

CultureTalk Bangladesh Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Not Understanding Parents' Guidance

English translation:

Gulshan (G): Bengali parents think that children get influenced the most at this age. You can see in many instances that the boy or girl is good, but they mix with the wrong crowd and get addicted, or just lose interest in their homes and are out all the time. They question their parents and say, "I went out yesterday -- then why can't I go out today?" Their attraction for home wanes at a young age. A time comes when... and when it passes, a boy or girl can understand what is good and what is not for himself/herself.

Irena (I): But Ashfin's age is...

G: How old is Ashfin?

I: Eighteen.

G: Eighteen. That's why. He doesn't understand what is good and what is not for him. Parents should guide their children through the right path. And there are some things that parents cannot directly forbid their children to do. And then children think, "If he can do it, why can't I?"

I: Yes, that was a long time ago. Now Mom and Dad tell him, "We allowed you to stay away from home in a dorm. Imagine how much freedom we are giving you and how much faith we have in you. Say you want to stay at a friend's house..." Or Ashfin will say... you know how Mom and Dad let him stay on campus? When he comes home over the summer, he sometimes wants to stay at a friend's house and Mom and Dad do not give him permission. Ashfin just doesn't understand this. He says, "I live all by myself in a dorm; if I wanted to do anything bad, I could have done it there. I'm home now, and I'm asking for your permission and you don't let me go!" Ashfin does not understand this. I understand that our parents are letting us stay away from home, on campus, because they have to. They are doing this for our education. So when we go home, we go to see them -- why would we go out at that time? He doesn't really get this.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use everyday. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.