil society leaders among others.

Barapara people shared their migration related concern with their MP

IID's HelloMP initiative connects grassroots citizens with members of the Parliament via frugal video conferencing. One such event took place on 30 July 2017 where citizens of Barapara Union, Comilla exchanged views on fairer labour migration with Honourable lawmaker Roksana Yasmin Suty, MP who is also a member of the parliamentary caucus on migration.



Investment opportunities and awareness required for utilizing remittance money

Migrants and their families should be educated regarding savings, sensible investment and spending for future. This was suggested by the participants of IID's 1st Policy



Forum on fairer labour migration held on 21 May 2017 in Rangunia, Chittagong. The forum was organised by IID in partnership with Young Power in Social Action (YPSA).

Some of the pressing questions raised in the forum includes the reasons for aspirant migrants to seek help from dalals (intermediaries), provision for self-processing migration surpassing dalals, key steps for making labor migration easier and government's role to ensure hassle free labour migration.

Participants of this forum include local political leaders, teachers, NGO activists, local CSOs, representatives from field administration, journalists, students, youth group representatives, aspirant migrants, returnee migrants and Fairer Labour Migration project partners.



IID developing Bibhui app

Aiming to serve Bangladeshi labour migrants in each and every corner of the world, IID released Bibhui in Google play store. Bibhui is an application that provides feasible

solution to most conventional migration related problems, with just one tap. It will allow aspirant migrants to know all the decision making aspects of labour migration from planning and staying abroad to safely returning home. It has all relevant information for migrants including emergency contact information of Technical Training Centres, DEMO (District Employment Manpower Office), Bangladesh embassies and more.



While there are other applications currently available in the market that provides labour migration related information 'বিভুই' (Bibhui) received significant positive feedback for its offline content availability and user friendly interface. The app is currently available at Google play store.

'Regulate' rather than 'eliminate' intermediaries to reduce illegalities

Existence of intermediaries came up as a major concern in migration causing illegalities and discrepancies in the



migration process at Policy Breakfast on Implementing Fairer Labour Migration. However, realising their role in facilitating the existing system with ; participants suggested ways in which intermediaries can be brought within the regulation system to reduce illegalities. The participants also discussed several issues pertaining to fairer labour migration, such as system loss associated

with migration, lack of proper implementation of the regulations, and more importantly, the existence of intermediaries.

On 10 May 2017, IID held its 11th Policy Breakfast focusing on the key challenges to fairer migration process.

Notable participants in the Policy Breakfast included the Additional Secretary of Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, Javed Ahmed, Founding Chair of RMMRU, Dr. Tasneem Siddique, IOM, Chief of Party, Abdus Sattor and MP Roksana Yasmin Suty .



The Additional Secretary of MoEWOE expressed keen interest in strengthening the migration process, and encouraged all participants to provide suggestions to do so.

Climate migration- the unpredictable calamity that needs attention

The issue of climate migrants or climate refugees- those who get displaced as a result of the impacts of climate change- need immediate attention by the policy makers, urged the speakers at a quarterly reflection workshop on 29 March 2017, in partnership with PROKAS.

The project works with partners who aim to make labour



migration fairer and safer and help the country deal with the impacts of climate change. Among others, Dr. Saleemul Huq, Director, ICCCAD, Dr. Atiq Rahman, Executive Director BCAS, Syed Saiful Haque, Chairman, WARBE Development Foundation, Catherine Cecil, Chief of Party, PROKAS, were present at the event.

IID partnered with Young Power in Social Action (YPSA), WARBE, Bangladesh Ovhibashi Mohila Sramik Association (BOMSA), Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) to work on Fairer Labour Migration. On the other hand, International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research



(C3ER), COAST Trust, Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods (CSRL), Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) are working on climate finance.

The Quarterly Reflection Workshop brought together all the partners to share their experiences of interventions, challenges and lessons learnt so far.

Workshop on Collective Action Self Assessment Survey (CASA)

A workshop on Collective Action Self Assessment Survey (CASA) was held at IID. The focus of the workshop was to understand the fundamental capability of IID in research and advocacy for evidence informed public policy. During



the process of the workshop, IID was assessed in several different policy contexts through group discussion and peer review.

Partners meet for policy advocacy on fairer labour migration



IID hosted an experience sharing meeting with the partners of its policy advocacy initiative for Fairer Labour Migration project. The partner meeting was held on Thursday, 26 January 2017 at IID meeting room.



Representatives from PROKAS, British Council facilitated the meeting. Other partner organisations also attended the meeting. PROKAS is an initiative of British Council

that supports collective action among Government of Bangladesh, civil society and private sector partners to improve accountability and transparency in targeted thematic areas in Bangladesh. IID is working with PROKAS and other partner organisations to run a policy advocacy initiative for promoting fairer labour migration.

‘Fairer Labour Migration: IID signs contract with PROKAS

A large number of labour migrants from Bangladesh use informal channels for going abroad, this often put them in an exacerbated position with higher risk of abuse and exploitation. However, the economy of Bangladesh largely depends on the remittance sent by these migrants. Therefore, safer and fairer labour migration should be on top of our economic and human development priorities.

Keeping in mind the importance of fairer and safer labour migration in Bangladesh, IID has signed an agreement on December 21, 2016 with PROKAS, British Council to



jointly work on a project named ‘Fairer Labour Migration’. WARBE, RMMRU, BOMSA and YPSA are the other four partners in the project.

About
 IID



Institute of Informatics and Development (IID) is a public policy institute promoting evidence-informed inclusive policy. IID is registered as a nonprofit institute in Bangladesh under Section 28 of the Companies Act 1994.

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