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**Article:** Culture as Coping Mechanism: Rural South Asian Foreign Workers in Singapore

The opportunity to work in Singapore is an expensive, yet much-sought after commodity in certain parts of rural Asia. In order to reap the benefits of this job investment, it is imperative for the worker to have a steady income for at least more than 1 year. However, due to trouble with the employer, following injuries or employment conditions disputes, some workers find themselves unable to recover the initial expenses.

This presentation takes on the theme of foreign workers from Bangladesh and India who seek care in Singapore's inner city district ("Little India") due to income/medical benefit disputes with their employers. In particular, it focuses how cultural elements come into play for the workers themselves in order to cope with their precarious conditions and for non-profit organizations that provide care on a voluntary basis. From there onwards, I will examine how these elements have an impact on the worker's living environment.

I conclude that particular cultural practices/arrangements play a conspicuous role for the workers to mentally cope with their precarious conditions, but also that they may have adverse effects in relation to their living environment.