

Envisaging Dignified Life: NCCI converges L20

Labour 20 (L20) is an essential component of the G-20 meetings and represents workers' interests there. The forum tries to bring together trade unionists, employers and workers to discuss the issues concerning the working people and population in general that transcend borders. In 2023 with the Republic of India as the official host for G-20, Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, hosted the L-20 and set the foci on Universal Social Security, Women And Future of Work, International Migration: Portability of Social Security Benefits, Changing World of Work: New Employment Opportunities and Challenges in G20 Countries, and Skill Development: Roles and Responsibilities of Stakeholders.

Rajesh Jadhav, on 11th May 2023 in Nagpur L20 meeting represented National Council of Churches in India - Urban Rural Mission (NCCI-URM) and shares the acquired experience unveiling the concerns of labourers as discussed, and emits suggestive thoughts for churches.

Jadhav has given significant years of his life working for those who are neglected and tormented by the people in power. He has lived with them, shared bread with them, and became a participant in the plight so he can seek out justice and claim the life of dignity for all.

“In the early years the issues of labour were accommodated by only a few, but off late, many are showing close concern in labour activism” he acknowledges the rising consciousness.

He understands that the issue is deep rooted and will require prodigious tussle. In view of the fact that the labour laws are passed down from the pre-independence era, they were meant to suppress the workforce. And although recently the parliament eased it, growth and empowerment in the living conditions of labourers are unobtrusive.

“The workforce and labourers are being pushed to the limits, their voices hushed and consequently nobody talking about them” he says.

In the gruelling circumstances like this where the issues are being neglected or being talked about mildly, Jadhav believes that the L20 of G20 forum will highlight and streamline the agenda to make feasible laws and globalised policy for labourers.

However, this cannot be the task of one agency, it will require the spadework from umpteen. This stands as an opportunity for churches to join forces and inflate this intent of dignity and prosperity. The church must crush her walls and let the masses find their places in the scripture and in the society. The task of every church, all

congregations and each individual is to demand dignity, to voice out against discrimination, to stand in solidarity and to seek justice as an act of worship.

“There's a bankruptcy of spirituality, of reading the scripture and of knowing the laws; the church must be alerted to rekindle the spirituality that strives for justice. NCCI has a responsibility to be the prophetic voice and take the message of hope, especially to the labourers, and to all,” he asserts.

Reported by,
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