

State of Migrant Labour in the BRICS countries

Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury and Rajat Kanti Sur

Abstract

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During the Second BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers’ conference in 2016, the member states agreed to collaborate with each other and adapted a joint declaration on “Employment Generation, Social Protection for All and Transition from Informality to Formality.” The group of ministers planned to transform the employment from an informal to formal economy.² BRICS countries were stick to the resolution till 2020. COVID 19 pandemic changed the situation. In 2021, a virtual meet of the labour and employment ministers of BRICS countries accepted the vulnerability and risk in the field of labour and employment has doubly increased during the pandemic. The group of ministers were focused on four important aspects related to labour and employment during the virtual meeting. These were;

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The BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' meeting in 2023 prioritise the decent work environment for all. Titled as "Ensuring Decent Work, Dignity and Respect for All," the declaration for 2023 discussed the challenges faced by common problems of labour and employment in all the BRICS countries. It mentioned the increasing crisis of unemployment in the post-pandemic years and marked demographic shifts as one of the reasons for it.⁵ One of the recent articles the problem of migrant labours from BRICS countries argued about bilateral or

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multilateral dialogues on trans-border labour relations would be essential to solve the problem of employment and illegal migration.⁶

But, the bilateral relations between the BRICS countries prevented the possibility. The new labour laws or the recent amendments in the existing citizenship and labour laws made the situation more crucial. The conservative agenda has prevented the idea of a free trans-national labour flows among the neighbouring states of BRICS. Advancement of technology, use of artificial intelligence brought new challenges.

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multilateral dialogues on trans-border labour relations would be essential to solve the problem of employment and illegal migration.⁶

But, the bilateral relations between the BRICS countries prevented the possibility. The new labour laws or the recent amendments in the existing citizenship and labour laws made the situation more crucial. The conservative agenda has prevented the idea of a free trans-national labour flows among the neighbouring states of BRICS. Advancement of technology, use of artificial intelligence brought new challenges.

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