

CultureTalk Bangladesh Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Comparing Life in Bangladesh and Canada

English translation:

Irena [I]: When you were here, when you studied in college or something, what was your typical day like? And now that you're married and you live in Canada, what's your typical day like?

Ishrat [I2]: They're both different.

I: Explain. Tell me about your normal schedule.

I2: Normally when I was here, I would get up go to class, come back, watch TV, study -- that's it. And life there is different. I don't have studies there, but there are functions to attend, work to do, obligations to fulfill. When I was here, when we went out, it was usually with everyone. In Canada, I go out with my husband, and I also go out alone.

I: So you mean you're more independent there? You didn't go to Canada right after you got married, right? So what did you do after you got married?

I2: I used to take this English course here.

I: No I meant that say you got married and settled here, then what would you do? You've studied here.

I2: Yes, in university.

I: Say your husband lives here. Then what would you do? In Canada you're working, and then you have housework, too. You pretty much had to do similar things. So which lifestyle do you prefer?

I2: I like both. I understand what you're saying, but I like both.

I: They're both very different but you like both, right?

I2: Yes.

I: What do you like from each of them?

I2: Life here is more comfortable. Say if I didn't want to cook or do housework one day, I can have someone to help me do it. Over there, you have to do everything by yourself. You don't get much time to yourself. You come home and you start cleaning, cooking, etc. Everyone does their own work. Here, people pitch in and work together. That's it.

I: Aunty, now you tell me. What do you do all day? Or what do you like to do?

Gulshan [G]: I like to go out. I like shopping. I like chatting with friends and family. In all, I love going out, whether it's in the country or abroad, wherever it is.

I: So you don't stay at home much, do you?

G: No, I'm not home that much. I do a bit of cooking when I am home. But I go out a lot; I go to my relatives' places and go shopping.

I: Don't you have a lot of functions here? Like, a few days back, I went to a *pittha* making function at the Gulshan Club.

Sarah: That was in Baridhara Club.

G: Yes, we have those too in our area.

I: What happens here?

G: We also have very good theater shows. I sometimes go to see them.

I: Do many people go to see these? Here you also have a social class issue.

G: Well, people from the middle class and upper middle class go here. People from the working class usually go to the cinemas. They watch Bangla cinemas in the movie halls. I usually go to these shows in the evenings. And then I watch Hindi serials on the television.

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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