

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ramesh Ramcharan is a Fellow of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants and has a Masters degree in Business Administration from Henley Management College of the United Kingdom. He is currently employed as the Campus Management Auditor at the St. Augustine Campus of the University of the West Indies in Trinidad, West Indies. Prior to this, he held positions of Finance Manager and Auditor in various private and public companies in Trinidad and Tobago (T&T).



Over a twelve-year period, Mr. Ramcharan conducted extensive supporting research for this work. As a part time Ethnographer, he made several trips to his ancestral village in the Kapradhi region, Faizabad District of the Indian State of Uttar Pradesh. While there, he stayed at the home of his grandparents in Karaundi Goan, thus acquiring first-hand knowledge of the villagers and their lifestyle. He has also traveled to over twenty Indian cities, the Kidderpore Ports at Garden Reach in Kolkata and the banks of the Hoogly River at the site from which the boats sailed to the West Indies.

His research took him to various locations in Jamaica, including the National Archives, National Library, National Council for Indian Culture, Port Antonio, Anotto Bay and Old Harbour's Bay and attendance of the Landing Day Celebrations at Chedwin Park. In Trinidad, he visited the National Archives on St. Vincent Street, Port of Spain and the heritage sites at Nelson Island where the Indentured Labourers landed and were quarantined.

During his research in India, Ramesh participated in several live radio call-in programs to Trinidad, describing his on-going activities and different aspects of village life. In Trinidad, he was a guest on local radio stations - *Aakash Vani*, *Sangeet Vani*, *Heritage Radio*, *Radio Shakti* and *103.1 FM Stereo* - and has had several articles published in the *Trinidad Guardian* and *Trinidad Express* newspapers.

In 2010, Ramesh produced and directed a one-hour documentary entitled '*The first steps*'. This concerns village life in Karaundi Goan and was aired on *WIN TV*, in Trinidad, *Television Channel 96*; '*Let's Talk*' with Lakshmee in New York; and has contributed to other local television documentaries.

Mr. Ramcharan was inspired to conduct this research because of the numerous stories related to him by his *Aaji* (paternal grandmother) who made the journey from Karaundi Goan in India to Jamaica and then to Trinidad.

His advice to readers, who have an interest in tracing their roots, is to dig deep into family history to determine whatever bits of information can be unearthed. While a search may be difficult, it is not impossible to find lost relatives and your roots in India, as Mr. Basdeo Panday, and Mrs. Kamla Persad Bissessar, former and present Prime Minister of T&T did.

Ramesh Ramcharan lives in Trinidad with his wife, Girley, one daughter, two sons, daughter-in-law, and two grandsons. He can be contacted at rameshramcharan7@gmail.com.