



Work in Dignity Fellowship

Seeding and Strengthening Labour Action

A joint initiative by Aajeevika Bureau & Work Fair and Free Foundation





work in dignity fellowship

About Aajeevika Bureau

Aajeevika Bureau (AB) is a labour rights and services organisation working to achieve a dignified world of work for communities dependent on informal, precarious work. In our journey spanning nearly two decades, our focus has been on seasonal migrants, who form a particularly vulnerable segment of workers, facing exploitative conditions of work and socio-political exclusions in their rural homes and urban destinations.

Aajeevika's work addresses complex challenges around access to justice, workers' bargaining power, occupational safety, social protection, and gendered vulnerabilities that manifest within labour markets. Our larger vision is a sustainable and systemic shift in working conditions and public provisioning systems, to ensure that informal workers can live and work with dignity, everywhere.

Aajeevika currently has direct presence in four states - Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka.

About Work Fair and Free Foundation (WFFF)

Work Fair and Free, conceived and incubated by Aajeevika Bureau, is a knowledge institution driven by a commitment to advance worker-centric knowledge and action, so that informal labour migration can become more secure and dignified. We aim to bring together grounded and rigorous research, insightful policy work, and innovative teaching and training, all supported and informed by impactful practice in urban industrial centres as well as rural migration clusters. WFFF draws upon Aajeevika's practice in field locations using participatory tools of inquiry and blends these with wider research evidence to formulate policy positions and arguments.



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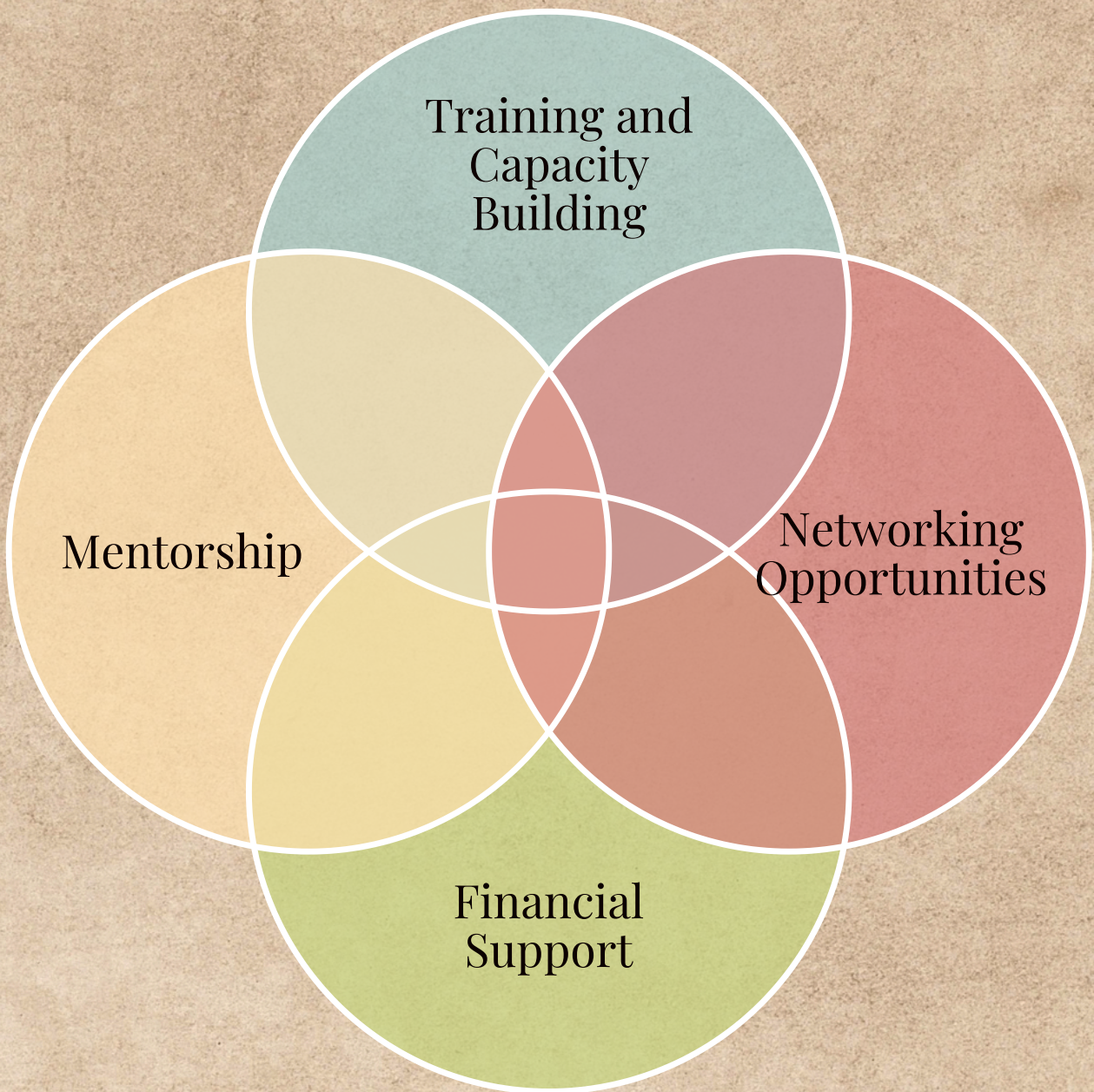
The Fellowship was introduced with the vision of **seeding** and **strengthening labour rights action** in uncovered locations, and laying the foundation for subsequent, longer-term work. The fellowship is a **2-year** long programme, through which we aim to provide effective training, mentoring, networking opportunities and financial support to committed individuals working in the space of labour rights.

The very first cohort of the programme, composed of 15 labour activists commenced their fellowship journey in August 2023. Six more fellows were added to the programme in early 2024. This cohort brings together both experienced as well as young and fresh labour practitioners. The decision to offer the fellowship to fairly experienced candidates came from our recognition of the role that fellowships of this nature can play in sustaining the critical work being undertaken by independent activists, often with limited or no financial support.

The cohort also encompasses rich diversity in terms of the wide range of worker groups that will be supported through their work. Work sectors that are represented include: industrial work (cycle, brassware, steel), textile and carpet industry, domestic work, sanitation work, construction and home-based work. While the specific nature and focus of the fellow's work on the ground will vary depending on the needs of the community, the programme will lay a special emphasis on activating legal aid, collectivisation, and interventions around occupational safety and social protection, where these fit.

We've chosen a **mangrove** as a symbol to represent this Fellowship as a nod to the critical role mangroves play in preventing coastal erosion and mitigating the effects of climate change. We see our Fellows as being akin to mangroves in more than one way. As powerful catalysts for people-led movements calling for transformative changes in the social order, the Fellows are vital to the fight against the rapid, deadly erosion of labour rights that we're seeing today. Through this programme, our goal is to add strength to their work by enabling access to required support and resources.

design



We're currently supporting **18 fellows**, who're working across **11 states**.



meet the cohort!



glimpses from learning workshops



glimpses from the ground





**To know more about the
fellowship and the work we
support, please write to us at
workindignity@aajeevika.org**