



Pourakhi-NEPAL
An NGO of women migrant workers

POURAKHIKO AAWAZ

VOICE OF POURAKHI
An Endeavor to uphold the voice of Women Migrant Workers

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POURAKHI

Committed to conserve right of women migrant worker



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Message from Chairperson

International labor migration is most emerging and multifaceted global issue of today's world. It creates socio-economic cost and benefit for both sending and receiving country. All the countries in developing and developed world are some how link with migration as a labor sending country, destination country, transit country often all three in once.

In this context foreign employment and remittance send by migrant workers is important source of foreign exchange for central bank of Nepal and last livelihood option for million of Nepalese unemployed youth and their dependent family. Every single day huge number of Nepalese overseas job seekers is leaving country for foreign employment. Migrant workers are sending huge amount of remittance that is helping to sustain economy of country.

International labor market is becoming competitive and other labor sending country giving more priority to developed skill human resource to make sure their place in competitive international labor market. So in order to make sure the place of Nepalese migrant workers in international labor market the government should developed skill human resource to compete and sustain international market.

The number of female migration from Nepal in different destination countries is increasing. So the female migration in context of Nepal is becoming important aspect of migration. Every single day huge number of Nepalese female is leaving country via legal and illegal channel in search of better life and better opportunity.

In the destination country of Nepalese female migrant workers are facing so many problem and challenges due to about proper information of safe migration. Government of Nepal should make special provision for protection of Nepalese female migrant workers by mobilizing its diplomatic agency in order to reduce the vulnerability of Nepalese female migrant workers. In addition, during the time of appointments of diplomats in some receiving countries of Nepalese migrant workers government should give priority to those people who are familiar with issue of female migration and gender friendly.

Nowadays different types of news related with female migration is coming via different means of communication. Some story of success and failure captured our concern at POURAKHI. All the stakeholders of international labor migration i.e. migrant workers, recruiting agency, government of sending and receiving country should give more priority to promote safe migration by respecting migrant right as a human right.

At last but not least Thank you very much for all the members, friends and well wisher of POURAKHI as well entire team of POURAKHI e-news letter to bring this happened.

Manju Gurung
Chairperson

Greetings to POURAKHI staff

Heartfelt welcome and best wishes for new faces in POURAKHI

Goma Gurung
Paralegal

Bhima Kerung
Supervisor
(Safe House)

Muna Gautam
Supervisor
(Safe House)

Sarita Kerung
Runner
(Safe House)

Teej Celebration



Teej, a biggest fasting festival for Nepalese women especially Hindu is celebrated for marital bliss, well-being of spouse and children and purification of own body and soul is celebrated by POURAKHI every year along with the women member.

On 19th August 2009 POURAKHI organized a small get-together Teej festival program with its female member and friends of POURAKHI at Head office in Chundevi. The main objective of celebration Teej program is to share their

happiness and sorrow among them.

On that day all the POURAKHI female members, friends, staff, advisors and some guest came in traditionally wearing red *sari* and *kurta suruwal*. It was very entertaining as everyone engaged in singing; dancing and merry making. Food were prepared by themselves in the office kitchen. As a token of love red bangles were given to all from POURAKHI's side and also exchange gifts like *tika*, and *Potae* among them.



POURAKHI Emergency Shelter Home

In the month of July, August and September, total eight women from the gulf countries took shelter in POURAKHI shelter house. Out of these five came from Kuwait and the other three came from Saudi Arabia and Lebanon respectively. Five women were originally from the Tarai region and only three were from the hilly region of Nepal. All these women went for foreign employment illegally through broker and four of them returned within three months of their departure from Nepal. One of them worked in Kuwait for whole two years and didn't get a penny and when she asked for her salary she was beaten brutally by her employee and sent to Nepal. One woman came with a three year old child; one was starved for 20 days, and one of them was mentally not well. Almost all these women were in depression and bearing physical injuries when they were rescued from the airport and brought to shelter house. Once these women are brought to shelter house, POURAKHI has successfully integrated them with their family.

Success story

Lal Maya Kami

POURAKHI rescued Ms. Lal Maya Kami from the Tribhuvan International Airport, Kathmandu in an unconscious condition. From the airport she was taken directly to teaching hospital as she has beating and burnt scare of hot irons all over her body and was admitted for two days. From there the case was referred to the mental hospital in Patan saying that she was in severe depression. Due to her weak physical condition the mental hospital refused to admit her so she was brought back to POURAKHI and taken proper care. During those days she didn't speak a single word but only shouted occasionally and used to run away from people. It was very difficult to identify who she is? So Pourakhi published her picture and about her condition in Kantipur Newspaper which is a National daily Newspaper of Nepal. After the news was published with the help of her villager staying in Kathmandu her family came in contact with Pourakhi. After 4 days her physical improved a little and she started to speak. According to her she was physically exploited by her employee in Saudi Arabia and when she tried to run she fall from 3rd floor of the house and from that she could not remember anything. When her condition improved POURAKHI handed over her to her husband suggesting him to take her for further treatment.

Srijana Kerung

Srijana Kerung went to Kuwait with the help of local agent of her own village. When she reached Kuwait her agent there used to take her blood half to a liter in a week. After this she became anemic and weak day by day. Due to her weak physical condition she could not work and was sent back to the agency where she was beaten and finally sent back to Nepal. POURAKHI rescued her and after taking the service of shelter house her health has improved and for the last two months she is working in POURAKHI.



Legal Support

POURAKHI is regularly providing legal services to those people who became victim in the process of migration. During the month of July to September sixteen cases has been registered for paralegal and counseling in Pourakhi. Of these 16 cases 7 were for rescuing them from the country or from the current situation, 5 were for getting compensation, 2 were for searching the person and remaining 2 was for getting passport back and getting salary respectively. These cases were mainly related with Saudi Arabia 8 out of 16, 4 were for Lebanon, 2 were related with Oman and other 2 were for Kuwait and U.A.E respectively. After these cases came to POURAKHI, POURAKHI took initiative like writing to the ministry of foreign affairs, contacting with the embassy of the respective countries and with other concerned bodies who could help in any way. So among this Pourakhi successfully solved 8 cases and the remaining in progress.

Success story

Mr. Yam Bahadur Kerung

Ms. Bhima Kerung of Illam district dropped an application on 23rd September, requesting to facilitate her to get salary from the company in Saudi Arabia to her brother. According to Ms. Kerung, her brother Mr. Yam Bahadur Kerung went to Oman as a labor and since last few months he was not getting salary and other facility as mentioned in the contract letter. Pourakhi sent paralegal to recruiting agency to discuss about the problem and the agency asked a time of a week to solve the problem. After a week and of POURAKHI's intervention, Mr. Kerung got his salary and also other required facilities as promised.

Ms. Anita Jimi

Because of the economic recession Ms. Anita Jimi of Morang District has lost her job from hospital where she worked for eleven months as a cleaner. She was sent back to Nepal and with the help of a journalist from a newspaper on 17th July 2009, she came to Pourakhi. At that time she was feeling scared and unsecured but after getting legal and psycho social counseling she dropped an application in the social welfare fund of foreign employment promotion board. She also went to the recruiting agency which sent her to Kuwait asked to help her in some way. The recruiting agency agreed to send her in another work without taking service charge. The foreign employment promotion board refused to give her the compensation initially but with the pressure of POURAKHI they finally gave the right compensation to her.

Health class by POURAKHI

POURAKHI is also working as a consultancy for F-skill, an organization which gives training to the potential migrant workers. Miss Satra Kumari Gurung and Miss Nirjala Bhattra of POURAKHI have been taking health classes of the migrant workers who are taking training in Radha Construction and Gorkha Construction, a skill building training center. The classes were run on 26 and 27 July in Gorkha Construction for Scaffolding trainee; 6 and 7 August for shuttering trainee and on 17 and 18th August in Radha Construction for welder trainee. The main aims of these health classes were to give information about primary health (first aid), occupational accident, HIV/AIDS and STD. Altogether 49 potential migrant workers took part in this health class.



Phone calls from radio program (July - September 2009)

In response to our radio program broadcasted from radio Nepal many people have called our information desk for information, suggestion and help. From 1st July 2009 to 30th September 2009 there were total 37 phone calls received from the listener. Among this 37 calls 6 calls were made from foreign land in the plea for help where as other calls were made from within Nepal. Besides the phone in the information desk there were calls in individual phone as well as in other office phone from people asking for information after listening to our radio program. Following are the information, suggestion and help the callers asked for

- About work opportunity and process to go to different countries like Japan, Israel, Lebanon, European and gulf countries.
- Question related to visa like how to know the difference between real and fake visa, about consequences of cancelling visa, how to know whether the visa has arrived or not, etc
- Inquiry about the organization its work, membership, services etc and about radio club.
- About the cost for going to different countries
- Asking for help like rescuing, getting passport back, etc
- Information about organization that helps them during foreign employment
- Asking the situation of migrant workers in different countries.



POURAKHI News Achieve

- **Women trafficking technique changed:** The human traffickers have started a new way of trafficking women. According to a data published by women right organization most of the women now a days are trafficked in the name of foreign employment. **28th July 2009, Aarnapura Post.**
- **New destination for foreign employment:** Nepal Government is planning to give permission to the manpower company to send Nepali workers to Mauritius, Poland, Cyprus and Romania. **31st July 2009, Kantipur.**
- **Minister of Labor to go to Korea:** minister of labor is going to Korea to renew the EPS agreement. The valid date of the agreement is till July 22nd. **9th July 2009, Aarnapura post.**
- **50 cores at stake:** After Israel stopped intake of Nepali Migrant workers, NRS 50 cores of Recruiting agencies and people wanting to go Israel are in risk. **July 8th 2009, Nagarik Daily.**
- **Sending of workers in Hong Kong going to start:** The Government has initiated a negotiation with Hong Kong Government for recruiting the Nepali workers there. The GON believes that Hong Kong will be good alternatives to Israel. **28th August 2009, Kantipur Daily**
- **Government of Israel agreed to recruit Nepalese workers:** After the GON committed to take action against the Recruiting Agencies who send the labor illegally and to fix the Migration cost, the Government of Israel has agreed to re-open the intake of Nepali labor. **26th August 2009, Kantipur Daily.**
- **Israeli Govt deporting illegal workers' kids:** Israel's Interior Ministry's 'Oz' task force, which replaced the immigration Police, has started the forcible deportation of around 1,200 migrant workers' children born in Israel. Under Israeli law only those illegal workers' children can live in Israel who meets four stringent conditions. The deported children between 3-18 come from immigrant families from Nepal, The Philippines, South America and Africa. **5th August 2009, The Himalayan Times.**
- **Improvement in foreign employment:** Despite of the recession people going for foreign employment has increased but compared to the previous year it has declined by 8.7%. **22nd September 2009, Kantipur Daily.**
- **Starved for Weeks:** Laxmi Bhatt of Banke returned Nepal with bruises and cuts in the body and an empty stomach of weeks. Laxmi who went to Kuwait illegally via India was send to Nepal by her employee when she became unconscious due to work load. **5th September 2009, Kantipur.**
- **India, Foreign employment destination of the deprived:** due to unemployment problem in Nepal and unable to sustain only with their agricultural profession, the deprived group of the tarai region migrate to India even for low labor wages. **3rd September 2009, Kantipur Daily.**

Act sanction but not implemented: According to the Foreign Employment Act, the recruiting agencies have to assign an agent but even after 2 years of sanction, no agent has been appointed which is helping the frauds to get away easily. **26th August 2009, Kantipur Daily.**



Maid from Nepal not made for S Arabia

Courtesy: Himalayan News Service

Nepali women migrant workers are getting just one-third the remuneration than what their Pilipino counterparts get, a Gulf television channel reported on 5th August 2009. Nepalis housemaids are getting Riyal 500 (\$145) for a month-just 33% of what Pilipino maids get, Memri television reported.

Domestics' salaries range from 1,500 Saudi riyals (\$430) per month for a female employee from the Philippines to 500 riyals (\$145) per month for a servant from Nepal.

Likewise, Bangladeshi and Indian housemaids are getting around 900-1,000 riyals. Around 1.2 million migrant housemaids are working in Saudi Arabia-27 % of total over seas workers.

According to the report, two factors- illegal entry and lack of skills are behind the low salary. "Nepali housemaids enter Saudi Arabia via India with the help of human traffickers as Nepal government does not encourage them to go for domestic work," it said. Around 20,000 to 25,000 Nepali women are working in the Gulf country.

Nepal has opened Saudi Arabia for Nepali migrant workers but is reluctant to send women there. "Women are not safe there, so we don't encourage them," said Uma Shankar Joshi, director of the Department of Foreign Employment (DoFE). Nepal women have been suffering exploitation and even sexual violence there, he said.

The previous Maoist-led government did not initiate the process of sending women to Gulf countries like Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar though the Saudi government had called for 1,00,000 house-maids from the crisis management team of the Ministry of Labor and transport Management in May.

"We can send women workers in organized sector but not as house-maids," said Joshi. In April, Saudi media reported about 60 Nepali women entering rehabilitation centers every week.

Case study of Rupwati Gurung



"The Shattered Dreams"

Rupwati Gurung who went to Kuwait in the dream of earning money came back to Nepal with empty hand. The only thing she brought back was her changed identity and a 3 years old son.

"Before 5 years ago, I had reached Kuwait via Delhi" Presently staying in the hotel in Balaju with a son who can only speak Arabic she continues "I had served a sentence in Kuwait jail with my son for the last one and half years and after that I returned Nepal and have been taking shelter in this hotel"

Rupwati Gurung, born in Bhachowk V.D. C of Kaski District of Gandaki zone, wanted to be a nurse during her school days. Being an orphan somehow she had managed to finish her schooling till class ten. She even came to Kathmandu and took health assistant training but her dream was shattered after she got married. "My life took a turn" she says "to get married with an unemployed at the age of 20, I had to bear many burden"

Not being able to rely on her husband, she opened a small shop in Pokhara for sometimes and also worked in day care of a school. But after giving birth to a son and a daughter, her burden increased so she tried to send her unemployed husband to Portugal for foreign employment after managing 5 lakh from her relatives but the broker cheated them. "I met another broker who was willing to send me to Kuwait" recalling the days she continued "by paying the broker 30 thousand I reached Kuwait in October, 2004".

After reaching there she was taken to the Housemaid center. After a day she was taken to a Kuwaiti family and started to work as a domestic helper. "But in that house there was a lot to do, I had to cook for 20 family members and also do the cleaning" she recalls her sad days " my pay was said to be 7 thousand per month and I had to survive on the leftovers".

Over burdened by her work after 15 days she returned to the House Maid center. There she found out that her employer had paid 60 thousand and took her for work. So unless the new employer paid the amount she could not join the new job. "Like this I was sold 3 times, there the animals may have the price but our service don't" she continues "if we start to talk about the mental, physical and financial toleration, it will be an epic "



In her understanding, there are also housemaid center of so called Nepalese relatives where they can get sold knowingly. "I stayed in a relative's center in a place called Habli for about 8 months. I had the work of cooking and feeding 4/5 girls who came there". On the hope of earning morning and returning home to her family she was spending her days.

While staying on the center when she went outside for outing, she met a Tibetan Kashmiri youth who assured her he will bring back the passport from the first employer, manage her good work and better living conditions. "He told me he will marry me and will spend the life together. I converted my Christian religion to Muslim" she remembers. In the process of living with that guy in a flat in Habli, Amir was born. "But at that time both I and Amir was without papers and illegal" she tells.

Latter she found out that he was already married and had a son in Kashmir and nobody in the family had knowledge of their marriage.

Once when Amir was seriously ill and she called her Husband home and after not reaching him, left a message with his grandmother "I am his wife, his son is very sick. Please tell him". At night the family members came and vandalize her flat. On the other hand she had rent due of two months so was forced to leave the flat. After that she went to the nearby police office and filed a case on her husband and took shelter there.

"After filing a case, about 3 weeks later the police managed to catch my husband and together with me he was also put in the Selibea Central Jail" she tells. Like this Rupwati and her son Amir became friend with a Nepali Female Dolma Sherpa, who was serving a sentence in accusation of murdering a Pilipino colleague. Among many Nepalese victims like her were also Bangladeshi, Indian, Pilipino, Indonesian and Sri Lankan. Many of them were arrested due to illegal status.

"From all places at least more than 100 female must have been arrested" she continues "above all, the Bangladeshi broker from Kuwait is more involved in selling females"

She was sentenced for 18 month and side by side her son was also growing. But suddenly her husband serving in jail was diagnosed with heart cancer. Within two months he died. Her dream of staying in Kuwait after serving in jail was shattered with her husband's death.

"My husband's family used to come to meet me in jail, they used say give us the child and we will give you any amount but I refused". After serving her sentence, on August 26, 2009 she with her son Amir with the help of travel documents landed on Kathmandu. With the word of paying latter she is been staying in the guest house. Just only her accommodation credit has been over 15 thousand.

"I don't have the situation of returning Pokhara right now" she continues "if I get any help or support; I have a wish to educate my son by doing some job"



In her understanding, About 80 percentage of the female who went to Kuwait has a painful situation. Some Nepalese unmarried female along with their children are staying there in hiding. "The female there have sorrowful situation but the Government has not been doing anything regarding this, I don't know why" she says.

Rupwati is happy with the news of opening Nepali Embassy in Kuwait but she also says before the Embassy is opened and starts the work it is necessary to decide whether to send the female migrant to Kuwait or not?

POURAKHI helped Rupwati to pay the hotel due with the help from other NRN and coordination from Devendra Bhattraai, a reporter from Kantipur. When her son was seriously ill, POURAKHI helped her to admit her son in hospital and took total care of him. POURAKHI also helped her to reintegrate with her family member.

गजल

मिति २०६६ असोज २९

पारी भिरमा बाखा चराउनेलाई बनायौ एफ-स्कल मल्टीमिटर र टेष्टर बोकि हिड्ने ।

के ढायित्व थियो तिमीलाई एफ-स्कल बेवारिसे जिन्ढगीलाई डो-याई हिड्ने ।

नेपाली र नेपालको ढक्ष थिएनौ हामी एफ-स्कल ढक्ष बनायौ
एफ-स्कल निस्वार्थ भावले सहयोग ग-यौ सिप दिने

आमाको ढायित्व बोकेर आयौ पौरखी
नड नकाट्नेलाई स्वास्थ्य धन हो मनी सिकायौ ।
हामी जिन्ढगी ढेखि हरेकोलाई योग्य जनशक्तिमा बिकायौ ।

के रिन थियो तिर्न तिमीले पौरखी
आज स्वास्थ्य जिवन जिउन सिकायौ ।

बाबाको जस्तो के थियो तिमीलाई अराउण्ड द वर्ल्ड दुनियाँ कर्तव्य निभायौ ।
जिवन र जिन्ढगी के हो स्पष्ट सिकायौ
हामीले ढिइको सम्पूर्ण ढुख पिडा सह्यौ ।
हामीलाई लाग्छ आज तिमीले बा आमाको जस्तो ढायित्व निभायौ ।

प्रेम कुमार कार्की
रामेछाप जिल्ला
रस्नातु ९



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