

CultureTalk Bangladesh Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Moving from India to Bangladesh

English translation:

Interviewer: What is your name?

Vendor: My name is Mohd. Wasim.

Interviewer: How long have you been working here?

Vendor: I have been working here for five years.

Interviewer: Did you previously work anywhere else?

Vendor: No, I don't work or have a job ... I stayed at home. My father and my family have been in the *pan*¹ business. My grandparents, my uncles, and my father -- all of them are in this business.

Interviewer: Who else is working with you at the *pan* shop?

Vendor: My younger brother is working here with me; I am here, our friend, *Tiklu bhai* [brother], is working here, and *Mukta apu* [sister], who is the manager of the shop, is also working with me.

Interviewer: Where do you live?

Vendor: I live in Mirpur.

Interviewer: You just mentioned how and when you and your family moved from India....

Vendor: Yes, our hometown is India (Bharat), Bihar; from there the owner of the shop brought us here to Dhaka. For around here we lived on our own in a different area, around nine or ten of us, and we all worked here. My father and mother are both in Dhaka in the Nigu area; my mother is here, and so is my father, my little brother ... and everyone else is here. My whole family is here in Jothegreshtogor. In Jothegreshtogor, there are only Indians; there are no locals.

Interviewer: How long have you been speaking Bengali?

¹ A *pan* is betel leaf. Betel leaves are chewed together with betel nut as a masticatory. In its simplest form, sliced betel nut is wrapped in a betel leaf, smeared with lime and chewed. Often though, a clove and other spices such as cinnamon and cardamom are added. When chewed after meals, it sweetens the breath and acts as a gentle stimulant.

Vendor: Ever since I have started working here; our friends here at the shop and the customers help teach us Bengali.

Interviewer: Do you find it difficult speaking in Bengali?

Vendor: Right now I do not find it difficult at all; in fact, I find it very easy. I can speak it very comfortably.

Interviewer: How do you find Bangladesh?

Vendor: Very beautiful. We find Bangladesh very beautiful.

Interviewer: How do you find the behavior of the locals?

Vendor: They are very well-mannered and their behavior is good. Everything is very beautiful.

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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