

CultureTalk Bangladesh Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Coming to the City for Work

English translation:

- So, what is your name?

- My name is Nilotpal Sadhya.

- Where do you live?

- Right now I live in Dhaka because of my job. In Mogbazar – that is the name of the place.

- Have you grown up there?

- I have grown up in Mymensingh. [That] is a different district.

- Did you go to school there?

- Yes?

- Have you studied in school?

- Yes, yes. I have studied in school.

- In what school?

- Primary (elementary) school, high school. I have even studied in college, there – in Mymensingh.

- You grew up there.

- Yes, I grew up [there].

- When did you come to Dhaka?

- I came to Dhaka in the '80s. About 27-28 years ago.

- Many days ago.

- Yes, yes. I came to Dhaka before that on different work. That was in '74. In 1974. I had come on work. And I came because of my job in the '80s.

- And how was everything at home?

- Our home is in Mymensingh, in a subdistrict. The name of the subdistrict is Dhobaura. My mother, and father, and everyone lived there. I, too, lived there when I was young. Later, on account of my job – my work – I came to Dhaka. My parents live there. My father is no longer alive, actually. Mother lives... mother lives at home. My younger brother lives at home [too]. He also has a job – a government job. And mother lives in different places. She lives with me [sometimes], and then I have sisters – she lives with them also.

- You have one brother and one sister?¹

- No, I have... we are two brothers and four sisters.

- Four sisters? And where do the sisters live?

- My sisters... two of them live in Dhaka. One sister died two or three years ago. One other sister is in Netrokona... my sisters.

- And, do you have children?

- I have a daughter.

- How old?

- She is fourteen.

- Where does she study?

- She studies in Viqarunnessa school.

- What does she study?

- Yes?

- What does she study?

- She does the regular... the work prescribed in class... there is a syllabus... that is what she studies.

- And what do you do in Dhaka?

- In Dhaka, my work has a... what can I say... on the one hand, I work for the government, for T&T.² And, I don't like to say so much about that. Many people have jobs. But the biggest thing I have – I mean, achievement – in the national context of

¹ It was not entirely clear from the previous remark that the speaker has more than one sister. Hence the question.

² The Telephone and Telegraph Board of the Government of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is that I am an [important] trainer of Rabindrasangeet,¹ and Bengali music generally. I have a large network around the entire country. At various times, and in various different situations, I have to train people in Rabindrasangeet, and music. I have to go to many different places. This is basically a big job [that I have]. Through that connection, I have many students... through that connection, I have many students. Thousands of students.

- You have thousands of students?

- Thousands of students. Because very often I have to run, or direct, many workshops, whether they are government [workshops] or non-government ones. So this work of mine is big work. One can also put it like this: this is a [kind of] social work... a part of social work.... Spreading Bengali music through the country, in particular Rabindrasangeet: this is an important responsibility that I have. I am carrying [it] out.

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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¹ The songs of Rabindranath Tagore, the most famous Bengali poet of undivided India, are called Rabindrasangeet.