

CultureTalk Bangladesh Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
The Fourth Grade

English translation:

Irena: This is our first interview. I will interview my cousin. Let me introduce him first.
Say your name.

Samin: *As-salam-alaikum*. My name is [unclear] Dawood.

I: And your nickname?

S: Samin.

I: Okay. And where do you live?

S: I live in Chittagong, Bangladesh.

I: Okay, Chittagong is a city in Bangladesh, right?

S: Yes

I: How long have you stayed here?

S: I've been in Chittagong since my birth.

I: Who do you live with, in this house?

S: I live with my parents...Mom, Dad and me.

I: Did you stay in this house all your life, or did you stay somewhere else before?

S: I stayed in two other houses before moving here.

I: Where were those houses?

S: Haliashahar Block B and CDA (Chittagong Development Authority), then here.

I: How old are you?

S: Eleven.

I: And you're studying in school, right?

S: Yes.

I: And which grade are you in?

S: I am in fourth grade.

I: So, in your school... okay, so there are two types of schools in Bangladesh: English medium and Bangla medium, right? Why don't you tell me a bit about these schools?

S: In English medium schools, everything is [taught] in English, except for Bangla classes. And in Bangla medium schools, all subjects are taught in Bangla except for English.

I: And which one are you studying at?

S: English medium.

I: What's the name of your school?

S: Dew Point School.

I: Have you studied in this school from the beginning, or did you transfer from somewhere?

S: I studied in two other schools before Dew Point. First it was Play School, then Red Inn School [unclear] then Dew Point School.

I: Till which grade can you study in Dew Point School?

S: It's from Playgroup [preschool] to O Levels [tenth grade].

I: And you want to stay there? There are a lot of subjects offered in your school right? So now you tell me, being a fourth grader, which subjects do you have to take?

S: We have to take all subjects. When you reach A Levels or O Levels, you can choose the subjects you want, but for now, we have to study all subjects.

I: Okay, so in other countries, people may have different subjects that they study. Why don't you tell me about the subjects that you have to take?

S: This year, I have to take all subjects like English, Math, Religion, Drawing, Games, Music, and Bangla.

I: So in all the classes, you have to talk in English except for the Bangla class, where you speak in Bangla?

S: Yes.

I: So tell me about a day in your life. Start from when you go to school and [finish with] what you do after you come back.

S: The first thing that happens in school is our assembly.

I: What's assembly?

S: Assembly means...well we all have to sing our national anthem and then we have an oath... we have to say that oath. After that we go to our classes, and then our classes start. Before we get off, there is a break in the middle of the day, it is called a "*tiffin* break" [snack break]. We sit and eat our snacks or play, and then classes resume until the afternoon when we get out.

I: Do you take your snacks from home or does the school provide it?

S: The school provides it.

I: So whatever they give, you have to eat that?

S: Yes.

I: If you want to, can you take it from home?

S: Can I take my snack from home? No. They don't have this system yet, but they will soon.

I: Do you stay in one classroom the whole day, or do you go to different classrooms for each subject?

S: All subjects are taught in the same classroom except for Art, Games and Music.

I: So does one teacher teach all the subjects?

S: No. We have different teachers for different subjects.

I: Okay, so one teacher leaves and then another one comes.

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.