

CultureTalk Bangladesh Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Speaking About Family and Country

English translation:

Tamanna (T): Do you have children?

Sumitra (S): Yes, I have children.

T: How old?

S: My children ... my son is currently nine, and my daughter is on her way to being eight.

T: What are their names?

S: Bijoy and Protima.

T: Are they going to school?

S: Yes, they are studying.

T: Which grade are they in?

S: Fourth.

T: And your daughter?

S: My daughter is in the first grade.

T: How old is she?

S: She is seven.

T: How do you like Bangladesh?

S: Bangladesh... I like Bangladesh.

T: What do you like about Bangladesh?

S: Bangladesh is our motherland. We were born here. Bangladesh is the best.

T: Is there anything that you dislike about Bangladesh?

S: No. There is nothing that I really dislike. I like everything.

T: You like everything?

S: Yes! [laughing.]

T: And.....do you want to go anywhere? ...Other than Bangladesh? Do you want to visit any other place?

S: No.

T: You live in Lalbagh?

S: Yes, I live in Lalbagh.

T: What is Lalbagh? Don't they have something there? What do they have?

S: It has houses just like this place. The name of the area is Lalbagh. It has a place called Lalbagh Fort,¹ which has lots of things inside it.

T: Fort? You mean that thing? What do they have inside?

S: It has many beautiful things, fountains and gardens. They also have objects from colonial British India and from the Partition.² It has sculptures – that's about it. There is also a museum there.

T: If someone from abroad comes to Bangladesh, say someone like me, a person who's lived abroad all of his/her life, then what is there to see in Bangladesh?

S: Whatever they like.

T: Whatever they like? What do you like? Say, if you were to take them. Say, if one day, I asked you to show me around, then where would you take me?

S: I would take you wherever you want to go, wherever they have nice things.

T: If I didn't know anything about Bangladesh then?

S: Then I would take you to places that I know.

T: So where would you take me?

S: I would take you to the fort, if you wanted to see it. Or if you want to see anything else, I would take you to a good park or something.

T: Can I ask you some questions about your marriage?

S: About what?

¹ Lalbagh Fort, also known as "Fort Aurangabad," is an incomplete Mughal palace fortress on the Buriganga River in the southwestern part of Dhaka, Bangladesh.

² Refers to the end of the British colonization of India and the partition of British India into two separate nations: India and Pakistan.

T: Your marriage?

S: [Laughing] What about my marriage?

T: When did you get married? How old were you?

S: I actually don't know myself what my exact age I was.

T: How many years ago was it?

S: Twelve years ago.

T: Twelve years?

S: Yes. I was married twelve years ago. I was probably around seventeen or eighteen years old then, I guess.

T: Did you get married in Dhaka?

S: Yes, in Dhaka.

T: And what does your husband do?

S: My husband works in this new shoe factory.

T: When did you have your children?

S: My son was born eight years ago.

T: Do you what the Bangla for "life story" is?

S: No.

T: It is *jiboner golpo*.³

S: What else should I say about my life? Whatever I have, I'm happy with it.

T: Do you want to say anything to the people who are going to watch it abroad? About Bangladeshi women maybe?

S: [Thinking] No.

T: Okay. Thank you!

S: Thank you!

³ Literally, life story.

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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