

Advancing the business and Human Rights Agenda in India: An Overview

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Key issues in India:

- Relocation and Rehabilitation (SEZs, Extractive industries, large infrastructure Projects)
- Environmental Protection (Development vs Protection)
- Social Disparities (Education, Health, Livelihood)
- Wide Spread use of contract Labour
- Inadequate impact of the positive discrimination system.
- Organized sector workforce forms only about 8 % of Indian Business



Key Challenges

- Difference in worldviews among Business Managers and Communities.
- Lack of dialogue between Business and Civil Society.
- Gaps in the legal framework (Sometimes legal compliance is not enough).
- Human Rights is an issue that is seen by Business more through a fire fighting lens (with a negative connotation).
- Inadequate efforts to orient staff on Human Rights.



Opportunities

- Financial Resources is not a constraint.
- Many of the issues are getting priority in the mainstream political processes.
- Indian Companies are increasingly doing business Globally.
- Very strong Civil Society movements.
- High profile impact of resistance could result in a re-think of strategies.
- Increasing awareness among business leaders

The Steps so far:

- Dissemination of information of Prof. John Ruggie's Final Report to the Human Rights Council and his new Mandate.
- Release of a Primer on Business and Human Rights.
- A consultation between Professor John Ruggie and Indian Business Leaders
- Training initiatives and Round Table discussions
- Government led Business Codes



Thank you
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