

Nepali transcript:

यहाँ अभी जर्मनीमा पढदै गर्दाको आफ्नो अनुभवको कुरा गर्दैछन्। यहाँ प्रयोग गरिएका 'त, चाहिँ, अब, त्यही, अनि' निपात¹का उदाहरण हुन्।

सनिता: तपाइ बाहिर पढन गएर अब राम्रो लागेको कुराहरु के होला?

अभी: राम्रो लागेको कुरा? घुम्नजान पाउँछ, नयाँ नयाँ देश हेर्नपाउँछ, उनीहरुले प्रगति गरेको कसरी गरेछ हेर्न पाउँछ। सायद त्यहि कुरा repeat होस भनेर यहाँ नेपालमा, त्यही चाहन्छु म।

सनिता: तपाइ आफू चाहिँ नेपाल फर्किने इच्छा गर्नुहुन्छ कि, उता नै काम गर्ने?

अभी: अब, एक-दुइ, तीन-चार वर्ष चाहिँ त्यही हुन्छु होला। अनि टन्नै पैसा कमाएर अब नेपालमा लगानी गर्ने भए चाहिँ आउँछु म।

सनिता: त्यसो भए दश-बीस वर्ष नै उतै होला नि?

अभी: अ..सायद दश-बीस वर्ष नहोला। हेरौं अब के हुन्छ।

सनिता: अनि नराम्रो लागेको कुराहरु के छ नि?

अभी: बाहिर बसेको? महँगो छ। महँगो, धेरै महँगो छ। यताउता खर्च गर्नु.. कमाइ-समाइ छ भने त खर्च गर्न सजिलो छ। तर student life मा अलि गाह्रो नै हुन्छ। Tight हुन्छ। Pocket money थोरै हुन्छ। घर आउँदा चाहिँ रमाइलो हुन्छ अनि ।

सनिता: अनि उता जर्मनीमा चाहिँ कति को गाह्रो छ? नेपाली students हरू अथवा बाहिरबाट आएको विध्यार्थीहरुको लागि local काम पाउन कतिको गाह्रो छ?

¹ *Nipat* (निपात) are space filler words that appear frequently in Nepali. They tend to take on different meanings or no meaning at all based on the context and tone of voice when they are used. One can often guess people's origin and cultural heritage based on the *Nipat* (निपात) they use.

अभी: Local काम पाउन त एकदमै गाह्रो छ Europeभरी नै। Europeभरीमा पाउन सजिलो भनेको U.K. हो तर, त्यहाँ पनि गाह्रो हुँदैछ। Europeमा त अब भाषा चाहिने भएकोले काम पाउन गाह्रो छ। तर universityहरूमा चाहिँ काम दिइरहेको हुन्छ universityहरूले। त्यो भएर अलि सजिलो छ। तैपनि अब competition धेरै हुन्छ। जनसंख्या बढ्दैछ त्यहाँ मान्छेहरूको। Studentहरू टुन्ने जाँदै छ। अनि अब बिस्तारै अब English medium मा Masters Programहरू जर्मनीमा धेरै Englishमा नै छन्। तर अब Bachelor's levelमा चाहिँ भाषा सिक्ने भनेरै जान्छन कति नेपालीहरू।

सनिता: तपाइले अङ्ग्रेजी मै पढनुभयो कि?

अभी: मैले English मै पढेको हो। Private institution भएर, private university भएर मैले English मै सबै पढेको हो।

सनिता: अनि तपाइले त्यहाँ काम गर्नुहुन्छ कि?

अभी: अ..अलिअलि काम पाएँ, त्यस्तो धेरै काम पाइन मैले।

सनिता: अनि scholarship पाएर जानुभएको कि?

अभी: हजुर scholarshipमै गएको हो।

सनिता: अनि कस्तो छ trend? नेपाली studentहरूले कतिको Scholarship पाउँछन्? कि आफै तीरेर जाने नै बढी छ?

अभी: अ..धेरै जस्तो त scholarship मै जान्छ। मेरो universityमा Scholarship मै जानु हुन्थ्यो। अनि त्यही हो नेपालीहरूलाई मनपराउँछ universityले। अनि Scholarship दिइराखेको हुन्छ, accept गरीराखेको हुन्छ। Acceptance rate राम्रो छ नेपालीहरूलाई।

सनिता: कुन university हो यो?

अभी: Jacobs university.

सनिता: अनि नेपालहरूले चाहिँ अमेरिकामा चाहिँ धेरै जस्तो Asian students हरूले चाहिँ Math, Science, Technical field हरू तिरै लागेको बढी हुन्छ। कोहि-कोहिले Econ गर्छ तर धेरै जस्तो मान्छेले Scienceनै छान्छ। जर्मनीमा चाहिँ कस्तो छ trend?

अभी: धेरै जस्तो साथीहरू मेरो साथीहरू पनि Electrical Engineering नै गरिराखेको थियो। तरपनि बिस्तारै trend चाहिँ, यो त्यहाँ एउटा subject छ, International Social Sciences भनेर। त्यसमा Economics, Sociology यताउता mixहरू पथर्यो। अनि अहिले एउटा नयाँ major खोलेको छ Logistics भन्ने, अनि त्यसमा अहिले बडी focus हुँदैछ।

सनिता: अनि जर्मनीको education नेपालको लागि कतिको सुहाउँदो छ त?

अभी: जर्मनी education ले सिकाउँछ कि time मा कसरी काम गर्ने, अब उनीहरूको system मा कसरी गर्ने, organize कसरी गर्ने, management कसरी गर्ने, राम्रो सिकाउँछ। अब त्यही कुरा apply गर्न सक्यो भने, आफ्नै तरिकाले नेपाललाई एकदम फाइदा हुन्छ।

सनिता: अनि तपाइले अब जर्मनीबाहेक अरु कुनै देश जान खोजनुभएको थियो कि खाली जर्मनी मात्रै?

अभी: सुरुमा त मैले अब त्यही सबैजना US नै जान्छ भनेर USमै तन्नै स्कूलहरू apply गरेको थिएँ। तर अब त्यही US मा राम्रो scholarship पाइन। त्यसको लागि मेरो साथीहरूले पनि जर्मनी apply गरेथ्यो। अनि मसँगै मेरो class कै सातजना जति थियो अनि हामी सँगै गयो।

सनिता: सातैजना Jacobsमा?

अभी: हजुर।

सनिता: अ..तपाइलाइ चाहिँ कस्तो लाग्छ, अब यति धेरै नेपाली विध्यार्थीहरू चाहिँ यहाँ पढन- अब high school सकाएर चाहिँ बाहिर जान्छन, कतिपय फर्किदैनन्। यसमा चाहिँ तपाइलाइ कस्तो लाग्छ?

अभी: देशको स्थिति हेरेर सबैजना भाग्न खोज्छन्। अब त्यही पनि अब राम्रो opportunity , अब better education को लागि जान्छन् भने ठीकै हो। पछि गएर केही गरी, नेपाललाई कसरी पनि सहयोग गर्न सक्छ भने, जहाँ पनि होस् नेपाली, त्यति एउटा राख्नुपर्यो नेपालीहरूले²।

² This is a poorly formed sentence structure.

सनिता: तपाइको आफ्नो circle, तपाइले देखेसम्ममा चाहिँ कतिको मान्छेहरू फर्किने विचारमा छन्?

अभी: अ..मेरो साथीहरू त्यही Bachelors सक्काएर कति त फर्केका छन्, कति त यही काम गरिरहेका छन्। कति जना चाहिँ त्यही US, त्यही युरोपमै बसिराखेका छन्। धेरै जसो त त्यही युरोपमै बसेका छन् त्यही जर्मनीमै पढेकोले। एक-दुइजना हरेक वर्ष US गइरहेका छन् Masters गर्नलाइ।

सनिता: तपाइ चाहिँ अब यहाँबाट बहिर पढन जाने विध्यार्थीहरूले थाहा पाउनुपर्ने कुराहरू भन्नुपर्दा के भन्नुहुन्छ? Like हुन्छ नि अब, before you go यति कुराहरू चाहिँ थाहा पाउ बाहिर जानु अघि। त्यसको लागि के भन्नुहुन्छ?

अभी: अ..पहिला त एउटा भाषा सिकिराख्नु जुन देशमा जानु हुन्छ। Cultural shock, त त्यो prepared हुनुपर्यो cultural shock लिनको लागि। अनि अब आफैँ अब नेपालमा बसिराखेको dependent हुन्छ, ग्रुपमा बस्न खोज्छन् नेपालीहरू देखेर। अनि त्यही अलिकति independent हुनुपर्यो, मान्छेहरूसँग interact गर्नुपर्यो। अलि सुरुमा गाह्रो हुन्छ, सबैलाइ गाह्रै हुन्छ। तर बिस्तारै अलिकति adapt हुन सिक्नुपर्यो।

English translation:

Here Abhi is talking about his experiences studying in Germany. In the dialogue here *chahi* (चाहिँ), *aba* (अब), *tyahi* (त्यही), *ta* (त), *ani* (अनि) are some examples of *Nipat*³.

Sanita: So what are the things you like about studying abroad?

Abhi: Things I like [about studying abroad]? You get to travel, see new countries. You can see how countries have achieved their advancements. Maybe we can repeat that in Nepal [someday], that is what I want.

Sanita: Do you wish to come back to Nepal or work abroad?

Abhi: For maybe one to two [or] three to four years I think I will be there. Then after I earn a lot of money I will come [back] to invest in Nepal.

³ *Nipat* (निपात) are space filler words that appear frequently in Nepali. They tend to take on different meanings or no meaning at all based on the context and tone of voice when they are used. One can often guess people's origin and cultural heritage based on the *Nipat* (निपात) they use.

Sanita: That would mean you would probably be there for ten to twenty years.

Abhi: Um... Maybe not ten to twenty years. We will see what happens.

Sanita: Then what are the things you don't like?

Abhi: About living abroad? It's expensive, very expensive. Spending money here and there... if you have some income, it's easy to cover your expenses. But it's hard in student life. The [budget] is tight; you don't get a lot of pocket money. But it's fun when you come home.

Sanita: So how hard are things out there in Germany? How difficult is it for Nepali students or other students from outside to get a local job?

Abhi: Local job is very hard to get all over Europe. Within all of Europe, it's easiest to get [a local job] in U.K., but that is also becoming harder. It's hard to get jobs in Europe because you need the language. But universities also offer some jobs. This makes things a little easier. But there is a lot of competition. The population is increasing in there and many students are going [to Germany] these days. Also, more programs in English are being offered. Most Master's Programs in Germany are in English. But at the Bachelor's level, some Nepali students go [to Europe] to learn the language.

Sanita: Did you study in English?

Abhi: Yes, I studied in English. [I was at] a private institution, private university, so I did everything in English.

Sanita: And do you work there?

Abhi: I got some work, but not a lot.

Sanita: So did you go after receiving a scholarship?

Abhi: Yes, I went on a scholarship.

Sanita: What is the trend like in terms of Nepali students getting scholarships? Do more students pay for themselves?

Abhi: Um... most students go on a scholarship. At my university, [everyone] is on scholarship. The university loves Nepali [students]. So they keep giving scholarships and accepting applicants. The Nepali students' acceptance rate is good.

Sanita: Which university is this?

Abhi: Jacobs University.

Sanita: In America, Nepali students and most Asian students take Math, Science [or some] technical field. Some take Economics but still most people go into the sciences. What is the trend like in Germany?

Abhi: Most of my friends are also taking Electrical Engineering. But slowly the trend is moving away [from these subjects]. There is a subject called International Social Sciences that includes Economics, Sociology, and a mix of subjects. Also there is a new major called Logistics. More [students] have been focusing on these subjects lately.

Sanita: How well suited is German education for Nepal?

Abhi: German education teaches how to get work done on time, how to abide by the system, organize and manage tasks. They teach this very well. So if these things could be applied here, it will be very beneficial to Nepal.

Sanita: Did you try going to countries other than Germany or only Germany?

Abhi: Initially I applied to a lot of schools in the U.S. as I assumed everyone would [go] to the U.S. But I did not get a good scholarship in the U.S. [In hopes of better] scholarships, my friends and I had applied to Germany. So, about seven people from my class were accepted and we went together.

Sanita: All seven of you [were accepted to] Jacobs?

Abhi: Yes.

Sanita: Aa... So how do you feel about so many Nepali students go abroad after finishing high school, and many don't return? What do you think about that?

Abhi: Everybody tries to run away because of the country's situation. But if they are going for a better opportunity, a better education, then it's okay. As long as people keep in mind to help Nepal in any way they can in the future, then it does not matter where the Nepali is⁴.

Sanita: In your own circle, or as often as you have seen, how many people usually have the mindset to return?

Abhi: Aa, some of my friends have returned after completing their Bachelors, some are working here [in Nepal]. Many have gone to the U.S. or stayed in Europe. Most stay in Europe since they all studied in Germany, but one or two people go to the U.S. every year to do their Master's.

⁴ In Nepali, this is a poorly formed sentence structure.

Sanita: What would you say are the things that students going abroad from here should know beforehand? Something like, things you should know before you go. What would you say for that?

Abhi: Aa... first learn the language of the country you are going to. Be prepared for cultural shock, to accept cultural shock. While in Nepal, you tend to be dependent, so [while abroad] Nepalis tend to stay in groups if they see other Nepalis. So try to be a little independent [and] interact with people. It will be hard at the start, it's hard for everyone. But you must learn to adapt slowly.

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