CultureTalk India Video Transcripts: http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu An Ironing Lady on Work and Family

Hindi transcript:

(ूेस वाली बि ली के साथ खेलती हईु नज़र आती ह।)
- आपको यह बि ली कब मिली थी?
- इसको तो पाँच-छः महीनेहो गए।
- पाँच-छः महीनेसे? खाना खानेआती हैयहाँपर?
- हाँ, खाना भी खाती है। खेलती भी हैइधर ही।
- आपके साथ घर जाती है?
- नहीं। इधर ही रहती है।
- अ-छा। और आप यहाँपर इस... कब सेकाम करतेजा रहेह, इस... इलाक़े म0?
- (हँसती ह।) यह कॉलोनी बसी ही नहींथी। उससेपहलेके हहम लोग।
- तो कितनेसाल हो गए अब, क़रीबन?
- बीस-प-चीस साल हो गए।
- बीस-प-चीस साल? और यहाँइ4ी कर रही हआप बीस-प-चीस साल से?
- हाँ। पहलेचिराग म0करतेथे, अब इधर आए ह।
- और आपके प रिवार म0कितनेलोग ह?
- हम लोग तो पाँच ज नेह।
- कौन कौन है?
- दोन8 मियाँ-बीवी, तीन ब-चेह – एक लड़की, दो लड़के ।
- और आपके ब-चेअभीःकू ल म0हया बड़ेहो गए ह?
- इःकू ल जातेह।
- तीन8 के तीन?
- नहीं। लड़की की शादी कर दी, अपनेघर गई। दोन8 जातेहइःकू ल।
- और लड़की कितनेसाल की हैअभी? सबसेबड़ी वाली लड़की?
- सबसेबड़ी वाली लड़की... बाईस-तेईस साल की।
- कितनेबजेआपका दिन शु> होता है?
- हम तो ऐसेदस-@यारह बजेआतेहयहाँ।
- दस-@यारह बजे? और फिर काम खBम कितनेबजेहोता है?
- कभी आठ भी बज जातेह, नौ भी बज जातेह, कभी ज दी... काम के अनुसार चलतेहहम।
- अ-छा।

- काम Dयादा होता हैतो देर तक टिकतेह।
- हाँजी।
- अगर थोड़ा होता है, ज दी चलेजातेह।
- तो आप दिन म0उठतेकितनेबजेह?
- हम लोग तो देरी सेउठतेह। छः-साढ़ेछः बजे।
- छः-साढ़ेछः बजे? और फिर छः-साढ़ेछः और @यारह बजेके बीच म0आप Gया Gया करतेह?
- बस, यही सब घर का काम है।
- घर का काम? और आपके दो ब-चेःकू ल कितनेबजेजातेह?
- साढ़ेबारह बजे।
- साढ़ेबारह बजे? इतना लेट शु> होता हैःकू ल? देरी से?
- दोपहर बाद का।
- दोपहर काःकू ल है। और अब वेकौन-सेGलास म0... कौन-सेकHा म0ह?
- आठवींम0।
- और आप पहलेदि ली के ही रहनेवालेहया कहींऔर सेआए थे?
- नहींनहीं। गाँव के रहनेवालेहहम लोग।
- कहाँ, कौन-सेगाँव के?
- (नेपIय म0पु>ष का कंठःवर) राजःथान के ।
- राजःथान के?
- हाँजी।
- और फिर आप दि ली कु छ प-चीस-तीस साल पहलेआए थे?
- हाँ। ऐसेतीस साल सेहो गए ह... उन लोग8 को तो वैसे...
- (नेपIय म0पु>ष का कंठःवर) चालीस साल (अःपK) हो गए।
- (महिला) ...पहलेसेही दि ली म0रहतेथे।
- हाँजी।
- छोटेथेतब गाँव म0रहतेथे।
- आप ज ब छोटेथेगाँव म0रहतेथे?
- हाँ।
- तो आप अपनेमाता-पिता के साथ आए थेयहाँपर दि ली म0?
- हाँ।
- और फ़िर शादी कितनेसाल बाद की आपनेदि ली आ कर?
- यही सोलह-सऽह साल के थेज ब।

- अ-छा।

- (थोड़ा लजाकर) छोटे-छोटेम0ही कर देतेहवहाँलोग8 म0तो।
- तो आप कितनेबार गाँव जातेहो एक साल म0? वापस कभी जातेहआप?
- कोई काम पड़ता हैतो जातेह। अगर नहींकाम पड़ता तो नहींजाते। Dयादा करके... करके यहीं
रहतेहहम लोग।
- हाँ, तो यहींरहतेह? तो आप यहींपर दि ली म0रहना चाह0गी पूरी ज़िंदगी?
- हाँ। अब... हम ही नहींजा रहेगाँव तो ब-चेकहाँजाएँगे? ब-च8 को तो और भी पता नहींकि
हमारा गाँव कहाँहै। वह जानेको राजी नहींह। हम लोग तो यहींरह0गे।

- हाँ, ब-चेतो यहींपैदा हएु ह8गेतो दि ली म0उनको सब पसOद है...
- उनको पता ही नहींहै। कभी लेजातेहतो बोलतेह “यह तुPहारा गाँव है?”। तो ज ब... कहतेह
“यह हमारा गाँव है?” उनको पता ही नहींहै। यहींज Oम लिया हैउOह8ने।

- हाँजी। और आपको लगता हैकि ग...गाँव और दि ली शहर म0बहतु फ़कQ है?
- बहत। ु ज़मीन और आसमान का फ़कQ है।
- अ-छा? गाँव कैसा है?
- गाँव तो गाँव है। यहाँशहर म0तो हर चीज मिलती है। कमातेह, हर चीज... पैसा हो हाथ म0, हर
चीज खरीद रहेह। गाँव म0कहाँमिलता हैइतना।
- अ-छा, पर गाँव म0खेती-बाड़ी होती हैDयादातर।
- हाँ, खेती-बाड़ी। खेती म0ही काम करना पड़ता हैवहाँपर।

- अ-छा।

English translation:

(The ironing lady is seen playing with a cat.)
- When did you find this cat?
- She [has been around] for five or six months.
- For five or six months? Does she eat here?
- She eats as well. She plays here, too.
- Does she go home with you?
- No. She lives right here.
- I see. And how long have …you been working here, in … this area?
- (Laughs.) This neighborhood1

did not exist then. We [have been around] from before
that time.
- So how long has it been, approximately?
- It has been twenty-twenty-five years.

1

Neighborhoods are often called ‘colonies’ in India, in case they form a unit of some kind – e.g., if they were built by a single developer, or are part of housing dedicated to a nearby manufacturing unit. They often have names, such as ‘Chirag’, mentioned below.

- Twenty- twenty-five years? And have you been ironing clothes here for twenty or twenty-five years now?
- Yes. Earlier we did it in Chirag, now we have come here.
- And how many people do you have in your family?
- We are five [in number].2
- Who are they?
- The two [of us] – husband and wife, and three children – one girl, two boys.
- And are your children in school, or have they grown up?
- They go to school.
- All three of them?

- No. We got [our daughter]3

married; she’s gone to her own home. The [other] two go to school.
- And how old is [your daughter]? The oldest [daughter]?
- The oldest daughter … twenty-two-twenty-three years old.
- At what time does your day begin?
- We come here around 10 or 11 o’clock.
- At 10 or 11 o’clock? And when does work end?
- Sometimes 8 o’clock, sometimes 9 o’clock, sometimes earlier … we [come and go] depending on - the work.
- I see.

- If there is more work, we stay on longer.
- Yes [ma’am].4
- If there is little work, we leave early.
- So when do you get up in the day?
- We get up late. At six-half past six.
- At six-half past six? And what-all do you do between six-half past six and 11 o’clock?
- There are household chores; that’s all.
- Household chores? And at what time do your two children go to school?
- At half past twelve.
- Half-past twelve? School begins that late? (Repeats in Hindi.)
- Afternoon [classes].
- Afternoon school. And what class (grade)... (repeats in Hindi) are they in, now?
- In 8th [grade].
- And are you inhabitants of Delhi [from the] start, or did you come from elsewhere?
- No, no. We are village-dwellers.
- Where, which village are you from?
- (A man’s voice) From Rajasthan.5
- From Rajasthan?
- Yes.

- And you came to Delhi some twenty-twenty-five years ago?

2

ज ने is a colloquial variant of ज न.
3 लड़की and लड़का also mean ‘daughter’ and ‘son’, in certain contexts.
4

For the record, all the speakers say हाँजी from time to time. In certain contexts, it is considered rude to say (just) हाँ. हाँजी is a respectful ‘yes’.)
5

The man – the interviewee’s husband – mentions his home state, and not his village.

- Yes. It has been thirty years … for them (her husband’s family?) it has been …
- (The man speaks) Forty years (unclear) have passed.
- (The woman continues) …used to live in Delhi from the start.
- Yes.

- Used to live in the village when young.
- You lived in the village when you were young?
- Yes.

- So you came to Delhi with your mother and father?
- Yes.

- And then when did you get married after getting here?
- When I was roughly sixteen or seventeen.
- I see.

- (With some embarrassment) Over there they get folks married when they are quite young.

- So how many times in a year do you go to the village?
- We go if there is some work to attend to. If there is no work to attend to, we don’t go.
Mostly6… we stay here itself.
- Yes? So you will stay here, then? So would you like to live in Delhi all your life?
- Yes. Now … we don’t go to the village ourselves, so [why] would the children go? And then the children don’t even know where our village is. They don’t agree to go [there]. We will stay here.
- Yes, the children would have been born here, [and] so they like everything in Delhi …
- They don’t even know. If we take them along sometime, they say “this is your village.”
- So when … they say “is this our village?” they don’t even know. This is where they were born.
- Yes. And do you think that there is a great difference between the v …village and the city of Delhi?
- [A] great [difference]. [Like] the difference between earth and sky.7
- Indeed? What is the village like?
- The village is the village. Here in the city all things are available. We earn, all things… if we have money in hand, we [buy8

] every thing. How would you get so many things in
the village?
- Right, but there is mostly farming in the village.
- Yes, farming. One can only work [in the fields] over there.
- I see.

6 Dयादाकरके is colloquial. One might say एयादातर instead. Notice also that she says Dयादा and not the more refined एयादा. She also says ख़रीद instead of खरीद, below.
7

This is a common enough analogy, even though it sounds odd in English
8

The speaker says खरीदरहेह – ‘are buying’, probably because it conveys the sense of ‘have been buying’,
in this context.

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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