



Location: Inquilab Settlement Camp, Mekaligunj

Interviwer: Dr Parthasarathi Bhaumik

Date: 01.03.2017

Mukul: Mukul Barman.

Int: You?

Ananda: Ananda Ray.

Int: You all go to school?

Both: Yes, we go.

Int: In which standard?

Mukul: Class 5.

Int: And you?

Ananda: Both of us in class 5

Int: What is the name of your school?

Mukul: Dutamari Ucchymadhyamik Vidyalaya.

Int: Say that again.

Mukul: Dutamari Ucchymadhyamik Vidyalaya.

Int: While you all were in Chit, which school have you all been to?

Mukul: Najir Gomani Sarkari Prathamik Vidyalaya.

Int: Alright. Do you like this place after coming or you all were comfortable there?

Mukul: Both are good.

Int: Where do you feel more comfortable?

Ananda: Here.

Int: Why this side? Oh dear, why do you like this side more?

Ananda: Here, in school, we get to eat rice. On that side, they never gave us rice, only biscuits.

Int: Is it? They give you rice here? Don't they give anything else with rice?

Mukul: Vegetables, eggs, all those.

Int: And those friends on that side?

Ananda: No friend there.

Int: You never had friend in school there?

Mukul....(unclear).They creates chaos there.

Int: Only chaos? What happened after that chaos?

Mukul: Everything there was *ek dhala*.

Int: What's the best part of here that you like the most?

Mukul: I don't know.

Int: The school here gives you rice and there they used to give biscuits. What else that you like here?

Mukul: I like to play here.

Int: But there you used to play more, right?

Mukul: We used to play, but then, the river banks eroded. So..

Ananda: The name of my school was Eklang Julang Sarkari Prathamik Vidyalaya.

Int: What?

Ananda : Eklang Julang Sarkari Prathamik Vidyalaya.

Int: Was it there when you all were in Chit?

Ananda: Yes.

Int: What are the new things that you can see and get here, that weren't there?

Ananda: The big cat. *Jalpesh*.

Int: What? *Jalpesh*?

Ananda: Coochbihar, Lakes.

Int: Have you seen these places?

Ananda: Yes.

Int:What else have you seen? These are the new places, but are the new things? All same here right?

Ananda: Pump. Car.

Int: The way of teaching and learning was good there, or here?

Mukul: Teaching and studying was better there. Here, those teachers come to the class and walk away.

Int:They don't take classes? And on that side the teaching was better?

Mukul: Yes.

Int: What were the books that you used to study when you were on that side?

Mukul: Bengali, English, Mathematics, Environmental Education, Science, Hindu Religion.

Int: What do you study here?

Mukul: Bengali, English, Mathematics, Educational Education, Science.

Int: What happened to that 'Hindu Religion'?

Ananda: That's no more.

Int: So that's better for you? At least one subject was reduced. You don't have to study much. Do you?

Mukul: Yes.

Int: But teaching was better there?

Mukul: Yes.

Int: But they offer rice here.

Ananda: It's not just rice, but it would have been better if they stopped the chaos there. They burnt the school once.... (unclear)

Int: What was burnt?

Ananda: The office room was burnt.

Int: Who had set the fire?

Ananda: People.

Int: Who were these people?

Ananda: That group from centres. They went to the centre and so burnt it.

Int: They burnt your school?

Mukul: They set the fire with carbide or petrol bomb. The police came.

Int: Oh! All the books were burnt?

Ananda: Yes.

Int: And you had some or the other friends there, right? You all used to play together?

Mukul: Yes.

Int: But you no more have them.

Mukul: They are no more but here we got few friends.

Int: New friends? Tell me how many friends do you have?

Mukul: 10-12.

Int: What's their name?

Mukul: Ramen, Vikram, Akash, Madhu, Utpal.

Int: Don't you have any Muslim friend?

Mukul: Yes. Rahul.

Int: Who?

Mukul: We two went to see a match.

Int: Who are the Muslim friends?

Mukul: Arun, Imtias, Sakil, Tabse. I don't know the name of others.

Int: Why did you all left that country behind and came here? Did your parents tell you why you all were brought here?

Ananda: No. The river bank was eroding, so the house could fall off as well because the house was next to the river. So, for that. (5:26)