

Nepali transcript:

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अब तपाइँको कामको बारे अलि भनिदिनुस न। कता काम गर्नुहुन्छ? अनि के-के गर्नुहुन्छ?

सोनी: म चाहिँ, मैले अगी भनेको जस्तै, त्यस्तै महिलाहरुकै विकासकोलागी काम गर्छु। त्यस अन्तर्गत चाहिँ, थुप्रै सम्संस्थाहरु संग म चाहिँ काम गरिराखेको हुन्छु। अब त्यसमा पनि मुख्य तर के हो भने, एउटा चाहिँ पैसा उठाएर आम्दानी... पैसा उठाएर बाल-बच्चाहरुलाई चाहिँ, उनीहरुलाई चाहिँ scholarship जुन भन्छ हामीले, त्यो दिन लगाउने हो। अर्को चाहिँ महिलाहरुलाई आयस्रोतको उनीहरुले केहि सीप सिकेर केहि आम्दानी पाओस र उनीहरुले आफ्नो जिन्दगी राम्रोसित बितौना सकोस। र अहिले चाहिँ मुख्य हाम्रो जुन एउटा संस्था छ, धेरै चाहिँ अपाङ्गहरु संग काम गरिराखेको छु। अपाङ्गहरुमा पनि चाहिँ, खासगरीकन महिलाहरुको हित र उन्नतिकोलागी। किनभने नेपाली समाजमा अपाङ्ग हुनु... र अपाङ्ग हुनु ... भनेपछि अलि मान्छेहरुले चाहिँ, अलि त्यसलाई चाहिँ, धेरै राम्रो द्रिष्टिकोणले हेर्ने र त्यसमाथि पनि महिला भयो, केटी मान्छे भयो भने दोष सबै आमा प्रति नै जान्छ। हामीले हेर्दाखेरि, हामीले चाहिँ, यसो हाम्रो researchहरु यता-उता गर्दाखेरि के देख्यो भने, यस्तो बाल-बालिकाहरु भएको ठाउँमा चाहिँ दोष सबैले, घर-परिवारले नै, आमालाई दिन्छ। तिमीले पैलाको जुनीमा कि अहिले पनि की पाप गरेको होला, त्यसैले यस्तो छोरी पाएको भनेर। अनि यस्तो छोरीहरु चाहिँ, जुन अपाङ्ग छन्, जुन चाहिँ शारीरिक रुपले पनि वा मानसिक रुपले अपाङ्ग हुन्छन्, उनीहरुलाई चाहिँ धेरै जस्तो हामीले हेर्दाखेरि घर-गृहस्तीहरुमा चाहिँ, यी बच्चाहरुलाई चाहिँ, थुनेर राखिराखेका हुन्छ, एउटा कोठामा। उनीहरुलाई बाहिर पनि ल्याउन चाहँदैनन् र उनीहरुको शिक्षा भनेपछि, उनीहरुको जुन विकास र शिक्षा र मानसिक विकास तरफ चाहिँ, त्यस्तो उनीहरुको रुची पनि हुँदैन। त्यसैले चाहिँ हामीले चाहिँ के गर्न खोजेको छु भने, समाजमा चाहिँ अपाङ्ग बालबालिकाहरुको लागि चाहिँ चेतना उठाउने, खासगरी महिलाहरुको लागि। र यसमा चाहिँ समाजले कसरी उनीहरुलाई सँगसँगै हिँडेर, उनीहरुलाई चाहिँ एउटा यस्तो जिन्दगी देओस कि उनीहरुलाई चाहिँ आफु पनि सिर उठाएर चाहिँ अघाडी बढ्न सकोस भनेर।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि अब हजुरको यो महिलाहरूसँग काम गर्ने बच्चा देखिको हजुरको सपना थियो कि? अब... हजुरले कसरी सुरु गर्नु भएको?

सोनी: मेरो बच्चाबेला देखिनको सपना चाहिँ यो होइन। मैले चाहिँ बच्चाबेला देखिन मैले के ठानेको थिएँ भने म doctor बन्छु भनेर। अनि त्यहि अनुरूप, अब त्यो बेला, हाम्रो जमानामा चाहिँ, कि doctor कि engineer बन्ने – त्यो बाहेक चाहिँ हामीलाई कुनै त्यसो प्रकारको अरु कुनै पनि... अर्को एउटा ... त्यत्सो... केहि गर्न सकिन्छ भनेर हामी, हामीले कहिले सोचन सकिन। कि doctor कि एन्जीनीर भनेर हामी हाम्रो हुर्काई नै त्यस्तो बह्यो। त्यो जमानामा... तर पछि गएर मैले पढ्दा-पढ्दै मेरो बिच्चामा केहि कारणबस, कहिले रोगले कहिले केले गरेर पढाई रोक्यो। पढाई रोकेपछि, बिहे भयो, बिहे भएपछि बालबच्चा भयो, बालबच्चा भएपछि म फेरीपछि पढाई तिरै लागें। र पढाईमा लाग्दाखेरि त्यसपछि चाहिँ मैले धेरै संस्थाहरूमा चाहिँ, as a volunteer, स्वयम्सैवकको रूपमा काम गर्दा गर्दै म पढ्न पनि त्यस्तै पढाईमा पुगें कि मैले चाहिँ महिलाहरूको विकास, महिलाहरूको लागि लैङ्गिक विकास, लैङ्गिक gender sensitization जुन भन्छ त्यसको लागि चाहिँ काम गर्ने हो भनेर। अनि त्यसरी म पढ्दा-पढ्दै त्यो fieldमा लागेको।

English translation:

Interviewer: Now, please tell me a little about your work. Where do you work? And what do you do?

Soni: I, like I said earlier, work for the development of women. For that, I am always working with a lot of organizations. Now, within that, one of the most important things is raising money and earning... raising money and giving, what we call scholarships, to kids. Another is giving and finding jobs for women, so that they can learn a skill and earn money and live their life fully on their own. And right now, we are working with an organization, and I am working with mostly, the disabled. Within the disabled, too, I am working mostly with women for their welfare and success. Because, in Nepali society, to be disabled... to be disabled... people will not willingly accept you and judge you in a bad way and on top of that, if you are a woman, all the blame goes to the mother. We saw, we saw through our research that when a family has children that are disabled, the blame for their being handicapped or different, all the family members blame it on the mother. You must have sinned in your past life or in this life, that is why you got this kind of a daughter, they say. And these kinds of daughters that have a disability, whether it is bodily or mental, they are mostly, when we looked at homes, shut and kept in a room. They are not brought outside, and their education, meaning their development, education and mental development, is not of interest either. That is why, what we try to do is that,

we try to raise awareness in society about disabled children, especially about women. And we try to help society understand how they can help by walking beside them, helping them find and earn a life in which they can hold their head high and move forward.

Interviewer: Now, was working with women a dream you had since you were a little kid, or... how did this start?

Soni: This wasn't a dream I had when I was young. What I had thought when I was young was that I'd grow up to be a doctor. Similarly, now in those days, we only had options of becoming either a doctor or an engineer—besides those we didn't have any sort of... another... we couldn't even think of becoming something else besides that. Either a doctor or an engineer, we were brought up in a way where we could think of only those two options. In those days... But later on, as I went on studying, my studies got interrupted in the middle sometimes due to sickness, other times due to other things. When my studies stopped I got married, after I got married I had children, after I had children I again started studying... And when I started studying, I also started to work as a volunteer for many organizations, which then led to me studying about these subjects involving women's development, gender development, and gender sensitization, and then I started working for these. And like this, I got drawn to this field of work.

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