



Interview 3
Steel fixer

Murthu Lakshmi

(translated from Tamil, the language of Tamil Nadu State)



I work on construction sites. I tie wires on to steel rods to make them into square frames. They get used to make concrete pillars for the buildings.

Now, I work on a site by Tomkur Road. It's not far from my home in Peenya slum. Foreign companies are buying the land everywhere and getting us to put up the buildings. I earn about 80 Rupees a day, more than what I used to earn on the farm.

Everyday, I wait by the road for the agent. Some days he picks me for work, other days he doesn't. I work with people from all over India. Some come in by train or on the lorries. Some stay for a day, others stay for years!



My family moved from Tamil Nadu (state) when the rains failed two years ago. We lost everything and my children were hungry. Everyone was talking about Bangalore, saying it's the city of money.

So, we came here with almost everyone in the village, on the train. We saw the high rise towers and the western type people. They were all over

the train station. I don't know that life.

My children work with me some days. They break stones into small pieces like gravel. The extra money is good for our family. I take the baby and put him to sleep in the sand heaps. He's safe there.

When I first came to Bangalore, I worked in the market, but this closed down Metro (German supermarket) took it over. Metro sold vegetables cheaper than us. Everyone had to look for other work.

