



SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, NAGPUR

Constituent of Symbiosis International (DEEMED UNIVERSITY)

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Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur Organized International Virtual Seminar in collaboration with Faculty of Shariah and Law, Villa College, Maldives

Date: 17th January, 2022

Migration is a global phenomenon. Each year millions of women and men leave their homes and cross national borders in search of greater security for themselves and their families. Many migrants are motivated by the quest for higher wages and better opportunities, responding to the demand for their skills abroad, but many others are forced to migrate because of famine, natural disasters, violent conflict, persecution or simply a lack of decent work in their home country. However, the fact remains that the migrant workers, at times suffer poor working and living conditions, including low wages, unsafe working environments, a virtual absence of social protection, denial of freedom of association and workers' rights, discrimination and xenophobia. Migrant integration policies in many destination countries leave much to be desired.

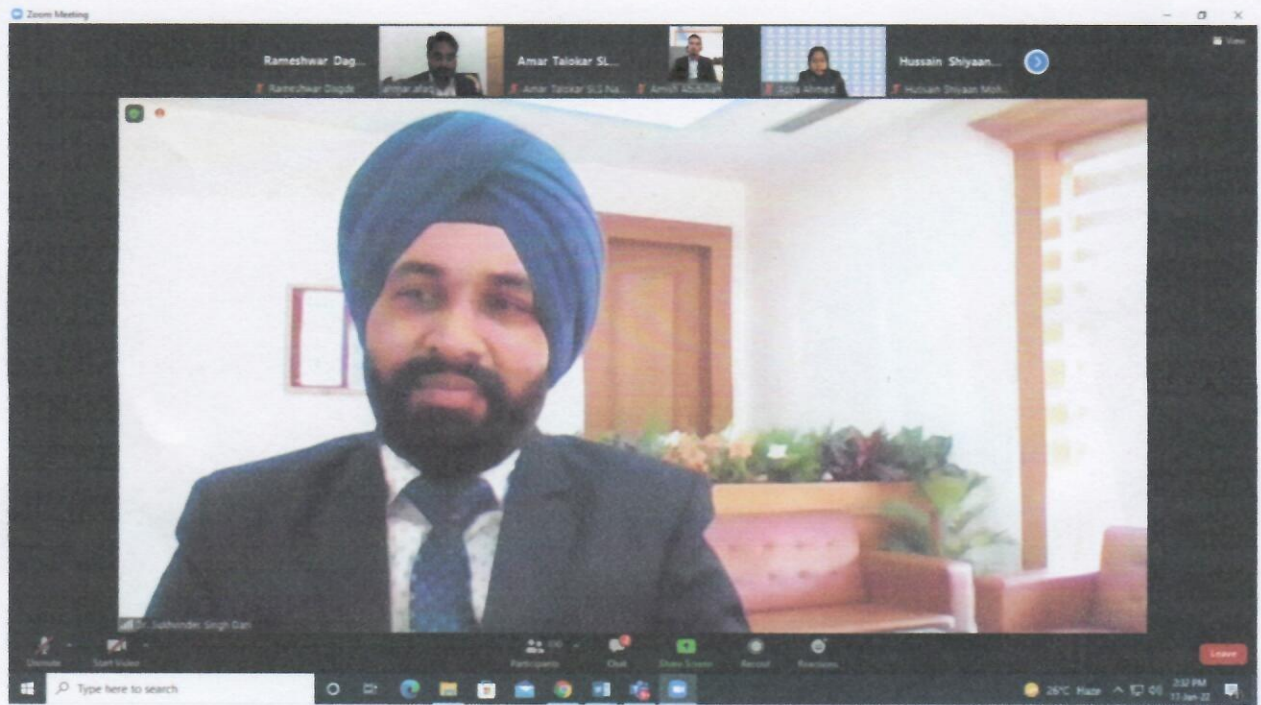
Asian migration, the migration flows to and from Asia, has captured the attention of many Asian and western researchers. With the rise of the 'Asian century', the region has become the 'power house' generating migration mobility. If the 1990s was the age of migration, this could be 'the age of Asian migration'. A large number of Asian and western scholars (across disciplines such as geography, anthropology, sociology, political studies, gender and development studies) have engaged in migration research in the region. The Asian migrants forming a great chunk (as per the report of 2015, almost 40% of total migrants originated from Asia) of all the total migratory population (282 million population of International migrants) and also hosting a huge number of migrants, the issue demands much deliberations on vulnerabilities, national and international legal framework and way forward.

Keeping the above mentioned in mind The International Virtual Seminar on 'Asian Migrant Labourers: Problems and Prospects' as a collaborative effort was organized by Symbiosis Law School Nagpur and Faculty of Shariah and Law, Maldives on 17 January, 2022.

The seminar witnessed an overwhelming registrations with the numbers going beyond 500 with participants from 6 different countries. The seminar was addressed by the following resource persons:

1. Ms. Jyotica Bhasin,
Senior Partner,
Law offices of Bhasin and Bhasin Associates,
New Delhi, India.
2. Mr. Mahdy Hasan,
National Programmed Officer, Human Trafficking and the Migrant Smuggling,
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
Regional Office for South Asia, Bangladesh.
3. Dr. Minah Faiz Rashad
Co-founder and President,
The mission for Migrant Workers, Maldives.
4. Mr. Anurag Devkota,
Human Rights lawyer,
Law and Policy Forum for Social Justice (LAPSOJ), Nepal.

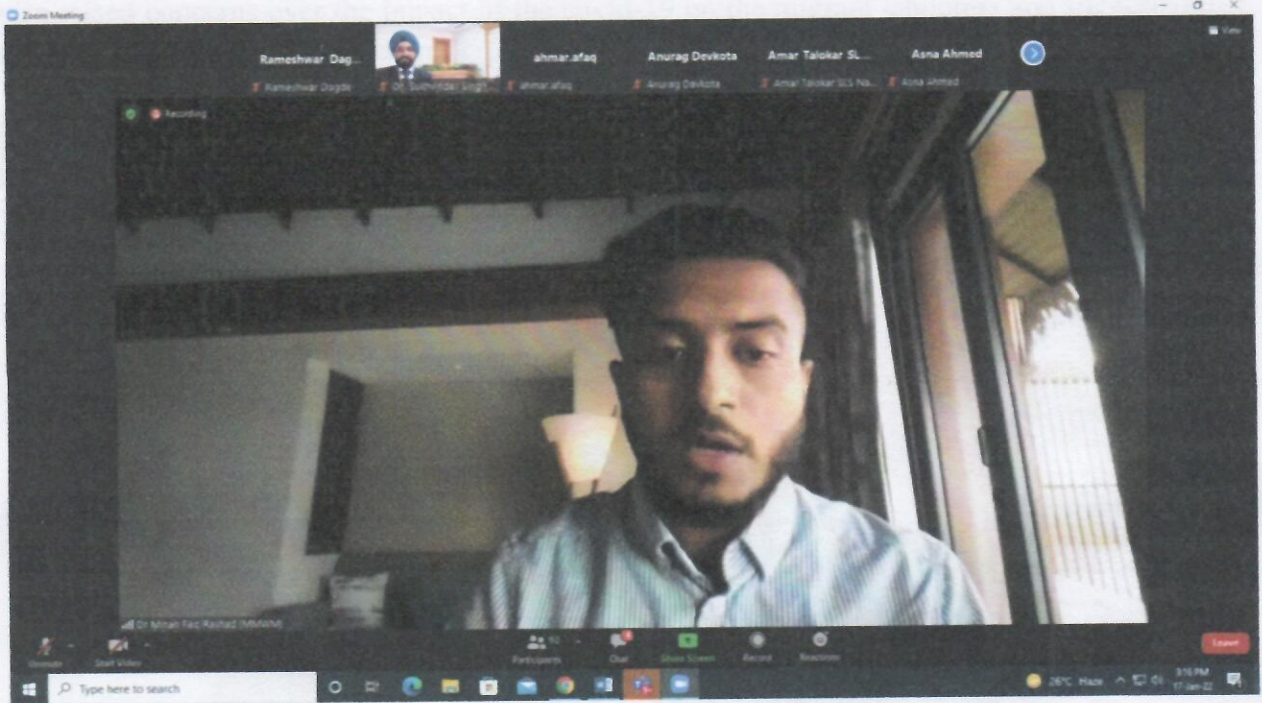
The seminar commenced with the brief of the object discussed by Prof. Ahmar Afaq, who also moderated the seminar. Dr. Sukhvinder Singh Dari delivered the welcome address and highlighted the need and importance of such academic collaborations with such a diverse audience and resource persons.



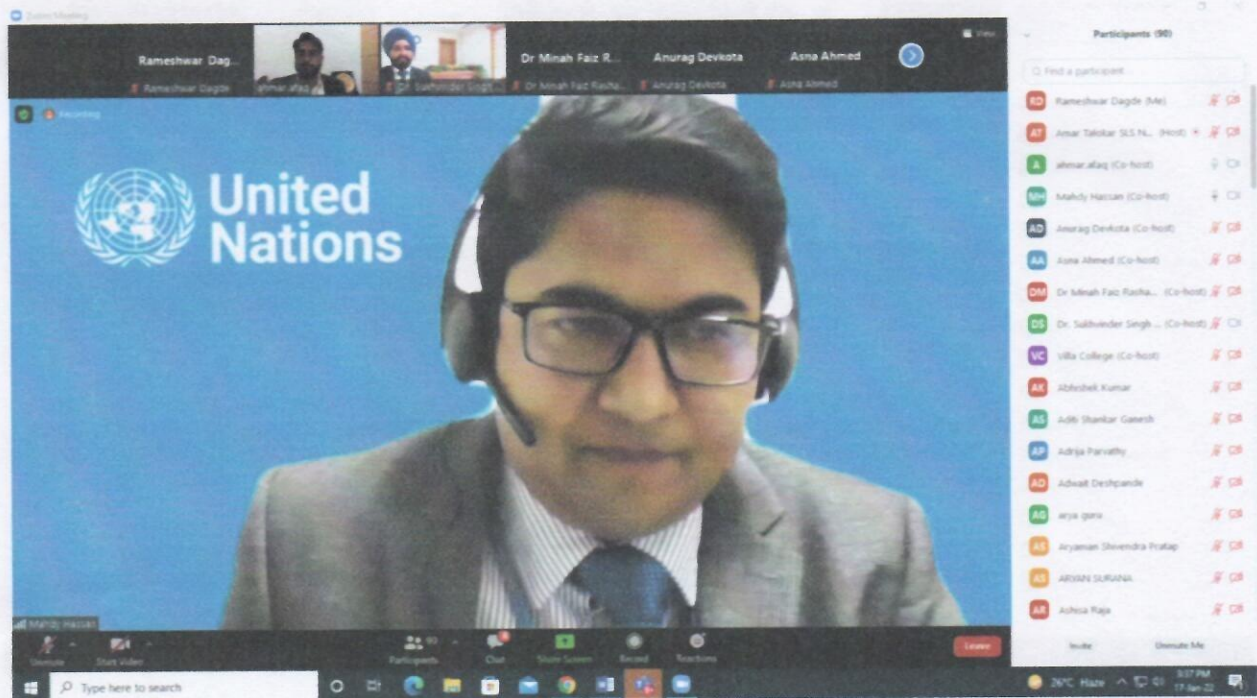
Mr. Anurag Devkota discussed the issues pertaining to the migrant workers in Nepal and what efforts are being taken in that regard. He highlighted the plight of the migrant workers with various first hand examples and the steps that have been undertaken to resolve them. He emphasized on the global and regional policy to combat the problem.



Dr. Minah with the help of the data showcased the number of migrant workers in Maldives and draw a comparison between the Maldives that appears on our mobile phone screens and the Maldives exactly is. Raising concerns relating to the covid-19 and its impact on the migrant workers he deliberated on issues that were faced by the migrant workers. He also spoke in connection to the malpractices that are being followed by various agents and agencies which is adding to the plight of the migrant workers and what is the way forward.

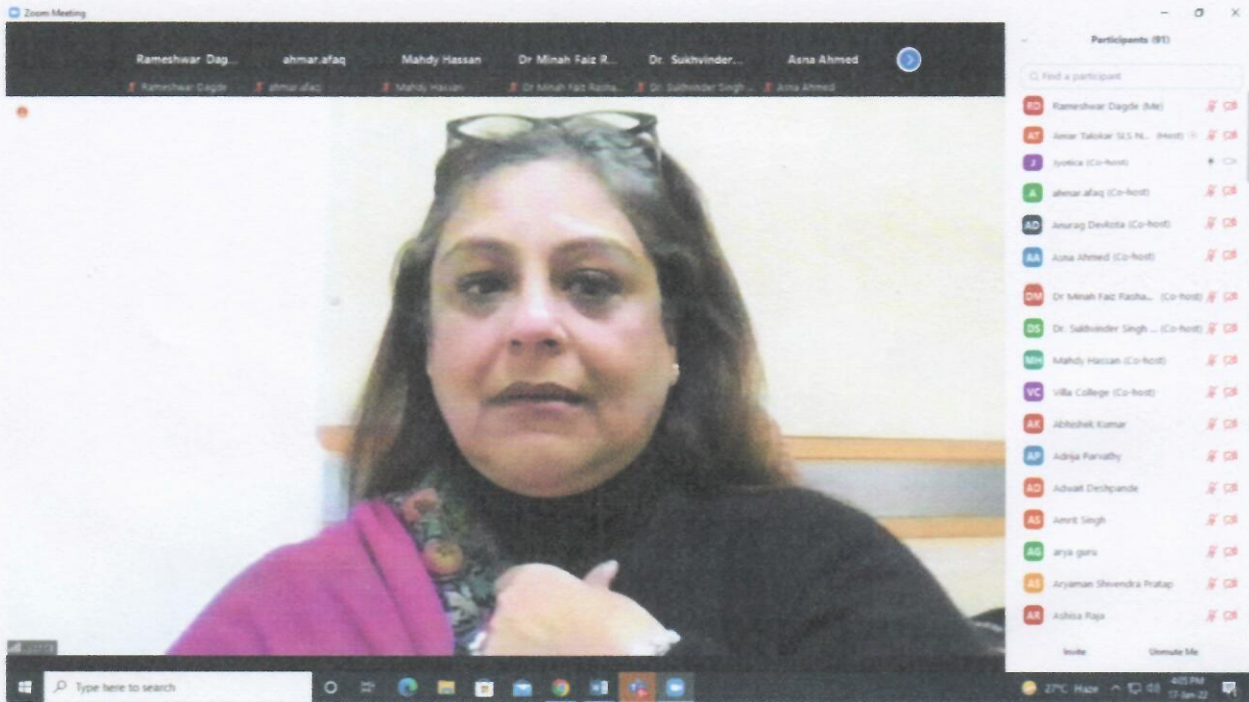


Mr. Mahdy taking a page out of his experiences working with UNODC in Bangladesh have touched upon the issue of trafficking of the migrant workers. He highlighted the fact that many of such workers are made subject of trafficking and that lead them to many more troubles. He shared the data of the trafficking in the region and tried to relate it with the issue in discussion. He argued that the problems faced by the migrant labourers cannot be entirely solved till the time the issue of trafficking is not addressed.

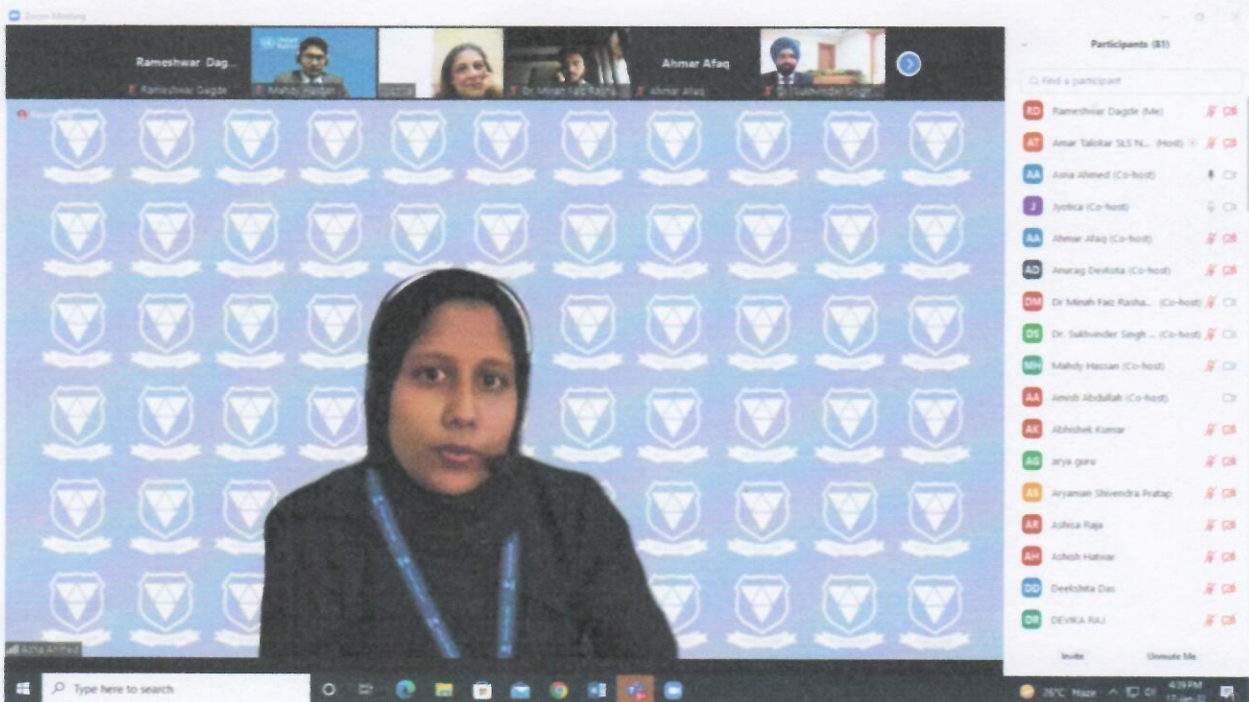


Ms. Bhasin took the jurisprudential route to explain the reasons behind migration and emphasized that the problems faced by the migrant labourers need to be addressed from the root level. She focused on the labour laws in India and highlighted the lacunae associated with it. She

also raised concerns over the impact of the covid-19 on the migrant labourers and suggested that the strong actions need to be taken.



The discussion was followed by a question and answer session and the concluding remarks with the formal vote of thanks was delivered by Ms. Asna Ahmad, Deputy Dean, faculty of Shariah & Law, Villa College, Male Maldives.



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Director
Symbiosis Law School,
Nagpur