

In the article “Losing My Ambition” (2022) Journalist Ami Niazi expresses the difficulty of achieving the American dream and being stable while having a newborn and another baby on the way during the pandemic. Niazi first speaks about how it is hard to accomplish your dreams, goals, and how it has now turned into just “vibes”. This grabs thecut.com audience or even people who can relate to this because Niazi goes into detail by explaining her different emotions and the different obstacles she had to face to come to her realization. Niazi then summarizes her view of working, what she does differently now, and how the pandemic has affected parents.

Niazi begins her story with her situation that a lot of people are going through also which is “resignation paired with parental primal scream” in March 2020. Niazi mentions how people have never worked harder for less which is understandable considering how things have gone up in prices because of inflation. Niazi then follows it up with “People want to work --- we have to --- but many of us are no longer willing to trade our well-being for a chance to claw at the decaying American Dream. This allows the reader to understand what Niazi is going through and the emotions that is going on throughout her head. She feels as if there is no point to continue working because she feels like she isn’t getting much out of it. Niazi reveals that as a young adult she had to be ambitious because that was her only way of escaping poverty. Niazi believed that for her to have security and stability and comfort, she had to work harder, be smarter and strive in the most active sense. This shows the reader how dedicated she was to fulfill her goal of the American Dream. But she would work and strive so much, just to see people that were “far less capable people get promoted ahead of her”.

In the second section Niazi gives us more insight on how the pandemic affected her work life and her life with her children. Niazi stated that by the time she was parenting a toddler and a newborn during the pandemic, her drive of achieving the American dream became permanently altered. Niazi explained that she had to keep working to keep everyone fed and alive, and realized that she didn’t want or need more than that. Niazi also goes to speak about how she views work and the illusion that everything you give up now, all the stolen time commuting, working overtime, will somehow earn you freedom and capital in your later years. Niazi believes that millennials and Gen-Zers will be working until they die because it is hard to maintain your ambition in the face of that reality. Niazi made a strong claim here because it relates back to her situation that it is hard for someone to achieve the American dream because of the challenges that were faced during the pandemic. Towards the end, Niazi concluded that it is hard to want more of that, to strive for an even higher spot in “that poisoned hierarchy”.