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Purdue Professor Speaks of Fighting for Migrant Workers' Rights

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. - Mohan J Dutta is a Purdue University Professor of Communications, but that is not all that he does. Dutta is currently researching international health communication, cultural theory, poverty in healthcare, and social change.

Dutta has traveled many places, doing research and witnessing human rights violations of all kinds. Wednesday March 10, 2010 Dutta explained the situation, "Across the globe the labor market is not a free market." He pointed out that in certain places law makers are finding loop holes in order to exploit certain people.

The area that Dutta is focusing his research on is Singapore. In Singapore's recent history new regulations have been passed, these have only resulted in minor changes. The main groups of people who are being exploited are immigrants. These immigrants traveled looking to make an honest living, and end up in Singapore where they are thoroughly taken advantage of.

Understanding the large underlying problem is most important to solving the problem according to Dutta. "The absence of global regulations creates a situation where vulnerable people are taken advantage of in the labor force," he said.

Law makers in Singapore require these immigrants to apply for and get a permit before they are allowed to work. These permits state that they are low-skilled and foreign. They regulate these workers according to the "use and discard" policy, and do not pay them adequately for their work. As soon as these workers are considered unfit to work they are fired and sent back to their country.

Dutta is fighting against these injustices in Singapore and does his best to inform others of their human rights. As his research continues more will be known about what we can do to help. With any questions contact:

Writer: Patrick Bissell, (317) 965-1557, pbissell@purdue.edu

Sources: Mohan J Dutta, (765) 494-2587, mdutta@purdue.edu