

**English translation:**

-What is your name?

-My name is Hena.

-Where were you born?

-I was born in my village.

-Where is the name of your village?

-It is known as Aushtogram.

-Where is Aushtogram?

-It is in the Kishoreganj district [in Bangladesh].

-I see. How many [siblings do you have]?

-We are five sisters.

-Are you the eldest?

-No I am the fourth.

-What are the names of your sisters?

-My eldest sister is called Runa. My second sister is called Rina. And the one after her is called Bina. And I am Hena, and my youngest sister is called Bipasha.

-What are the age differences between you?

-Our age differences come to two, two-and-a-half years.

-Who all live in your house?

-My uncles, my grandpa, aunts, mother and father – everybody lives there.

-Are there children in your uncles' families?

-Yes, there are children in my uncles' families.

-How many?

-My eldest uncle has three daughters and a son. My second uncle has a son, and my third uncle has a daughter.

-I see. What do your parents do?

-My father works for a living.

-What does he do?

-He is a mason.

-I see. What kind of work does he have to do as a mason?

-He has to work very hard.

-Can you [unclear] something about his work... Can you tell us what kind of work he has to do?

- No. I [have never seen] him at work.

-I see. How long have you been living in Dhaka?

-In Dhaka... I have been [here] for about a year.

-Have you lived any where else before?

-Yes, I used to live in Sylhet.

-Can you tell us something about Sylhet?

-Yes, I can.

-Tell us something, then.

-What do you want to know about Sylhet?

-For instance, whether there are any good places to visit in Sylhet.

-Yes, there are plenty of places to visit in Sylhet. Sylhet is very beautiful. You can visit Shahjalal's Mazhaar<sup>1</sup> ... then there are tea gardens. There is a place called Jaflong. These are all very beautiful.

-I see. Can you tell us something about your life in the village?

---

<sup>1</sup> tomb of a venerated Muslim

-Yes ....

-For instance, does everyone in your village receive an education? Does everyone go to school?

-Like, say, people who have money can, I mean, study a bit more. But people who are poor like us; they... some [of them] cannot... study much on account of poverty. Their parents cannot give them an education on account of poverty. And those who have money, say, do [get an education].

-I see. Have you received an education?

-No, I haven't. I have studied a little, however.

-How far have you studied?

-Until fifth grade.

-What all did you learn when you [went to school]?

-Then... I used to do many things. I used to play, and study. And... from time to time I did chores around the house, I mean, housework. I did that also.

-I see. What did you play? Can you tell us something about the games you played?

-Yes, there are many kinds of games in my village. [Unclear] we would play with toy cooking utensils, then, say, there was skipping...that which you play using a rope...we played that. Then, there were also games we played at school.

-For instance? What did you play at school?

-For instance... for instance, the game is like this... we... I mean, there's this game that involves running. That one, I mean – the one that involves whatnot, I mean, that involves lines drawn on the ground. One has to stay inside those boundaries. We have that game. I mean, there are many such things.

-I see. What else did you do in your spare time? What else did you play [unclear]? Some people roam about, some climb trees, and many other things ....

-Yes, our... yes, in our free time... when school was closed, we would [stay in] school... at home... at home... then... we had many trees at our place. So, we would climb those trees. There were many kids... children; we would play with them. We would go to bathe in the pond with them.

-I see.

**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.

© 2003-2009 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated