

SEHLO DEVI
PERSONAL INFORMATION

Age : 35 Years
Place of Birth : Village, Agra (U.P.)
Present Residence : Prem Vihar, Karawal Nagar, Delhi- 94.
Educational Qualification : NLI.
Vocational Training : NLI.
Marital Status : Married
Children : 2 (Both Boys)
Present Occupation : Unemployed (Looking for a job)

1. EMIGRATION PATTERN:

SEHLO MIGRATED PERMANENTLY FROM HER BIRTH PLACE BECAUSE SHE GOT MARRIED TO AN INDUSTRIAL LABOURER FROM DELHI (SEELAMPUR) IN 1984.

2. PROLETARIANISATION:

DEATH OF HUSBAND IN AN ROAD ACCIDENT IN THE YEAR 1996 COMPELLED HER TO ENTER INTO THE LABOUR MARKET.

3. POLITICAL AND ORGANISATIONAL EXPERIENCE: NONE.

4. WORK EXPERIENCE:

IN A PERIOD OF 5 YEARS SEHLO DEVI WORKED IN TWO SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES IN KARAWAL NAGAR. BOTH INDUSTRIES HAVE BEEN DECLARED AS POLLUTING UNITS AND SUBSEQUENTLY WERE CLOSED DOWN AFTER THE SUPREME COURT ORDER IN MAY 2001. HER PAY SCALE AND DURATION OF WORK IN BOTH THE INDUSTRIES ARE GIVEN BELOW IN THE TABLE-

<i>YEAR</i>	<i>PAY SCALE</i>	<i>WORKING HOUR</i>	<i>INDUSTRY</i>
1. 1998 to 2000	Rs. 1000 to Rs.1200 per month	8 hours	Cycle Rim Factory. Karawal Nagar.
2. 2000 to 2001	Rs. 1000 per month	8 hours.	Plastic Toy Factory. Karawal Nagar.

SEHLO DEVI **A SHORT BIOGRAPHY**

Sehlo Devi was born in Nunai, a small village in Agra, Uttar Pradesh in around 1966. She has been staying in Delhi for last seventeen years, from the time she got married and it turned out to be a life of great difficulties.

Sehlo Devi has difficulty talking as a result of a very tragic road accident few years back in which she suffered mouth and head injuries and her husband had serious head injury and died in hospital after twelve months. This particular incident has totally jeopardised her life and has in fact overshadowed her experiences and memories of early life, which is again very clearly reflected in this interview.

Sehlo was not very keen to talk about her childhood. All she said was that her family didn't have any agricultural land. Her father used to repair scooter tyres. She has four brothers, who earn their living by repairing electrical appliances and generators. As she grew up into a matured girl her parents married her to a boy in Delhi who worked in a printing press. Sehlo's husband was born and brought up in Delhi and had a small house in Seelampur.

Everything seemed to be fine for Sehlo, but then suddenly one day everything turned upside down. As Sehlo narrates once they were coming back from Mathura to Delhi their bus collided with another bus and Sehlo along with her children were badly injured and her husband was profusely bleeding. It was only when some policemen noticed they were taken to hospital. The accident left, Sehlo's husband struggling for life in hospital for one year. He eventually died leaving everybody in the family in a jeopardised situation as there was no bread-earner left.

Now Sehlo is fighting a case in the court for compensation. She is hopeful that she would be compensated for her husband's death, so she would be able to support the children. The untimely death of her husband in 1996 also forced Sehlo to work. In the period of five years Sehlo worked in two small industries in Karawal Nagar. Both the industries were declared polluting units and were sealed after the Supreme Court order in May 2001.

In her short history of proletariat life, Sehlo became aware of what it means to work for eight hours daily in a factory and how the employers can exploit the workers. The gates are often locked from outside and push the workers in an upper hall, when officials would come for an inspection. While describing the factory Sehlo says that, it was a huge hall with no lights, ventilation or fans. There was only one entrance to the factory which was always shut in the working hours and everybody had to work in darkness.

With the closure of the industrial units, Sehlo has been rendered jobless and she is desperately looking for a job. At present she owns thirty three yards of land of which half has been rented out. Now the only mean of income for her is in the form of rent she gets, which amounts to Rs.500/- per month.

She lives a life which is so full of tensions and she doesn't even know where the next meal will come from, so we were anxious to know what importance has education in Sehlo's opinion. When asked she said it doesn't have much value under the

circumstances her family is living. Her two sons Sunil who is thirteen years old and Amit who is twelve years, goes to government schools and Sehlo wants them to get into some kind of work after they complete their tenth standard. For that matter we were also anxious to know about Sehlo's interest in election politics. When asked whether she votes, Sehlo replied that it doesn't matter to her if she votes or not. She would vote whoever her neighbours would vote for. Now there are only two things which Sehlo looks forward to in her life, firstly the future of her children and secondly the compensation-money which she hopes to get.