

AMRESH RANI
PERSONAL INFORMATION

Age : 30 Years
Place of Birth : Village, Badot, (U.P.)
Present Residence : Prem Vihar, Karawal Nagar, Delhi- 94.
Educational Qualification : 5th Standard
Vocational Training : None
Marital Status : Married
Children : 3 (Two Daughters and One Son)
Present Occupation : works as a housemaid

1. EMIGRATION PATTERN:

AMRESH RANI HAD TO MIGRATE PERMANENTLY FROM HER BIRTH PLACE BECAUSE HER HUSBAND SOLD HIS MEAGRE LANDHOLDING IN HIS VILLAGE, MIGRATED TO DELHI WITH HIS WIDOW MOTHER IN 1988 AND BOUGHT A SMALL PIECE OF LAND IN EAST DELHI (KARAWAL NAGAR).

2. PROLETARIANISATION:

AMRESH RANI IS A CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF A HOUSEHOLD WOMAN WITH RURAL BACKGROUND, STEPPING OUT OF HOME TO WORK AND SHOULDER THE BURDEN OF HER FAMILY ALL ALONE. HER HUSBAND, SHE SAYS IS A, 'LAZY, STUPID AND A CHILDISH CHARACTER'. THE BURDEN OF FINANCIALLY SUPPORTING THE FAMILY IS ON AMRESH'S SHOULDER FOR MOST OF THE TIME AS HER HUSBAND OFTEN SITS IDLE AND REFUSES TO WORK.

3. POLITICAL AND ORGANISATIONAL EXPERIENCE: NONE.

4. WORK EXPERIENCE:

LIKE HER HUSBAND, AMRESH RANI IS NOT PURELY AN INDUSTRIAL WORKER. THE KIND OF WORK SHE HAS BEEN ENGAGED WITH RANGE FROM BABY-SITTING IN SCHOOL, HOUSEMAID, PACKAGING OF DRY FRUITS, MAKING RAKHI, VEGETABLE VENDOR AND WORKING IN A BUTTON MAKING FACTORY. HER PAY SCALE AND KINDS OF WORK ARE GIVEN BELOW IN THE TABLE-

KIND OF WORK	INCOME
Housemaid	Rs.300/- per month
Baby-sitting in school	Rs.500/- per month
Vegetable vendor	Rs.300/- to Rs. 6007- per month
Packaging of dry fruits (seasonal)	Rs.4/- per 100 Kgs (Rs.40/- to Rs. 607- per day)
Rakhi making (seasonal)	Rs.2/- per 12 Rakhi (Rs. 607- to Rs.807 per day)
Button making in Dhankar Factory, Karawal Nagar.	Rs. 800/- per month.

AMRESH RANI A SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Amresh Rani is a classic example of a brave woman from rural India who despite her inhibition towards the outside world, stepped out of her house to work and support her family all alone.

Born in a small village, Badot in Uttar Pradesh in 1971, Amresh had to face many problems in her childhood days. The fifth child of her parents, Amresh had six siblings. She had to take care of all the domestic works and also had to attend school. Amresh's mother who was from a very poor family was very strict with her and she was expected to do a lot of work at home denying her of the share of childhood fun she deserved.

She went to school till class five and was pulled out of school because her parents argued that girls don't need to go work and should stick to household work. However Amresh regrets this and wishes that had her education been better she would have earned more than what she is earning today.

According to Amresh her father was a barber and was a very simple man. He was very liberal and loved his children and wife very much. Amresh says that since her father was very innocent and was ignorant about family planning he went ahead to have a very large family. Because of the same ignorance he was afraid of getting an operation done.

When Amresh reached the age of eighteen her parents started looking for a suitable groom. Hindi films had a heavy influence on her dreams about her married life - as she would see in films she would think of bed sheets and curtains being changed everyday. She would think of the things she would get as she gets married- the furniture, a make up mirror, a radio and ofcourse a television, without a television she couldn't imagine about her married life. Amresh thought of a small house and a husband who would look after her needs. She was also very fond of watching movies. She hardly missed an opportunity of watching films, she would go with her brothers or with her relatives to see film in the talkies.

However to her shock and surprise, none of her dreams was materialised after her marriage .Amresh was married to Beerpal in 1989 and in the process she migrated to Delhi permanently. Beerpal had also a migrated from a village in UP. He along with his brothers and his widow mother had come to Delhi in search of better livelihood, after they sold off their land in the village. At the time of marriage ,Beerpal was working at an industrial unit of nuts and bolts in Mayapuri and was earning around Rs. 12007- month.

In first four years of their marriage they had no children because of some health problem of Beerpal. But after resorting to medical help they had a baby girl. Their relatives were not very happy over this but that was not how Amresh felt, she was happy to have child after all that effort. She narrated incidents of her husband's stupidity and carelessness. She told how he never came to see her during her pregnancy at her mother's place. He gave her some money and asked her to look after herself, as if only money suffices everything, she told us.

She complains about her husband's laziness, he goes to factory only when he feels like, often waste his time smoking or chatting with friends and she further says that he never improved because of his laziness and always believed that Rs.1500/ was enough for them.

Two years later when local Mayapuri workers union launched, a strike for increase in wages Beerpal joined it and as a result he and many of his friends was thrown out of the factory. It became very difficult for them to support their family and from then onwards life became very difficult for her. They were left with just two options-cither Beerpal looked for some work or she starts work. As expected considering Beerpal's nature he refused to look for work,even pressure from his relative didn't work and finally she went out looking for the job in neighbourhood and in schools. She could earn only around Rs. 4007- to Rs.SOOY- a month and it became very difficult for her to support the family, she also did some seasonal works like making rakhis and packaging of dry fruits. But even that couldn't bail her out of he crisis. Sometimes later Beerpal got some petty works to do but he never stuck to them. He was looking for some good job in industrial units which were very hard to come by, so he remained idle most of the time.

Talking of her husband's bad behaviour she says he would leave home everyday for work at cycle rim factory in Ghaziabad but would never enter the factory citing some stupid reasons like evil spirits overpowered him and that stopped him from entering the factory.

She felt very awkward to facing her relatives but Beerpal remained the same and didn't do anything to improve the condition .Looking at their plight her relatives helped them set up a vegetable shop but that too didn't go well and had to be closed. Their situation worsen and sometimes they had to go to bed without food and then she would go to her parents and ask for something.

Things didn't improve much and it became even more difficult when Beerpal contracted TB. She took him to hospital for treatment, but she was hurt and felt very awkward when the staff asked who the man was, "as though he didn't look like her husband ".Finally she had to tell the staff that he was her husband and he was quite dumb and remained a spectator throughout the whole incident. She has fought with him over these grievances many a times but he has failed to change. In their twelve years of marriage she has carried most of the burden.

Two more members were added to their family, one son and one daughter,increasing their requirements. This compelled her to leave her job as a maid and look for job in some factory. She took up a job in a button making factory for Rs.1000/- for eight hours of work a day. Later on she worked at construction sites as a wage labourer to fulfill her family need. Unlike her husband she kept changing jobs to meet the needs of her family.

The closure of the polluting units in Delhi left her jobless and that made the situation even more worse. After the closure it has become even more difficult for somebody like Beerpal to find work. Today both of them are looking for work. Amresh has again started working as a maid and Beerpal is still in search of work in the industrial sector. Certainty has become only dream in their unstable way of life.

**BEERPAL (AMRESH RANI'S HUSBAND)
PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Age : 33 Years
Place of Birth : Village, Shamli, (U.P.)
Present Residence : Prem Vihar, Karawal Nagar, Delhi- 94.
Educational Qualification : 10th Standard
Vocational Training : None
Marital Status : Married
Children : 3 (Two Daughters and One Son)
Present Occupation : Machine Man, Cycle Rim Factory, Gaziabad

1. EMIGRATION PATTERN:

BEERPAL PERMANENTLY MIGRATED FROM HIS BIRTHPLACE ALONG WITH HIS TWO BROTHERS AND HIS MOTHER AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER AS THEY SOLD OFF THEIR LAND AND CAME TO DELHI EXPECTING EASY JOB AND GOOD PAY .HE GOT MARRIED TO AMRESH AS SOON AS HE GOT A JOB IN AN INDUSTRY.

2. PROLETARIANISATION:

BEERPAL HAD TO ENTER THE LABOUR MARKET BECAUSE HE WAS NOT WELL EDUCATED AND HIS LAND HOLDING WAS VERY MEAGRE, SO HE HAD NO OTHER OPTIONS. FURTHERMORE INDUSTRIAL JOBS WERE NOT VERY DIFFICULT TO GET AT THAT TIME.

3. POLITICAL AND ORGANISATIONAL EXPERIENCE:

BEERPAL WAS A MEMBER OF THE LOCAL LABOUR UNION IN MAYAPURI AND TOOK PART IN A STRIKE AGAINST THE EMPLOYER DEMANDING AN INCREASE IN THE WAGES. CONSEQUENTLY ALL WORKERS WHO TOOK PART IN THE STRIKE LOST THEIR JOBS AND AFTER THAT INCIDENT BEERPAL WAS NOT INVOLVED IN ANY FORM OF LABOUR UNIONISM.

4. WORK EXPERIENCE:

BEERPAL NEVER TOOK HIS WORK SERIOUSLY AS TOLD BY HIS WIFE AND HAS CERTAIN INHIBITION IN ENTERING IN FACTORY PREMISES. IN A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS (1996 to 2001) HE HAS CHANGED WORK FOR ATLEAST EIGHT TIMES. HIS NATURE OF WORK AND PAY SCALE ARE GIVEN BELOW-

NATURE AND PLACE OF WORK	PAY SCALE
Nut and bolt factory, Mayapuri.	Rs. 12007/- to Rs.1500/- per month
Cloth dying factory, Karawal Nagar.	Rs. 10007/- to Rs. 12007/- per month.
Card board and Gatta factory, Karawal Nagar.	Rs.900/- to Rs.1000/- per month.
Button making factory, Karawal nagar.	Rs.800/- to Rs. 10007/- per month.
Cycle rim factory, Gaziabad.	Rs. 8007/- to Rs. 12007/- per month.

Beerpal refused to give an interview for some unknown reasons. All information regarding his life are based on his wife's accounts.