

CultureTalk Bangladesh Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Teacher Training

English translation:

Girl: Every month we have to go to the office, the BRAC¹ office, to learn things -- i.e., the teachers receive training

Interviewer: You...?

Girl: ...We take different classes. Six subjects are offered but we take only five subjects: English, Bengali, Mathematics, Social Sciences, and Islamic Studies. Sometimes; we attend Hindu Studies, but that is seldom. If Hindu Studies is not considered, we receive training in the other five subjects. On the first day, we receive training in mathematics, and the teachers come from Dhaka to teach the classes. Each of the teachers teaches a different subject: one teaches mathematics, another teaches Bengali, while the third teaches English, and in this way the classes are taught. The primary reason for teaching us the different subjects is to enable us to present each of the subjects to the students. The teachers present the materials in such a way that we are able to clearly and easily explain the content in each subject to the students. In order to explain to the students in a simple and easy manner, we receive training about different subjects to enable us then to teach the students.

Interviewer: How long have you been working here?

Girl: I have been working for four and a half years.

Interviewer: Did you receive any training prior to teaching here?

Girl: Yes.

Interviewer: For how long was the training?

Girl: I received training for eighteen days and then I joined BRAC. I received the training for eighteen days in Sylhet town, from every single teacher specializing in each subject.

Interviewer: And...what about your salary?

Girl: Instead of salary, they call it compensation. At the initial stage, it was Tk 700, and, now that I am teaching a higher class, it has increased to Tk 1,600.²

¹ BRAC, Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee, is one of the largest non-governmental organizations in the world. Established in 1972, BRAC now operates in all 64 districts of Bangladesh and operates various programs, such as those in microcredit and education, in over nine countries across Asia and Africa. In Bangladesh alone, BRAC has over seven million micro-finance group members, 37,500 non-formal primary schools in rural and impoverished areas, and more than 70,000 health volunteers.

Interviewer: So it has almost doubled in four years.

Girl: Yes, it has doubled.

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.

² The taka is the unit of currency in Bangladesh.

