

Kura- Transcript

(00:00) First Person (male): My age is 27 years and I am called Kura in my house. Our district is Mahua and village is Kaimahar. And we don't get any benefit in farming. So that's why we keep operating Kandi (meaning unclear). What to do? I have to take care of my kids. There are three kids. What to do? I am not educated. This is the problem. We don't have any other problem. If we were educated we would have got a job somewhere. And that's it. What else? We have three kids.

I have studied till class 1st or 2nd. I have done nothing.

I go to the village three to four times in a year. There we have our own land as well, it is in my grandfather's name and some land is in my father's name. We are three brothers so how much would fall in the share of each brother? Not much, only 1 bigha¹ each. Not more than that. Nothing grows in it. It's stone-like. What to do? And now there is a draught. It is not raining. Wheat, grams, peanuts ... Peanuts used to grow during monsoon. Urad (black grams), mung (green grams) and sesame seeds grow there as well. Paddy doesn't grow in our place.

Second Person (female): We were saying that there is draught. It doesn't rain. The land is rocky. If we have to take care of kids how will it happen? There are three brothers in 2 acres of land. Father-in-law is also unable to do such work. There is no grandfather. There are three brothers. Even they are unable to work. And because of kids, we also keep sitting. That's why people have to go out of the village. If we can earn in the home itself why would we go out and work during winter with the kids? If we were educated then we would have also done something. But since we are not educated we do only such work.

(02:00) Man: When we first came we used to carry taslas², then we started operating kandi³. Earlier we used to live in Jammu. We came to Delhi from Jammu this year. We stayed in Jammu for 10-11 years and then we came to Delhi this very year. We used to do this work there as well. The work that we have here we used to have the same work there as well. That's it.

Yes, this is our work, we don't have any other work. This work involves labour. It's not that we left Jammu. Wherever we get food and livelihood, we'll work there.

Third person (male) - In Jammu it was like... You'd get work for 2 days and will keep sitting idle for 4 days.

Second person (female): It rains more there, snows more.

¹ Unit of measuring land which varies from place to place

² Large vessels, probably here to vessels in which cement is carried on construction sites

³ Referring to the machine in which cement is mixed

First person (male): It is cold there. It snows there.

Second person (female): We didn't take our kids there because of the snow. When it snows there then the kids feel very cold. That's why we didn't take them along. Otherwise we used to go there each time.

Sir, about kids it's like this... we can't educate them. Private schools are not for us. Even in Government schools... (School) bus doesn't come for our kids. Where we stay... One month we stay somewhere, another month we stay somewhere else. In such situation, kids are also unable to study. For kids one needs to stay at one place. And there is no such person who would let us stay at their place for a year or two and let us work there. S/he will shoo us away in a month or two. And about kids... if one goes to the village even there they won't get quality education. The quality of education that is here is not there in the villages at all. And so this is the future. They will live like we are living. If we educate them, then we won't be able to work. If we sit with our kids, then we can't work. If only one person works then either we'll eat or save the kids. Only one thing can be done if only one person works.

Yeah, we do this work as well. So when he runs the Kandi, we give him masala, bricks, make gravel and put it in **(04:00)** and put in the cement.

First person (male): Everyone goes out.

Third person (male): There are no jobs in the village. And we won't get work in farming on a daily basis. So what will eat? So that's why we leave farming and come here. If we work during the day then we can eat adequately in the evening and sleep peacefully. So that's why we have left farming and come here.

First person (male): And our brothers do the same work. They all also do the same work. Nothing has changed. Nothing at all.

Second person (female): What has changed is that the people who used to live in the village most of them don't live there anymore. Now they all run away to other places like Delhi, Jammu-Kashmir etc. They all run to other places. Now no one stays at home. We do visit the village three- four times in a year but not many people live there. Only a few people live in the village.

Third person (male): only old people live there.

Second person (female): A lot of people come during the summer but then we are unable to go. Even if we go we face difficulties to provide food for the kids. Where will we get food from? One needs money for expenses. That's why we are unable to go.

First person (male): Now only this change should happen. That we get a job somewhere. So only this change can happen, if we start getting around 25000 rupees per month. Otherwise what do we do if not leave our homes?

Second person (female): If I get 2-4000 rupees and he gets 2-4000 rupees per month. If we get this much per month then no one will leave the village. And the ones who have been migrating will also not do that. Because if we start getting money in the village, if we start working in the village then no one will go away from the village.

First person (male): So what work should we do? Since we are not educated we can't do a job. If there is some other work suitable for us then we can do that. We have done only this work. We haven't done anything else.

(06:00) Second person (female): If our parents had educated us we could have done some job. Even parents...our parents also lived the way we are living. So they didn't educate us. And the work that we are doing now. Maybe if our kids get educated they might do some other work. Otherwise they will do the same work with us.

First person (male): Now there is drought there. There is nothing.

Second person (female): There is drought there. There is nothing. We had sowed wheat but it didn't rain, so it all dried out.

First person (male): If there is no water then what can one do?

Second person (female): There is no water and it doesn't even rain.

First person (male): There is a canal at our place, it doesn't flow. If there is no water, how will it flow?

Second person (female): It didn't rain.

First person (male): If it doesn't rain, how will it flow? So there is drought in our land.

Second person (female): We don't have wells etc... Farms etc. There are two farms. So three brothers can't survive in that. Father-in-law also holds a share in that. I mean mother and father. So they are there, then we are there. Six... there are at least 12-13 people. So in the two farms nothing grew because of droughts this year. So we'll have to buy food and eat. So because of this ... neither do we have wells nor is any water coming in the canal.

We have gone just like that for a year or two to study. No we have also studied here only. Because when we were little like they are, our parents had kept us here. So we have gone to school for 2-3 years.

My natal house is different and the two of us husband-wife are in the in-laws' place. We got married in the village.

First person (male): So we learnt because some mason taught us.

Second person (female): For example, we don't know how to cook food. So we'll learn it from someone, only then will we know how to cook food. So this work is also similar. If a mason is working, he will observe him and then work. He will learn from him then he will become a mason. So it took about two-three years to learn and we are doing the same work since the last 8-9 years.

First person (male): We do go home. Sometimes we go home. **(08:00)** Why not? Why will we go there forever? What will we eat there?

Second person (female): If we go there forever then what will we eat? If we live there, we will need food for the children at least. Then what will we eat? There is no work for labour there. One is unable to do farming. What will we eat? We can't break the house and eat it, can we? So for this reason we migrate.

First person (male): Who knows how long does it take? Maybe for two-three days. Then we'll go somewhere else after that.

Second person (female): It has been one week. We had come on this very day. On Thursday. Today it has been a week. It might take us one more week or fifteen days maybe.

First person (male): We like this place for living. We have our own house there but we don't like it there. What will be do there? We will stay there for two three days and come back. We like it here.

Second person (female): We don't have anything to eat at home. If kids go they will stay for three-four days and then say, "Mother, we don't feel good here. We need this. We need that." If we don't have money at home then what will we give them. Here if we work whole day, at least we are able to provide something to eat for our kids. That's why we can't live in the village for long. We want things to get better in our village. So that we don't need to migrate. Because there are these small kids - like this one or that one. We come with these little kids. We work during winters, do labour. Till today we got work for 4-5 days, so we did it. But even if don't get work, we still need food to eat, right? If in the village it becomes like this that we can both work and eat as well. So if we can live and eat in our village as well, then we'll like it. When we come here... for example this place is someone's building, he will ask us to go away, won't let us stay. So then where will go with little kids? When we rent a room **(10:00)** When we rent a room, then they take 4000-5000 rupees rent for a room. Now we don't earn so much that we can pay rent for room, feed our kids and feed ourselves as well. And sometimes the kids get sick, sometimes they get fever, diarrhea etc., so how much money can we really spend? So because of this we were saying that if there is some improvement in our village then we'll stay there, eat

there. Even kids can live there well. Here they keep falling sick, because of the winter they keep getting cold or something else.

(Baby crying) He has cold, that's why he is crying from inside.

First person (male): stop crying. (Trying to soothe the baby)

Interviewer: If there is water in your village and you get a good price for whatever you grow, then will you do farming again?

Second person (female): See. If we are able to grow good amount of wheat. If not a lot then at least maybe 15-20 bags of wheat. Do you understand quintal? It can be one quintal. Then we can buy 2-3 neighbouring farms. So from them if not much we can get about 5 bags of wheat each... 5 quintals each. So then we will do farming at our place and live there itself. If we get a good price then we can stay there. Flour costs us 25 rupees per kg. And wheat is bought from us at the rate of 11-12 rupees per kg. So we go into loss because of this.

Sheila

Second interviewer (female): And what is your age?

Second person (female): 26 years. 26-27 years. 27 years.

First person (male): We get 400-500 rupees a day.

Second person: 400 rupees for him and 250 rupees for me. And in this amount we have to manage flour, vegetables **(12:00)**. In 500-600 rupees we get vegetables and flour for 2-3 days. And within this if we are able to save a little bit, when we go to our village it gets spent there.

Man: We go by train. It is around 500-600 kilometres.