

Transcript of Interview with (interviewee's name)

Interview conducted by (Kaden Mills) at (Tacoma Washington), on (May 24, 2023)

Notes

Kaden:	I am Kaden Mills and I'm doing an interview for Mr. calls ethnic studies class and I'm here with	
Payal:	Payal priyetma prasad -Lindsey	
Kaden:	OK my first question is where were you born?	
Payal:	I was born in Fiji island.	
Kaden:	OK, how was it like growing up there?	
Payal:	I grew up in a village of a small town um it was actually really nice everyone pretty much got along played outside everyone was family we're pretty poor so you know the homes we lived in it was it wasn't what it is in America but everyone was always happy everyone's smiled I don't think I've ever seen anyone upset and I think it was one of the most precious thing about being from there and just living in a village and yeah	
Kaden:	that's a that sounds really nice to grow up like that is it, uh, does it, do you miss it like living here now cause is there not really, there's not really that many people like that here so.	
Payal:	I do miss being back home, but I also am very happy to be here, cause at the same time as happy and you know it was still and the, the, the, opportunities there wouldn't be the same as we have in America, I am very grateful though that I was able to grow up there and experience the, the, the, farm life, and you know the village life. And, and, and, it's really nice because I'm able to share those things with my children, and, and, I really appreciate that so but yeah.	
Kaden:	so how long have you lived in this area in Tacoma?	
Payal:	so I've been in United States for 23 years now I was 13 when I moved here I lived in Seattle and then I was there for a few years and then I've been in Tacoma on and off and then now it's been umm about 10 plus years I would say	
Kaden:	OK	
Payal:	so Seattle and Tacoma is pretty much where I've yeah	
Kaden:	so like well what like brought you over here originally like to like the United states	
Payal:	so I, we were sponsored by my uncle and aunties who lived in the states um they it took about 13 years with the paperwork and to wait to come here the reason why my parents chose to move to the states United States is for better opportunity for the future for them and for ourselves I have	

Payal:	three other sisters so it was pretty much just for better opportunity better education better work oh money	
Kaden:	umm what what was it like raising children like here	
Payal:	um raising children has been pretty good I mean I think that the children here are very spoiled they don't I mean in general I would say my children are very humble because you know we do go over the cultural background of mine of you know just having a pair of shoes to you know certain clothing and just raising kids here I think it's been actually really good cause I've taught them the same values and morals and things that I've carried on from when I was back home until here you know so I think yeah I think it's been great actually it's just how you really raise your children versus it doesn't matter where you're from really I feel like it's just how you kind of raise them in the environment and that you create for them	
Kaden:	so like how do you like identify like ethnically like what do you identify as	
Payal:	some I would say I'm East Indian and then they'll say I'm a Pacific Islander hmm and Hindu yeah	
Kaden:	and how's that like how is like the experience of identifying like that here like have you ever had to deal with like any mean comments or like had to teach people to understand your guys like traditions because I know that you guys like I've seen like lanai(her daughter) and her Indian dress wear and stuff like that so	
Payal:	yeah so I would say when I moved here English was my second language we did practice you know did some English back home but I would I was in ESL classes in English second language 9th grade in high school so it was really hard cause everyone would make fun of you because you know you're you don't know English or you have an accent you know my accent was very thick so I didn't like speaking very much just because I didn't want to be teased by children um I think that as I grew older I became more confident in myself from where I'm from and appreciated my culture a lot more than I ever just valued it as far as people understanding I think Hindu culture in Indian is it's all world worldwide so I feel like everyone kind of understood it but if you're kind of explaining it to them it's been you know it's just mainly just coming here is not easy when you know you you're from a foreign country lived in a village and then all of a sudden you come to America and you know now you're in high school with American children so	
Kaden:	what was like what was like the school life like what was the what was the difference that you notice like right away when you came here did you go to school and Fiji	
Payal:	yeah so, I went all the way till 9th grade in Fiji	
Kaden:	OK	
Payal:	school in Fiji um you know you you wear uniform you have to be really proper you have to have your hair braided a certain way if your hair was	

Payal:	<p>long everything was pretty proper you know you you got spanked if you talk back or just if he did anything bad what I realized when they came here is this so much freedom that the children had that could talk however walk however do whatever there could be they could be who they wanted to be even if it was being good or bad and just the freedom here was different I mean of course there are teachers to discipline and things like that but it was nothing compared to back home because everything was so structured from the time you start school all the way and also the the what they teach you the the this the learning was totally different because of some of the things that teach you back home they started teaching you in like 5th grade or 9th grade and you don't learn a lot of the things till you're in like 12th grade and so yeah I think that was</p>	
Kaden:	<p>what role does like culture play in your life</p>	
Payal:	<p>culture plays a huge role especially now that I'm a bit older you know and I have children I have definitely you know my culture you know you don't eat beef and pork and that's just a part of praying I um I think it's more of a more important now than ever is just because I have so many children and I would again that comes from the confidence you know being confident in your culture and who you are and so it's became a huge part of my life and I'm trying to incorporate that in my children's life want them to know their culture I want them to know all cultures but mainly you know their culture so they are understanding to the future when they have children and and I still raise my children like I would like back home style you know I just cause we're here we are still more back home style than been americanized it's what I would say and yeah</p>	
Kaden:	<p>um what are like some things that you have like intentionally passed on to your children and is there also something that you don't really like like want to pass on to your children or you know stuff like that</p>	
Payal:	<p>um intentionally I guess again it comes from celebrating the holidays right not cooking the beef and pork in your home because it's a part of your culture going your prayers teaching them the values and the morals and um their respect what they've taught you back home and um and also some of the cultural things that I wouldn't you know I want my children to be who they are a lot of the cultural thing can be hard on a teenager or a young child because um it was not a whole lot of freedom kind of growing back home so yeah</p>	
Kaden:	<p>umm what is like the relationship that you have with your ancestral language like do you do you still speak it like to your children or on the phone?</p>	
Payal:	<p>so I speak full Hindi still I I will I didn't get a chance to teach my children full Hindi however they do understand they understand some parts more parts of it than other Hindi but they don't they don't know how to speak most of it and it's only cause I think you know being married into different culture and their father not knowing Hindi you know that that was a bit hard on me and also when I came here and I married on and I became more that's it "Americanized" but I did make sure that you know there are some some important words you know they know and but I try my best to</p>	

Payal:	have them involved with the family with the prayers the celebration and as much as I can with you know my my sisters their cousins and their grandma and grandpa and even just any of my aunties and and I tried to do the same thing at home so however even though my husband is not Indian and he does follow all my cultural beliefs and he's always encouraged me to be free with that and so I think that has helped me you know just be myself I just wish that I was able to at a young age teach them the language but it's never too late so	
Kaden:	well, I think that's all I have for you today oh thank you for that thank you for letting me interview you.	
Payal:	you're welcome	