ADR FOR RESOLVING MIGRATION DISPUTES IN BANGLADESH: QUEST FOR AN INTEGRATED NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

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ABSTRACT

The fair and timely resolution of migration-related disputes has become a pressing issue in Bangladesh. Although remittances from migrant workers now represent the largest source of foreign currency reserves, many workers face unresolved disputes, particularly with recruitment sub-agents and foreign employers, jeopardising their financial stability and overall well-being. Despite the existence of various formal, semi-formal, and informal mechanisms to address these issues, the fragmented nature of these platforms significantly undermines their effectiveness. This fragmentation not only weakens the impact of grassroots initiatives but also places additional strain on the already overloaded formal justice system. Against this backdrop, this paper critically examines the existing Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) framework for migration disputes in Bangladesh. Based on a thorough review of relevant literature and insights from key informant interviews, the paper aims to (1) explore the fragmented structure of formal, semi-formal, and informal dispute resolution mechanisms, (2) identify the limitations that hinder their effectiveness, and (3) propose strategies to link these platforms for a more cohesive approach. By doing so, the paper aims to enhance the overall effectiveness of ADR in resolving migration disputes in the country.

Keywords – ADR, Migration, Legal Aid, Village Court, Arb-Med-Arb.

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