

**COME TO KOCHI**

**Programme 5 - Working for a living**

[A BUSY STREET]

AJAY

Welcome back to the city of Kochi. I'm just about to turn out onto Palace Road in Mattancherry – one of the busiest streets in the area. And lining the road on both sides are all sorts of traders...people selling a range of things to drink and eat from mobile stalls, including bananas and coconuts for drinking...people offering services like bicycle repairs, spare parts for all sorts of things...It can't be easy to work out here on the street in such hot temperatures. So let's talk to some of the stallholders to find out how they feel about their work...

[AJAY APPROACHES A STALL HOLDER]

Excuse me – what's your job?

TRANSLATOR

His job is to iron clothes.

AJAY

Iron clothes? That's all he does?

TRANSLATOR

Yes, that's all he does.

AJAY

What time do you start in the morning?

TRANSLATOR

He opens at 8 am and closes at 9.30 pm.

AJAY

So that's 13 and a half hours every day.

TRANSLATOR                      On Sunday he works only up to 2 pm.

AJAY                                      And how much do you earn in one day?

TRANSLATOR                      It varies from 250 to 350 rupees per day.

AJAY                                      Thank you very much.

*[THE SCENE CHANGES TO ANOTHER PART OF  
THE STREET]*

I've just stopped a man in the street. He's got this rather large cart which he's pushing along. And on it he's got what seem to be...is it limes? What is this?

STALL HOLDER                      Lemons.

AJAY                                      Lemons. And how many years have you been doing this?

TRANSLATOR                      It's almost 16 years that he's been doing this.

AJAY                                      How many hours a day do you work?

TRANSLATOR                      Almost 8 hours a day.

AJAY                                      And can I ask you how old you are?

STALL HOLDER                      71!

*[THE SCENE CHANGES TO ANOTHER PART OF  
THE STREET]*

AJAY                                      Hello. What's your name?

TAILOR My name is Laxman Raos.

AJAY Laxman Raos. Laxman what's your job?

TAILOR Tailoring.

TRANSLATOR He's a tailor.

AJAY Can you show me what you're doing at the back of your shop?

*[THE SOUND OF SEWING MACHINES]*

AJAY There are six sewing machines. And each of these six stations is occupied by a tailor...and the order comes in...and these men make it...  
This is quite a busy, thriving tailor's...

TRANSLATOR Here the people stitch new clothes for every occasion.

AJAY Every new festival somebody wants to wear new clothes...Laxman thank you very much...

**Before we go on, talk together about what we've heard so far. Think about things like: the hours that people work in Kochi, the conditions they work in, and the amount of money they get paid. And to help you with that, you'll need to know that one pound in the UK is the same as about 75 rupees in India. Then compare that with what you know about the working lives of people in your locality.**

MUSIC

ACTIVITY PAUSE SIGNAL

*[THE SOUND ON BOARD A FERRY. THE BELL RINGS]*

**AJAY**

**Now I'm on my way to one of the islands to find out about another popular industry here – boatbuilding. There are different names to describe the different sorts of industry that people work in. Any work which is about extracting a raw material from the earth - for example, mining or fishing or farming – is called a primary industry. And any work that makes things from these raw materials - for example, manufacturing cars or other factory goods – is called a secondary industry.**

*[THE SOUND OF HAMMERING IN THE BOATYARD]*

AJAY

I'm on Vypin Island and I've come to a very busy boatyard. It's a typical example of the sort of secondary industry you find in this area. I'm meeting Anthony Muckat. Anthony, what activity goes on in your boatyard..?

TRANSLATOR

They normally repair boats.

AJAY

How many people are employed here?

TRANSLATOR

There are about 22 labourers. Mainly they are carpenters...



**AJAY**

**The things I noted during my visit are these:  
The boatyard relies on locally grown materials – for example the wood used to make or repair the boats. And there seem to be a lot of people doing the work – there are very few machines involved so there have to be more people. And - like the street traders – the workers in the boatyard work long hours for not very much money.  
So, while I get the ferry back to Fort Cochin, talk together about some of the work that happens near you: can you identify any primary or secondary industries...and can you think about any work that happens near you that doesn't fall into either category?**

MUSIC

ACTIVITY PAUSE STING.

**AJAY**

**Today's story is about one of the main primary industries here in Kochi – fishing. The two main characters – Shezad and his father Aziz – go out on to the lagoon each day in their canoe...  
But the story is set during the monsoon months – that's when the weather here sometimes gets really stormy. And, as we'll hear, it's a time that can be very dangerous for those who make their living from fishing boats...**

STORY

*Monsoon – part 1*

Read by Paul Bhattacharjee

*[THE SOUND OF THE BEACH AT FORT COCHIN]*

AJAY

I'm back on the beach at Fort Cochin. We've already heard about the Chinese fishing nets that line the seafront here and I've come back to take another look...

**Each net is like a giant crane, with a frame made of bamboo poles, a huge net a bit like a sail, and a system of rope pulleys for lowering the net into the water. Every few minutes a team of 5 pull hard on the ropes to raise the net from the water, and then it's a race to get to the fish before the birds do. Listen carefully to the fishing team sing as they haul on the ropes...try to picture them in your imagination...**

[*THE CHINESE NET FISHERMEN SING AS THEY HAUL ON THE ROPES TO RAISE THE NET*]

**POEM**

***The Chinese fishing nets of Fort Cochin***

By Ivan Jones.

Read by Nina Wadia

*On the beach at Fort Cochin are the fishermen,  
The fishermen who have worked for generations.*

*A warm soft breeze is blowing  
As the sun rises over their shoulders.  
All day long the men cast their nets  
All day long the men heave their nets.*

*And as they work patiently the dolphins  
Are playing, the Arabian Sea is swaying  
The great nets hovering like butterflies  
The great nets fluttering like butterflies.*

*While out in the deep water, a noisy trawler  
Passes. Without thought it passes  
The fishermen with their old ways, as the sun is  
sinking.  
The fishermen with their old ways, as the sun is  
sinking.*



*[THE CREW OF THE FISHING NET SING A  
FISHING SONG]*

AJAY

The song that we're hearing in the back...is a song about prawns...the fishermen are singing that we're very happy that the prawns are coming in...

**And we'll be hearing much more about fishing next time as well. But before you finish for today here's something for you to try. Imagine that you are one of the people we've heard about today. See if you can write a diary entry for a typical day's work. What did you do...where did you work...for how long...how much did you earn...and how did you feel about your work? Until next time – bye!**

PROGRAMME ENDS.