

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 Mazhaar¹ ... 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?

¹ 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.

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