

Summary of Interview

Motilal Mimrot

Motilal Mimrot belongs to Bairwa community and lives in *Lala ka Bagicha*, a labour colony akin to a slum. Forty-eight years old Motilal is short and frail. He looks tired--both physically and mentally. He worked in Malwa Mill for 30 years joining as seasonal worker then getting promoted to *kachcha badli* status after seven years. He retired with a *pakka badli* pass.

He got afflicted by tuberculosis in 1977 and took a loan of Rs. 10,000 for his treatment. He got cured but became permanently weak after this illness. He had three sons. As a *kachcha badli* worker he did not have sufficient resources to educate his children properly. His children dropped out before finishing their middle school. His wife never worked.

In 1992, when his department stopped functioning he had to go to the mill only to sign the attendance register. It became possible for him to look for additional employment. He took to *hammali* with the help of a friend who had contacts in a godown of glassware.

He would hire a *thela* for Rs. 5 a day and carry material to its destination. He would get Rs. 90 for a round trip of 15 km. Later he started getting work from other showrooms and godowns also. He could earn Rs 1500 to Rs. 2000 per month through this new occupation. This was in addition to his mill salary. His financial position improved but the physical strain was too heavy a cost to pay for this increased income. In the year 2003 he got retired from the mill getting Rs.3 lakhs as VRS and PF dues.

In the last two years he got two of his sons married and spent around Rs. 1 lakh in the process. A large part of his VRS and PF money got spent in it. Two of his sons are painters. For his third son he has bought a *thela* for Rs, 2000 and a *charkhi* (indigenous juicer) to extract sugarcane juice. He and his son alternately take charge of this *thela*.

He has now given up Hammali. He thinks he no longer has the physical strength required for it. He has spent rest of his VRS money in buying a house in Ujjain and plans to go there and live.
