

Dream Jobs: Restaurant owner

By Frank Baron, The Guardian, adapted by Newsela staff on 10.26.16

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Chef owner Biju Thomas applies the finishing touches as he prepares a beef curry bowl at Biju's Little Curry Shop in Denver, Colorado. Frank Baron, The Guardian.

Manoj Thanki cooks yummy Indian food. It is his job. His family moved away from India many years ago. They now own a restaurant in London.

He says the food is cooked with love.

Mr. Thanki has done very well. The restaurant is called Kastoori. It has been in the same place for many years. **Many people go there to eat.**

A Popular Treat

I visited his restaurant on a busy Saturday night. **In the kitchen, I am about to try a popular treat.** He holds a round piece of food. **It is crispy. It has a hole in the middle, like a cup. He carefully puts sauce, fruit, nuts and yogurt inside it.** He gives it to me. **I eat the snack and it tastes wonderful.**

The Family Works Together

There is a man in a beanie hat who is cooking. "That's my uncle Dinesh," Mr. Thanki says. The family works together.

Never-Ending Preparation

Mr. Thanki shows me his food like a proud dad. We look in a large pot. "This is the tomato curry," he says. He makes food like his grandma did. Mr. Thanki works 16 hours a day. Vegetables are cut up every day. They make fresh sauces. They plan special meals. "There is so much preparation, it is never-ending."

"It Is Rewarding"

You need to love to cook to do this job well. Mr. Thanki likes to see people enjoying his food.

"It is rewarding," he says.

Job Stats

Highs: "Everything. I love being in the kitchen, chopping coriander or crying out loud with the onions!"

Lows: "Nothing really. It's just that it's very hard work and it takes so much time. But when you love doing something, the time just goes like that."