

Dispute Resolution in Allahabad

PEPUS or *Paryavaran Evam Prodyogiki Utthan Samiti* (Society for Environmental and Technical Upliftment), based in Jhusi, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, facilitates the process of dispute resolution for migrant labourers, and aims to reach a settlement through mutual dialogue.

PEPUS has promoted the formation of a collective of migrant labourers working in brick kilns, known as *Bhatta Parivar Vikas Sewa Samiti* (Association for Development of Families of Brick Kiln Workers), which is registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act 1860.

To resolve disputes, migrant labourers first submit a written complaint at the Migrant Resource Centre (*Shramik Sahayata Kendra*). After discussion, an information letter is issued by the collective to the opponent party (usually the labour contractor or brick kiln owner), comprising details of the dispute and date of hearing. On the day of the dispute hearing, both parties assemble at the centre, after which the migrant labourer first presents details regarding the dispute, following which the opponent party puts forth their case regarding the complaint. On most occasions, disputes are settled by the proactive mediation and arbitration of the collective. Disputes that cannot be settled through mutual dialogue are forwarded to an advocate of the High Court, who attends the centre on a regular basis and takes necessary action for dispute resolution. Most of the disputes registered between labourers and employers relate to payment, and the centre assists labourers in getting due wages from their contractor or employer. PEPUS states that it has undertaken dispute resolution covering a total of 600 villages, in Bihar block, Pratapgarh district and Muratganj block, Kausambi district of Uttar Pradesh.

Migrant labourers have begun raising their voice against injustice and harassment. PEPUS' data shows that they have registered a total of 187 cases, of which 50 cases have been resolved, with a total of ₹ 739,141 (USD 13,200) unpaid wage arrears being accorded to labourers.

Source: PEPUS (www.pepus.org)

Social Inclusion of Internal Migrants in India, UNESCO, 2013

