

**VISHWANATH
PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Age : 50 Years
Place of Birth : Deoria District, (U.P.)
Present Residence : 58, Rama Road, Delhi
Educational Qualification : 8th Standard
Vocational Training : None
Marital Status : Married
Children : 3 (One Daughter and two Sons), Eldest son is doing M.A. from D.U. and Younger is studying in village High school.
Present Occupation : Campa Cola Pvt. Ltd. (now closed)
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1.MIGRATION PATTERN:

WHEN HE FAILED IN CLASS 8TM, HIS FATHER ASKED HIM TO COME TO TOWN AND WORK TO SUPPLEMENT FAMILY INCOME.

2.PROLETARIANISATION:

DECREPIT ECONOMIC CONDITION OF HIS FAMILY.

3 .POLITICAL AND ORGANISATIONAL EXPERIENCE: NONE

AT THE LEVEL OF LABOUR POLITICS, BUT IS A MEMBER OF BAHUJAN SAMAJ PARTY (BSP).

4.WORK EXPERIENCE:

WHEN HE FIRST CAME TO DELHI IN THE EARLY 1970*S, HE STARTED WORKING AS A HELPER IN A SWEET SHOP. BUT FROM 1975 HE HAS BEEN WORKING AT CAMPA COLA PVT LTD. IN KARAMPURA.

VISHWANATH A SHORT BIOGRAPHY

"Sabse jyada pollution to Government hi phaila rahi hat, factories se aadmi ko rojgar milta. Usse kamata khata hai. Per ab factories se pollution aadmi main aa gaya hai, sarkar mein aa gaya hai. Pollution to has banana hai." (Government itself is polluting extensively, factories are source of livelihood for us. Now people have become polluted and so has the Government Pollution is just an excuse). These are the words of Vishwanath who has been sitting idle for the last four to five months after the closure of Campa Cola Pvt. Ltd, as a result of the recent industrial closure. As opposed to 2000-2500 workers, who were working earlier, right now only around 650 workers are employed, who are fighting a case against the Government to restart functioning of the factory and for their pending payment Vishwanath had been working there for the last 24 years.

After coming to Delhi in early 70's he started working in a sweet shop as a helper. He worked there for a few years and then joined Campa Cola. He had never imagined mat a situation like mis would ever come. Campa Cola, once one of the leading soft drinks company is now facing challenges from Pepsi and Coca Cola. He says, "Hindustan ke log bahut nakalchi hain" (People in India are expert in imitating.) Pepsi and Coca Cola are no better man Campa, but it's 'videshi' (foreign). At this stage Vishwanath can't even think of looking for home elsewhere because jobs are hard to come by after the industrial closure.

Vishwanath came to Delhi, or it should be said mat he was forced to come to Delhi when he failed hi Class 8*. His father had a small wood shop, which was not sufficient to support their family. His elder brother was good in studies so he studied further and got a Government job. Today both the brothers stay separately; his father is no longer alive and his wife and two children live in his native village with his mother. Vishwanath doesn't remember much about his childhood except the fact that he used to help his father in his work and sometimes roam around in the village.

When he started working he used to get around Rs.175/- per month which was sufficient for him and to take care of his hobbies as well he could go to theatres and watch films, but today tickets are so costly that he simply can't afford to continue watching films. There was a time in his life when he could go for family outings in and around Delhi and he says that today he can't even do that as bus fives have gone up so much since then. Whatever he earns today is just barely sufficient to take care of his family needs. The place where he lives today is an unauthorized cluster of jhuggis (slums), but he is of the opinion that if Government wants, it can easily be regularised; Government can't even evict them, as they form a major chunk of vote, the Government has provided them with few facilities like water connections and a few concrete pavement to keep them satisfied. Though the residents want to have regular electricity connection, the Government has been showing reluctance to provide them with it. It is just during the elections that politicians appear in the scene.

Vishwanath idolises Dr.Bhim Rao Ambedkar and he says, is a member of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) himself because it is the Political Party, which follows, or atleast claims to follow the ideals of Dr. Ambedkar. He says that Dr.Ambedkar didn't believe in inequality and casteism, unlike today's politicians who exploit social issues for political mileage. In

fact, caste politics has even crept into the small 'Jhuggf cluster (slums), he lives in. He says, "jatiwad to harek jagah chalta hai, Government to nam ka jatiwad mttana chahti hai, per jab election aata hat, to jati ke anusar hi candidate khara karti hai". (Casteism is prevalent everywhere. Government wants to eradicate casteism just on papers. Even in elections candidates are nominated on the basis of caste). Even the Government's allegation that Jhuggi dwellers engage in all anti-social activities is nothing but creation of the Government and a handful of influential people in the society, says Vishwanath. He doesn't deny the involvement of these people parse. Maybe that 1% of these people indulges hi these activities, for the rest, they are very busy earning two meals a day.

Though Vishwanath himself is not very well educated, his experiences in this metropolitan city and interactions with people from different rung of the society has opened his eyes to certain things about which people hi rural areas or people from economically lower sections of society are not very aware of. As for example, he doesn't confirm to the idea of early marriage and feeb mat unless one starts earning enough to support his family, should not get married. He also considers education as a very important element in one's life. His eldest son is doing MA from Delhi University, which can be an indication of his achievements and high belief mat he has, considering the fact mat he lives in a slum, where people are the least bothered about education. It is one amongst Vishwanath's hopes to see his son become an IAS officer. We had a chance to talk to Vishwanath's son, Vijay, and we got the impression that his son is a talented man who is struggling very hard to continue his studies. He doesn't feel good about the environment, he lives hi and the way people treat him in college. Criticizing Government policies and the education system, he pointed out mat closure of factories, CNO buses and eviction of jhuggi clusters are all policies against the toiling masses. Vishwanath is ready to face hardships for Vijay's education; he feels that someone has to sacrifice for it, be it himself or his son and in this context he says, "Tyag to karna hi hoga, hum Karen ya baccha Karen". His other son is studying in the village high school.

Vishwanath would like to be remembered by others and he believes that ft can happen if one does some good work for the community and not by just working for himself, which is nothing but just a medium of earning one's own living; with this idea he has built a Durga Temple in his locality. But now he often feels cynical which gets reflected hi these words of Vishwanath, "aadmi ke berozgar ho jane par sab log bhool jate hai. Bure waqt mein koi saath nahi deta hai." (When one is unemployed, everybody forgets. Nobody stands beside hi hard times).

Now all his hopes are pinned on Vijay for he minks that only Vijay can hold his name high by getting some decent job, and he would be able to go back to his village and stay comfortably with his wife in his old days. But at this moment, he is waiting for the Supreme Court decision to reopen the Campa Cola factory where he was working, so that he can get his salary regularly.