

Hari and Krishna Sapkota

Krishna

Namaste, I'm Krishna Maya Sapkota Khatioda. I was born in Bhutan in 1980. In Bhutan I studied up to year level two.

At school lots of people coming to burn the Nepalese books and I have no idea like what's going on. So, lots of people gathering and collect the books, Nepalese books and they lit the fire on the books and people is scared and lots of children run away and went home. Another day parents talk each other about the, they force Nepalese people to leave the country.

So parents they decided to leave the country and we have lots of animals in the house we just leave the animals and we have lots of paddy field things in our house we just left that one as well and some of the children's like missing from their house like people's taking the childrens and then scare the parents. Even I was a little girl I still remember like that's little bit trauma things. When I came to Nepal, they talk about like criminal things happening in Bhutan.

I studied there in Nepal and learned a little bit more about the Bhutans like that's not good for the peoples. In Bhutan our parents they didn't have any phone like we do have a radio like if we listen to like any news we can listen from the radio. There is no any like we are writing the letters to they used to write in a letter and then send it to them and it is very far away like take the letters to that person or a family.

Like I like to talk about my schools like we have to like we have to walk far away to go to school nearly two hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon to and from so it's hard to carry the smaller bag you know little bag yeah it's still hard like life in the other countries like little bit comfy as compared to our country (Bhutan) because they catch the bus they catch the bicycle or anything but our in our case like we live in the farm and we do not have enough transportation things you know like you know like state or village that's a hard life in Bhutan as well.

About my like siblings I do have two sister and two brothers I'm the middle girl all together five children and oldest sister oldest brothers youngest brother youngest sister so I'm the middle one. I'm the only one who came in Australia but all other brother and sister they went to USA.

They are still like happy there so they have good opportunity there and I'm happy here I do have good opportunity here lots of things changes in my life.

Hari

Namaste my name is Hari Prasad Sapkota I was born in 1968 in a remote place of Bhutan it's something like called village very remote village and my parents were farmer so I grew up very poor family background so I started my schooling when I was 11 years old so I studied up to year six in school and then I left the school and I just came to I just went into religious study like in Sanskrit school so I studied three years there in Sanskrit school after that we have got some problem with the country so it's like as Krishna said before there is a ethnic cleansing one people one nation policy imposed by the Bhutanese government and then they force us to leave the country so before that I was just studying only because I didn't know what is going on in Bhutan so I was very small so I used to I used to look at my parents as well as the cattle like goat sheeps and cow every like farmer so farmer people they used to do

all the things so I also used to do the same same thing so I used to work very hard in the morning to look after the all the cows goats and sheep and then I just got a chance to go to school. So like it is a walking distance like one and a half hour from my home so in the morning and we spend all days in the schools after that our schools over at five so all the way again I used to work one and a half hour to home. So that was very hard life at that time so because we didn't we didn't have any good food and very good medication so it was very hard. So when we left the country I was 19 years old because I know everything what is going on at that time what is going on in Bhutan but then also being like in ocean so we just left the country and we the people Bhutanese government they asked us to snap the photo laughing photo like be happy always and so by showing the identity card and everything but the policy was like every citizens every Bhutanese they got citizenship but unfortunately we didn't get because of the name difference so I don't know what is that why they are just dividing that one so my dad my father he has got the citizenship my mom she has got citizenship but we didn't get any citizenship and they just forced us to leave the country and we hired the truck like a very big truck like lorry and it was maybe one and like two days journey like one day we left country and we just crossed the border and then India border like Bhutan border and one whole day we traveled all the way India and then they just put us in the like in Nepal the border eastern part of Nepal so we are we were at that time six people in our family I have got two sister elder sister one is in USA one is in here we are just living nearby so we came like we we came different times like our sister they they've been to USA later on like two or six four two to six month gap so they've been to USA and my another sister she came three years back here. So when we came to Nepal we were just divided to seven different camps refugee camp so and we were in one of the camps so it there were like there are there were people more than 40,000 in our camp where I used to be and there also we didn't get any proper medication proper food or clean water like drinking water so slowly the UNHCR people they just look after started look after us so they provided basic medication and the Caritas Nepal they they just provided us the education and most of the people they have got very good education like in my age people they good they got very good education from the Caritas Nepal the Jesuit refugee I don't know it is called like something that like that they used to now provide the education facilities and everything and they train the teacher and we got very good education but only basic medication and very basic food like it was very hard like you know food is very little like you know we get very little in fortnight like maybe four or five kgs rice and some veggies so we we have to we have to eat like for 15 days we have to use that one for 15 days so it is very hard for us and the the happiest thing is the thing was that the we we got the very good education and there those who wanted to like if do not wanted any people they it's not forced so I did some some schooling there and I just stopped stop schooling and I just went to the teaching teaching occupation and I work nine years in general teaching teachers I work as a teacher and then they upgraded me to the principal one of the school principal for nine years I worked for nine years there so and then we we got the opportunity to fill out the forms that for the third country repatriation so there was there was two three options one is return to back return back to Bhutan another is assimilation in Nepal and another third one is third country resettlement so our family decided to sign the paper for the third country resettlement and I was I was suffering from the heart disease again so it was like in Bhutan since I was 11 years old I noticed that I I am a little bit sick but people from Bhutan the doctor they didn't recognize anything they didn't they didn't designate like tell me that told me that that it's a heart disease they did not diagnose so when I came to Nepal I just went to the hospital they are the doctor just beside and diagnosed that I am suffering from heart disease so I started taking medication and I started putting the injection it is very very painful injection they put from here like I used to put that injection for every 21 days I put that injection for 10 years and then I stopped

because two people they just died with the injection because we used to put the injection by lie down so the two people they didn't get up from when they sleep like when they put the injection so I scared and I just told the doctor that I'm not going to use this injection again so could you prescribe some good medication I just request the doctor and gave me the tablet medication.

Krishna

Like I was little girl I'm not 100% sure but I knew that at schools they burn the book Nepalese book and then they forced to like put their dress like national dress Bhutan's national dress is Baku and Kira and different than Nepalese dress and Nepalese dress is like sari blouse like this this type of dress so they forced like a one one nation one policy that sort of things they put in the country and then every all the Nepalese peoples decided to like if the government forcing them to take the take our dress off so our peoples took all the Nepalese dress and then like unwillingly taking like putting their clothes on so even they forced us to wear the Baku and Kira at schools supermarket anywhere we go to office yeah anywhere so we are not too bad like we are not that much happy but then also we are happy like we have to do it we we have to put it on so we are doing that even they force us so but in 1992 they bring different things like they do not keep Nepalese people in the country so they force us to leave the country and only like Bhutan's there are two different nationalities and Nepalese and the Dukpas and only Dukpas live in Bhutan and all Nepalese forced to leave the country and they came to Nepal and we do not have any practices to wearing our cultural dress we do not have any practices to read our Nepalese book so we are very like like heart burning things to leave everything's ours nationality things so we came back Nepal and we are so lucky to do our day-to-day religious things and wearing our cultural dress reading books even like we live refugee camps so we have lots of Nepalese peoples and we have we do have like very close hut like our house very close each other and we are happy in there so all good though I was little girls I still remember like my parents like they hired a small truck and they put whatever like things they need for the day and like on the journey they put it in the truck and I was only around nine ten years old and I follow parents and all the siblings and stay in the trucks and then went to Nepal in the refugee camp there was a like few houses only like people just leaving the country and then few peoples like few around hundred houses in there the houses are built out of bamboos and plastic roof and luckily we found one of our neighbors there and then he supported us to build our small house and we stay in there and one night there is heavy rain and all the plastic like our roof like they blew away and lots of rains inside the house in our bed and it's so hard and we hold the plastic either side of the corner of the house like house and mom's holding one side dad holding other side and other siblings holding like different parts of the like roof and like we spend whole day like holding the plastics it's very very remembering things that I will never forget that life so it's so hard yeah after that like we went to another place they transferred because it's very hard in the sand here like near the river bank we have the house that one and it's very difficult to live there so lots of people decided to move other place and we went to other place and we build there another house like out of bamboo and the thatched roof like which is little bit stronger than the plastic one so later on like even the immigration people's helping us to support by giving lots of strongest things to hold on the roof so that's it yeah.

Hari

So when we arrived Nepal refugee camp as I told before that the truck we just crossed the Indian border and get got in inside the Nepal and they through there and they returned so we searched for the shelter and some people they guide us like some good people they just guide

us and they took to the place where the refugee kept so we also followed them and we just got the place where the refugee kept and there was no anything like no any roof or like a fence only the open ground they under the tree they just left us there and they provided some of the some bamboo to build the hut so we just try to build and they provided the small piece of plastic like polythene so it's not that much fit for the whole hut but it was it fit for fitted for half half of the roof so we collected some bamboo bamboo strips like when we make the wall the fence like wall and then we put some bamboos for the pillar and we just make a small hut so as Krishna told before that one day the storm like there was very big storm and they just and raining very heavy raining rain and storm so the plastic roof it blew away so we hold like in each and every person in each corner of the roof and we hold the plastic so everything the food items and the dress whatever we have we had all it's damaged by the rainwater on the floating inside so that that night it was that night it was gone like that so in the morning we go for searching the place and our clothes everywhere in the jungle in the forest so we collected like yeah one by one so that was the very hard experience that we I had there in the camp and we stayed there in that camp in nearly two three months and then they shipped us to another big camp so there they provided again the bamboo and some thatch has like it is something like a bush so we make the roof for the hut and we again make the made the bamboo strips wall and we build another hut there so we stay there but it was also not good because the hut were made like each and every like you know there is no any gap so only small small area where we the people walk and then another house another house like made out of bamboo and thatch so one day the fire caught and the camp maybe half of the camp it's burned so it was very hard there so again we have got many problem with the many difficulties with the in the camp like sometimes fire sometimes the rain raining rainwater got inside the house and sometimes taken like people they just come to steal some something like because we didn't have anything but then also they entered the camp and they started stealing so these these were the very like hard things that we experienced in our camp life

So like I was teaching in the school one of the schools because there the Krishna's camp is nearby so I was a principal at that time so I was more than like enough mature for the marriage because I just married got married when I was 32 years old so I was looking for the girls to marry so I yeah I found her so she was doing she was doing her class year 10 yeah so just I just went to went to her house with my brother like my uncle's sons my brother's cousin and we stay there whole night because our tradition is that if we want if the boy wants to get married the girl the boys should go to the girl's house and stay for a whole night to speak and to manipulate them so yeah I tried to manipulate my parents but they denied that at the end and we just in the next morning we just came returned home and again I used to talk like with her like there there was no any chance to to use the phone there was no any phone nothing even she said that we have to write it letter or something like that but fortunately one luckily one teacher she was working in my school she was the neighbor of Krishna so I just told her that so can you can you tell Krishna that to meet me when the school over so she came to meet me and we talked like regarding our marriage and once again we I went to her house and I talked with their parents her parents and they agreed to it so ready for the marriage fine so we and we got married on 2001.

Krishna

Yeah 2001 we got married in 2001 and I was studying in year 10 and then he came to ask me for the marriage and to talk with the parents and then parents told me like we were not going to give him now like you now so because there's there is one thing my sisters got married when she was younger like at the age of 16 and she facing lots of difficulties so parents like denied to give me to him so whenever you are ready you can get married so but you were 22

at that time yeah I was 22 but then also like they they try to explain me try to finish your study and then and do like do marriage things so hang on like I was like wondering do I have to do marriage now or later on so I don't know like maybe he fully he encouraged me his encouragement makes me feel to get married so I got married.

Hari

They, her parents they told that after married so I just give the chance to do our finishing her education higher education so I committed that when I made it I can do like I can do for my level best so they especially they focus that she should do the do the class 12 that is a class 12 exam so I just committed that I I will have what to do class yeah.

One thing is that there is a you know the class system like you know we are middle class so I have to get the middle class girl so that is the one reason and another is that the education because I was mature enough that I I have to choose the right girl so and then education she is doing she was doing class 10 uh examination so I also had got only class 12 qualification so there was like it is a nothing like difference so I chose her and I before that I haven't seen because though we were born in same place in same village in same country same place in Bhutan but I sure when when I when I started like searching the girl maybe two months before I saw her so there is any no love no love story nothing like that so I saw her just the arranged marriage because they my my parents and her parents they know each other they knew each other so I chose that it's very good time to go and make a proposal for the marriage yeah that's a story about us.

Krishna

I got married in 2001 and then we have a baby girl she born in 2002 and I have no chance to go outside the camp to work so I have to look after my girl and then do the housework so yeah and we do have like mother-in-law and she supported us to look after children and plus I study like year 11 and 12 even when she born and I went to India to complete my year 12 and then came back and it's like I did like maternal child health care course from from the camp I did six months course and then I completed that one and then another also I did like volunteer things in the camp to distribute the plants to do the home garden things lots of things yeah even having girls yeah I did lots of things and in 2006 another boy born and in 2008 younger one born and I have three children looking after them and in 2009 I left the country Nepal and came to Australia.

In the camp there is a small hospital like a they they call medical center the basic health unit, BHU basic health center like not the expensive medicine in there if there is a paracetamol and some cotrim (antibiotics) lots of like basic medicine in there and if we are very sick with the illness then we have to leave the like camp and then go to outside the camp for the treatment so it's hard like when they born it's very hard because of the dust and lots of muddy dust and the patch of the dust and children's getting easily sick so it's hard and they got asthma things because of the dust and it's harder we didn't get treatment asthma treatment in the camp because of the basic treatment only they are doing in there so we have to go outside the camp it's hard to go it's hard to get the transportation as well to get the right treatment in the right time so lots of difficulties in this even yeah we live in refugee camp we do not have proper nutrition food and vegetables anything like a proper clothes to wear in the winter in the summers so if we need a proper clothes or proper food to eat so we have to work hard and only Hari is working in the schools it's getting only I think 500 rupees in a month it was only the incentive like

Hari

there's no salary per month yeah only they provided they paid only little bit like Nepali rupees 500 per month means like maybe five dollars not not five dollars four dollars something in here per month so it was very hard.

Krishna

Very hard and we have like not proper food to eat here they provided us like 4.3 kgs rice and pumpkin like they weighed the pumpkin and then give us each portion and sometimes they gave us banana raw banana for the vegetables and little bit chillies little bit onion little bit potato salt oil like basic for the survival only so it's very hard hard to live in the camp as well in Bhutan so lots of hours like half of our life is spent you know like not in Bhutan in Nepal even in Bhutan like we have to work hard in the field, Mom and Dads that's like having us five children it's so hard to earn money so it's very very hard.

Hari

I was studying in year seven in the schooling in the camp so my brother my cousin he he was teaching at that time and there was a like there was a vacancy in the teacher like for the teachers and he told me because I had got the Sanskrit education like a Sanskrit degree so not degree but I had got some Sanskrit qualification so I did year 10 in Sanskrit so there there were there were a place like a vacancy for the Sanskrit teacher Nepali teacher of four vacancies and he told me that let's go and give the interview he just asked me to do and we just when I just been with him and I gave I did the interview so although we like a the written one like when we just lie on the ground in the grass area and we just write in the paper there is no verbal things like so written things and so when we finish the our interview written interview they took the paper and after 22 days they just released the result and I got third position like four four place four vacancy I got third third position there and just I was appointed as a general teacher again because I had got a little bit English like this not like this little bit so less than this one and they just told me to do the general teacher and I did a primary student I primary teachers like we call pre-primary we call PP that is in short form so they provided me to provide me to handle the class for pre-primary to year two and I did for three months there for the as a general teacher and again after three months they just upgraded me to the year four up to year four and then at that time 40 000 students were there so so and in 19 that was the story from 1992 and when 93 began they decided to centralize centralize the school like a pre-primary to year two year three like that and so they divided their schools in a seven different sector and I was sent to one of the sector as a general teacher again and I taught there like for nine years as a general teacher and during those period I faced many problem with the with the teaching with the children like in one class there were 40 students so each and every like they didn't get any proper food proper dressing so it was very hard sometimes they became ill sick and then they should leave the class and sometimes like the school was not good as we told that the same structure like thatched roof and bamboo streets of wood so it is not good so during rainy season we have to get the school off so if it is very like windy so strong yeah so we get the school off because that school school were built under the tree like very very big tree so sometimes the tree fell down in the roof of that school so and so having these difficulties I just faced this difficulty up to nine years I work as a general teacher and then after that again they upgraded me to the sector in charge that is a principal some kind of principal and 12 people 12 teachers were just under my my leadership so I work also there like maybe nine years so during that time I got her (Krishna) so when I was a principal at that time and they the teachers they are very cooperative they work very hard to make our people or children successful and provided very good education and the good thing good thing is that the education was a little bit good and

they trained the teacher and then those who finish their finishes their year to year team they provide a higher education they provide scholarship they provided scholarship and when they finish this their higher education they should return the camp and they should do the volunteer work they should teach the coming generation so that was the story so and when when the teacher they got their very good degree like a bachelor degree or master degree and they paid a little bit more like 1300 Nepali rupees and those who were under year 12 they got 700.

Krishna

In 2009 we we came to Australia and in Australia few few families came before us so they are so excited to see us one of our brother-in-law came first and then he's eager to see us and then he went to the airport and then he got us and then in we came with him and then everything's ready for us to stay in a house and they they did the what we call like loan.

Hari

the house is already house rented for one month.

Krishna

yeah they already rented everything's getting ready for us like we do have a fridge we do have our kitchens the things like we do have a each bed in each room so we are so excited to see after having lots of difficulties in the camp very first day in Australia house I was so excited I like having a long journey like in a plane it's we are very very tired and we're excited about the things and everything and then we fell asleep but we are a little bit too excited as well to see a proper bed as as compared like a in the camp there is a bamboo bed but in here there is a proper bed like a wooden bed so and then proper clothes for the beddings everything so we are so excited to see the new things in our life we got off from the plane in the airport in Albury airport and then lots of people...

Hari

we got up in the children Sydney and then they brought here in Singapore Singapore to Sydney and then Albury...

Krishna

Yeah I was having a three children so hard for me to remember everything's like they are crying in the plane and it's hard to catch everything so we went to we came from Nepal to Singapore Singapore to Sydney and Sydney to Albury and we have three places to yeah get off from the plane and then look around we are super excited to see the lights and everything yeah when we got off from the plane in Albury airport everyone's like I came there to receive us so lots of like volunteers caseworker and all the others Nepalese people came there to see us so we are super excited and then they help us to yeah help the children to get in the car and then we came in the car like first time in the car like like in a proper like car so we have been in the car in Nepal as well but yeah it's very smooth the smooth road and everything's excited here and because of the tiredness and everything like we came here like lots of food smells like different way like in the camp is like all the foods are similar but in here like maybe like Aussie's food little bit different than the Nepalese food probably that's why I have no idea but yeah and we came home with the caseworker volunteer and other peoples and then all people sitting yeah sat with us and then chat with us how was the journey and then we told them like our children's like they were very very upset like first time get in the plane so it's a bit hard for them yeah and we we too are also like a little bit younger to look after them so it's very hard yeah but excited like.

Hari

If the if the people they know the sense they easily understood back in Nepal so we have the habit to use the same language we don't we don't get any proper like you know we did some few language classes in Tafe then also it is not enough for us.

Krishna

We came in Australia and then we like we have a house like we have a proper food everything is in here but challenging thing is the language we have to speak in English it's hard to like we do have a limited English so it's so hard to go to the bank or to to the class like we have to struggle hard to get the good English so we went to like our volunteer took us to the TAFE to enroll us to learn the English language I study up to six months from TAFE and then I enrolled aged care course to do my to get lots of experience to do the work so I I'm doing like I did a aged care course as well as English course together having three children at home and then two children like staying like going to child care at every time same where I am and then Lakshmi went to school she start from kinder and in the morning it's very hard to get ready everyone's like we have to run in a time so it's very challenging to get the lunch boxes ready and ourself to get ready and taking the kids to the child care and going to the schools and it's so hard living two kids in the child is very very challenging they always cry cry unsettled because of the like new faces new environment yeah then very hard for them to settle and I I just leaving them in the child care I went in the class and then after after a couple of hours the child care soon start ringing rang us like could you please come and get get here to settle your child and then I I used to come back to the child care and settle them and then went back again it's a bit hard to study as I doing aged care course I just like child care staff they need another staff for like a multicultural support workers I just showing my like maternal child health course that I did back in refugee camp and they are so happy to give me a job so I enrolled there and then looking after all the refugee kids in child care so I supported them settling them and they all the staffs were happy like getting lots of information from me how to settle them and then I translate the language our language in English and then they settle them like easily so so good for them like supporting and after finish my age care course I I was like willing to do the child care course because I'm already working in the child care so I went to Wodonga TAFE to enroll in Cert Three and then I did Cert Three completed Cert Three in 2012 and then again I I really like to do the diploma so I did a diploma from Wodonga TAFE again and then after a long time working in the child care I got like permanent job in there I'm still in there since 2009 until 2024 so hopefully I'll be continuing my job there in the child in in my workplace there are lots of multicultural children's like having like English as a second language children's like Chinese Congolese and Bhutanese even like Nepalese and Indian lots of multicultural children in there and I'm so happy to support them like because they feels like we are very supportive and they happy to play with us so I'm really really excited to work in this yeah in our workplace like all the staffs were multicultural so supporting each other and yeah whenever we need like a help we talk each other support each other and then return in our language and translate in English and then yeah we use that language in our workplace so it's so good to help and support the children like in their day-to-day life they're very very lucky yeah getting multicultural staff in there so yeah so far all good so in future hopefully all right.

Hari

In my lifetime I have been I've never used the plane so I used the first time plane from Nepal to Australia so I was excited and also worried because my two boys they started crying from Nepal to here Australia like whole journey so it was hard so now when I arrived here my younger brother he just he came six months before and he just went to receive us with

some of the volunteer and case worker and they brought us here and the house was ready and they told that this is yours so wow I just because I have seen the fridge and the table dining table chair sofa everything and the bed getting ready yeah very excited what happened like in the night they placed the bed like such a way that the quilt that we put over the body it was just flat on the bed and like

Krishna

our system is like we fold it and leave it on on top of the bed but Aussie's system is to put all

Hari

oh yeah so I found that one and the pillow was ready there but there was no any quilt or something I thought that the the pattern one is a bed sheet so I slept all night on the top of the quilt yeah and there was no and tomorrow morning I just talked with my brother why is the quilt because I was shivering all all the night so he just came to him and saw the bed and he was laughing again this is the quilt so you just fold it and you just get inside that was a very good experience with that one because so yeah comparing with the with the refugee camp here in Australia it was very very different like yeah everything's new yeah and I got so I saw the the kitchen and all the utensils and the fooding items the place in a very different way so the hard thing was my experience is that the fooding that we eat the suitable food is still it not there in the store fooding store so we sorts of the food everywhere and we didn't get any any food like because of the because of the language and as well as the idea no idea where to get the food proper food and in like in some cases case worker and volunteer they help us to get the food and they just took to the centerlink to the TAFE so after that what happened like when I that's another experience that we just live here nearby near the Coles center and volunteer they took our family to the doctor doctor was just before like the other side of Big W and after finishing the appointment the volunteer she took my other family to her car and she told that you just walk it's very gentle walk it is there very one or two minutes you'll get home and okay I just agreed and I started walking from the hospital from the doctor so I was lost I was lost where to go if I see the same tree same house but there is no mind he forgot the way how to get three rounds I took the shopping center and volunteer she rang me and where are you I was just on inside the in front of the Coles shopping center but I was just behind the shopping center and my volunteer was just in front of the Coles shopping center and she told that you stay there where you are so I'll coming so I'm coming she's still like that and she just found me and she took her took me the house so that was the very good experience and so as Krishna says that we said that we have to do 510 hours language classes because every every English as a second language people are student they have to attend the TAFE classes otherwise they didn't get any food like you know from the centerlink yeah and then we just started when for case workers she took us now pulling volunteer they took us to the TAFE and we just enrolled there and we started our language classes and we took the two boys they were four and one like one is four years just three and three and one years and we put them in the child care we admitted them child care and we started the classes and the English teacher she was very good but the thing is that even I could not understand her language so I just because yes yes okay only I speak

Krishna

Aussies speak very fast they are used like used to even Australian slang

Hari

lots of how are you going right good day what is that so it was totally lost

Krishna

very fast is lost now we are used to so everything's good

Hari

and then what happened like the boys they started crying since when they get inside got inside the room and then we just turn wise from morning to 12 o'clock I used to stay in the child care with with them and she's going went for class and after 12 o'clock she used to come and I used to go to the class so the after that maybe we we did six or seven months no

Krishna

yeah you you did six months and then you did yeah and then and then

Hari

I improved my English there because they put me in the level three so because of my documents and everything so and the teacher she told that you are ready for the university if you want to so we are very eager to go to the university and we talk our social worker she was social like she did some social work degree maybe that was her last year I don't know but she she's very good and we told her that we are interested to go to the uni so I saw all my document whatever I had back in Nepal and Bhutan and with the with the social worker four boys we are in our community we just went to the Latrobe University and she our social worker she introduced us and they are just happy to admit us but we have to do for six years bridge course because we are very six months six months sorry because we are very mature so and then we admitted here in a bridge course and we finished in four months after that I am admitted in social work degree social work like it was it was like called master of social work and bachelor of human services that when we finished that four years course we were able to admit in the master so I did I did my my double degree up to third year and then unfortunately I had to do my open heart surgery so I just one I left I gave up social work and then I just continue continue my bachelor of human services and I finished because the teacher were very supportive and either I because they considered me as a slow learner and they just gave me the tutor and learner support teacher and they also provide some scholarship and still I have got the HECS I have to pay but I'm not working because yeah I'm a disability pensioner so and then I finished my bachelor of human bachelor of human services on 2015 so after that I'm not working because because of my problem and then I'm just working as a small community priest sometimes I just go to the client's house and they just they asked me to read something like a practice the cultural things and rituals so and looking after the children now they are they were going to school and she's working my mom now my mom and myself live at home

Krishna

When we came to Australia there is only few number of peoples and after a few months lots of peoples coming from Nepal in the from the refugee camp so every day like additional people so we form a community like Bhutanese community so we do have festival once a year like Dasara festival, Deepavali festival and lots of other smaller festival all the communities get together even in a ground we get together or if we get a hall we get together in there and then sharing our culture we invited lots of peoples like multicultural peoples and

get together and sharing our religious things and we sharing the food we sharing the clothes like if they were like willing to wear it yeah very first time so some of the like peoples they very eager to wear it and then we sharing with them sharing the food and we we have different music like our music we play that one we do have lots of instrument we play that one and we do have a like forming communities so every year we used to do that sort of things and even at home to keep our cultural things we encourage kids to do every day in our house like if they speak English outside the house it's okay but inside the house make sure practice our language so that they will not gonna forget our language and keep forever in their life and it is good to know two culture or three cultures and if they will go anywhere they can use their language and yeah it is good for them so they will not gonna lose any things from them so we we we are still teaching them like in at house like Nepali language and some of the our like religious things yeah so so far they understand and eager to learn.

Hari

we are Hindu under like a Hindu religion and we practice Hindu religion it was a little bit confront we have got some confront like when we do our religious big religious practice like in the naming ceremony and the funeral ceremony funeral things we use our the sacred fire so it was a bit hard sometimes during the time of fire ban so but anyhow we have to do that one so that was the challenges that we are facing and the other thing is that we do at our house our practice religious practice and sometimes like as as Christmas and like others festivals we also have got the Dasara and Diwali that is Deepavali we call the festival of color so we celebrate that one jointly as well as at home with the family and jointly in the community sometimes in the park and sometimes in the hall we do we celebrate that one and the small we we still celebrate some some small festivals but that is like the festival for women that is that is only the for ladies yeah so that is also we

Krishna

Practice ladies' day like change day like lots of men's get together and lots of ladies get together like

Hari

and we have got the different like in in Diwali we have got each and every like we celebrate um 10 days Diwali as also the Dasara so in each and every day signifies that the the animal and the trees and the land and the people so 10 difference we worship and we do some worship to those those things also we practice that some of the some of the community what we call that is hymn hymn activities like just singing things singing yeah that is a religious thing singing so we also practice that fortnightly weekly sometimes

Krishna

So I'm proudly says I'm Australian now I got a citizenship in 2013 so I'm so happy I didn't have any identification in Bhutan even in Nepal so i got a identity card in Australia so I'm so proud yeah to getting the yeah Australian yeah become Australian so i can go anywhere with that identity so I'm so lucky thank you

Hari

I feel I feel some difficulties during the initial days but now I feel okay because as Krishna says that I'm a citizen of Australia and Ii have got everything like a driver's license passport everything so i used to be in this country so it is good place to live here in Australia.

Krishna

Lots of good people's good support supportive and we can share our culture each other and then live happily yes, I'm so happy even like our children's grown up they will support and yeah give country something which is great yeah I'm so happy