

CultureTalk Bangladesh Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
A Local Contribution

Interviewer: What is your name?

Man: My name is Sukranto Bidas.

Interviewer: Where do you live?

Man: In Monipur Tea Garden.

Interviewer: Where is Monipur Tea Garden?

Man: This place is Monipur Tea Garden.

Interviewer: Where is this place? Where in Bangladesh?

Man: In the Peshiganj police station.

Interviewer: Sylhet...

Man: ... Sylhet.

Interviewer: This house you have let to BRAC...

Man: ... Yes.

Interviewer: ... Tell us something about it...

Man: About this... well... this house that I have lent... they gave me Tk¹ 9000 for it. With that Tk 9000, I bought tin, I bought fencing, I fixed these things... now for another 20 years, the schooling here... I want high quality education for children as well... and the young girls and boys who are studying here at the present are completing their education; they only have five more months... after five months, new children will again enroll. So, for another 20 years... the committee people who have rented (this place), they told me: fix the house here for another 20 years, we will study here for another 20 years. But...

Interviewer: You...?

Man: ... I am a poor man... but I am not able to arrange for the children to study here for another 20 years, I don't have the ability to put a fan in the house.... The money that they give me is not even enough to pay for the tin.

Interviewer: How much do they pay you?

¹ Taka. The unit of currency in Bangladesh.

Man: Tk 6000.

Interviewer: Every...

Man: ... No

Interviewer: ... How often?

Man: That Tk 6000 was for buying tin... I bought the tin for almost Tk 7000. And the fence I bought was, I suppose, for another Tk 3000. This Tk 6000 and Tk 3000 adds up to Tk 9000. This Tk 9000 was spent on maintaining the house. And there is no account of how much extra money I needed for myself.

Interviewer: But do they pay you every year?

Man: No. They gave me Tk 9000 to use for five years. Those five years are coming to an end....

Interviewer: Why have you done this?

Man: ... I am doing this so that the children can get some education and improve. This is why I have done this.

Interviewer: Do you have any children yourself?

Man: I have children. One of my sons comes here to study. The rest of the children are from the neighborhood. It is for their education and for their benefit that I have opened up the school in my own house.

Interviewer: Who do you have in your family?

Man: In my family, I have my... I have two families and I have three children. My brother, sister... I have no sister. My brother just died ... His [unclear word omitted] is coming up this Wednesday. For him, I haven't shaved my beard at the barber yet. We haven't completed the ritual. He is also a very poor man... He died in the Sylhet Medical College² Hall. His dead body... Our boss has helped us a little... we buried him.

Interviewer: Is this your land or your brother's?

Man: No, this is my land.

Interviewer: What work do you do?

Man: I do... night duty, in Mandob, at night.

² Unclear word.

Interviewer: How long have you been here?

Man: I have been here, I suppose... for almost 17-18 years.

Interviewer: Where did you live before that...?

Man: I lived in my old house.

Interviewer: Where is the old house?

Man: It is over there.

Interviewer: You have been here your entire life...?

Man: I have been here my entire life...

Interviewer: Here...?

Man: ... Here.

Interviewer: You do night duty?

Man: I am only doing the night duty for seven-eight months now.

Interviewer: Before that?

Man: Before that, I used to do signaling and things... I used to cut the forests, dig with spades... all these things I used to do.

Interviewer: Do the children here respect you a lot?

Man: Certainly.

Interviewer: And the teacher...?

Man: And the teacher too... I respect her a lot, and she also respects me. And for the children, I... I always tell her: teach them properly... so they become knowledgeable, this school earns a reputation, you earn a reputation... Yes...

Interviewer: Your son... your son studies here...?

Man: Son... His name is Narayan.

Interviewer: ... Narayan?

Man: Narayan.

Interviewer: ... Have you had any education?

Man: Very little.

Interviewer: Very little? How much?

Man: I can write my name.

Interviewer: You can sign?

Man: I can... But if you can please... if our parents [awkward cut] ... I wish that our children can study properly in schools here and become knowledgeable. I want education to continue here for another 20 years.

Interviewer: All these small children here...

Man: ... Yes, I want them to be brought up properly... if this institution is continued, then they would be able to get an education easily... this is what I want... if you can please provide the house, the children would be able to study well.

Interviewer: All right. Thank you.

Man: Thank you.

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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