

Hindi transcript:

इंडिया में population इतनी ज्यादा है, अपना कोर्स चुनना बहुत मुश्किल है। For example, हम लोगों को एक ही particular course चुनना होता है, अपना हाई स्कूल का बाद, जिस में हम आग जा सकते हैं। For example मैंने साईंस लिया था। साईंस सबसे ऊँचा माना जाता है फिर कॉमर्स होता है, फिर आर्ट्स... ह्यूमैनिटीज़। मैंने साईंस लिया, मैं डाक्टर बनना चाहती थी – सर्जन, न्यूरोसर्जन। लेकिन अब पंद्रह लाख बच्चे जब दो सौ सी...तीन सौ सीओं का लिया बैठेंगे जिस में सौ सीं Scheduled Castes और Scheduled Tribes का quota होता है, तो समझिये मन्ना लिये तो दो सौ सी थी। अब मैं वहाँ कहाँ stand कर सकती हूँ? पंद्रह लाख लोगों में...जो कि बहुत गलत है।

जितनी सीं होती हैं उससे थोड़ा सजा ज्यादा उन्हें forms, जो है न, बचाने चाहिये नहीं, वह लोग form बखत रहते हैं। करोड़ों लोग आते हैं, बखत रहेंगे और सब बैठते हैं... उस exam का लिया बहुत गलत। और सीट्स उतनी होती नहीं। तो मैंने देखा है कि बहुत ज्यादा प्रेशन का माहौल होता है... admission लम्बा भारत में। बच्चे suicide करते हैं। आपका 12th का result ... अगर आपका 90 से above नहीं है तो यहाँ इतने suicidal cases हैं। बहुत सारे counseling sessions खुल रहे हैं... but कोई ज्यादा फ़र्क नहीं पड़ रहा उससे इतना प्रेशर, इतना प्रेशर आपका हाई स्कूल में भी, और आपका senior secondary, that is, 12th में भी बहुत प्रेशर होता है। मतलब दो-दो बच्चे तक बच्चे जो हैं अपना result का वाक्य कर रहे होते हैं। जो कि आपकी normal development में बाधा पड़ जाता है। आप जी नहीं रहे होते। आप जी... जीना छोड़ कर आप पढ़ाई में इस तरह सलग जाते हो और उसका बावजूद आपको कुछ नहीं मिलता... आप अस्सी परसें... पचासी प्रतिशत ला रहे हो, अस्सी... प्रतिशत ला रहे हो फिर भी आपको कुछ नहीं मिल रहा। तो बहुत गलत है। एक... एक अजीब प्रेशन का माहौल हो जाता है... मुझे पता चला कि अमरीका में भी पैसा, funds बहुत ज़रूरी होता है admission का लिया। But, at least, आपकी qualification तो आपकी वर्थ होती है। आई मीन, अपना जो किया।

और फिर उसका ऊपर corruption। आप कहते हो कि नब्बे प्रतिशत वाला यही course ले सकता है... का-ऑफ़ लिस्ट होती है, you know, 99 percent, if it is less than that, you cannot have this... have this course, which is, like, wrong। और मैंने देखा है जा का

colleges में, मैंने दख्खे हैं students same courses का और मैं उनका चहुरा दख्ख का बता सकती हूँ कि वो नब्बे प्रतिशत नहीं ला सकते तो क्या? Corruption! पैसोंदो, politician का बण्डो, आराम स admission मिलणा। किसी बड़ hot-shot personality, businessman का बण्डो, आराम स पैसोंदो, मिलणा। Corruption! बहुत गलत। बहुत ज़्यादा deserving लोग जो हैं... suffer करते हैं इस चीज़ की वजह स

English Translation:

India's population is so large that it is difficult to choose your own course [of study]. For example, we are supposed to choose only one particular course [of study], after high school, in which we can study further. For example, I took Science. Science is considered the most valued pursuit, followed by commerce and then the arts ... humanities. I took science, since I wanted to become a doctor – a surgeon, a neurosurgeon. But if 1.5 million kids apply for 200 hundred ... 300 hundred seats, of which 100 seats belong to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes quota¹, you can see that there are only 200 seats left for me. Now where do I stand [a chance]? With 1.5 million people competing ... which is very wrong.

They should put out only a few more [application] forms than there are seats available, but no, they sell forms [far in excess of that number]. Even if millions come, they will keep selling [forms], and everyone will appear for that [entrance] exam. Very wrong. And there aren't enough seats. So I have seen that securing admission creates an atmosphere of great tension in India. Kids commit suicide. If your 12th grade (equivalent to High School in the US) result is not over 90%, there are so many cases of suicide. Many counseling centers have opened up, but they haven't made too much difference. So much pressure, so much pressure, in your high school and in your higher secondary, that is, the 12th [grade] there is a lot of pressure. That is, until 2 o'clock kids wait for their results. This obstructs your normal development. You are not really living your life. You stop having a life and study so much and despite that you don't get anything ... you get 80 percent marks, 85 percent... get 80% and still you get nothing. This is very wrong. It is a strange, tension-filled atmosphere ... I have come to know that even in America it is very necessary to have money, funds for admission. But at least your qualifications count for something. I mean what you have done [in your studies].

And on top of that, [there is] corruption! You say that someone who has secured 90% can take this course ... there is a cut-off list, you know, 99 percent, if you have gotten less than that, you cannot have this ... have this course, which is, like, wrong. And I have been to colleges and seen students in these courses, and I can look at their faces and tell you that they cannot get 90 percent marks. So then what? Corruption! If you are a politician's son, you will easily get admission. If you are the child of some big, hot-shot

¹ The speaker is referring to the Affirmative Action measures initiated by the Government of India, according to which, a percentage of available seats in institutions of higher education are reserved for underrepresented people in society.

celebrity or businessman, you can pay a bribe, and you will get [admission]. Corruption. Very wrong. Many deserving people suffer because of this thing.

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.

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