



## Descriptions of Migration Paths of Nepalese Migrants in Delhi

### Interview 1: Dan Bahadur Rokhaya (2002)

Mr Rokhaya came to Delhi three month ago, but it's already his third time in Delhi. He came together with a few other people of his village or from neighbouring villages in Nepal. It wasn't really difficult to enter India, but they become stricter on the border. It was the first time that he had to show his citizenship card. But the way to get to the border in Nepal was rather hard. All in all he was checked six times, due to the political instable situation in Nepal. The police checked people rather arbitrarily. Mr Rokhaya went back to Nepal for three month before coming back to Delhi for the third time to the same place and doing the same job. He is a watchman. He was lucky and did not have to pay for his job in Delhi. He just had to pay the return ticket for the journey of the person who left. He has enough land in Nepal for subsistence production, but he can't afford the school bills for his children, and lacks financial capital to buy cloths and other daily commodity goods for him and his family. So he decided to migrate.

His living place got connected to the electricity for e cheap price, but there is no running water, so he has to use the public tanks that distribute water twice a day for free. Water is also available at the colonies where he works, from some households that he knows a bit better. But there isn't a toilet, so in the morning he goes to the shrub. There is a public toilet outside the colony, but rather far away. He knows a shop owner nearby and has good conditions on food and goods which he pays on a monthly basis.

Mr Rokhaya will stay in Delhi about half a year before moving back to his family in Nepal. Then he will bring the money he saved back to Nepal. Its easy pass the border with some money and the Indian currency can easily be converted in Nepal.

His family sends him letters every now and again, telling him about their needs. Some co-villagers who themselves move to Delhi will bring the letters. He left his wife, his son, three sisters and his parents behind. His father used to work in Delhi already.

Mr Rokhaya doesn't have much contact to Indian people, except to some who a teashops. He hardly speaks at all with the people in the colonies except on the day, when he collects his salary.

The fact that being a watchman is just a temporary job and that people can easily blame him. It means that one can loose one's job unexpectedly. That's what happened to Mr Rokhaya a few years ago. He was lucky that some of his friends from Nepal helped him to find another job.

## Interview 2: Parati Raowl

Mrs Raowl lives in a small cottage within a colony. Her cottage stays alone, but there are some other Nepalese from the same area in Nepal in her neighbourhood. She lives with her husband, one daughter, and two sons.

She would like a job, where she could work at just one household. Now Mrs Raowl is doing domestic work for several households, working from 8 to 12 am and 5 to 7 pm, usually cleaning pots. Although she is not really treated in a good way, she never faced real problems during her work.

Her Husband is a watchman, taking care of six houses, but doesn't earn a lot drinks, and sometimes wastes all the money. That's why she has to work as well.

The school for the children is expensive and she spends a lot on that because her children should have a good education.

It's now 11 years that she is living in Delhi. During that time she never went back to Nepal. At first her husband migrated to Delhi and back every year, but when she got pregnant, they decided to move to Delhi all together.

It was 11 years ago as well, when Mrs Raowl's husband took over his job as a watchman from his uncle. She was asked from different households from the colony to do domestic work, sometimes she asked the people herself. She is missing her village, but it wouldn't be good for her children, as there are no educational opportunities there.

As they live in Delhi for many years they have good contact with both, Nepalese and Indians. It's ok for her to live in Delhi now. They have got a TV and running water as well as electricity. But she worries about her husband drinking and gambling and loosing money, and Nepalese get a bad image, what is bad for their jobs and life in Delhi.

Relatives who go back to the village will bring some money home for them.

### Interview 3: Padan Raowl

Mr Raowl came to Delhi 5 years ago, with his wife and children. The income from agriculture did not cover the daily needs, so he moved to Delhi, where he has got a regular income and can send his children to school. His first time in Delhi was 18 years ago, when he visited his uncle. It's through relatives, too, that he got his job as a watchman 5 years ago. He is taking care of 124 houses, whereas some of them are vacant. Some of the money that he collects he has to give to the owner of the colony. He lives in a free hut within the colony and is supposed to take care during day and night. Sometimes it's enough just being at the hut, and there is no need to walk around all day and night long. There is no written contract for his job. The area is quiet, and the children's school is situated nearby. If he leaves his work for more than about 15 days, Mr Raowl needs to find a substitute. It's alright if he is away just for a few days or if he can't work due to being ill. For that time he gets paid as well. His wife has a job as domestic worker, working for 5 households in the morning and late afternoon. Even if he wasn't back to his home village for years, and didn't live there for another 7 years before coming to Delhi, he is still closely linked to the people of his village. His parents and brother are still farming in the village and own land. They don't need much money, and Mr Raowl sends back money just every now and again.

Mr Raowl has got many friends in Delhi. If he needs some money, he will get it from friends, without interest and contract. They trust each other. Usually they don't need to fix a date for return. As soon as he earned enough money, he will pay it back to his friends. That's how it works between many Nepalese watchmen. If they lend money from organized money societies, many people get a loan and will never pay it back. Mr Raowl thinks that it's better to get money from friends.

He doesn't think about his work, because it doesn't make sense to raise questions. "We need this job and don't want to lose it." But Mr Raowl can never be sure about if something happens at night and about his job in the morning.

In Delhi Mr Raowl and his friends talk a lot about their villages and in the village one talks about Delhi. The village is very conservative. In Delhi the interaction between people of different castes is different. There are still borders for Mr Raowl, but not as strict as back in the village.