

The Man Who Moved a Mountain:

A True Story of One Man's Endeavour

Dashrath Manjhi was a poor man who worked as a labourer in a remote mountain village near Bihar in eastern India. After a tragic event, he dedicated his life to a project which led to him becoming known as 'Mountain Man' or 'The Man Who Moved the Mountain'.



When Manjhi's wife fell one day, she was injured and in need of medical help. The journey to the nearest hospital was 55 kilometres. Sadly, Manjhi's wife died because she could not reach a hospital in time.

The labourer said that he never wanted anyone else to suffer the same fate as his wife. He spent the next 22 years creating a road through the mountain with only a hammer and chisel. Manjhi had to sell the family's three goats to buy the hammer and chisel that he used. When news spread about what the man was doing, many people thought that he had gone mad. People thought that he would die before he had time to finish his mission.

However, in honour of his wife, he continued for more than twenty years, working day and night. By the time he had finished, he had carved a road through the side of the mountain. His village now has access to schools, hospitals and jobs for the first time. Thanks to the efforts of this 'Mountain Man', the distance from the village to hospital changed from 55km to 15km.

The road that he created is 9 metres wide and 110 metres long.

In 2011, a documentary film was made about Dashrath Manjhi, called 'The Man Who Moved the Mountain'. Another film was made in 2015 called 'Manjhi - The Mountain Man'.

Location Fact File: Bihar is a state in eastern India. To the north, it borders Nepal. The famous River Ganges flows right through Bihar from west to east. The Himalayan mountains begin a short distance over the border into Nepal.

1. How long did Dashrath Manjhi spend carving out the passageway through the mountain?
Tick **one**.

- Five months
- Fifty-five weeks
- Two years
- Twenty-two years

2. **Circle** the correct answer.

When Manjhi first started the mission, people thought that he was:

clever

mad

happy

strong

3. Draw lines to match the measurements of the new road that the Mountain Man created.

Journey from the village
to the hospital

110 metres

Width of the road

15 kilometres

Length of the road

9 metres

4. What was Dashrath Manjhi's job? Circle **one**.

doctor

farmer

labourer

film maker

5. Why do you think Manjhi's mission was a difficult one? Give two different reasons to support your answer.

6. Write down one thing that the village had new access to after the project was complete.

7. What was the name of the documentary film that was made about Dashrath Manjhi in 2015?
