

## Human Capital Innovation India's Roadmap for Dignified Economic Growth

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Worker welfare has been a long-established bone of contention between the industries and workers in India and around the world. The business-perspective on worker welfare has been driven by the narrative that workers are but costs of production. Thus, while industries have grown and flourished, the foot-soldiers have oft been neglected in the process.

Unsafe working conditions, low wages and lack of social security have been some of the primary challenges for workers, especially women who have additionally been subject to discriminatory wages, workplace harassment and barriers to entry in the workforce.

The ongoing humanitarian crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic has brought the workers' plight to the forefront and accelerated the need for a discourse on institutionalisation of measures for worker welfare at the enterprise level. The recently passed labour codes on Social Security, Industrial Relations and Occupational Health, Safety and Working Conditions set the context and reinforce the criticality of such a discourse in India.

Given this context, CUTS International, in its pursuit to understand ground realities vis-à-vis worker welfare in India, is implementing a project to strengthen the discourse for generating "Good & Better Jobs" in India. One of its components is to understand socio-economic well-being of workers.

To further its quest to strengthen the discourse on the need for enhanced worker welfare, it has prepared a note on 'Models for Facilitating Worker Welfare in Indian Industries' which explores business-led models for worker welfare.

This webinar aims to bring together perspectives from the industry, worker-community and academia to deliberate on the roadmap for reimagining workers as 'human capital' rather than 'costs of production'.