

## Pros and Cons of Living in Kathmandu

### Nepali transcript:

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: हजुर, अनि काठमाडौं चाहिँ ठ्याक्क बीचमा भयो होइन। तर अरु कुराहरु के मनपर्छ यहाँ काठमाडौंको बारेमा- जस्तै कि यहाँको मान्छे, यहाँको काम। यहाँको के-के मनपर्छ तपाईंलाई? कता-कता जान मन पराउनु हुन्छ यहाँ काठमाडौंमा?

सोनाम: काठमाडौं भनेको अहिले चाहिँ के भइराखेको<sup>1</sup> छ भने, यो सहर पनि किसिम- किसिमको चाहिँ अब भन्नुप्यो भने shopping complex आइरहेको छ। यहाँ निर चाहिँ लुगाहरु किन्न जानुपर्ने, सामानहरु किन्न जानुप्यो भने ठाउँ-ठाउँमा चाहिँ राम्रो-राम्रो खालको प्राईश-दाम राम्रो भएको<sup>2</sup> चाहिँ पाउँछ। अर्को चाहिँ के छ भने cinema hallहरु पनि थुप्रो आइसको छ यहाँ। कति होला? मेरो विचारमा चाहिँ पाँच-दश वटा भाइसकेछ। आफूले चाहेको चाहिँ cinema नि हेर्न पाउने अनि बाहिर चाहिँ खान-सान<sup>3</sup> जानुप्यो भने restaurant पनि थुप्रो छ। So... भन्दाखेरी आफूलाई चाहेको चाहिँ सबै चाहिँ... अब clubहरु भयो, त्यस्तो नि छ। भन्दाखेरी अलि चाहेको चाहिँ सबै चाहिँ यहाँ भइराखेको<sup>4</sup> छ।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि तपाईंको विचारमा यो शहर परिवारको लागि चाहिँ राम्रो होला? जस्तै कि बच्चाहरुको लागि? कहिँ-कहिँ ठूलो शहरमा त बच्चाहरुलाई राम्रो लाग्दैन त होइन? तपाईंको विचारमा काठमाडौं चाहिँ परिवारको लागि राम्रो शहर हो कि ?

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<sup>1</sup> The interviewee does not pronounce the full word 'भइराखेको /bhai-ra-khe-ko' but rather pronounces it as 'bai-ra-ko'. This is done often while speaking quickly. It is similar to shortening 'want to' to 'wanna' in English.

<sup>2</sup> The interviewer does not pronounce the full word 'भएको/bhayeko' but pronounces it as 'bha-ko'. See footnote 1 for explanation.

<sup>3</sup> When trying to express many things that are similar, Nepalis have a habit of rhyming that word with a 's' sound in front. In this case, the interviewee said 'खान-सान/ khaa-na saa-na' as a way to describe food and other similar things. For example if you wanted to say there were a lot of musical instruments such as drums in a place, you would probably say 'drums-srums'. The second word usually isn't actually a word.

<sup>4</sup> See footnote 1.

सोनाम: होला, अब एक तर्फबाट हेर्दाखेरी.... अब भन्नुपन्थो भने त्यो ठूलो मैदान भएको ठाउँ भनोस्, एउटा चाहिँ मेला भएको ठाउँ भयो भने.... यहाँ काठमाडौँमा चाहिँ अलि सानै-सानै खालको त्यती ठीकै खलको छ। तर दिल्लीमा जानुपन्थो भने यहाँ बच्चाहरुको लागि यहाँ खेल्ने चाहिँ, घुम-घाम गर्ने ठाउँ चाहिँ अलि ठूलो र राम्रो छ। So मान्नुपन्थो उता चाहिँ अलि राम्रो होला काठमाडौँ भन्दा।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि, जस्तै कि शिक्षा सुविधाहरु त्यो हेर्दा?

सोनाम: हो...शिक्षाको लागि त अहिले त धेरै स्कूल र college चाहिँ यहाँ काठमाडौँमा भइसकेको छ। So भन्दाखेरी यसमा चाहिँ खास केही problem छैन। College चाहिँ धेरै आइसकेको यहाँ। जुनसुकै चाहिँ आफलाई पढाईको सम्बन्धी चाहिँ पढ्न त्यो गर्न मन्छ भने पढ्न मिल्न सबै छ।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: हजुर, अनि तपाईंलाई शिक्षा कस्तो लाग्छ थिम्पुमा?

सोनाम: थिम्पुमा फेरी collegeहरु सबै चाहिँ अलि-अलि कमी छ तर त्यहाँको जनसंख्या कम भएको हुनाले त्यहाँको लागि ठीकै मिल्ने खालको छ। So भन्दाखेरी ठाउँ हेर्दा खेरी, जनसंख्या कम भन्दा collegeहरु नि अलि कमै छ। त्यहाँ निर चाहिँ त्यो मिलिराखेको<sup>5</sup> छ। उनीहरुको मैले यसरी हेर्दा चाहिँ उनीहरुको अहिले अलिकती, मेरो विचारमा चाहिँ अलिकती कम मात्रामा चाहिँ... जस्तो लाग्छ...

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि उनीहरुको सरकारी विद्यालयहरु कस्तो छ?

सोनाम: हो, अब उनीहरुको विद्यालय चाहिँ यहाँ हाम्रो भन्दा धेरै नै राम्रो छ होला। किन भने हाम्रो यहाँ सरकारी विद्यालयहरुको चाहिँ हेर-विचार गर्ने चाहिँ त्यती राम्रो छैन। अनि गाउँमा चाहिँ राम्ररी सिकाउने system पनि त्यति साह्रो छैन। त्यसले गर्दाखेरी त्यती मलाई चाहिँ राम्रो लाग्दैन।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि थिम्पुमा कस्तो छ?

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<sup>5</sup> The interviewer does not pronounce the full word 'मिलिराखेको/ mi-li-ra-khe-ko' but rather pronounces it as 'mi-li-ra-ko'. See footnote 1.

सोनाम: थिम्पु मा चाहिँ त्यहाँ उनीहरूको सरकारको system चाहिँ, हेर विचार गर्ने अलिकती धेरै नै यहाँ भन्दा चाहिँ बढी नै राम्रो छ। So त्यही कारण त्यहाँ निर सिकाउने र पढाउने चाहिँ, घरहरूको हेर-विचार गर्ने चाहिँ राम्रै छ। त्यस्तै जस्तो लाग्छ मलाई।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: हजुर, अनि अब एउटा last प्रश्न सोध्न थियो। तपाईंले भन्नु भयो कि तपाईंलाई काठमाडौं नै धेरै मनपर्छ। यही बस्न मन पराउनु हुन्छ तर अब अरु विकसित शहरहरूमा बस्न chance पायो भने तपाईंलाई कस्तो लाग्छ? जस्तै कि New Yorkमा बस्नु पायो भने, कि काठमाडौं मै बस्नु हुन्छ तपाईं?

सोनाम: हाहाहा... यसमा चाहिँ मान्छे हेरी-हेरी हुन्छ। धेरै जसो रोजगारको लागि जानु पर्‍यो भने अब विदेशमा जान्छ। New York भन्दा चाहिँ हाम्रो नेपालबाट चाहिँ भन्नुपर्‍यो भने Arab देशमा जाँदो रहेछ। Malaysiaमा जाँदो रहेछ। अब त्यो सबै चाहिँ कामको लागि मात्र भयो। अब बस्नको लागि त्यहाँ निर चाहिँ पर्‍यो भने, यहाँ विदेशमा चाहिँ सुविधा चाहिँ राम्रै होला तर त्यहाँ महँगो छ। अब हाम्रो यहाँ काठमाडौंमा त्यती जती महँगो नभएको भएर चाहिँ यहाँ बस्न त्यती अरामै होला।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: हुन्छ, हस् त, धन्यवाद सोनाम जी!

सोनाम: Okay, धन्यवाद! तपाईं सँग कुरा गरेको मलाई अलि राम्रै लग्यो थियो। नमस्ते!

### **English translation:**

Interviewer: So Kathmandu is right in the middle. Apart from this, what do you like about Kathmandu? Like people here, work here. What are the places that you like to visit here in Kathmandu?

Sonam: So the thing happening in Kathmandu is that in this city, different types of shopping complexes are being built. If we want to buy clothes, buy other stuff, we can buy these things in different places at affordable prices. Another thing is that there are also many cinema halls now. How many? (*asks himself*) My guess is that there are already five to ten halls. So you have the option of watching the movie you like and there are also lots of restaurants if you want to eat out. So you can do many things you want. If you want to go to clubs, they are also there. Hence, anything we need is available here.

Interviewer: In your opinion, is this city suitable for families? For example for [families with] kids? Some big cities aren't that suitable for kids. Do you think Kathmandu is suitable for kids?

Sonam: On the one hand, Kathmandu is not a place with huge playgrounds and lots of free space. Public spaces in Kathmandu are smaller. On the other hand, if we go to Delhi, the playgrounds and public spaces for kids to play and visit are bigger and much better. So I have to admit that Delhi might be better for kids than Kathmandu.

Interviewer: And what about educational facilities?

Sonam: Yes, for education here, lots of schools and colleges are present. So there isn't any problem for education. Many colleges have been established now. So whichever subject or field you choose to study, you have plenty of options to study it here.

Interviewer: Okay. And how do you find the education in Thimpu?

Sonam: In Thimpu, there is lesser number of colleges, but since its population is also small, it fulfills the needs of students there. So, according to the size of the place and population, the number of colleges is much less. But it works out perfectly. This is what I have observed in Thimpu personally.

Interviewer: Then, how are the public schools in Thimpu?

Sonam: So, the public schools there are much better than the public schools here. This is because our government doesn't really take good care of the public schools. Especially in villages, there isn't a good system for education. So, I don't like the public schools here so much.

Interviewer: So how are they in Thimpu?

Sonam: In Thimpu compared to here, the government takes care of the educational system really well. Due to this reason, I feel, the education system there is much superior.

Interviewer: Thanks, now I want to ask you one last question. You told us that you prefer to live in Kathmandu, but if you got an opportunity to live in a well developed country, what would you do? For example if you get to live in New York, would you choose New York or still choose Kathmandu?

Sonam: [laughs] Hahaha... The decision will differ according to each person. A lot of people choose to live abroad due to employment opportunities. Instead of New York, a lot of Nepalese go to Arab countries. They also go to Malaysia. All these people go to these countries for work. But when you live abroad, there might be a

lot of amenities but the living costs are also high there. However, in Kathmandu, living costs are not so high; I think it would be better to live here.

Interviewer: Oh okay, thank you Mr. Sonam!

Sonam: Welcome! It was nice talking to you. Namaste!

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