

Bangladeshi workers' food unclean: survey

Over nine in 10 Bangladeshi migrant workers here are given unclean and unhygienic food to eat from caterers, a new survey has found.

Most also complained that they do not get enough food, according to a survey of 500 workers led by a National University of Singapore (NUS) research centre.

“In our research we thought salary disputes was the main thing they faced, but through talking to the workers it turned out that food was a bigger problem,” said Professor Mohan J. Dutta, director of the Centre for Culture-centred Approach to Research and Evaluation (Care) at NUS, at a media conference yesterday.

“That food can be so integral to health can be something so simple but easily overlooked.”

The two-year research project funded by an NUS grant also saw a month-long awareness campaign launched yesterday to highlight the food issues migrant workers face.

This includes a television commercial, bus and MRT ads and a 10-minute documentary.

One issue Prof Dutta and his team found over the course of their project was that despite clear regulations on how long food can be stored and how it should be labelled, many packets of food did not have labels.

“Workers mentioned falling sick from eating the food,” he said, adding that many workers reported food meant for lunch being prepared by companies 12 hours earlier.

The workers surveyed were contacted at MRT stations, Little India, grocery stores, dormitories and through migrant worker group HealthServe, which partnered Care in the project.
– The Straits Times Online.