

## Trade Union Cards for Migrants: Disha Foundation

Disha Foundation in Nashik has issued identity cards to 15,000 migrants enrolled in the trade unions of various sectors. Migrants are provided with official membership and a photo identity card for the union, based on a detailed registration form that includes basic demographic information. The total cost for a lifetime membership is ₹ 10 (USD 0.18) and it is offered to migrants in Nashik city as well as at source villages.

These trade union cards have been authorised by the *gram panchayats* (village level institution of local self-government) of source villages, and have proved extremely valuable for migrants at destinations. Many migrants have reported that the identity card has served as an important document, providing them with a proof of identity necessary for accessing public services in Nashik city, besides ensuring protection against police harassment and wage exploitation. Some migrants were able to vote with the union card in absence of any other photo identification at a source village, Kharwal in Peth block.

Source: Disha Foundation ([www.dishafoundation.wordpress.com](http://www.dishafoundation.wordpress.com))  
Social Inclusion of Internal Migrants in India, UNESCO, 2013