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## Chaubal, Kishori Interview

Cindy Pellegrini

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# Stockton Immigrant Women Oral History Collection

by Sally Miller

## **CHAUBAL, Kishori** **[Indian]**

[May 7, 1980]?

Interviewed by Cindy Pellegrini

Transcribed by Kelly Gerhold, Robert Siess, Jamie Lynn Culilap

**[TAPE 1, Side A]**

**[Begin Tape.]**

CINDY PELLEGRINI: It's going to be weird, it's going to have my voice on it too.

DR. KISHORI CHAUBAL: Oh. Why?

Pellegrini: Because we'll both be talking.

Chaubal: Oh, I see, ok. That way, that's what you meant. Ok.

Pellegrini: I guess I'd like to go chronological.

Chaubal: Mm-hmm, ok.

Pellegrini: So, you were born in Pune, right? What, is that like in a province or something, you know? Is that the city, or town, or what?

Chaubal: It's a town. It's a town which then was about the size of Stockton, but now it's much larger.

Pellegrini: Is that, like, is that, do they divide it up into states, counties, or what?

Chaubal: Uh huh, it's divided, the country's divided up into a number of states very much similar to California, I mean to the United States, and Pune is in one of the states on the west coast.

Pellegrini: Ok, which one?

Chaubal: Oh, Maharashtra.

Pellegrini: Can you spell it?

Chaubal: M-A-H-A-R-A-S-H-T-R-A.

Pellegrini: Where were you born? I mean, in a, was it, like, in a home, a hospital?

Chaubal: No, in a hospital. Mm-hmm.

Pellegrini: Did you, is this, [Pune is where you grew up?]

Chaubal: Yes. My family lived there all my growing years, lived in the same town.

Pellegrini: So you went to school there?

Chaubal: Uh-huh. I went to school and junior high school. But we have a different kind of an educational system, we have private schools and public schools. And the public schools, really, are what you would call private schools over here, and there's schools that are run by various educational organizations. And I went to one that was run by a Church Missionary Society. Which was [a] Protestant mission.

Pellegrini: So, what's some of the things you remember about, like, when you were going to school, when you were younger, when you were a child?

Chaubal: Yeah, but, I mean, remember about what aspect of it?

Pellegrini: Um, I guess, you have children, right?

Chaubal: No.

Pellegrini: No. Then I guess that [...? Mumbling] You went to college there too, or did you come here?

Chaubal: No, I went to college. I got my primary degree at college, [in?] the university in Pune.

Pellegrini: Did you ever leave Pune?

Chaubal: To live, you mean? Well, I left for, I lived in Bombay for [], but that was basically it. I mean, I never really lived [out for?]

Pellegrini: Did you live with your parents all this time?

Chaubal: Uh-huh.

Pellegrini: So then you—

Someone interrupting: You wouldn't have any lens paper, would you?

Chaubal: I do.

Someone interrupting: Oh, great! I've got to go [home and put some ice?] on, but there just isn't a piece in the lab, and I...

[someone else talking very quietly]

Someone interrupting: Oh, thank you.

[someone else talking very quietly]

[laughter]

Chaubal: [] If I don't, I'm pretty sure we have some either in the lab or in Dr. [Nahasa?]'s office.

Someone interrupting: Oh, I know he would have some, but I couldn't find him.

Chaubal: Now let's see, no, that's [bibulous?] paper...

Someone interrupting: Yes...

Chaubal: I don't. [] Dr. Nahasa's office, [] get you some.

[temporary stop in the tape]

Pellegrini: Ok, um. So the first time you left your parents was working in the United States?

Chaubal: No, I had lived in Bombay for a year before that.

Pellegrini: Oh, so you lived in Bombay, and then you came to the United States.

Chaubal: Yeah, uh-huh.

Pellegrini: What made you decide to come to the United States?

Chaubal: Oh, because I got married. [laughter] Pretty simple.

Pellegrini: So there's no real choice? Why, why did your husband come?

Chaubal: My husband was working here.

Pellegrini: He was working here?

Chaubal: He had a job here, at the university.

Pellegrini: Oh. That makes sense! How did you meet your husband?

Chaubal: Family.

Pellegrini: Family? Was it, was it arranged, or?

Chaubal: Yes, kind of. That's right, we were introduced by the family.

Pellegrini: But I mean, they didn't, was it their decision, or?

Chaubal: No, no. It was my decision, but they arranged that we meet and get to know each other, basically.

Pellegrini: Did you, was your family religious?

Chaubal: Oh yes. Yes, they're Hindus, and my family is very religious.

Pellegrini: Are you? Ok, well, the question is, "How do you think that affected your childhood?" The, did you do, how, like, religious ceremonies and stuff?

Chaubal: Mm-hmm! We had a lot of religious ceremonies, and you see Hinduism has a lot of ritual as well as religion. So in that way, it definitely did. And actually, if you were to go to India, you'd find that the whole country has an enormous culture, particularly with lots of rituals that kind of go through everyday life. I'll give you an example. About in January we have a harvest festival. And then, in March, we have a festival to celebrate the end of winter, beginning of spring. And then, of course, there are religious festivals. So, throughout the year we have some kind of celebration or another, or some kind of religious ritual either connected with daily life, with harvests and sewing and basically farming. And, we have religious festivals connected with the village and with the stories of gods and goddesses and saints and...

Pellegrini: Does any one ever stand out particularly in your mind?

Chaubal: I guess there are two or three that are. For example, in about, end of October, November, there was a four-day festival we have which is called Diwali, and that is the, well, really it's the festival of lights.

Pellegrini: How do you spell Diwali?

Chaubal: D-I-W-A-L-I. It's the festival of lights. And in some parts of the country, it's the beginning of the New Year.

Pellegrini: Oh.

Chaubal: From my part of the country, it isn't, but there are the regions where it is very important, as far as the part of the New Year [sayings?].

Pellegrini: Do you remember, like, an incident when you were a child that [just, you know?]

Chaubal: [Oh, I ...?] Basically, it was really associated with things like new clothes, and lots of food, and visiting, and holidays, and then we had fireworks.

Pellegrini: Um, did you have trouble getting into the country, or?

Chaubal: Here? No. No, I didn't, because my husband already had an immigrant visa. So I didn't have any problems.

Pellegrini: How do you find, like, this, were you shocked?

Chaubal: Yes, there was something of a culture shock, because really, I had grown up, even though I had grown up speaking English, to a great extent our attitudes were formed by the British, because at that time the British had a very strong influence in India. So of course, we were much more used to the British idea of society than American. Like, there was a great deal, a lot of formality. Even in daily contact.

Pellegrini: That the Americans have?

Chaubal: The British.

Pellegrini: I was going to say, I think we haven't.

Chaubal: No. That's one of the things that I found different, because here everyone was much more outgoing.

Pellegrini: Yeah. How did you handle that?

Chaubal: It took a little while, but I don't think I had a big problem. One thing, you see, I didn't have a language problem, which is a big help, and secondly I had had some idea of American society, from movies and books and things, and my husband and a lot of his friends were very helpful in being able to show and tell me and point out things that were very different. And my husband had lived here for over a year so he had some really excellent friends. Very close friends [that?] were American.

Pellegrini: Yeah. What were some of the weird things that [were?] different, some of those things that, like, you weren't expecting and they hadn't informed you ahead of time? Did you encounter anything like that?

Chaubal: I [] lots of things that I hadn't expected and hadn't thought of ahead of time because, really, there wasn't that much time to think about it. You know, basically, like even living styles, a simple thing like, we don't have supermarkets at home. We just don't. If you want vegetables, you go to the vegetable store. If you go, want meat, you go to the meat store, butcher. You don't have supermarket. Okay? You don't have things like department stores.

Pellegrini: Was it, like, [another?] little kid, if you [let?] a little kid into a candy store, and you—

Chaubal: Uh-huh! And, of course, the fact that this place was so very affluent. This country is so rich, compared to India or any [third?] countries. I mean, you don't see about [three hundred of?] the things you see here. And the abundance, you don't see. You don't see the—

Pellegrini: Yeah, I do, I mean, I can, I see it in a sense, but yet I can't imagine the shock, or how you would feel at seeing the difference.

Chaubal: Ok, have you been to Mexico?

Pellegrini: Yeah.

Chaubal: Ok. Did you see the poverty?

Pellegrini: Yeah.

Chaubal: Uh huh. And how did that feel, to you?

Pellegrini: I don't know, it felt helpless.

Chaubal: Ok. But now, here is the reverse idea, from a place where we didn't have anything. And you came in here and you see all of these things, [all of them rich?], most [of it?]. So [it's?] really all around, it's like going to a Christmas, I mean, going out Christmas shopping, and you've been given a blank check.

Pellegrini: Yeah. Did you, did you think the American people appreciated it?

Chaubal: Not as much as they should. Because, really, if you haven't known want, you take it for granted. I mean, you just don't think about it, it's like, one of those things that I really [affected?], really bothered me particularly when I came was the waste of food.

Pellegrini: Yeah.

Chaubal: Well, you see, in India, you don't throw anything away. There's always somebody who'd really like to have it, whether it's clothes, whether it's food, you just don't throw things away, and you don't take such large helpings that you're going to throw it away. Okay? If you take anything, you finish it, or you don't take it.

Pellegrini: Yeah.

Chaubal: And I think it was most striking in restaurants. At least, at homes, you know, you are a little more considerate about that kind of thing. But in restaurants, they bring you this huge steak, particularly in those days, ten or fifteen years ago. And I could not finish a whole steak! I mean, in India, you don't eat more than four ounces of meat at a meal, or five ounces of meat. That's the most you would ever eat. So, I'm looking at this eight-ounce steak, and I didn't know what to do with it! [And I got ...?]

Pellegrini: [laughter] Do they have restaurants in India?

Chaubal: Mm-hmm! But, of course, they serve basically Indian food, and our food [] is more like Chinese, where you have small pieces of meat.

Pellegrini: Is there, like, as far as food goes, was there, like, a shock at the way things tasted?

Chaubal: Definitely. Because we use more spices. Much more spicy food, which was delightful, though as the fact that I got [to cook with all of that here?] with no problems. Because you can make most of the spices you eat here. And now it's [], it's supposed to be, everyone is into cooking.

Pellegrini: Yeah. Did you find any change, as far as, like, [the rowing plague?] in India and [] here? Was it more rigid there, or rigid here, as far as...?

Chaubal: It's more rigid there, because there, there are definite forms of behavior, definite [we had a?] kind of society expected things, and things like that. Also, because there, I had, I guess, a little bit more of a problem because there I hadn't been married. When I came here I was married, so I really was [in a very ...?], so those responsibilities were [only?] me. They had the responsibilities [for other?] people. For running the house, or things like that.

Pellegrini: Was that, like, um...

Chaubal: It's like staying at home and going away to college, feeling the change.

Pellegrini: Yeah. Could you feel [] 'Cause it—

Chaubal: In the beginning, yes. But, as I said, I really didn't have to do anything on my own [], because my husband, like, he would tell me, "Oh, this is what we need to do, this is what we do, this is where the stores are, this is," you know, like, [something's under?] the checkout counter in the grocery department. I wouldn't know what to do it, what to do with it, right? But, there—you see, here it's much easier, the person takes the [], checks it, rings it up and everything else, you pay by check. Now there, it's a little different. What you usually do is you tell the man what you want and he does it for you.

Pellegrini: Yeah. So that's different. Would you have been a teacher there?

Chaubal: Mm-hmm. I was. I told you, I told you []

Pellegrini: When you taught in the convent?

Chaubal: Mm-hmm.

Pellegrini: How- how- was it all girls, or was it co-ed?

Chaubal: Oh yes, yes. We have comparatively very few co-ed schools. We still belonged to England, we have boy schools and girl schools. There are some co-ed.

Pellegrini: Why is that?



Chaubal: Society. Our society's not yet ready to have free mixing of the sexes, particularly in, you know, middle and high school.

Pellegrini: Was that shocking to you?

Chaubal: It wasn't shocking, because I kind of expected it, but it definitely seems to change the behavior of []. Because girls, as a group, usually tend to behave in a different manner than they would in a boy group.

Pellegrini: How does—in, in what way? I mean, maturity, as far as...

Chaubal: [], maturity, interests...

Pellegrini: Competition?

Chaubal: Competition, you know, for example, [], in any case, we have stereotype roles. We had roles. So women are expected to behave in a certain way, this, they're supposed to be feminine, you know, [otherwise?] the men are supposed to be very strong and masculine. Boys are supposedly interested in sports, and cars, and all the things that you associate with male [] And the girls, they are supposedly more interested in [things that belong?] to women, like [...? homes?] and things. And so that, the emphasis was in different areas, and girls' interests were in different areas, particularly, for example, the convent. Now, at the convent I taught at, [even if the?] girls went on to college and decided on careers, it was understood that these careers would [] power to [] as a wife and homemaker, or they would be subordinate. But eventually, they would all at some point in their lives get married. That was understood and an accepted idea.

Pellegrini: [In your terms? .....?] claim a parallel world. How is being a teacher parallel to being a mother or submissive?

Chaubal: Okay. But, you know, as far as I'm concerned, it's not really a question of being submissive. But, yes, I—it's the kind of thing, you know when you have certain duties, if you'd like to call it that, or certain obligations in being a wife, and in running a home. Okay? And there are certain obligations [you have to ...?] with being a teacher. And you kind of try and balance the two, go [] your life, so that you can get both of those. I try and maximize both of those things.

Pellegrini: Do you, as far as your being a wife, do you look at these rules and obligations as something you have to do, or something you want to do?

Chaubal: It's a little bit of both. Yes, because I know there are some things that I should do, because I am a wife, and my husband should do because he is a husband. Okay? But at the same time, it's a commitment I have made, and that's why I want to do it. I mean, it's important to me to have a nice house. Because I'm going to live there, if it's not pretty, if it's not the way I want it, then I'm going to be unhappy.

Pellegrini: Yeah.

Chaubal: [] necessary [] so much [will?] make myself happy, and do it at the same time, it's something I should do because I'm []

Pellegrini: Do you feel that you're more liberated, I guess, liberated than women in India are?

Chaubal: In some ex—to some degree, definitely.

Pellegrini: Like, in what, what exactly?

Chaubal: For example, now, here, I don't have to worry about specific rules in society, because the society I move in is so broad, and so much more, there's so much more broadened outlook. Now, there, I would move in a narrower society, okay, so then I would have to [swallow?] certain norms. Give you an example. Here, if I do not want to cook, I can open up a can of beans, I can go get pizza. Right? I couldn't do that []. For one thing, it would be financially impossible. Secondly, it would, it is not considered to be the right attitude. You should be [house-proud?] enough to want to cook at all times, unless you're sick.

Pellegrini: Do you, I guess, are you sorry that you're [], that you are able to do that if you want to?

Chaubal: Yes, I'm not in the least sorry about that, I enjoy it. Because it takes the drudgery out of [], and it gives me more freedom. Like, for example, suppose I [don't?] want to go out [for?] something that interests me, like, I was taking a class in, what is it, Rapid Reading. [It didn't help me?], I was taking a class, I didn't—but the class used to meet at 7:30, 7:00 in the evenings, []. Obviously, if I'm going to leave from work at 4:30 or 5:00, either I have get a [scrappy meal?], and then go to the class, or I have to plan [way ahead?], or, you know, if I have pizza in the refrigerator I take it out. And I can tell my husband, "This is what I'm going to do, I'm leaving the house at a quarter to 7:00, or 6:30, quarter to 7:00, [] we have to eat at 6:00. Or, if you don't want to eat at six, this is the food on the table, or in the refrigerator, you fix it up." You know. [We couldn't take it?]

Pellegrini: No. [] you, I don't know, take for granted.

Chaubal: Yeah, that's true, but you know that the person [on the .....?]

Pellegrini: Yeah, no, I know it.

Chaubal: [laughter] Okay, yeah. But certainly, when you're not on your own, then you have to [control it?]. Even on your own you have to think about [...? Why don't you ...?] I can come back and get a bite.

Pellegrini: Have you, um, had you lived in []

Chaubal: To some extent, yes, but, um, the concept that [] I think, is in explaining [Hinduism?] and I don't know if you know anything about it.

Pellegrini: Vaguely.

Chaubal: Okay, what, Hinduism, one of the things about Hinduism is, there is no such thing as, "you must do this," and, "you must do that." You don't have to go to temple, if you don't want to. Okay, you

don't have to go every Sunday, you don't even have to go once a year, if you don't want to. You don't have to say your prayers every day, you say it when you feel [religious?] It gives a tremendous [differing?] flexibility. One thing is that there is no temple in Stockton, and the closest one I think now is in San Francisco, and that is [] last two or three years, because [there wasn't anyone there? ...?] So, I'm religious in the fact that I read our religious books from time to time, but I'm not religious in the fact that I don't do a whole lot of ritual, which I [...? Unquestionably?].

Pellegrini: Oh, ok. [Do you keep ...?] rituals?

Chaubal: Some of them, yes.

Pellegrini: Which ones?

Chaubal: Well, usually, if I know that there's a particular feast—and that's one of the problems, you see, we have multiple feasts like Easter, where, you know, it's not related to a particular date, it's related to the cycles of the moon. Okay, so if it's related to the cycles of the moon, it's going to vary from year to year, and unless I have an Indian calendar, there's no way I know. But if I find out about it, [] usually we have some special prayers, and then have company over for dinner, particularly other Indians students, [who would know about that?].

Pellegrini: Is this [] of a celebration that you find out [] [in particular?]

Chaubal: I try to find out about usually about Diwali and [] but I don't remember.

Pellegrini: Have you [only?] taught since you've been here?

Chaubal: I've worked at a pharmacist's.

Pellegrini: Oh, where?

Chaubal: At [Astor?] and Pacific Ave.

Pellegrini: Were you teaching at that time, or is that before you were teaching?

Chaubal: No, well, this is, usually, I do it during the summer. [While I'm teaching?].

Pellegrini: Well, then, would you have just taught all the time in India?

Chaubal: In India, yes, because [] is kind of, it's, we usually go from June to October, and then we have a couple of weeks off in October, and school's done for December, we have two weeks off in December, and then they run through to the end of April. And then [.....?]. So, basically, we have a kind of [].

Pellegrini: Hmm. [A necessary ...?] Ok. [] Have you [] [anything new?]?

Chaubal: Oh, it's about [six?] years only since I've been here.

Pellegrini: Has your family here?

Chaubal: Uh, some of them have []. [] three brothers and one sister.

Pellegrini: How many people were in [your family? ...?]

Chaubal: Five brothers and—I had five brothers and [four sisters?]

Pellegrini: So, nine?

Chaubal: Mm-hmm.

Pellegrini: []

Chaubal: [laughter]

Pellegrini: Um, let's see. What do you think of the difference in the way the United States tries to help, you know, part of its people through, like, welfare and that?

Chaubal: [I'm willing to?] think it's a really good idea. Particularly the elderly, because they're older and disabled, it's important that somebody looks after them.

[Someone interrupting]: Excuse me, where is []

Chaubal: I don't know. Do you have a lot of questions []

[Someone interrupting]: []

Chaubal: [humming] How long do you think [your tape's ...?]?

Pellegrini: Just a minute longer.

Chaubal: What time is it now, [] my watch is [].

[Someone interrupting]: Eleven.

Chaubal: [] about 11:30?

Pellegrini: Yeah.

Chaubal: About 11:30.

[Someone interrupting]: Ok, [thanks a lot?].

Pellegrini: [.....?] Were you in Stockton all the time?

Chaubal: Uh-huh.

Pellegrini: Have you traveled?

Chaubal: Yes, yeah, I have, [] Let's see, Tennessee, Rhode Island, Montana, Seattle, and Los Angeles.

Pellegrini: []

Chaubal: Those are some of the places.

Pellegrini: Just some of the places. Have you, do they have cars in India?

Chaubal: Yes, but very much []. If you own a car in India, you are definitely rich, or [] [But this is ...?]

Pellegrini: Oh. Did you find major differences in the feeling of people around you? [Having more people?]

Chaubal: How do you mean?

Pellegrini: Ok, what I'm refer—thinking of is, in one of the stories we've read, [the woman?] felt lonely because [here she lives?] in an apartment, she didn't know any people, um, I don't think she had a language barrier, but there's this, she saw so many more cars and not as many people, and she, like, felt lonely because of that.

Chaubal: Um, well, I don't feel as lonely, for the simple reason that, I think I'm, because I'm associated with the university, my husband and I [...? live ...?]

Pellegrini: What about when you first came?

Chaubal: When I first came, yes. I first came, [like?], I really had a [problem?] problem, because I was homesick. Extremely homesick, and I was not used to being only my husband and I.

Pellegrini: Yeah.

Chaubal: I was surrounded by all these nieces, nephews, yeah, an extended family, really. And, [that was?] second thing, I wasn't going to school, I was on my own all day in an apartment.

Pellegrini: [groan]

Chaubal: Yeah. And at that time, I didn't even have a television set. [laughter] My husband didn't believe in that, at that point. He decided [we didn't have?] a television set.

Pellegrini: So you just, what did you do?

Chaubal: [Just to?] read books, do housework, and that's it. And I did that for one semester, and then I said, "That's it! I'm not going to do it anymore! At least I'm going back to school."

Pellegrini: So you started taking classes? Did you get [another?] degree [here at Pacific?]

Chaubal: [Yes, another Masters?] []

Pellegrini: [What's the?], how long did it take to do it?

Chaubal: []

Pellegrini: []

Chaubal: Mm-hmm.

Pellegrini: So your, your first degree was what?

Chaubal: [Masters? ...?] [In ...?]

Pellegrini: [In ...?]

Chaubal: [.....?]

Pellegrini: What did you get in India?

Chaubal: A BS and a B Ed.

Pellegrini: A BS and a BA?

Chaubal: B Ed. It's a teaching credential.

Pellegrini: Oh. So you have an MS, a BS, [and a B Ed?]

Chaubal: Mm-hmm.

Pellegrini: And then you [get your Masters?] So, when you were teaching in India, you were teaching Biology.

Chaubal: I was teaching Biology, Chemistry...

[Someone interrupting quietly]: []

Chaubal: Uh, I know his class is meeting over next to the lab, but I don't know if he's [] there, he's [studying? .....?]

[Someone interrupting quietly]: [.....?] I have class, so I'm not going to be there, I have class at 11 to 12PM.

Chaubal: [When ...?]

[Someone interrupting quietly]: [.....?]

Chaubal: Oh, ok. Would you check in the secretary's office? He may have left it there for you.

[Someone interrupting quietly]: Where's the secretary's office?

Chaubal: Around the corner.

[Someone interrupting quietly]: Oh, thanks.

Pellegrini: What did you, what did [.....?] education, as far as, like, the classes you were taking here, [than?] classes which you had taken in India? How do they compare?

Chaubal: At the college lev—at the university level?

Pellegrini: Yeah.

Chaubal: Ok. At the university level, there was, there's definitely a big difference. For one thing, [it's the way ...? is structured?] Basically, even though it's lectures, you find there is more give and take at this university [than in?] professors and students.

Pellegrini: What do you mean when you say, 'give and take'?

Chaubal: I mean, here, students feel free to put their hands up and question the professors, if they didn't understand anything, if they disagree. In India you do not. It's the [old ...?] system. The professor stands up and lectures, and you [just stay put?], and if you have questions, you go and see him later in his office, but that's also if you're really [] questions.

Pellegrini: Yeah.

Chaubal: See, here, there's much more of a rapport between the students and the professors.

Pellegrini: [.....?]

Chaubal: Definitely. Because, you know the [], [they're awful?]

Pellegrini: [laughter] Yeah.

Chaubal: And it makes you think about things.

Pellegrini: [You have more of an environment?]

Chaubal: That's one strong aspect of it. The second is that there's [an amount?] of knowledge, [they're much more ...?] because of the number of magazines, literature available. [They couldn't?] [available ...?]

Pellegrini: Do you find, um. [Well anyway?], for me, I see a difference in foreign students and in myself, I see more of a drive in them. Do you see, can you see that, and if so...

Chaubal: Well, here, I would think, the reason you see that drive in students who come here is very simply, they have come here *because* they want to []. I mean, [it's cost incredible?] to come here.

Pellegrini: So...

Chaubal: So they need, you know, that's the drive that's motivating them to do that. In India, you have the same range, you have, between, as you see here, you have some who are motivated and some who are not. [.....?] So I mean the distance you [go is not ....?]

Pellegrini: So, I guess, what, what you're saying is that the ones that do come are ones that are, they're already highly motivated...

Chaubal: []

Pellegrini: Yeah, ok.

Chaubal: In most cases—there are people who aren't, but most of them. And they [come ...? at great expense?] [...? tremendous?] [graduate ...?]

Pellegrini: Yes. [...? school?] [] Um, did you see, what did you think of politics when you first came here? [Or did you see?]

Chaubal: I really didn't know much about [American politics?] Absolutely, I [needed to have?] some idea [] because we had taken some American history, but I didn't know much about it. And I think in many ways it's fascinating, but it's like politics everywhere else. There's a lot of, what should I say, [jump in ...? river?] But, what is really impressive is, the Americans [are speaking?] That's important.

Pellegrini: Yeah.

Chaubal: [I mean?], we have times when we [live history?] [] even the last few years, [there?], people have been scared because there's been [an interested?] government.

Pellegrini: We need, um, [to ...? locate?] I just, um, promised [], 'cause I got my books to do research [] about India, but—the British took over, what, in 1919 or something like that?

Chaubal: Uh-uh, they came to India in, I'd say, 18—1790s sometime, end of the 1700s, beginning of the 1800s, but they took complete control roundabout 1870. I think '74, or '76 [] I've forgotten my dates, but that was about the time that they assumed complete rule over India. [Technically the East India Company came in 1608 and set up company rule in 1757; rule transferred from the East India Company to Britain proper in 1858, so sayeth Wikipedia.]

Pellegrini: And are they still in control?

Chaubal: No, they left in 1947.

Pellegrini: Ok. So, they left before you came here.

Chaubal: Oh, yes. []

Pellegrini: Did you, um, []

[is this still Pellegrini?] Concentrate more on the United States. That's what [] says to do [in your interview?], that since you've come here. These questions [] soon be [helping me?] What was happening in '65?

[people speaking at once]



[?]: Really? Was it about that time?

[??]: Yeah, [Brooklyn Giants?]

Chaubal: '66, '67, somewhere there, [.....?]

Pellegrini: What did you think of them?

Chaubal: You know, I think they were really [naïve?], and I liked the idea of [being humble?], that they were very [humble ...?]

Pellegrini: Did that, um, the idea that [said?] that [students?], like, because the impression of [] in India, students are, like, submissive to...

Chaubal: Usually they are, but there, you'd be surprised, but in the last 20 years they have become much more [militant?], and in certain parts of India they've been militant for, easily, 20, 25, [30?] years. They have been more interested in politics. So, but it is unusual, and you don't expect the degree of involvement that I saw at Berkeley.

Pellegrini: Did it kind of scare you?

Chaubal: Not really. But, well, of course, it helped that we weren't there, and the [] the [students?], the protests we had here were extremely mild, at UOP. So, it didn't affect me in that way. As I said, I liked the idea [that they ...? behind?] and the reasons they were doing it. I'm not sure I would agree with the way they did things.

Pellegrini: []

Chaubal: [Basically ...?] really [] ideas [and it was?] impressive that they took the, they had enough gumption to stand up and speak up. And that was really [] anyway.

Pellegrini: Yeah.

Chaubal: [Then ...?] let's see, [Martin Luther King was assassinated?] 1968?

Pellegrini: I think so, yeah.

Chaubal: []

Pellegrini: I don't know.

Chaubal: He and Robert Kennedy, about the same time []

Pellegrini: I think it was closer to '72. [No, it was '68.]

Chaubal: []

Pellegrini: Did, when did you become a citizen? [Were you first?], I mean, since your husband was, had a visa...

Chaubal: Well we're both not [] citizens, we're still [on a ...?] visa.

Pellegrini: You're still on your visa? [.....?] Um, do you think you [ought?] to become one?

Chaubal: I think so, yes. [We're?] definitely [], it's just that I think it would be too easy to a [laughter] [] I mean, the only time you really think, "You know, I should do it!" is when the election comes 'round. "I should have done it," that's when you think, "I should have done it," and it takes a lot of time, it takes about 6 to 8 months, at least.

Pellegrini: Mm-hmm, that is a long time. [] Do you have any UOP, um, [.....?] [do you know what the cop program is?]

Chaubal: I have some idea, but yes, not too much, unfortunately not as much as I should.

Pellegrini: Did, were they, 'cause I know, I know in '61 they [held? ...?] or sits or whatever [...? riots?]-I wouldn't call them 'riots,' but they had protests, I guess is what you would call them—in '61, I know they did it then, but I don't recall...

Chaubal: Did what? '61, you see, I wasn't here.

Pellegrini: Yeah, I know, I was just wondering [if?] they'd lasted that long, because I know [it was?] '61, 'cause that's when they first [was?], like, [formed?], and it was in '61 that they were really pushing it to accept [them?], 'cause when the University first accepted them, it was, like, five or ten students that were...

Chaubal: When I came here, since I came here, we've had no problems with it. Nothing at all. There was some, I think there was some unhappiness with the other students about the teacher, because, what is it, the teacher [quit?] Some time [ago?], you know that they were trying to [place?] [disability?] students as teacher aides, [and things?] [] I guess it [] [to other students?], discriminated against. But it wasn't ever []

Pellegrini: I asked too because I'm part of the [COP?] program, and when I, before I became a part of it, some former students had told me, you know, that when you go to a class, not to let the professor know, I mean not to tell them, you know, just to play it down as much as possible, because I guess there had been students who had tried to use that to their advantage, [of seeing?] you know, that I worked, and, you know, I didn't have time to do a paper, and [] extended times on [], I guess make the teacher feel sorry for me, but you didn't run across any of that?

Chaubal: No.

Pellegrini: Did you ever felt [] discrimination?

Chaubal: No. I think a lot of it has to do with the fact that [] university, []

Pellegrini: They don't have elevators right? Escalators or those things?

Chaubal: Not too many. Elevators, yes. Escalators, no.

Pellegrini: What did you think of them?

Chaubal: I think they were fascinating! But I do know [] of couple of individuals who would go around and look [rather than travel in them]. Particularly at airports.

Pellegrini: Why is that?

Chaubal: Because [] are often [surprised] at not being able to get off. And falling when they get off.

Pellegrini: Have you ever had a desire to do [something wrong while you were away?]

Chaubal: No I [wont] be law-biding! (laughs) When I came here []

Pellegrini: Have you gone to an amusement park or-?

Chaubal: Yes. I went to [Marriot] and I went to Disneyland, and I will not ride the tidal wave and I will not ride []. Forget it. No way you are getting me on that ride. I did it once and that is enough.

Pellegrini: What did you think of it?

Chaubal: [] I enjoyed Disneyland. It was so delightful. I was impressed with the way they had arranged the technology. The ideas and technology.

Pellegrini: Do you feel like it was a way to indulge or let loose with your children?

Chaubal: I think a lot of the times, people go by themselves. I don't know about worrying about any children []

Pellegrini: What do you think comparing to Disneyland- what do you think of comparing the two?

Chaubal: Disney land is more [imagination], that's the question in just rides.

Pellegrini: Do you feel like you're trying to approach two different sets of people?

Chaubal: Yes. I think in a [marriage] is much more [for kids]; whereas Disney land is much more for little kids to do.

Pellegrini: Plus the adults yeah.

Chaubal: []

Pellegrini: Do you think the American lifestyle is fast moving? Fast pace?

Chaubal: For one thing, they don't have time to sit around and do nothing. There's a lot of things they can't do, there's a lot of access. There's also a lot of [] moving and doing things, you're missing out.

Pellegrini: Do you think there's a lot of emptiness, that it's just been done- like you're in the moment and it's not-

Chaubal: A little bit yes, they don't really think about it. It doesn't really strike anyone []

Pellegrini: Do you find it that if you [let it then that makes you fine?]

Chaubal: Sure. For one thing, you don't have to think, you can just let the TV do the talking.

Pellegrini: What do you think of the []

Chaubal: I'm not too sure if it's a good idea. For some things, some programs that I would say should []

Pellegrini: What do you think about [] TV []?

Chaubal: I don't think there's enough to worry about. I really don't. Unless [] United states, you're going to have a disturbance.

Pellegrini: Do you have a microwave?

Chaubal: Mhmm. []

Pellegrini: How do you [feel about it?]

Chaubal: I like it, for certain things. For certain things it's unbelievably helpful and I would say []

Pellegrini: If you thought about it, do you think your life would be different, [or better off] as far as you go and your freedom. Like with material possession.

Chaubal: I am better off here, than at home. [] Now that kind of material things are only available to [] upper level class and the rich. [] There is no such thing as []. Give you an example of the [Pharacy] []. Let's just say seven thousand dollars. And you got an [Indian]. It cost the equivalent in thirty thousand dollars. Remember I compare rupees to dollars. Unless I say one rupee is one dollar then []. []

Pellegrini: Would you be able to take people [on to your home?]

Chaubal: Mhmm. I could. But the difference would be in the live style. Human labor is much cheaper over there, because [] a house keeper to come in and live with you. Clean up all your things. [] Cook all meals. For five dollars a day []

Pellegrini: They could do it in two hours?

Chaubal: []

Pellegrini: I say that because when I clean houses. It's been [15\$] an hour. But that was two years ago. But then I didn't have the gut []

Chaubal: []

Pellegrini: Manual labor []

Chaubal: []

Pellegrini: Do often [small]

Chaubal: Yes it is. Compared to what? Compared to San Francisco or my home town, yes it is.

Pellegrini: Do you think it's fast pace, or faster than, as San Francisco?

Chaubal: No, Definitely not, it's not fast pace like San Francisco. Even though you can live in a fairly fast pace.

Pellegrini: So you feel like you're []

Chaubal: Oh yes, I'm sure of it. And now I've come to live closer to a university I find myself to have much more time.

Pellegrini: What time did you say you spend 45 minutes commuting? And then you find time- [] conference days. Have you been to [San Francisco]

Chaubal: Oh quite often, I like the city. I would like to live there []

Pellegrini: What do you like most about San Francisco?

Chaubal: I think everything []. It is alive, for one thing. And it's really []

Pellegrini: What do you think of Chinatown?

Chaubal: I enjoy it. I really do.

Pellegrini: Ever been to [] gardens? Chinese restaurant [] with garden into it

Chaubal: No I don't think I have. I don't think I know which one you're talking about. That's fast pace. []

Pellegrini: It's something Garden. I don't know on what street. It starts with an M. Marine Garden or [] Garden. But you go in there, they give you a number, and then they say 15 minutes and you have a table and the place is packed. Since you aren't Chinese, you're not sure what you're asking for. So you [], and they give them to you and if you tell them no, they don't understand. They don't-

Chaubal: I don't think I know what you're talking about. [] There's good places in Chinatown []

Pellegrini: Is there anything else that you would like to add? Can I get your number in case []

Chaubal: [].

Pellegrini: Thank you very much.

**[Tape 2, Interviewer changed?? \*\*It may be Abby Hicks instead of Pellegrini]**

Abby: Okay this part is what is life here like of people from your country? Have you felt close to the old country?

Chaubal: Oh yes, definitely.

Abby: Are you in contact with relatives and friends?

Chaubal: uh-huh. Constantly, both by telephone and by letters. And people visit, either I visit home or they come here.

Abby: How often did you try and get back?

Chaubal: About once in three years at least. Sometimes I go back two consecutive years but it's [] I usually have visitors from home for once a year.

Abby: Have they visit and decide to stay here?

Chaubal: No, most of them- all of them will go back. They will be gone for a holiday, business []

Abby: Do you show them down [] big attractions?

Chaubal: Oh San Francisco, Stockton, all around. And usually they go to Disneyland.

Abby: Really? Wow.

Chaubal: Actually coming all this way.

Abby: What do they know about Disneyland? When I was down there I see people, and I []

Chaubal: Disneyland is probably the best known thing there is because whenever there were Disney [] around right?

Abby: Because I thought how funny is the concept of Disneyland you know?

Chaubal: Oh easily, it's been written up in a lot of magazines and the world just [needs films] and people talk about what they see in any brochure they look at about the United States. They talk about Disneyland and Disneyworld.

Abby: Yeah, I guess I never realized that. Do you feel that you are affected by what happens there?

Chaubal: Yes to some extent definitely. Because we are still in touch and you are worrying about what's happening there in relation to how it's affecting other people there. Or when you go back you see what's happening.

Abby: Politically?

Chaubal: Politically, economically, both. [ ] inflation goes up very high, you worry about how they are going to live. Or how they are managing.

Abby: Do you get magazines or anything from back there?

Chaubal: Uh some.

Abby: Newspapers...

Chaubal: Yes there are some papers you get from back there. It describes what's happening. But basically it's [true] letters and like that.

Abby: How much does it affect from where you live?

Chaubal: If you go on an excursion fare, from California it's about \$1200-\$1300. That's around the excursion fare. Regular fare is \$2200.

Abby: Oh wow. That much? Wow, I didn't realize it's that much.

Chaubal: Yeah it's expensive.

Abby: Okay when you first got to the United States, did you think of yourself still as an [Indian]?

Chaubal: Oh yeah definitely. You're cultural background is still there.

Abby: You still think [it's still present] and being an American?

Chaubal: Yes, more and more like that. It's hard to identify totally with American because your background doesn't lend itself to it.

Abby: Do you think being here longer [ ]?

Chaubal: Yes you can become more Americanized, but you still retain some of the old culture. There's no way you can get around that.

Abby: Have you added [ ] change over time?

Chaubal: A little bit. You get more [ambition] with things that are not happening. There are things that you want to happen and you want to know whether they are going to happen- if an idea or changes should take place. We have comparisons between prosperity and people who should be working and how changes could be made to make the country better.

Abby: Technology wise, government...

Chaubal: Technology, attitude, attitude, government.

Abby: Do you think it eventually will?

Chaubal: It'll take time because as far as I can see. We, in India, are at the stage where America was 40 years ago. So there is progress, but it's still progress.

Abby: A lot of it is culture; tradition.

Chaubal: A lot of it is, but you see travel is so much faster. You get more ideas coming in, whether you want them or not. Bring your ideas in, see things on television, you hear about them.

Abby: When did this change?

Chaubal: Oh gradually. You can't pinpoint a date on it.

Abby: No one experienced-

Chaubal: No I wouldn't say so.

Abby: What makes a person, Indian?

Chaubal: it's definitely a culture. A cultural thing because it changes your thinking processes.

Abby: And families?

Chaubal: Culture involving family... literature, traditions, all that. It gives you another perspective.

Abby: Did you ever return to the old country-

Chaubal: Yeah, quite often.

Abby: How was it like there?

Chaubal: Things are changing too, but very slowly. It was different from what I remember it growing up. Some things stayed the same, but some things changed.

Abby: Could you give me an example?

Chaubal: Well you go there, for example, fashion begins to change. There is a large amount of western influence in particular [with most people] In dress. A little more current in style, then also you find there is more change than the fact many more television sets, many more radios.

Abby: What about the hair?

Chaubal: hairstyle changed.

Abby: Do people still keep their long hair?

Chaubal: Sure, oh yeah, they keep their long hair. For example, more teenagers are wearing things like jeans. We never did when we were growing up.

Abby: No I was wondering do they cut their hair.



Chaubal: Oh yes quite a few young women [and children]

Abby: How does the []

Chaubal: Now again, you're talking about the cities, and the cities you find [] cut their hair. In the country, you still have the traditions remaining.

Abby: Did people from your country, tend to live in the same neighborhoods.

Chaubal: Yes, uh huh. Most of them, their movement isn't as great as America. You usually find the families, in the same neighborhood for 20-30 years, sometimes even generations.

Abby: They don't want to []

Chaubal: They don't move, but the transportation is very often the job seller there. And then it was [] very strong attachment to homes, houses.

Abby: Where you live? []

Chaubal: It was in the suburbs. For over 30 years the neighborhood hadn't changed.

Abby: Now since TV has come in, that still hasn't [] wanted to go see new places and-

Chaubal: You want to go but you can't go if there's no job there, unless you have the money to do it. Or that you can find housing. That makes it difficult.

Abby: Do people like to go to the city?

Chaubal: Sometimes, yes. That may be where the opportunity is. If you can find it that's great. Sometimes you may find a job but you cannot find housing.

Abby: What about cultural ties?

Chaubal: Cultural ties become less when you have to go look for jobs because it becomes a question of economics.

Abby: Will the father leave? Will the kids stay?

Chaubal: Usually the [kids] will stay. Unless they could find a house.

Abby: How is that? Housing?

Chaubal: Bad. The city is very bad. It's as bad as San Francisco, that bad. If you can't find houses, the rent is very high.

Abby: What is it, they don't make houses?

Chaubal: Population. Not even the houses [grew up], the population pressure is very high.

Abby: Is there land to build?

Chaubal: ... Yes. At the same time-

Abby: Like San Francisco, you can't really build anymore because there's no where to build, land wise.

Chaubal: Okay some towns are like that. Where there is no place to build, like [Bombai]. You have to go [40 miles] out to build anything okay? Which makes transportation a problem. So in the city of [Bombai] it's hard to find a house. It's extremely hard. And where I grew up, you can still find houses. But there comes a point where you have to go out into the city to find a house.

Abby: What was life in these neighborhoods like?

Chaubal: It was very stable, it was like growing up in a small area which is constant. So you had [] a close relationship with your neighbors. They hadn't changed for the last 20-30 years.

Abby: And when you go back here-

Chaubal: Now you find the children grown up, married, kind of jobs. But quite often the old people will stay there.

Abby: Do they ask about how your life is?

Chaubal: Oh yes, definitely.

Abby: What really impresses them?

Chaubal: The amount of money you have, the ability to move.

Abby: What did you like best about this neighborhood?

Chaubal: I think what I like best about this place, the fact that they were constant, because you were sure the same people will be there so you grow a certain degree of security and also a certain degree of affection for your neighbors. [] and for they have for you.

Abby: And when you have birthdays?

Chaubal: Yeah basically security, because you knew everyone around you-

Abby: Did people have like certain jobs and [] in the community?

Chaubal: No not necessarily. It used to be.

Abby: If an outsider came in, there wouldn't be any place for him, because everybody already has certain jobs?

Chaubal: Not necessarily, but originally that was the thing you see. You had specific jobs and outsiders wouldn't find decent []. Now it's become less of that.

Abby: What kind of things the parents of your neighborhood friends do?

Chaubal: Some were doctors, some were lawyers, some were bankers, some were contractors... engineers, businessmen, it generally [] population.

Abby: They wasn't area of farmers?

Chaubal: No because I was in the suburbs, like all suburbs get a mixture

Abby: Do a lot of them stay there to work or they go into the city?

Chaubal: They go into the city.

Abby: To work so they won't []

Chaubal: They weren't [] local area. They [] every 5 or 6 months.

Abby: Car wasn't- transportation-

Chaubal: Yes, some had cars, some had ride bicycles [] take the bus. It depends.

Abby: Were there ever any things about [] that were not so good for you?

Chaubal: Yeah sometimes it was too close of a neighborhood. You could get children [] into something bigger. Sometimes there wasn't enough privacy. Basically that would be it.

Abby: Did your neighborhood ever had any [problems]-

Chaubal: Oh they had to do such and such problems. I was never involved because we were too young []

Abby: Did they have meetings?

Chaubal: Usually have meetings.

Abby: What place?

Chaubal: Different people's houses depending on whose [problem it was]

Abby: Have you often as an adult like your neighbors-

Chaubal: We had a mixed neighborhood. People with different religions, different languages, even though they were all [Indian]. So they didn't have a problem with that.

Abby: And your own religion is only [different]-

Chaubal: That's right. So one of our neighbors for example is [zeke] and one is American.

Abby: But they went to a different church?

Chaubal: Yeah. It never worried anyone. But they believed it was their own personal choice.

Abby: Have you ever felt discriminated against-

Chaubal: No.

Abby: Not even here?

Chaubal: Not even here.

Abby: In your opinion why-

Chaubal: I haven't heard it, other people have, but I haven't.

Abby: Would you do anything if you were?

Chaubal: I probably would. It would be very upset being discriminated against about my background, because that's something you can't help. As much as being discriminated against because you're Indian, Chinese, or Italian, that's not something you have a choice about it.

Abby: Have you participated in an organization or group? It would be here.

Chaubal: Ah yes-

Abby: Wait a minute- No it would be back at home.

Chaubal: No not at home, we didn't have too many groups or organizations. There were very few [or failing]

Abby: What about here?

Chaubal: Here, yes. The pharmacy auxiliary, the faculty of women group, things like that.

Abby: How about international?

Chaubal: Not much. It's very recently []

Abby: oh yeah []

Chaubal: It's been three years maybe and I haven't really done much about it.

Abby: What kind of recreation activities do you enjoy?

Chaubal: Well I do some swimming. I used to play some tennis, I don't right now. Just reading.

Abby: Is that a popular sport, swimming?

Chaubal: No. We don't have [] swimming, that's why I enjoy it here.

Abby: Lakes?

Chaubal: Very- some lakes, some ponds, that's about it.

Abby: What activities do they do at home?

Chaubal: We have some local games, which people can play in. But most often I think our recreation is in visiting. We visit with friends and relatives, because we don't have the facilities for a lot of games. There are some local games but when you get older, you don't play as many games.

Abby: How about card games?

Chaubal: Cards, yes. Cards, chess, things like that; which are not moving games.

Abby: But not like soccer or anything-

Chaubal: The young people play soccer, maybe some [hockey], maybe some cricket, maybe some Indian games. But that's usually it.

Abby: What is Indian games do you have?

Chaubal: I don't even know how to take it [] there was one where you have a kind of a [] which is drawn on the ground. And it's divided into a number of squares about say, 8 squares. And you have two teams. One team, controls the squares, the lines on the squares. The other team is [out]. The team that's out has to go through each square at least one person on the team, right to the other side and come back again without being tagged.

Abby: So where's the other team?

Chaubal: The other team is on the lines, trying to mine these lines. So you have to sneak past them, on to the lines. The Lines are on the tennis courts.

Abby: So they pretty big?

Chaubal: It's not big. It's about I say a fourth of this room. This person keeps constantly patrolling this line. Another patrols this line. While one is distracting the players, they can sneak in.

Abby: And they have to figure out which [] tries to go in.

Chaubal: []

Abby: Have you have activities in your church?

Chaubal: We don't have any churches anymore in here. In India it isn't necessary you go to church or you have [] religion.

Abby: What activities do you do-

Chaubal: Hinduism, it's not an open [] religion, in that you are not required to go to church. And you are not required to go to the temple. You're not required to do anything if you don't want to. You're prayers are usually at home. You may have obligations.

Abby: Like not eating meat?

Chaubal: Some sex do, not all. If you want you can have prayer every day or week. Or you can have a big prayer every two or three months.

Abby: Who decides?

Chaubal: You decide. What you want to do.

Abby: What about your parents?

Chaubal: Your parents won't actually, they decide what they want to do. And then of course we have certain ceremonies like, someone goes into [christening] There is something that is equivalent to communion, but that's only boys.

Abby: Do girls have initiations?

Chaubal: Only boys.

Abby: Then how is the girl?

Chaubal: Assume she's [a good girl]. It's not necessary (laughs). You have certain ceremonies associated with marriages, weddings. If you want to buy a house, there's a ceremony for that.

Abby: Are these certain days?

Chaubal: There are some certain days when you have certain prayers. But you don't have to do it. You can do it all on your own.

Abby: Do you get pressure from your [cousin] if you don't-

Chaubal: No. Not necessary at all. If you come from an orthodox family you may. But not necessary.

Abby: Have you ever worked part time?

Chaubal: This is afterschool right?

Abby: Yes.

Chaubal: I worked as a high school teacher. That is the only job I did.

Abby: Part or full time?

Chaubal: I did both. Part and full time.

Abby: When did you have your first paying job?

Chaubal: Just after I graduated from my college. After I got my teaching credentials.

Abby: And it wasn't []

Chaubal: I started as part time and I went into full time.

Abby: Did you work before marriage?

Chaubal: Yes.

Abby: Did you give up your job?

Chaubal: [] Not when I came here.

Abby: Did you enjoy working for-

Chaubal: Oh yes, I liked working.

Abby: How was working?

Chaubal: I like working in teaching, I enjoy it. I like working with students. I'm not sure if I can work with high school students in this country, but with college students []

Abby: So your first paying job was-

Chaubal: In high school.

Abby: That was back home?

Chaubal: Back home yes. Here I don't think I can do [high school students]. Back home it depends whether it's easier to work with students there because the discipline is much strong. And you're less trouble with discipline. There's much more desire to learn. Because in India, it's an accepted fact if you want to progress you have to be able to educated.

Abby: And they pay too?

Chaubal: The pay is terrible. That's the least satisfying part of it. (laughs)

Abby: Would you like to have held a job for a longer time.

Chaubal: Yeah probably.

Abby: What did you find most satisfying about the job?

Chaubal: I enjoyed the people I worked with in teaching.

Abby: Least satisfying?

Chaubla: The pay. (laugh) In India it is bad, in my high school days it was like [600] a month. For private schools it's a fixed salary. The government-

Abby: Is it based on economics of the country and everything?

Chaubal: Yes economy of the country and years of service and things like that.

Abby: Did they have tenures?

Chaubal: Yes you do have a tenure system. After the first (three) years.

Abby: Would you have worked if you have stayed in your other country?

Chaubal: Probably.

Abby: The same kind of job?

Chaubal: [not the same job].

Abby: If you were work after marriage, did you have any help at home?

Chaubal: In India I would have had, yes.

Abby: Would you have stayed home? While working?

Chaubal: No. It's easy to get people to do work, do chores at home.

Abby: Would you stayed home?

Chaubal: I would for a little while-

Abby: When you held a job, did it seem only certain jobs were[] to women's []

Chaubal: Nursing, teaching, medicine, some secretary job. There weren't too many job available.

Abby: And then house wife.

Chaubal: Yeah.

Abby: Was it because of your ethnic group?

Chaubal: No because it is the social system. What kind of jobs women can take. There was a social expectation.

Abby: They just didn't take them?

Chaubal: The community did not offer openings in our positions. That was the problem there weren't enough jobs for the men, so the women were an automatic second choice.

Abby: I see.

Chaubal: [] For most cases, the men were the [] of the family.



Abby: I was wondering if there were enough jobs for the women if they were-

Chaubal: Not enough.

Abby: Was it possible for you to do anything []

Chaubal: Not really, very little. It is both an economic and social problem.

Abby: If the work would it be [housewives]? Did it go into []

Chaubal: No [] military.

Abby: Did you ever join a union?

Chaubal: No, we didn't have any.

Abby: Did you take on jobs-[]

Chaubal: [No]

Abby: How did you meet your husband?

Chaubal: We were introduced by family.

Abby: Are his parents from the old country?

Chaubal: [Mhmm]

Abby: Are you still living at home?

Chaubal: Oh yes.

Abby: Could you tell me about it?

Chaubal: There's nothing about it much really. It is accustomed for arranged marriages. What you do is arranged it. Find a suitable boy and girl, arrange for them to meet. Now my elder brother knew his family. So we met through that arranged []

Abby: Did you go to their house or?

Chaubal: You usually go to the guy's house. You can get a chance to talk with them. If your parents are reasonably broad minded, and mine were, you may be able to go out a few times with the young man. But sometimes they don't –

[Tape sound]

Abby: Where did you go, since you said your parents let you go out?

Chaubal: We just go to a restaurant and just [sit and talk].

Abby: Who decides that-

Chaubal: In our case, we decide it. But most cases, the girl and the boy do have a choice of saying yes or no. But there is enough family pressure to decide one way or another. If the family freaks out and decides the man is not suitable, they just drop the idea right there.

Abby: What makes them not suitable?

Chaubal: They may not like his personality, they may find out there are things about him or his family that they [did not like for].

Abby: The family or the parents?

Chaubal: Oh yes, for example, their parents were making [] of the girl. Or if they find out that he is having a lot of affairs. Then he would not be suitable. Or if they find out the girl is a flirt, or she doesn't do housework properly or help family as [reputation] of not keeping their commitment and things like that. [] Maybe you should seriously consider it.

Abby: And then after you decide, the arrangement is set up? Is it extended?

Chaubal: Then you would have a ceremony. It is a little more formal than the engagement here. The groom's parents will bring the bride, a set of clothes, and a piece of jewelry, to show that they accept her as a daughter.

Abby: How much do they usually give?

Chaubal: It depends. For example, I'll give you a [] and some jewelry of some kind. The bride's parents give the groom a set of clothes and a ring probably. And that's the kind of formal engagement ceremony. Where both of the families[]. And then that makes it official.

Abby: And then you have the wedding? How long afterwards?

Chaubal: Most often they don't wait until 6 to 8 months.

Abby: What if somebody was here, and they decide to marry someone back home in India?

Chaubal: Usually they go back. The families are a little more conservative about things like this. You don't know this young man who is coming? You cannot send your daughter half way around the world, and suppose he turns her down and say ' I'm not marrying you.' What happens then? You see?

Abby: And then they usually come here after they get married?

Chaubal: Mhmm.

Abby: Okay how old were you when you got-

Chaubal: I was []

Abby: Was that hard? Did you felt the pressure?

Chaubal: Yes there was more pressure, definitely.

Abby: Did they wait for a daughter, then the next daughter they marry, then the next.

Chaubal: Very often they will yes.

Abby: Did you have that?

Chaubal: No I didn't have that to worry about, my sisters were all married.

Abby: Were you the youngest?

Chaubal: Mhmm.

Abby: Oh I see. Was your decision to marry him influenced you?

Chaubal: To some extent sure. By my family and by his.

Abby: Did you talk to [] right when you go home.

Chaubal: No you wait until you go home. You can't discuss it in front of someone.

Abby: Did he ever change jobs after that.

Chaubal: No. He was a [professor for 10 years]

Abby: What things did he do?

Chaubal: [] He's a professor.

Abby: How did you feel about him working as a professor?

Chaubal: I enjoyed it. Because if that's what he wants to do, that's fine. If he's happy that's fine.

Abby: You don't mind how he how calls from his students or?

Chaubal: No, any job you take is going to be something that's going to be [not nice]. And students they usually [] their problems.

Abby: How did your husband's job compare with the things that other men from your country did?

Chaubal: I don't know how you mean by compare. Teaching is always been considered to be a good, honorable profession in India anyway. It's not as paying as other professions but it's a nice profession.

Abby: And so he didn't have any problems?

Chaubal: No, not even here. Well here again is the same story, your husband probably does not get paid as much as other men. But he does get paid better than other communities.

Abby: How about the men working in Stockton?

Chaubal: It's the same story. It's a comparative job, [I mean he really enjoys it here].

Abby: So you don't see much of a difference from here than back at home?

Chaubal: No, not really.

Abby: After you married how did the two of you make decisions?

Chaubal: Usually together.

Abby: And how did you resolve your difference?

Chaubal: We try and talk it out and we try to see who has more sense and try to come up with some kind of decision. Sometimes I give in if he's not going to- sometimes he gives in if I'm stubborn.

Abby: How did the two of you divide responsibilities?

Chaubal: It depends on what kind of responsibilities, where most of them have things to do with the running of the house. Like, the day to day work in the house, I make the decisions. And if there's something concerning more with things outside the house like money and stuff, I'll let him do most of it.

Abby: Did your relation with your family change after you got married?

Chaubal: Not very much at all. We tend to keep close family ties.

Abby: Was this [good]?

Chaubal: I guess so, yes. But it did change the fact that I came here. So there is a difference because we are not so... We can't talk to each other all the time.

Abby: What did change?

Chaubal: The change came in the fact that I couldn't have any input into things that concern the family as a whole, because I was too far away. I was there to make decisions for example, we had a [second] amount of land which had to be sowed. They could ask me what I thought about it and I could give an opinion, but when the actual process had to take place they couldn't ask me about 'this person has made a such and such, what do you think?' because there isn't that much time. Unless we can telephone each other and that's ridiculous because it's much too expensive.

Abby: What were you especially proud of in running your home?

Chaubal: I think I do a good job with my cooking.

Abby: You like cooking?

Chaubal: I enjoy cooking.

Abby: Does your husband cook?

Chaubal: He can but he doesn't. He does very very [].

Abby: If you have a sister, are you still in touch with them?

Chaubal: Hu huh.

Abby: Do you share problems and [tasks]?

Chaubal: Yes.

Abby: As to what you are doing or-

Chaubal: Day to day things.

Abby: Thinking of your family overall, how did you compare with other families of people from your country and other families in Stockton?

Chaubal: I think we are doing pretty well, both compared to other families in Stockton and definitely other people from home. We have much more money than the people from home. At the same time we also, even compared to the people or families in Stockton, we are not doing badly at all.

Abby: In the old country, were you doing pretty well in your community?

Chaubal: Yeah.

Abby: Did most people knew your family, your parents, and respect-

Chaubal: Yes we have been [] for years.

Abby: Taken all things considered, are you happy with how your marriage turned out?

Chaubal: I would say I'm pretty happy.

Abby: Can you explain?

Chaubal: I am pretty happy with a comfortable home, I have a husband who has a steady income, I have very good friends, and I don't think we have any major differences.

Abby: Think of your life after you were first married, what did you expect to get out of life then?

Chaubal: I don't remember, I really don't remember it's been too long back. You don't know what to expect so you [] expect a healthy household-

Abby: So you weren't expecting anything from it?

Chaubal: I don't know what to expect basically.

Abby: I found that if they don't expect then they take it as it is.

Chaubal: That's right, because you really don't know. You can't tell what you [like]- if you can do certain things, or certain things that you might want to do, like if you want to have two cars. But you're not deciding if you will get two cars, you just work towards it. If you get it, that's fine. But I don't expect it as a right to get two cars.

Abby: And you don't scream and you don't-

Chaubal: There's no point in screaming. It doesn't do anything.

Abby: They never had it before, so that-

Chaubal: That's partly it and partly also, there's always this uncertainty. You can't be sure you are able to get everything your own way.

Abby: What does that mean by uncertainty?

Chaubal: It's very cultural, part of it has to do with not only the philosophy but the religion. Some of the things like, we are very dependent on the weather. If the monsoon fails, we have famine. If we have a good monsoon, we have an abundant crop.

Abby: And since the weather is unpredictable-

Chaubal: The weather is very unpredictable. [It's going to cover your whole livelihood]

Abby: And that determines what happens with you. But now, what do you think about that?

Chaubal: Even now, the agriculture in India is still very dependent on the monsoon.

Abby: What did your father did back home?

Chaubal: He was an [engineer].

Abby: I was thinking you must have relatives that were farmers?

Chaubal: Yes but you see whatever the farmer does, affects the whole country because we are in a [agrarian] economy. If there isn't enough food, everyone suffers.

Abby: And you can't import it?

Chaubal: You can but how much can you import? And you can import food but what can you do about drinking water? You can't import that?

Abby: Does the government- how much of a role do they play in?

Chaubal: They have a tremendous role because they have done a lot of irrigation to improve the amount of food that can be produced or the water supply. But even they can only do so much. Where I come

from, the tanks and the reservoirs get refilled by the monsoon. If the monsoon doesn't come, then not even the government can do much.

Abby: Did your expectation change?

Chaubal: To some extent. They change everyday.

Abby: Were the goals that you had for your family different from those of your parents?

Chaubal: Probably. Since I don't have an immediate family it doesn't matter. You're talking about children in this case.

Abby: What about from other person from your country of your age, when you were married? Goals wise.

Chaubal: The standard expectations for any Indian girl when she gets married is a husband, her children, and a home. And the expectation of the children, when they grow up, is that they are to be educated and to do well for themselves and to be happy about it. Which is probably the same thing as any other person here will do.

Abby: But yours is different, you don't plan to have children?

Chaubal: No we don't have any no.

Abby: Do you get pressure from your parents or reaction?

Chaubal: No we did at one time, but not now. And besides we are too far away.

Abby: What did they say?

Chaubal: They said you should have it.

Abby: Because that was their goal. Did your husband share these goals?

Chaubal: I guess so and other relatives too. It's a general expectation.

Abby: Did you get pressure from relatives?

Chaubal: Oh yes. Everyone in India, I told you it's a community system, everyone thinks they have as much right in your life, as you have in theirs.

Abby: If you were back in India would you have children?

Chaubal: I don't know, it depends. The pressure probably would have been greater.

Abby: Are you a citizen?

Chaubal: No not yet.

Abby: How do you feel about the United States?

Chaubal: Oh I like it. I enjoy the freedom that I have here and I enjoy the people, I really like it.

Abby: Are you planning to get the [citizenship]?

Chaubal: Probably in the next couple of years. We haven't quite figured it out when. At least one of us will, it depends.

Abby: Consider your own life, what is the best age to be?

Chaubal: I don't think it matters, I think any. First I'm concerned this is [] as any other []. Now I know what I want to do. I have a career, I'm happy with my surroundings.

Abby: Compared back at home, do you?

Chaubal: Well I'm much more comfortable on a [lower] salary... In other words if I were in India, to have the same degree of comfort, I would have to have maybe six times the amount of money.

Abby: And were you thinking you can make by with that?

Chaubal: You probably could. If you don't have it, you make [do] what you have.

Abby: What is the worst age to be?

Chaubal: I don't know, probably a teenager! (laughs) You have to worry about all sorts of emotional problems. All teenagers have problems anyway.

Abby: From parents or from who?

Chaubal: From everyone, because you don't –

[tape cuts off]

Abby: How has your family influenced you during this time?

Chaubal: A lot. That's the whole thing, it's the whole story about how you get rebellious because you think your parents are old fashioned and you say your parents don't understand you.

Abby: Do they give you a lot of hassle?

Chaubal: They expect you to conform to what society is like, yes.

Abby: Society or the culture?

Chaubal: The culture or society have expectations in that particular area. That's probably the hardest time for [adjustments]

Abby: What do you think about people here?



Chaubal: I think the teenagers here have just as bad a time, if not worse. You can see, if you look at any teenager here, high school, college- they don't know what they want to do with their lives. They still have parents that want them to do something-

Abby: Well their cultural background...

Chaubal: Sure, their cultural background, their own emotional background, they want to be loved. They just beginning to find out what sex is about. It makes a big difference. []

Abby: Looking back at your life now, can you think of some times when a great change happened that really changed your life.

Chaubal: Probably different stages that affected my parent's lives. Like when my father retired from service. Or when people got sick, it was definite stages. Or when I graduated from high school. There wasn't any one particular item as such.

Abby: How about coming here?

Chaubal: Yes that would make a change, definitely.

Abby: Did [depression] affect you?

Chaubal: Not really we are too far away.

Abby: Did any [] by your family changed your life []

Chaubal: I think I wouldn't say so anyway.

Abby: How about [your life?]

Chaubal: Yeah not really. I think the biggest change was to come to this country, not since then.

Abby: Are there government programs that you participate in?

Chaubal: No I'm not in any [government programs] at all.

Abby: []

Chaubal: I don't think I'm particularly affected by [oil] or medicare or any of those programs. They don't affect me as much because I don't participate in them.

Abby: There is any [in India?]

Chaubal: No.

Abby: Do you think they have some eventually?

Chaubal: Yeah I'm sure they will eventually, they will have to have some socialized medicine in them eventually.

Abby: Have you heard of the []? What do you think of it?

Chaubal: I think there's a certain point the [... liberation movement] is trying to make. To a point that I agree with. I don't think [] should be second class citizens. At the same time, I'm against being absolutely aggressive [] going to the extremes. I feel that you can get a lot of what you want, without going through the extremes.

Abby: Do you talk to your parents back home or?

Chaubal: Yes we do but at the same time, for example I read, when women do the same job as men should be paid equally as that. If they're doing as good a job, I see no reason to discriminate against them.

Abby: And you talk about this with your parents?

Chaubal: Yeah I do. There is some difference in opinion, in the fact that they still feel that men should have a preference, particularly in India because men are still the breadwinners.

Abby: Do they allow you? When I heard this to their mother or anything, giving you new ideas or, something. It should be really talked about.

Chaubal: No, I mean when you talk about it in theory, it doesn't matter; it's when you have to practically apply it to things that make it different.

Abby: Have any other Stockton events that affected you?

Chaubal: No I cannot think of a single event that Stockton has affected me really! What can you call a Stockton event? Nothing happens in this town.

Abby: Down at the old ChinaTown, [Mystery Village], they used to have big parades.

Chaubal: I know, but how would that affect my life? If you're talking about a riot, yes. That would affect your life. But [China] and parades, these are daily occurrences. At least reoccurring things.

Abby: Well I think that's about it. []

**[Tape Ends at 53:30]**

### Timestamps for notes:

#### Living in Stockton:

- **2:56 – 3:37, tape 2**, Americanized but still with cultural background
- **15:54 – 16:06, tape 2**, recreational activities
- **38:04 – 38:36, tape 2**, comparing families to Stockton and from home country

#### Maintaining Customs:

- **43:14 – 44:51, tape 2**, expectations of an Indian girl when she's married

#### Labor:

- **21:03 – 23:13, tape 2**, Working as a teacher and education

#### Home Life:

- **7:37 – 9:03, tape 2**, Housing and finding jobs
- **18:33 – 20:58, tape 2**, Church, praying, and religion
- **35:37 – 36:04, tape 2**, decision making with husband
- **36:40 – 37:24, tape 2**, changes in decision making with family back home

#### Discrimination:

- **14:20 – 14:58, tape 2**, does not feel discriminated but feel upset if put in that situation
- **51:24 – 52:23, tape 2**, Feelings about discrimination towards women in the work force

#### Community Relationships:

- **15:02 – 15:52, tape 2**, organizations