Organisation collective et travail informel : le cas des “Shipbreakers” de Mumbai

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Les voies du renouveau syndical dans les pays émergents : Quels apprentissages ? (Atelier 2.2)
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Overview

Conceptual framework

Inspired by Boaventura de Sousa Santos’ Sociology of absences, emergences and the work of translation

Objective

Gathering research material allowing us to make mutually intelligible practices, strategies and claims conveyed by the collective organization of workers entangled on peripheral labour markets in order to nourish both a renewed “union language” as well as organizational matrices and new directories of action.

Methodology

- Literature review
- Semi-directive interviews
- 10 union activists and
- 22 shipbreaking workers
I. Context

1. Jobless growth, casualization of formal employment and rise of the informal sector (93 %)

2. Shipbreaking as an ideal case of Durand’s job centrifugation dynamic
II. Working and living conditions

- One of the world’s most hazardous work
- 100-300 Rupees for 12 hour/day/7d/week
- Difficult access to potable water
- No PPE’s
- Unsanitary shelters
- High risk of job related illnesses and fatal accidents
- Broken families
III. A chronologie of the struggle

1. Watchword from HMS and creation of an organizing committee by MPTDGEU (2003)
2. Provision of potable drinking water and ID cards through consultation with port authorities, police, NGO
4. Promotion of better training through political lobbying and direct provision by the MPTDGEU
5. Strike in Alang (2009)
7. Ongoing efforts to create a work log in order to make the law applicable but also implemented.
8. Old struggles: assuring payment of wages, promotion of PPE, better sanitary in shelters, new issues: school for children, HIV.
9. The MPTDGEU now has 3000 members in Darukhana (2012)
Raising Issues (4-5-6-7)

- Union democracy, transparency and engaging leadership from below.

- Building local and international coalitions and solidarities.

- Building coalition with other social movements, especially the environmental movement.

- Enabling the union to finance their activity
Raising Issues (1)

The quest for visibility, recognition and dignity.
Raising Issues (2)

- Developing tools and means to internally resolve conflicts between workers.
Raising Issues (3)

- Building a 360 degrees approach adapted to the differentiated characteristic of “informal workers”.

![Image of informal workers' area]
Thank you

Draft available on request.

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