

**SUNIL KUMAR
PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Age : 24 Years
Place of Birth : Rajopur, (U.P.)
Present Residence : Hari Nagar, Delhi
Educational Qualification : 5th Standard
Vocational Training : None
Marital Status : Married
Children : 2 Daughters
Present Occupation : Bicycle Fitter (Runs MS Own Repair Shop)

1. MIGRATION PATTERN:

POOR ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND LACK OF WORK AVENUES IN HIS VILLAGE FORCED HIM AND HIS ELDER BROTHER TO MIGRATE TO DELHI IN SEARCH OF BETTER AVENUES. FIRST, HIS BROTHER CAME TO DELHI AND THEN IN 1993, AT THE AGE OF 16, SUNIL CAME TO DELHI.

2. PROLETARIANISATION:

HIS DECREPIT ECONOMIC BACKGROUND PUSHED HIM TO THE WORLD OF PROLETARIAT. AND RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING HE WAS INTO SERVICE OR ALLIED LABOUR SECTOR, AS HE RUNS A BICYCLE REPAIR SHOP.

3. POLITICAL AND ORGANISATIONAL EXPERIENCE: NONE.

4. WORK EXPERIENCE:

IT HAS BEEN ALREADY MENTIONED; RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING SUNIL WAS INTO SERVICE OR ALLIED LABOUR SECTOR. AFTER COMING TO DELHI, HE WAS WORKING AT HIS BROTHER'S BICYCLE REPAIR SHOP, BUT LATER HE SET UP HIS OWN SHOP. HE SAYS THAT BEFORE THE INDUSTRIAL CLOSURE IN DELHI HE USED TO MANAGE A DAILY EARNING OF RS.120/- TO RS.150/-, BUT AFTER THE CLOSURE HIS INCOME HAS DROPPED TO AROUND RS.50/- PER DAY.

**SUNIL KUMAR
A SHORT BIOGRAPHY**

Sunil Kumar is a good example of how the industrial has affected the livelihood of not only workers in the factories and industries but also of those people who are in the service labour and are indirectly dependent on factories.

Sunil runs a temporary bicycle repair shop on the road near a canal passing through Badarpur industrial area. Earlier he use to manage a daily earning of something between Rs.120/- to Rs.150/- but after die closure most of the workers who use to work in the

closed down factories have either gone back to their native places or have moved to other part of Delhi in search of work. But now (as Sunil's work is totally based on service labour) his income has gone down and he manages only around Rs.50/- per day, He laments, "pehte jaha din bhar metn 120-150 rupaye ho jate the, vahin ab 50 rupeye bhi nikalna muskil haL Ab yahan koi log aise ham hi nabi jo cycle se kaam par jaye. Mujhe to bahut ghata hua"(In a place where one used to earn Rs.120/- to Rs1 50/- per day now it is difficult even to earn Rs.50/- per day. Now there is no one who comes to work on bicycle .It has affected my business very much) There might be hundreds of Sunil in Badarpur atone, not to talk of Delhi, whose life has become very difficult because of this industrial closure.

Sunil hails from Rajopur village of Uttar Pradesh and was bom and brought up there. He tells us mat his childhood passed like any other normal kid, sheltered from the understanding of the burden and reality of life. But things changed when he was eleven years old. His father, who was the only earning member of the family, passed away. Now h was the responsibility of Sunil's eldest brother to shoulder the burden of the family.

Sunil was fortunate that even men he was able to go to school, but as the liability kept increasing and only meagre income was the amount mat his brother earned, he had to leave school in class eight.

Sunil's brother migrated to Delhi in search of better avenues of work and started as a bicycle fitter in Badarpur (Delhi). After two-three years Simil's brother summoned him to Delhi and in 1993 he came to Delhi at the age of 16. Initially both the brothers worked together, but later he managed to set up his own bicycle repair shop, even though in a makeshift form.

Sunil's entry into labour market was evidently because of poor economic condition of his family. When asked, why he migrated or format matter why his brother migrated to Delhi, he promptly replied," Goan mein koi dhanda ya kuch karoe laayak nahin tha, Kar lo to chaha nahin tha." (In my village there was no avenue of work, even if you get some work you can't survive). He recalls the good things of his village and said that people still lives in respect for each other n his village unlike cities.

He has been married since 1999 and his income is hardly sufficient to make both ends meet, he also has to send money to his mother back home and tries his level best to keep his wife happy, infact he claimed that she is very happy with whatever he is able to earn. On the question of leisure, Sunil's answer probably holds for almost every labourer. He said that the only source of pleasure is a good income at the end of the day. He has never been to cinema hall with his wife and doesn't keep any interest in musk or any other popular form of entertainment, he feels it might distract him from the battlefield where he has to constantly fight for the keeping of his family and to ensure a better future for his children. And whenever his mind is not preoccupied, he tries to fill the vacuum by taking a look at the newspaper. At the end of the day, when he needs to vent out his tiredness, he often finds solace in the T.V screen or by talking to his wife. Being a vaishnavite, he abstain himself from alcohol, cigarette etc. and is only addicted to some extent to Khaini (mixture of tobacco and time).

When asked about the locality (Hari Nagar) he lives in, he informed us that when he first came to stay, there was no electricity, water and basic facilities, but now things have become much better and all the residents of the locality are trying to improve it further with the help of the local M.L.A, Mr. Ram Singh.

Sunil's living condition and lifestyle also speaks about the lives of thousands of laborers in Delhi, if not about all. He is so engaged to make both ends meet that he can't even afford to think about any entertainment and has never taken his wife out for a single evening. Nonetheless, even though his life is a tight rope walking, he dreams of happy days when he will have a stable source of income and his family would be able to live happily.