

Appendix H

Motia Khan Livelihood Survey Verbatim transcriptions of video interviews

The full video is available on request from the Max Lock Centre

Timed identification of Motia Khan video interviews tapes 1-3 (Moving Images and Inderjit Sagoo 3.99)

(Times in bold indicate verbatim English translations on following pages)

0:00:00	Hindu woman in green – Manju - interview
0:04:35	old man in blue shirt – Daulat Ram - long interview
0:13:55	old lady in shawl – Chameli - interview
0:19:10	old man repairing the front yard of his house
0:20:10	alleyway scene and shop/stall
0:21:30	boys with bicycle wheels on roof
0:23:20	following children down alleyway
0:24:20	woman preparing food – kneading dough – Bimla - interview
0:32:30	ice-lolly maker – Shanti Devi - long interview
0:44:45	man – ice lolly maker's brother-in-law
0:44:50	young tall man – Minto - statement
0:49:15	young dark man in white - statement
0:49:50	woman with purple lipstick – Sarla - interview
0:53:50	man food seller on table
0:54:25	woman firewood seller and scales
0:55:25	woman shows off her bedroom
0:56:55	woman in green – Manju - interview
1:00:00	woman with child in brown
1:00:30	man on ladder mending wires on pole
1:00:55	sad boy with matches making statement - Vicky
1:03:45	woman in mauve linked to sad boy with her statement
1:06:30	electric wires on pole
1:06:40	woman in blue rinsing clothes in plastic buckets
1:07:10	man up pole with pliers
1:07:25	man with beard – Puran Singh - long articulate statement
1:13:45	alley scenes
1:14:25	earnest woman in green – flirty girl with child
1:16:05	woman sleeping with baby
1:16:20	children on white matting with ladder
1:16:45	trade in alleyway
1:17:10	bamboo workers stripping cane – Basudeyi - interview
1:26:30	man in vest making catapults – Pratap Singh - long interview
1:35:30	meeting in alley – flats in background
1:36:10	woman cooking soup – Munni - interview
1:41:45	girl in blue with children – Poonam - interview
1:43:10	woman in blue corner
1:44:50	water carrier filling at hole – pressure cooker
1:46:30	alleyway scene water collectors
1:51:30	courtyard - making pillion seats
1:53:50	older woman – Krishna - interview
1:57:30	street scene
1:57:55	grey haired man – Birbal Rana - articulate long statement
2:12:45	horse and carriage
2:13:10	market
2:13:30	Desh Bandhu Gupta Road scenes
2:14:55	children jumping off wall onto rubbish
2:15:35	balloons against evening sky
2:18:00	furrier making toys
2:19:20	woman combing girl's hair – Babli - interview
2:22:55	old woman under lean-to bed
2:24:10	woman in yellow and man making bamboo frames
2:26:10	man using sewing machine

2:26:55	boys playing cards
2:27:40	man ironing
2:30:20	man with long hair and beard – Ram Sahay - interview
2:36:00	waste paper sorting and packing
2:37:35	following pedestrians along Desh Bandhu Gupta Road and over roundabout junction
2:39:05	toy horse sellers
2:39:25	arched entrance to public toilets, payment, men and women
2:40:50	medicine shop man in blue striped shirt - interview
2:44:30	man making ice-lollies
2:45:15	monkeys and keeper – Kallu - long interview
2:53:35	formal photo large group
2:54:00	walking monkeys to work
2:56:00	end

Timed identification of Motia Khan video interviews tapes 4-5 (Moving Images and Inderjit Sagoo 3.99)

(Times in bold indicate verbatim English translations on following pages)

0:00:00	Dance performance by monkeys
0:06:50	walking monkeys back home
0:08:15	Motia Khan settlement as seen from the balcony of an 8-storeys DDA block of flats with high-rise Connaught Place buildings in the background
0:08:45	the vacant part of site on Desh Bandhu Gupta Road
0:09:30	close-up views – two men repairing the roof
0:09:50	man mending electric wires on pole
0:10:10	roof repairing in progress
0:11:25	two more men on electric pole
0:12:00	busy Desh Bandhu Gupta Road as seen from DDA flats
0:12:45	man in white shirt – Om Prakash Yadav - long interview
0:17:25	girls watching us take interviews, old women
0:18:00	ironmongers at work – making small bowls
0:19:55	horses down the alleyway
0:20:40	woman having tea – Prem - interview
0:26:35	alleyway scenes
0:27:40	workers sewing leather bags
0:30:40	a Rajasthani/Marwari household – folk songs by the family, man in red turban (head of the family) – Kartar Bhatia - interview
1:02:40	women filling water in buckets/cans for storage
1:03:20	man selling potatoes
1:03:40	woman making chapatis
1:04:15	people engaged in different activities down the alleyway
1:04:40	shop-keeper selling vegetables
1:05:30	balloon vendors in Connaught Place – they belong to settlements similar to Motia Khan
1:07:40	a balloon vendor from Motia Khan in Nehru Park
1:15:20	balloon vendor – Nazar Khan - interview
1:19:20	sugar-cane juice seller in the front yard of DDA flats
1:20:15	Desh Bandhu Gupta Road
1:21:30	young man in white - Lal Chand – interview
1:28:20	a vendor selling pop-corns and crisps at India Gate
1:30:20	different views of Motia Khan and DDA flats – roof tops, alleyways
1:41:25	vaccination camp
1:44:00	various economic activities people are involved in in Motia Khan
1:50:20	child labour – child splitting wood

1:51:45 Motia Khan
1:54:25 end

Glossary of Place Names

Place Names	Location
Lahore	City in Pakistan
Punjab	Northern state of India
Rajasthan	Western state of India
Uttar Pradesh	north-eastern state of India
West Bengal	Eastern state of India
Allahabad	City in Uttar Pradesh
Calcutta	Capital of West Bengal
Lucknow	Capital of Uttar Pradesh
Meerut	City in Uttar Pradesh
Bagichi	Less than half 1 km. further up the sites & services housing towards east of Motia Khan site
Bahadur Garh	Located in Haryana- down south-east from Motia Khan and about 35 km.
Begum Bazaar	-----
Bhagirathi Place	3.5 km. towards east, in Old Delhi
Cycle Market	About 1 km., in Jhandewalan Extension which is located at the south-west corner of the junction between Desh Bandhu Gupta Road and Rani Jhansi Road
Gautam Nagar	9 km. towards south near inner Ring Road
Geeta Colony	8 km. towards east, on the other side of Yamuna River
Hanuman Mandir	A famous Hindu temple 2-2.5 km. towards south of Motia Khan
Idgah	Less than 1 km. towards north of Motia Khan
Jahangir Puri	11 km. north of Delhi, near NH-1 bypass
Janpath (Road)	In Connaught Place (city centre) about 3 km.
Joshi Road	About 1 km. towards west and off Desh Bandhu Gupta Road
Karol Bagh	About 1 km. on either side of Desh Bandhu Gupta Road going towards west out of Old Delhi
Lajpat Rai Market	Next to Bhagirathi Place
Lal Kuan	Market in Old Delhi – about 2 km. from Motia Khan
Nabi Karim	About 1 km. north of Motia Khan
Najafgarh Road	About 4 km. from Karol Bagh & 6-7 km. from Motia Khan
Nangal	10 km. near Sagar Pur
Narela	About 30 km. towards north

New Delhi Railway Station	About 1 km. towards east
Pahar Ganj	Less than 0.5 km. towards south of Desh Bandhu Gupta Road
Papankalan	16-17 km. south-west outskirts of Delhi, near International Airport
Prem Nagar	About 6-7 km. further west of Karol Bagh
Punchquin Road	Less than 1 km. south of Desh Bandhu Gupta Road
Raghubir Nagar	11-12 km. towards west of Motia Khan
Rohini	13-14 km. north-west outskirts of Delhi
Sadar Bazaar	About 1.5 km. north of Motia Khan
Sagar Pur	11 km. towards south-west
Shakti Nagar	5 km. towards north
Silam	7 km. towards east, on the other side of Yamuna River
Steel Factory	-----
Sultan Puri	12-13 km. towards north-west
Telebara	3 km. north of Motia Khan beyond Sadar Bazaar
Vikas Puri	13-14 km. towards west

Glossary of Terms

(In Motia Khan context only)

Casual Worker	A person who does not have a permanent job and does any kind of manual work like loading/unloading, pulling a cart, etc.
Jagran, Satsang	Religious gatherings
Jhuggi/Jhopri	A temporary hut made of either tents or; brick walls and thatch roof and without any provision of infrastructure by the government. The approximate area occupied by each jhuggi is 7-9 sq.m.
JJC	Jhuggi Jhopri Cluster
Keekar tree	Acacia (like) tree
Madari	A monkey performer playing tricks with tamed monkeys.
Pradhan	Leader/President of a community
Rana Samaj	A community of singers from Rajasthan.

Exchange rate in June 1999:

1US\$ = Rs.40.00

1£ = Rs.65.00

Summary of Motia Khan interviews tapes 1-3

0:00:00 Hindu woman in green - Manju - housewife

History of migration

I am from Murshidabad, West Bengal. I came to Delhi with my family in 1988 and straight to Motia Khan. We had no contacts in Delhi before we arrived here. Land was available in Motia Khan at that time so we settled here.

Family background and history of occupation

We are seven members in the family – me, my husband and our five children. I am a housewife. I used to work in a garment export company long time back, but left it when that company moved to Punjabi Bagh (towards north-west of Delhi). My husband works in Sadar Bazaar as a casual worker – loading/unloading work.

Do you earn enough to meet your daily requirements?

My husband is the only earning member in the family. We just about manage to meet our daily needs, but there are no savings. We are living in poverty and life is difficult in slums.

Would you like to stay in Motia Khan or be resettled outside?

We want to move out of Motia Khan, but somewhere nearby. In case everyone decides to move to a far away place then we will join them, although finding work would be difficult in a new area.

What problems are you facing in Motia Khan?

We have ration cards and we give our votes to the government, so we expect them to provide us with basic facilities to live – water, electricity and sewage disposal system and relocate us where there is work and a place to live.

0:04:35 old man in blue shirt - Daulat Ram - retired factory worker

History of migration

My father came to Delhi from Uttar Pradesh during the First World War (1914). Me and all my brothers and sisters were born in Delhi. We first lived in Pahar Ganj and then in Karol Bagh in rented houses. Father passed away while we were in Karol Bagh. I got married there and all my children were born there. Me and my brother could not stay together so I moved out with my family. Before moving to Motia Khan in 1985, we lived in Prem Nagar and Pahar Ganj in rented houses.

Family background and history of occupation

I live in this small jhuggi (approximately 9 sq.m.) with my wife, 3 sons, 2 daughters-in-law, 2 grand daughters and 2 grand sons. I started working in a factory on Najafgarh Road while we were living in Karol Bagh. I worked as a fitter/welder. That was my first job and I worked there for many years. I left that job when that factory moved to Bahadur Garh and also by that time my sons had also started earning. At that time we were in Motia Khan. All my sons work in Imperial Hotel on Janpath (Road) as manual labour. The eldest one has been working there for 15 years now.

Do you earn enough to meet your daily requirements?

We manage to meet our needs with their earnings. This jhuggi is too small for 11 of us together.

What problems are you facing in Motia Khan?

The ex-Governor of Delhi, H.L. Kapoor came here once. He was interested in moving us to some other area, but he himself got transferred before he could move us. DDA has conducted a lot of surveys of our settlement and keep promising that we will be

sent to Rohini or Papankalan, but they have not been able to do anything yet. There are too many problems here – site is in a poor condition, high crime rate so women cannot move out of the house in the evening.

Recently there have been lots of cases of fire in other squatter settlements, which has terrified people here. This is because we have been through one in 1990 in which people had lost their family members. At that time government gave us only Rs. 500 per family and some other organisation provided us food.

Would you like to stay in Motia Khan or be resettled outside?

Either the government should provide us with basic facilities here or move us to Rohini or Papankalan or wherever they want to.

How would relocation affect your work?

Work would not be a problem upon relocation because my sons have got permanent jobs and can commute by buses.

If government can relocate us on 25 sq.yds. plots, at least we will have a security of tenure. Nobody would force us out. Everyone here can afford to pay Rs.200 - Rs.250/month as instalments.

0:13:55 old lady in shawl – Chameli - widow

History of migration

My parents and other family members came to Delhi in 1947 from Punjab. I was born in Delhi. In Delhi, we stayed in Nabi Karim and then Jahangir Puri in rented houses before moving to Motia Khan squatter in mid-1980s.

Why did you move to Motia Khan?

The reason we moved to Motia Khan is because (a) the landlord was pressurising us to leave and (b) we could not afford to pay the rising rents.

Family background and history of occupation

I am a widow and live here with my three sons and their wives. Two of my sons are metal workers. They buy all the raw material from scrap-metal dealers and sell the finished products (metal bowls) in Lal Kuan in wholesale. They work from home and earn about Rs.50-70 per day. One of my sons is a truck driver. He stays out of Delhi most of the time.

What problems are you facing in Motia Khan?

There are lots of problems here such as high crime rate, unhygienic conditions of the site and no water, electricity and sanitation facilities. There are two schools across the main road, but there is always a danger of accident while crossing the road as it is a very busy road. The nearest dispensary is in Sadar Bazaar. The drains overflow during monsoon and children fall ill.

Would you like to stay in Motia Khan or be resettled outside?

Everyone wants to move to Papankalan from here. Whatever work they are doing here, they can carry on doing there as well. I know that we will not be rehabilitated on this site because DDA flats are lying vacant. They cannot be let till this squatter is cleared. Lot of government money is blocked here.

How would relocation affect your work?

Although travel costs will increase, at least we will have the security of tenure. We can afford to pay Rs.200-300/month as instalments.

0:24:20 young woman kneading dough - Bimla - housewife

History of migration

I came to Delhi with my husband about 15-20 years ago from Rajasthan. We came straight to Motia Khan with the other families of our community (Rana Samaj).

Family background and history of occupation

I am a housewife. My husband is a singer. He sings in buses. We have 2 children who do not go to school.

Do you earn enough to meet your daily needs?

My husband earns up to Rs.40-50/day. We hardly manage to meet our needs.

Would you like to stay in Motia Khan or be resettled outside?

We want to go to Papankalan.

How would relocation affect your work?

Although difficult, we will commute a longer distance to work. We expect the government to provide us plots and jobs.

What problems are you facing in Motia Khan?

Our children do not go to school because there are no schools. There are no dispensaries either. Doctors within the settlement charge a lot of money so we go to AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences - it is the biggest government hospital in Delhi). Bimla's husband, Desh Raj Rana, who joined the discussion at this point added – we belong to the 'Rana Samaj' community from Rajasthan. We can afford to pay Rs.200-250/month as instalments. We cannot go back to Rajasthan either because someone has illegally occupied our land while we were here.

0:32:30 ice-lolly maker – Shanti Devi

History of migration

I was born in Delhi. Earlier I used to live in Baghichi with my family. We moved to Motia Khan about 15-20 years ago.

Family background and history of occupation

We have got 8 children. I have been working since we moved to Motia Khan. My husband and one of my sons are casual workers (loading/unloading works) and the other son is a thread-winder in Sadar Bazaar. He earns around Rs.800-900/month. My business of ice-lollies lasts only for 3-4 months in a year (during summer). In winter I sell groundnuts.

What problems are you facing in Motia Khan?

We are having lots of problems in this area. You can see for yourself.

We want to go somewhere we can find work. We are satisfied with the work here but the site is filthy. We can afford to pay around Rs.200-250/month as instalments.

0:44:50 young tall man – Minto – sells pigeon food

Statement

I just want to say that we have been here for 20 years. We only want a place to live. Only we know how we are living in these conditions. Someone's selling ice-lollies, someone's a shopkeeper. We want to be moved from here and we can do whatever work we can find. Thousands of people died in the fire in 1990. So we just want to move from here.

What do you do? Do you earn enough to meet your needs?

I sell pigeon food on Punchquin Road (on the footpath) and earn Rs. 60-70/day. Just want to earn enough for my family's needs.

0:49:15 young dark man in white
Statement

The president of DDA Flats Association has taken a very wrong step to close the wall. What are we going to do if fire breaks out. We had requested the Governor of Delhi to provide us with an access through the wall behind. He agreed to this but nothing has happened yet.

0:49:50 woman with purple lipstick – Sarla - housemaid
History of migration

I was born in Delhi and have been in Motia Khan for last 20 years.
Family background and history of occupation

I am a housemaid – work in Pahar Ganj. My husband is a priest in a temple. He does not work at all. We have three daughters who go to school and a son who is working. He works in a toy factory in Idgah. He left studies when the financial situation of our family deteriorated after my husband stopped working.
What problems are you facing in Motia Khan?

I lost my kids in the fire of 1990. Now the DDA has again built up the wall, so won't be able to escape in case fire breaks out. When I go to work in the afternoon, my daughters are alone at home. If anything happens while I am away, I won't even know. The government has not provided any facilities for us. We do not earn enough to rent a house. If the government wants to relocate us, they should provide us work as well because otherwise we will have to travel too far for work. We can pay Rs.200-250/month as instalments.

0:56:55 woman in green – Manju - housemaid
Statement

Help us get rid of the filth here, we are sick of that wall behind. The Delhi Electric Supply people ask us to get electric meters installed. Why should we do it when we do not even have a permanent house to live in. There is a risk of fire breaking out at any time. There have been so many cases of fire recently in other squatter settlements. There are no facilities here. We are living in unhygienic conditions, kids are falling ill because of it.

Would you like to stay in Motia Khan or be resettled outside?

Either provide us basic services on this site or relocate somewhere nearby. Of course, work will be a problem upon relocation.
What do you do?

I am a housemaid and my husband is a rickshaw pedaller. We have a son who goes to school.

Do you earn enough to meet your daily requirements?

We do not earn enough to meet our daily needs.

1:00:55 sad boy with matches – Vicky – takes drugs
Where do you get these drugs from?

People sell drugs behind Hanuman Mandir.

Where do you get the money to buy it from?

I earn money by doing anything I can find like working with scavengers or any form of manual work. One can get some form of drug from as low as Rs.10 to Rs.100.

How did you get into this?

My uncle first forced me into smoking and slowly drugs. He is my enemy. I have been taking these for 2-3 years now. I am 14 years old.

Why don't you leave this?

I want to. I want to be good. I want to go to school, but there are no schools around. When the government is going to set up a hospital here, I will get myself treated.

Who all are there in your family? Where does your uncle live?

No one. I live here alone. Uncle lives here in Motia Khan.

1:03:45 woman in mauve linked to sad boy

Statement

I have known Vicky's parents very well. We used to live together in the village. His mother, Alka, was a very good friend of mine. His father runs a flourmill in the village. His mother died in a fire in front of me. We came to Delhi 14 years ago. Since then I have not been in touch with their family. Only recently I came to know that Vicky is my friend Alka's son. I brought him home and told him that we will get him admitted in the hospital and get his treatment done. We can help him find a job somewhere nearby so he can earn his living. But he is not ready to leave drugs. He started stealing things from our house. So we had to ask him to leave. He just goes and sleeps in anyone's house or on the footpath.

His father took him back to the village but he escaped and came back here. We want to get him treated but he is going to escape from the hospital. So why should we spend any money on him.

1:07:25 man with beard – Puran Singh

What problems are you facing in Motia Khan?

90 out of 100 jhuggies are in poor condition. Fire can break out at any time. They have built a wall at the back. We are surrounded on all sides. We want the government to provide us access (gate) through the wall at the back. There have been too many cases of fire recently in other squatter settlements. A fire engine should always be present here in case a fire breaks out. I do not know who our pradhan (community leader) is. There is a pradhan in every third jhuggi. We are very frustrated with the situation here.

Would you like to stay in Motia Khan or be resettled outside?

Our priority is safety from fire. There should be an access through the wall. Accommodation is second on the list. What are we going to do with a plot if we all die in a fire.

Politicians visit us before the elections and make promises but none are fulfilled. Meera Kumar (Congress candidate) came, promised to remove the wall from behind. But nothing happened after she won the elections. Lot of other people came after that like Darshna, Moti Lal Sodhi. All made promises but nothing has happened so far. We do not have any facilities here – no water, no sanitation facilities and no electricity. There is no one to listen to our problems.

How long have you been here? Which was the first place you lived in when you arrived in Delhi?

I have been here for 15 years. We came to Delhi because we did not have any land in the village. We first stayed in Geeta Colony in a rented house and then moved to Motia Khan when we could not afford to pay the rent.

Family background and history of occupation

We are 5 members in the family – myself, my wife, 2 sons and a daughter-in-law. Both my sons work as casual labour in Sadar Bazaar. I tried hands at a lot of things but did not succeed so not doing anything at the moment.

How would relocation affect your sons' work?

We will manage work. We were frustrated and looking for work when we came to Delhi. But we have been making our living since then somehow. Similarly we will manage in a new place.

1:17:10 bamboo workers stripping cane – Basudeyi

Where do you get this bamboo from and where do you sell the baskets you make from this bamboo?

We get bamboo from Telibara and sell the baskets (in wholesale) in Begum Bazaar. Sometimes we go and deliver them at the shop and sometimes they come and pick it up themselves.

How much do you earn with these?

We earn around Rs.200/week of which we spent Rs.100 on buying the raw material (bamboo).

History of migration

We came to Delhi 30 years ago from Allahabad and came straight to Motia Khan. My sister lived here.

Family background and history of occupation

We are 20 members in the family. Of this only 4 are working. My husband and son are casual workers and me and my daughter-in-law do this bamboo work. We used to do the same work in Allahabad. The reason we came to Delhi was the profit in business here. In Allahabad, we were selling 20 baskets for Rs.100 whereas in Delhi we sell 12 baskets for the same price.

What problems are you facing in Motia Khan?

There are no facilities here. We are very poor.

Would you like to stay in Motia Khan or be resettled outside?

We do not want to go too far from Motia Khan because we want to continue with our bamboo work, but if someone can get us a good job we can also do that. Can do weaving.

1:26:30 man in vest making catapults – Pratap Singh

Where do you get all the raw material for making catapults from?

I get it from various markets such as Bhagirathi Place, Lajpat Rai Market and Sultan Puri.

Where do you sell the catapults?

I sell it in wholesale in Sadar Bazaar. Selling in retail is not profitable.

Do you earn enough to meet your daily needs?

Yes the earnings are sufficient for our needs and I also manage to save and deposit Rs.400/month in my daughter's account.

History of migration

I came here in 1983 from Lucknow. My brother was living here in Motia Khan. I liked it here because there were more employment opportunities available.

Family background and history of occupation

We are 4 members in the family – me, my wife, a daughter and a son. I am the only earning member in the family. When I came to Motia Khan, I started pulling a rickshaw. It was very hard work and the earnings were not enough for my family. I did it for 5 years and then gave up. Did not do anything for a month. At that time, my wife used to work as a housemaid nearby. Her employer gave her Rs.600 to help us start some small business. I set up a shop with that money. Started selling grocery items. Then gradually progressed and started this catapults making business alongside. Today I concentrate more on the catapults than the shop because it's getting me more money.

My daughter goes to school and my son will start next year.

Would you like to stay in Motia Khan or be resettled outside?

We want to stay in Motia Khan. It would be very beneficial for us if government could provide us accommodation and basic facilities like water, toilets and electricity here. There is always a risk of fire. So we need a gate in that wall behind. We feel as if we are in prison.

How would relocation affect your work?

If the government relocate us to a far away place, the increasing cost of travel to work would increase drastically which we may not be able to afford. We will be wasting time in commuting. We cannot operate from far off places. We can pay up to Rs.400/month as instalments.

A politician, Moti Lal Sodhi, came to our settlement and promised to get a toilet block built here. He even put up a nameplate there for the proposed construction of the toilet block. But nothing has happened till today. No one ever came back.

1:36:10 woman cooking soup – Munni – housewife/singer

History of migration

I am from Rajasthan. I came to Delhi with my family about 15-20 years ago. We came straight to Motia Khan looking for work. At that time there used to be 200-250 jhuggies here.

Family background and history of occupation

I live here with my husband, 5 daughters, 2 sons and 2 daughter-in laws. We belong to 'Rana Samaj' (the singers group). We all sing and play different instruments, but we do not all go out together. It's usually the men who go everyday. We, the women, go occasionally. We go to weddings, jagrans (religious gathering) or any other functions that people invite us to for performances.

Would you like to stay in Motia Khan or be resettled outside?

We are happy to stay here. We have all the facilities available here. No water and electricity problems, more employment opportunities here. But if the government want us to move we will have to, although work would be a problem. We can pay up to Rs.500/month as instalments.

1:41:45 girl in blue with children – Poonam – visiting her aunt

Do you live here?

No I have come to stay here (in Motia Khan) with my aunt.

Where do you live? Family background

I live in Raghurajpur in a rented house. There are 8 members in our family – grandparents, parents and 4 children (including myself).

History of occupation

Both my parents and grandparents work. They are singers and go out with my aunt's family here for work. I do not do anything; like sitting at home and listening to music. How long would you be staying here?

About 10 days.

1:53:50 older woman – Krishna – housemaid

History of migration

I was born in Delhi. My parents came to Delhi from Lahore in 1947. We have always lived in jhuggies. We came to Motia Khan because there are more employment opportunities here.

Family background and history of occupation

We are 4 members in the family now – myself, my younger brother, his wife and their daughter. I work as a housemaid in nearby flats. My brother works in a factory in Pahar Ganj – makes cardboard boxes. He earns Rs.1100/month.

Would you like to stay in Motia Khan or be resettled outside?

We do not want to stay in Motia Khan. There are no facilities here. No water, electricity and sanitation facilities.

How would relocation affect your work?

Work would definitely be a problem, but we will manage somehow. We do not want flats, we would prefer to have plots. We can only pay Rs.200/month as instalments.

1:57:55 grey haired man – Birbal Rana – singer/Congress Committee Chairperson

Statement

I am the Congress Committee Chairperson. I have been living here for 25 years. We have been putting in lots of request to the government presenting our problems, but they do not give us anything.

Kalka Das (BJP candidate) won from Motia Khan twice – did not do anything for us. Meera Kumar won twice, but none of our problems got resolved. Dharam Das Shastri and Krishna Tirath, both got our votes, but disappeared soon after winning their seats. We keep giving our votes to them but do not get anything in return.

We are the citizens of this country, they give a place to the dead in the graveyard, but nothing to the ones who are alive. Foreigners are minting money in our country. We have been living here for 100 years and we are still poor. We, being the citizens, are suffering. If this is our government, then Motia Khan should soon be relocated. We want 25 sq.yds. plots either outside or near Motia Khan.

So many times we have requested the government to relocate us. We even said that if you cannot relocate us, we will go on strike and protest against you. They did not do anything. So we enjoy when such a government fails.

Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi always helped us and laid their lives for us. We have a society in Motia Khan. Each family here gave Rs.214 to that society which was given to Manjit Singh (Commissioner-Slum Wing). But Manjit Singh follows the policy of 'Quit Indians/Hindus and settle Punjabis here'. Such traitors should be removed from such posts.

We do not have any facilities here. Women and kids are all frustrated. The toilet block here isn't from the government. It's from the Motia Khan JJC society we have here. One has to pay to use it.

History of migration

We came to Delhi when there was a drought in Rajasthan (late 70s). We first came and settled near Steel Factory. In 1980 we moved to Motia Khan.

In the village also, I was the leader (pradhan) of our community. When people heard that our pradhan has moved to Delhi and there are more work opportunities there, they also joined us here.

Why did you come to Motia Khan?

Because it was a government land. Nobody would have allowed us to squat on their land so we occupied the government's land. They did not say anything to us for a couple of years so we built a jhuggi. Earlier we were living in tents.

History of occupation

We are singers and we inherited this skill from our parents. So many of our generations have been practicing this skill. There are lots of madaris (monkey performers) here who are from Allahabad. Then there are casual workers.

If given a choice, would you like to be resettled in flats or plots?

We want plots. Nobody can afford to pay the instalments. We are all very poor people. We can put up a jhuggi on the plot and build as per our requirements as and when we have the money.

In 1983, government gave us temporary receipts for space in Sultan Puri. We said to them that if you send us so far, how are we going to survive. There is no work there. So we did not take that.

2:19:20 woman combing girl's hair – Babli - housewife

History of migration

I was born in Delhi. Came to Motia Khan 10 years ago when I got married. Earlier I used to live in a rented house with my parents.

Family background and history of occupation

I live here with my husband and our daughter. I am a housewife and my husband makes aluminium doors for offices. He runs his own business. I do not know where his office/shop is. We went to Nepal for sometime to look for work, but did not get any success there, so came back. I am originally from Nepal.

Our daughter goes to school.

Would you like to stay in Motia Khan or be resettled outside?

We want to stay in Motia Khan. We are satisfied here with the work. Only problem is the unhygienic conditions of the site. We have seen Papankalan. It's a nice area but finding work would be difficult there. We can pay up to Rs.500/month as instalments.

2:30:20 man with long hair and beard – Ram Sahay – one of the oldest residents in Motia Khan squatter settlement

Statement

I have been in Motia Khan since 1980. At that time there were very few jhuggies. There are no facilities here – toilets, drainage, water supply. People come here before elections, make a lot of promises, but never come back after they have won the elections. This site was all open when we came here. Now it's like living in a prison since they built a wall at the back. It all used to be open till 1990. If a fire breaks out today, no one is going to survive here.

Could you tell us anything about the two clear sites here?

The clear sites have been lying vacant since the beginning. The whole of that strip from Desh Bandhu Gupta Road towards the north of the site (4-storey DDA flats) had a lot of vegetation mainly Keekar (Acacia like) trees. So people started using that part as latrines. In 1990, the government cleared the site of trees for the construction of the 8-storey DDA flats. Then they built the low boundary wall along the western edge of the site that separated the squatter from the clear sites. This was then followed by

the construction of high wall at the back. On the east we are bounded by the school (half of the length of the site). So if there is a fire here, we will not be able to escape because we are bounded on three sides. Since 1990 we have been living in hell. Politicians come here and promise to get toilets built up, provision of water and drainage facilities, but no one keeps their promises. Women have to defecate in the open. Anything that is here, has been done by us.

If we go to anyone for help, they say that we have occupied government land, so they cannot help us. No one listens to us. We went to the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, he said he will send someone from DDA to provide us a gate through the wall behind. The DDA called on us and said they have not received any orders from anyone to provide an access through that wall. They told us to get it in writing from the Lieutenant Governor. We certainly cannot go back to him. If we do, he is just going to say that I have sent the orders. So we do not know what to do.

Would you like to stay in Motia Khan or be resettled outside?

We are ready to vacate this land if they could relocate us somewhere. They are building new flats in Rohini Sector-4. They can send us there. All the facilities are being provided there. They are also providing shops to people who have some kind of commercial establishment here. The Chief Engineer, DDA told us that. We are happy to be relocated there, but they are just not sending us. If a fire breaks out tomorrow, people are going to die in stampede. We have told all these problems to the DDA, the Lieutenant Governor and have been saying that either relocate us or provide us some basic services here. Till today I have sent about 50 applications to different people in the government service, but everyone seemed to have turned a deaf ear to our problem.

2:40:50 medicine shop man in blue stripped shirt

General background

I came here 2 years ago from Calcutta for work. My brother was here. He is in the Delhi Police. I give medicines for minor problems like dehydration, temperature etc. Would you like to stay in Motia Khan or be resettled outside?

I want to stay in Motia Khan.

2:45:15 monkeys and keeper – Kallu – monkey performer

History of migration

My parents brought me to Delhi about 30-40 years ago. We did not have any contact in Delhi before coming here. We belong to the *madaris* community from Allahabad. The first place we stayed in Delhi was Nabi Karim. Later we moved to various locations in Delhi before moving to Motia Khan in 1980 - New Delhi Railway Station, Gautam Nagar, Panchquin Road and Cycle Market. In all these locations, we lived in a jhuggi. We were amongst the first few who came to Motia Khan, then came the singers and then the rest. At the time we came to Motia Khan, there were only 200-250 jhuggies here.

Family background and history of occupation

I was a bachelor when I was brought to Delhi. I got married in Motia Khan. My wife looks after the house and our family. We have five children – 3 sons and 2 daughters – all living with us. All my sons go to the primary school within Motia Khan JJC and the daughters are not grown enough to go to school. The elder one will start next year.

I am also training my sons to follow in our tradition. I cannot afford my children's higher education, which is required to get good jobs. So, it's for their benefit that they follow me.

Do you earn enough to meet your needs?

Yes we manage.

What problems are you facing in Motia Khan?

This place is very unhygienic. There have been too many cases of fire recently so are a bit worried because of the wall at the back.

Would you like to stay in Motia Khan or be resettled outside?

I want to move out of Motia Khan because of the unhygienic conditions in the area, but do not want to be moved very far from Motia Khan because it will be difficult for me to carry the monkeys around in the bus. Papankalan is OK but its too far.

We want to be resettled on plots rather than flats. It will be very difficult for me to keep my monkeys. I have to have some space for them. We train our monkeys ourselves. We feed them first because they are our source of income.

Summary of Motia Khan interviews tapes 4-5

0:12:45 man in white shirt - Om Prakash Yadav – milkman

History of migration and occupation

I came to Delhi in 1982 from Allahabad. My brother had an accommodation on Joshi Road. He used to supply milk to nearby households and I also started working with him. His employer had given him a room to live in free of rent. I stayed with him for a month and then moved to Motia Khan. My brother knew someone who was selling his teashop in Motia Khan. I bought that shop and started selling sweets. When it didn't work out to be a profitable business, I turned it in to a grocery shop.

Did you come to Delhi alone or brought your family along? Family background

I was a bachelor when I came to Delhi. I got married in 1990 in Uttar Pradesh and brought my wife here. Now we have 3 daughters and a son. All the children are going to school except the youngest daughter who is only a year old.

What problems are you facing in Motia Khan?

We do not have any facilities here – no water supply, no toilet facilities and no electricity.

Would you like to stay in Motia Khan or be resettled outside?

All of us want to move from here. Since 1990 we have been expecting that the government is going to relocate us, but it has been 9 years (these interviews were conducted in 1999) since and we are still here. There is no point in living here.

We have seen Papankalan, but it's too far away. We would prefer to live somewhere near to Motia Khan so that we can find work easily. Moving to Papankalan or Narela, will increase travel costs which we will not be able to afford. In such a situation, people are going to sell off their flats and come back here to squat.

We can pay up to Rs.100-150/month as instalments.

0:20:40 middle aged woman having tea – Prem – housemaid

What problems are you facing in Motia Khan?

We are having lots of problems. Before the elections, when Janta Party came here, they promised to move us to Papankalan. They took us there and showed us the flats. We thought they are solving our problem, so we gave them our votes. When the elections were over, they moved other people there and we are still here. The government has taken an undue advantage of our rights. They keep taking our votes and never keep their promises.

Kalka Das (a BJP candidate) promised to provide toilet facilities here, schools for our children, help them get good jobs and relocate us. But did not do anything. Instead he bought a Maruti car for himself. He died few years ago and it served him right for his wrong deeds. He is in hell now and we are living in 'heaven'.

This is no life. There are no facilities here. We will go where the government sends us to. We want to go to Papankalan or we will just stay here.

How many members of your family are earning?

Two of my sons are painters. They work in Vikas Puri. These days even they are not doing well because people have stopped getting their houses painted. They get them stone clad. What are we poor going to do. Wherever the government is planning to send us, we are not going to get any work there.

Where are they sending you?

I do not know. You would know where they are sending us because you are making our video. It would be better if they send us Papankalan because of its proximity to Sagar Pur and Nangal. This place is so unhygienic.

How long have you been in Delhi?

I was born in Delhi. So many of our generations have lived here. Only my in-laws are in Muzaffar Nagar, Meerut. We have been in Motia Khan for 20 years.

History of occupation

I work as a housemaid in Vikas Puri. I used to work for a family here in Motia Khan. They moved to Vikas Puri few years ago, so now I go there to work for them. We work for people like you and enjoy the couple of hours we stay in a clean environment. At times we think of having meat, but we cannot even afford to have vegetables. When you people have any function or wedding in the family, we charge more money and have a feast that day. We have meat instead of vegetables.

0:30:40 man in red turban (Rajasthani) – Kartar Bhatia - singer

History of migration and occupation

We belong to the 'Rana Samaj' from Rajasthan. We came to Delhi about 18 years ago. Our pradhan (leader) was here – Birbal Rana (interviewed earlier Tapes 1-3 at 1:57:55). He does all the running around for us. We only look after our work. If he asks us to attend any meeting we do; otherwise we just enjoy our life. For generations we have been practicing this art of singing. A lot of families from our community have come to Delhi and they are living in different squatter settlements – Silam, Raghubir Nagar and Pahar Ganj. People invite us to perform at weddings, jagrans and satsangs (religious gatherings). We earn enough to sustain our living. Would you like to stay in Motia Khan or be resettled outside?

Who would want to stay in this filth? Delhi has become Paris and we are living like this in Paris.

Its going to be monsoon soon and the situation here is going to worsen. It's awful here in monsoon. We should be provided with some medicines because people fall ill during rains due to the overflowing drains.

We want to go somewhere near Papankalan. We have almost lived our lives, but we want to do something for our children so that they have a better future. The government should also provide some government jobs for our children. There should be more schools and dispensaries for us. If the government gives us why wont we take it. If this government is ours, we are theirs. If they are with us, we are with them. They should help us solve our problems.

If government could see our singing abilities, we might get some good chance to earn and our future generations could also benefit from that.

Do you go back to Rajasthan often?

Yes we go there couple of times in a year and have our traditional food. Its not very far off. One doesn't need to get a passport or take a plane. Just takes 6 hours by bus. People go to America to progress in life and we have only come to Delhi. Sometimes we even feel that if government could get this area cleaned up and provide some basic facilities here, then we wont have to move out at all. We are quite happy living here. We will save our travel time and cost. Everything is available here nearby. We are happy living in jhuggies as long as we are in the Centre of the city. But if we have to go, we have to go.

The government would be making a lot of profit by relocating us from here. For so many years we have stood by the government. If they could provide us some building material and give us plots here, we can build ourselves. The only reason we are not doing is because they might decide to move us from here. What are we going to do then. It costs around Rs.5,000-10,000 to build a jhuggi.

1:15:20 balloon vendor – Nazar Khan

Where do you get the balloons from and where do you go to sell them?

I get everything from Sadar Bazaar and go to different colonies and parks for selling them. In parks, the caretakers create a lot of problem for us and don't let us sell balloons there. They all want money from us. I earn Rs.50-100/day. In the evening, I do monkey shows.

Would you like to stay in Motia Khan or be resettled outside?

We are very poor people. In Motia Khan, at least we get food to eat, but otherwise there are lots of problems there. If we are moved very far from Motia Khan, work would be difficult because we will have to travel more. We want to go where there is work. It will be good if I can get a job somewhere.

1:21:30 young man in white shirt – Lal Chand – salesman in a cigarette company

History of migration

My mother brought me here in 1975. My father had already settled in Delhi by that time. We are from Rajasthan. We first settled near Steel Factory. In 1981, we were forcefully moved to Motia Khan.

What problems are you facing in Motia Khan?

When Dharam Das Shastri was a Member of Parliament, we got our ration cards (in 1980). At that time we were in Steel Factory. Manjit Singh (Slum Commissioner) said that they will give 25 sq.yds. plots to all those who have got 1980 ration cards. At that time my father was the pradhan (leader) there. He said if we go we will all go irrespective of the fact whether we have ration cards or not. Then we were relocated in Motia Khan for few days. We were given fake receipts for plots in Sultan Puri. When we realised that they were fake, they tried to bribe my father by giving a plot to our family. But my father insisted that we will all go if we have to. Since then we have been here.

The government has not provided us with any facilities. The toilet block we have here is with the help of some organisation. We have to pay 50 paise per visit on a weekday and Re.1 per visit on Sundays. There are no drains here. Streets are too narrow. We want the government to move us from here as soon as possible. We want to go to Papankalan.

History of occupation

I am salesman for a bidi (lower grade cigarette) company called Telephone Bidi. I work for couple of other bidi companies as well in Sadar Bazaar. The Telephone Bidi

is in Shakti Nagar. I supply bidis to small commercial establishments in Motia Khan and around.

If we are relocated nearby it will be good for everyone or on 12.5 sq.yds. plots on this site. Moving to Papankalan would mean spending Rs.18/day on travelling. Its difficult but still better than commuting from Rohini which is even further than Papankalan.

