

A Typical Day in Urban Zimbabwe

Shona transcript:

Nhasi ndiri kutaura nezvemagariro muZimbabwe zuva nezuva. Umm kazhinji pamusha kana kuti pamba vanhu vanomuka mangwanani, dzimwe nguva kuma5 kuseni kana kuti kuma6 ahh motsvaira panze, mowacha, mosuka ndiro kana kutsvaira mumba. Kana mapedza kutsvaira mumba, umm munobika *porridge*. Kazhinji *porridge* rinobikwa nehupfu. Mobika porridge rine dovi, kana mapedza modya, vana vomuka. Kana paine vana vanoenda kuchikoro, vana vanogadzirirwa voenda kuchikoro. Kana paine vamwe vanosara kumba, vanosara vachiita basa repamba. Kana mai nababa vachienda kubasa, vanobva vaenda kubasa mangwanani uyezve kazhinji pane dzimba dzine vasikana vebasa-vasikana vanoshanda pamba ipapo vachichengeta vana nekuita mamwe mabasa epamba. Saka vasikana ndivo vanoita basa rakawanda uye ndokunge mai vacho vachienda kubasa. Kana vana vadya *porridge* kunonwiwa tea kuma10 mangwanani, vonwa *tea*. Kana vapedza kunwa *tea*, vana vombotamba *then* masikati vanobika sadza. Kazhinji sadza remasikati rinodyiwa nemurivo-covo kana tsunga kana repi kana muboora. Umm kumazuva rodoka, vanotanga kugadzirira kudya kwemanheru. Kazhinji isadza zvekare, sadza nenyama inogona kuva nyama yemombe yehuku, nyama yembudzi kana kuti mukaka. Vabereki kana vachienda kubasa vanodzoka kubasa zuva rodoka, votamba nevana, voona mhuri dzavo, vodya sadza pamwe chete. Kazhinji nguva yemanheru inguva yekuti mhuri dzitandare vachitaura nyaya, vachitaura kuti vaswera sei, uye nekudya sadza pamwe chete. Dzimwe nguva mhuri yose inoona nhau dzemanheru pamwe chete kuti vaone kuti chii chiri kuitika munyika. Umm chandinooona kazhinji ndechekuti kwandinogara kuChitungwiza dzimwe nguva magetsi anoenda, dzimwe nguva mvura inoenda saka pane basa rakawanda rekuita. Munonochera mvura, munobatidza moto kuti mubike. Naizvozvo mabasa akawanda akasiyana-siyana anoitika mudzimba. Asivo vanhu vane nguva yekufara, vane nguva yekutandara. Vanovhakachira hama dzavo, vanonoona vanohwara, uyezve vanoshanyirana nevanhu vavanoenda navo kuchurch zvakasiyana-siyana. Naizvozvo kana mukauya kuZimbabwe tinofarira kuti

mubike nesu, titandare, titaure nyaya uyezve munokwanisa kuenda kune dzimwe nzvimbo dzakasiyana-siyana dzekunoona uye dzekutandarira.

English translation:

Today I am talking about daily living in Zimbabwe. Umm, usually at home or at a homestead, people wake up in the morning, sometimes around five in the morning or around six, aah, then you sweep the yard, do laundry, clean the plates or clean the house. When you finish cleaning the house, umm, you make porridge. Usually porridge is made with mealie-meal.¹ You make porridge and serve it with peanut butter. When you are done you eat the porridge and then wake up the children. If there are school-going children in the house, the kids go to school. Those who remain at home stay and do more housework. If the parents go to work, they leave in the morning, too, and usually there are families with housemaids. Housemaids live and work at the family's house, babysit the children and do some of the household chores. Some of the housemaids do all of the work at home, especially if the mother of the house has a full-time job. Kids eat porridge earlier and then they have tea around 10 in the morning, they drink tea. When they finish having tea, the kids go to play outside; then in the afternoon the maid or mother makes *sadza*² for lunch. Usually *sadza* for lunch is served with green vegetables (*covo*³) or other different kind of green vegetables such as pumpkin leaves. Umm, in the late afternoon, they begin making plans for dinner. Usually they have *sadza* with meat—it can be beef, chicken or goat or sour milk. If the parents work, they get back from work around early evening, they spend time playing with the kids, and the family will have dinner together. Evenings are usually family time; they talk and enjoy conversations together and eating *sadza* too. Sometimes families watch the night time news together to stay informed about what is happening in the country. Umm, what I see usually is that where I stay in Chitungwiza⁴ there might be no electricity, and even water sometimes, so there will be a lot of work to do. You fetch water; you cook on the open fire. Therefore a lot of

¹ corn meal

² *Sadza* is the staple food in Zimbabwe, made from mealie meal (corn meal) and served for lunch and/or dinner.

³ Green vegetables similar to kale, served with *sadza*

⁴ A high density, urban dormitory town located about 30km south of Harare (the capital)

housework happens in the household. However, people have time to enjoy and relax and talk with each other. They visit their relatives, visit the sick, and they visit and fellowship with their church friends. Therefore, if you come to Zimbabwe, we would like you to join us in cooking, relaxing, talking, and you can go to different places to tour and enjoy.

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