

Mrs. Divinder Singh Munnu

Mrs. Divinder Singh Munnu, a 42-year-old woman from NCR, India, is a cow farmer and a housewife. Her job entails the daily care and maintenance of cows, which includes feeding, milking, and cleaning them. She is responsible for ensuring that her cows are healthy and well-cared for, which requires significant physical labor and attention to detail.

Mrs. Munnu works approximately 10 hours daily, from sunrise until late at night. She runs two shifts at home, caring for the household and looking after the cows and buffalos. As a cow farmer, Mrs. Munnu's work requires her to be highly skilled and knowledgeable about the care and maintenance of cows. She must be able to identify and treat illnesses and injuries, manage breeding and reproduction, and maintain the cleanliness and hygiene of her cows and their living environment. She must also take care of how much to feed, have a veterinary doctor on call, and ensure that her cows produce enough milk to generate a steady income. She said that cows are considered sacred in Indian culture, and she feels fortunate to be able to care of them.

Despite her hard work, Mrs. Munnu is not allowed to speak for herself. When interviewed by a journalist, she was not allowed to reveal her first name and couldn't have a solo picture facing the camera. Her husband, Mr. Divinder Singh Munnu, notes that Mrs. Munnu can work as she works from home, but he added that he would never 'allow' any female household member to work outside the home. He added, "My sons and I are the primary breadwinners, and men should be the ones to bring home a living." Mrs. Munnu's two shifts—farming and household chores are not acknowledged in conversations with her family members.

Mrs. Munnu's situation is common, as many women in India are expected to balance domestic duties and work. However, the expectations placed on women to perform both roles often result in their work as housewives needing to be recognized and recognized. Moreover, the patriarchal culture in India often leads to women being subordinated to men, which restricts their opportunities. Women like Mrs. Munnu often succumb to patriarchal norms and accept their role as housewives and farmers, limiting their ability to pursue other aspirations. Many people in the culture also consider extra work, such as farming, as part and parcel of domestic life.

Mrs. Munnu believes her work is essential to her family's and community's livelihood and is committed to providing the best possible care for her cows. She said her daily routine has its challenges. "It's not easy. I work all day and night and don't get a break, but that's my fate." her family—her two sons and her husband, does not allow her to keep any profits from selling milk in the neighborhood. Instead, a boy named Munna comes on a bicycle to sell and deliver the milk to families in the neighborhood. When he returns with five hundred rupees (he sells at 50 rupees

per kilogram), the money he collects by distributing the milk to the customers, and he gives that amount to her husband.

Mrs. Munnu's story sheds light on the inequalities faced by women in Indian society. She is a hardworking woman who cares for her family and contributes to her community, yet she is not allowed to speak for herself or keep the profits from her work. However, as previously mentioned, Mrs. Munnu faces many challenges as a woman in agriculture. These challenges include limited access to education and training programs and a need for access to credit and market information. "I do not want to be trapped in this cycle forever," Mrs. Munnu said. "I want to be able to support my family and build a better life for us. But I cannot do it alone. We as cow farmers need help and support from our families and communities to overcome our everyday challenges."

Despite her work as a cow farmer, Mrs. Munnu's contributions to her family and community often go unnoticed. Her labor as a housewife is taken for granted, and her work as a cow farmer is often seen as secondary to her duties as a wife and mother.