*Ok. So this is, Lwam Tesfay em…interviewing Hansa. On the fourteenth of February two thousand and thirteen. If you can just start by saying em, if you can start of, start of by saying your full name and date of birth and where you were born.*

My name is Hansa Patel, and my date of birth is second November nineteen forty five. I was born in Uganda, Tororo, East Africa.

*Mm.*

My father name is XXXX, my mother name is, was em, Munaben XXXX. We are, four sisters and three brothers. Right.

*Four sisters, three brothers. And, where are you placed, are you in the middle?*

Ya. I am the fourth one.

*The, the youngest girl?*

No. I’m middle one.

*Middle one. OK, so…*

Then…

*Whereabouts did you grow up? In…*

I grow in Africa, fourteen years, when I was fourteen years, I studied there, primary and junior school, I went back home.

*Mm.*

For the further study. There I study up to metric, XXXX eleventh.

*Yeah. So whereabouts in, Ugand... you grew up, grew up in Tororo?*

Ya.

*What was it like there?*

Beautiful place.

*Yeah?*

We enjoyed there. We go in the school in the morning. And em, we have got, we there for ten o’clock, then we have got, we come back, have a lunch, and after, then again go to school for the afternoon class.

*Mm.*

Then we come back home. Then we go to first er, you know, playing, some needle work in the evening time. We know, they, we make small cloths, apron, everything in the school with the needles.

*Was this just for the girls or, everybody?*

For the girls. Make cloths, small cloths, skirt.

*Yeah.*

Pants, small small, when, small, for the small kids we make er, knickers and handkerchief. And we do embroidery on the handkerchief.

*Is this like a British school, or was it an Indian school, what kind of school was it?*

Er, its Indian public school but its run by British. First it was made by Indian, and then afterwards, it take by government, British government.

*Mm.*

So we learn there, every subject in English. Only we have got one subject our mother tongue Gujarati. Hindi speaker…Punjabis, learn Urdu language. They got one hour for their language. We go for one hour four hour Guajarati language.

*What do you remember doing after school?*

Ya.

*When you came back home, after you finished school what did you do?*

Ya, we come home. You know after ten o’clock we go home, have a lunch…

*Yeah.*

And…then change the clothes and again, come for the afternoon class for the Maths, Science and English we were teached there.

*What, what did your parents do?*

My parent is em, soap factory.

*Shop factory?*

Ya that making soap for making, washing clothes.

*Ok soap, yeah.*

Ya my mother was er…housewife.

*Yeah.*

Looking kids.

*Yeah. Did your dad own the factory or did he work there?*

No his own factory.

*His own factory?*

Ya.

*How many workers did he have?*

He has got nearly twelve, fifteen workers. Making soap, and then, they, put in the container. Hot XXXX soap, and, leave it there for two three days. When it comes, cold, they take out the boxes has got screw. The open the screw then that loft come. They cut by machine. And then press by, you know, press machine, they er… olive oil, sunlight soap, you know?

*Yeah.*

They make olive oil soap.

*And then he, sell it to the shops? Will it be like, Asian shops or British customers or everybody…*

Any soaps.

*So even to African people?*

Any soap.

*Yeah.*

He has got his customer, buy them.

*Yeah. Did you ever use to help, at the factory, or…no?*

No.

*Why not?*

We never go to factory, my daddy never take us, with the factory. You know XXXX factory.

*Was it near the house, or a little bit further out?*

One mile, nearly, two miles away from the house.

*What area was it?*

It was em…

*Do you know?*

…between Mbale and Tororo.

*And what was school like?*

It’s very beautiful.

*Yeah?*

Too disciplined.

*What was the building like, can you remember?*

Ya. It’s very nice.

*Big?*

Ya. Big school.

*Did you have…?*

We have got er, own dresses, we have to wear. They, from school they gave books, notebooks and schoolbooks.

*Did you wear uniform?*

Ya.

*What colour?*

We have got white top and blue skirt.

*Yeah. What about, did you have any family that came with you to the schools, your brothers and sisters they came, with you?*

Ya, the all study in same school.

*Any cousins?*

No, we have got no cousin there. No uncle aunty.

*What about religious holidays, when you celebrate with family?*

Ya.

*Can you remember any of those?*

The neighbour all are just like family.

*Yeah.*

All are Indian, so all are, so we remember, we know, that we all er, celebrate our Diwali…

*Yeah.*

…holy festival.

*Can you remember helping your mum get ready, cooking?*

No.

*No? Why not? [LAUGHS].*

My two sisters are bigger than me. [LAUGHS].

*So you didn’t have to do it.*

[LAUGHS]. No.

*You just go outside and play?*

Ya.

*What kind of games did you use to play?*

Ya we play foot…basketball, and em, that you know, hockey. In the evening time we play hockey, basketball, then we call rounder, the bat is just ground. What we call here we don’t know but there we call rounder. We put the, you know…

*Yeah.*

…round, er ring. The girls play like this.[GESTURES WITH HAND].

*Oh ok, hula hoop, like this? [GESTURES WITH HAND].*

They put around six or seven. One girl stand there, hold the bat, in the middle there is one XXXX, one person stand there and throw the ball.

*Yeah.*

Just like cricket.

*Mm.*

Then, the…

*You have to run, like this? [GESTURES WITH HAND].*

Then, up to, if the person that doesn’t come to the first place, then you are out.

*Yeah Rounders, yeah I remember that.*

Yeah that game I played that. XXXX you know games.

*With the other children?*

No, three days we have got games.

*Mm.*

Two days we have got needle work. Girls play needlework, boys play games.

*What was your house like, your family house?*

My family house was fine.

*Yeah? Was it big, was it…did you have upstairs downstairs…garden?*

No, no, no, no we have a house with no garden. There was XXXX, there is two houses then gap, called ‘Sarkati’.

*Sarkarti.*

Sakartiti we called it like this.

*Yeah.*

XXXX like that.

*And what was Tororo like, the city?*

Ya.

*Was it always busy, was it mixed?*

Busy, on Saturday Sunday you know, on Sunday, we are free so we go to the airport by walking.

*Really?*

Walk two, three miles. [LAUGHS].

*For fun?*

For fun to see the planes. [LAUGHS].

*Was that you and your brothers and sisters, or your friends?*

No, no, no, no my friends. [LAUGHS].

*Do your friends, did your parents know?*

Yeah.

*They know.*

They know, they very XXXX. [LAUGHS]. Because, then we are not using phone.

*Yeah.*

We have got no, allowed to use phone so from the school we make the plan where do we go, on Sunday. All girls come one place, and do our journey at the time we have got no bags like this. [POINTS TO A HANDBAG]. You know! We have got bag like this [GESTURES WITH HAND]. We have got school bag not like this XXXX. You know we have got XXXX, just like carrier but cotton bag.

*Yeah.*

We take food, we got no sandwiches at that time.

*What kind of things did you pack? What food?*

Er, plantain or something like XXXX, something with XXXX. At that time no plastic bottle also.

*So you didn’t drink water with you, you didn’t carry it with you, you just…use to go and come back? What about, what kind of food did your mum cook at home?*

Asian food, Indian Asian food.

*And in, and in school the same? Or you go home for lunch?*

No we take er, XXXX and bread, or there is Sakoni market. Our parents gave us ten pence, twenty pence, we buy sweetcorn called Kasori.

*Kasori?*

Ya.

*Its sweetcorn?*

Ya. Boiled one.

*And you can buy that from the market?*

Ya.

*How much did it cost can you remember?*

Ten pence, five pence. This much [HAND GESTURE].

*[LAUGHS]*. *So you used your pocket money to buy food?*

Every day we get ten pence, twenty pence, from our parents.

*Yeah.*

To go and buy this thing.

*What about Saturdays?*

Saturday we have got half day school.

*OK.*

And then we go home, then we have to go to temple in the afternoon.

*Yeah.*

We go to temple.

*With your family or with the school?*

No with our family. Sometimes on Sunday, er from our school take us to the church. And we go to the church also, some days because it was British government school so we have to go there. and sometimes, on commonwealth day we go to the…commonwealth ground for the parade. There is, every school has to go there, for the parade.

*All the schools in Uganda?*

No, no, no.

*In Tororo?*

All the school, Asian school, black people school, all come there. The school teacher take us. From the school we have to go to the XXXX. There is no bus, there. We have to go walking three four miles. And there we go, then also we do marching and sweating.

*Is it, what was, was it hot aswell?*

It’s hot country. No, it’s mixed rain and hot. We never use umbrella.

*[LAUGHS]*.

Never wear coat.

*Never? So on commonwealth day you’d go to the city, and there would be a parade?*

Not city we are living in city

*Yeah.*

But it was…er, at near the police station.

*Mm.*

And there is big ground, too much big. Nearly twenty, thirty schools come for the parade. We have got parade there. All the police also XXXX, everywhere.

*And that would be the whole day, you’d spend there?*

Ya. They give us banana, orange, XXXX, there was no bread.

*So they gave you some fruit and then, then you’d walk back home, everybody?*

Ya. Go to school, then we have to go there. We have got no right to go to cinema, That days. Our, from our school teacher take us to see the cartoon picture, and Asian movies. Not, mm… just like now everybody watch on TV. Our teacher take us which is nice picture XXXX, he take us. We have got no right to see the picture.

*Do you remember the first time you went to the cinema?*

Ya, when I was small I went to see cartoon picture.

*Yeah.*

Mickey Mouse picture.

*Mickey Mouse. [LAUGHS].*

We know Mickey Mouse [LAUGHS].

*With the school?*

Ya. You have to go by school from school. Our parents pay one shilling for the ticket.

*Yeah.*

And we go there. You know, our school was very disciplined.

*And then, when you went to secondary school, was it the same place?*

Ya. Ya.

*So at what age did you stay there until? So from…*

Two years, no one er…five, up to five years we are primary. Then junior school seven or eight. Ya. Six year is primary. Seven or eight is junior school. Then senior school. Senior school was little bit, far. Ya.

*Did you walk there? Everyday aswell, to senior school?*

No. I learn up to eight, junior school then I went back home.

*So how old were you when you went back to India?*

Nearly, I was nearly thirt… fourteen years, again back home.

*What was it like the first time you went to India?*

Ooh. I enjoy much because we are in steamer for seven days. [LAUGHS]. It’s a big, big XXXX.

*Why did your parents send you to India?*

Ya.

*Did you want to go, or did you want to stay in Uganda?*

No because er, there was er, you know the British rule was going on and the African rule was going to come.

*Mm.*

So…my parents at that time you know, I tell you that there's too much discipline, restrictions on girls.

*Mm.*

My parents don’t like to see, my girls sit beside the African boy.

*Mm.*

After that, XXXX independence, all the school become same. They all get, they all get admission in our Asian school, so they can sit with us.

*So black Africans?*

Ya. They can sit with us nobody can tell anything. So my daddy don’t like this.

*Yeah.*

So he sees…

*Was he worried, a little bit?*

So he send me, oh many people, many girls and boys went to India, for the further study.

*So you went and your sister?*

My two brother, my small two brother, went there.

*The three of you?*

Ya. Then afterwards my mum and my sister come. Two sister come.

*Can you remember when your parents told you, you were gonna go to India?*

Ya. I was happy.

*You was happy?*

Because I want to, steamer!

*[LAUGHS]. You’ve never been on a steamer before?*

When I was, one year old I went there. Because at that time there was no plane.

*Yeah.*

Nobody was going on plane. Going on steamer it takes seven, eight days journey. In water, you can’t see anything except water and XXXX.

*Can you remember the journey, on the steamer?*

Ya, I tell my son…

*What did you do? For seven days on a boat?*

They had big, big galleries just like galleries.

*Yeah.*

Everybody sit, and enjoy eating. XXXX, my mum take too much food with her, eat there, enjoy. We haven’t take bath for seven days. [LAUGHS].

*[LAUGHS]*.

If you do like this [PRETENDS TO LICK FINGER AND RUB AGAINST BACK OF HER HAND].

*[LAUGHS]*.

XXX, salty salty! [LAUGHS].

*[LAUGHS].Yeah that’s a long time isn’t it. So when you first got to India where did you go? Did you have family there?*

Yeah my aunty my daddy’s sister was there.

*Whereabouts in India?*

She was in India, Gujarat.

*Gujarat.*

I stayed there, my daddy’s, my father’s sister tell that XXXX, send girls, kids to me I will look after them. We studied there for one year, then my mummy, my mother and my two sister come. Then I went there.

*What was it like, when you first when to India, you said you were happy to be on the steamer, but was it different? Where you shocked?*

Ya. It was too different. Everywhere we use to go XXXX, no country, there you see the XXXX poo.

*[LAUGHS]*. *Did you miss home, did you miss Uganda?*

Ya.

*What did you miss?*

Young life you know? We play, on Satur…on Sunday, we, from nine o’clock we go sometimes we go to the, near the police station. You know there are too much, too many mango trees.

*In India?*

No, no, no in Africa. [LAUGHS].

*In Uganda, yeah.*

We climb there and pick mangoes. [LAUGHS].

*Did you climb up the tree?*

Ya.

*Really?*

We take salt and chilli, you know. We bring small bottle from the hospital and wash it and put, dry it, put chilli or er… ‘jeri’ grind ‘jera’ and salt.

*‘Jera’ what's that?*

It’s one spice, our Indian.

*OK.*

And we put, when we take the mango, god knows we wash and XXXX. But we grow up.

*Yeah.*

That bite, deep in the, that em, spicy salt and chilli then we eat. [LAUGHS].

*[LAUGHS].*

You know on that day we have got no forks, to eat fruits.

*Yeah.*

We are small, my, some of my friend have got big XXXX, their parents working in XXXX factory. They have got big gardens. They grow, papayas. We pick the papayas, and peel it and make pieces. At that time we have got no fork. You know faggia?

*Yeah.*

*You just used your hands?*

No, no faggia you know faggia?

*No.*

It swipe the floor.

*Oh ok is it made from em...*

Bamboo.

*Bamboo and you clean like this? Gesture*

Ya.

*Yeah.*

That one stick. And wash it.

*So you used the bamboo as, as a fork?[LAUGHS].*

Ya. [LAUGHS]. See how enjoy we have.

*So, you were growing up in India did you make, what was the school like there? Was it very different from the one in Ugandan?*

Ya. We have, there we have to learn every subject in Gujarati.

*And they speak only Gujarati in the school or they speak English?*

Gujarati.

*How did you find that?*

It was difficult but I manage.

*Yeah, did you speak Gujarati at home, with your family, when you was in Uganda?*

Ya.

*So you had some, you speak Gujarati already, but in India I guess it’s a little bit…*

Hard.

*…harder. Yeah. Did you enjoy any subjects?*

Ya.

*In India?*

I passed em…you know here we call GCSE? There we call Metric. In eleventh. We have to take eight subject. If you pass in seven then you pass. If you fail in one, then XXXX. There is no matter. But I was XXXX there, I take only seven. You know if you take seven subject, then your percentage goes up. If you take eight subject, eight, your percentage goes down, right?

*Yeah.*

Can you understand me?

*Yeah.*

I take seven subjects because I don’t know Sanskrit. I know little bit Hindi and Gujarati, but I know English. I know history. But I don’t know much history of India but I know geography world geography. And English, maths I know. Now also I know maths, algebra, geometry.

*You still remember all of it, yeah?*

Now also I know.

*That’s good.*

And er, I take higher maths not arithmetic, I take math, not algebra and geometry, I take that one.

*You take the higher, the harder ones, the harder maths? So did you pass all of the seven?*

Ya. I was the first girl, or, in the, our school in India. The first XXXX who passed seven subjects.

*Wow, the first one?*

Now, now there is my name there.

*Really?*

Ya, because I was the first girl. And first boy, or anybody never take seven subjects in science subject, you know they are called science subject, XXXX.

*Yeah.*

XXXX, and afterwards my brother passed that seven subject. My small brother he passed that.

*So you’re name is written on the, in the school?*

If you go and ask, Hansa Patel, XXXX, in nowadays it’s difficult because it’s long time. But they know me. Now they changed the building also.

*Yeah.*

Everything, but in the record my name is there cos this is the first girl. And first in the school, to pass seven subject.

*Do you remember when they told you, the teacher?*

Ya.

*…in the class, did he make an announcement, was it in assembly?*

After that, when I go to take my certificate, after that day we have got no contact with the school. We have to leave the school. We have to go to college, but that day our parents says ‘oh, girls are not allowed to work so she has to make food at home, so she, now she can’t go further for the study’. At that time was that. Nowadays everybody go to college, then we have to stop, I have to stop. My studies stopped there.

*Did you want to carry on?*

Ya. But my parents, now also you know, I never watch em, that Hindi or Gujarati on my TV. I have got English channel only, and I watch them.

*You prefer to watch English channel?*

Ya, I never take my XXXX Hindi channel in my house. I watch English Channel. I watch three, BBC One, BBC Two, BBC Four news, every day at night. I watch English Watch Dog, like that.

*Watch Dog yeah.*

Like that I watch.

*So when the teacher told you that, how did you find out that you were the first girl?*

XXXX first girl.

*How did you find out?*

I was only girl.

*Oh then.*

Who takes the seven.

*Oh ok.*

And everybody was worried about me. If you, I fail one subject, then…

*That’s it?*

Gone. Everybody was worried, up to, you know we had to fill the form and we have to pay the fee. Everybody was taking that one option, then I said no. I don’t want to go, for one option, and I don’t want to XXXX more subject. If I will, learn eight subject, then I have, I can’t concentrate on XXXX subject.

*Mm.*

And I was clever in Africa also, when I was in junior too. I get, nobody knows that I’m going to pass. You know.

*Why?*

When the result come, in the morning my father went to the temple. We always go to temple. Everybody was telling my father, Hansa get this much, er…erm, marks. And er, no they can, in the paper, and we have to select some er, the result come in the newspaper but nobody in my house read the newspaper. When my daddy father went to temple, in the morning he know he can’t know that today is result my girl, XXXX, nice grade. And she can get nice school. But I was going to India!

*[LAUGHS]. It’s too late.*

My father did not take any interest to go, to send me, er my school you know.

*So you could have gone to a nicer school in, in Tororo?*

Ya I can get nice school in Mbale.

*Mm.*

Boarding school, but my father, was not interested in…

*Yeah.*

…going, sending me in the, the school.

*This is because, Uganda became em, independent?*

He wants to send me in India. I have lost my two, you know, my chance for further study.

*Mm.*

Oh now I regret you know, now I am regretting. I was in India, I marry. Then I was doing tutor work. I was teaching small five years, em, children…maths and English. Five years, six years.

*How old were you then? When you finished school, or college?*

No when I married, after marriage I was doing tutor work.

*OK.* *And when did you get married? How old were you when you got married?*

Nearly, I was twenty years. I get married then afterwards, after five six years, my XXXX, two girls and one boy. Then I started doing teacher job, oh tutor job. Because in tutor we get much money.

Mm.

In school we, you get only fixed money.

*Yeah.*

If you do tutor job, for once, India one hundred rupees is too much, at that time. For one boy, you get one person, you get hundred hundred twenty five rupees. If you, em…er, teach ten boys, is one thousand, eh, per month. And then school salary was only five hundred, six hundred.

*Rupees a month if you’re a teacher?*

Ya.

*But if you’re a tutor you get more the double?*

Ya. My friend husband was there, in the school XXXX, and he told me that if you go to school, then you will have to work up to six, seven, eight hours. But if you do tutor job, then it will be your choice.

*Yeah. So did you, you, this is after you had your children?*

Ya.

*So they were in school, already, or they were young?*

They were going to school, and I teach, I was doing teacher, my…my son is here with me. He was erm, teacher in India. Science teacher, maths and, he was going to take exam also, going to check er, science er…GCS paper, also. But he couldn’t find here job, with teacher. He’s working in Asda. But he was doing tutor job. But er…he, he had got er, one er…you know, learning hall.

*Learning hall?*

Ya. Forest…

*In Forest Gate?*

Ya he was doing tutor job there. Saturday class.

*Like his mum, tutor, tutoring?*

Ya. He was, now also, but know you know, that centre is closed. That one lady was there with her. He got nice job you know, their behaviour, XXXX, she came like girl like you.

*Mm.*

With my son. She got er, nice job. She left. Then the centre closed. My son was become alone. He can’t manage all the things, with the phone and teaching. He couldn’t get any other partner. So they have to close.

*OK.*

And he was teaching up to GCSE, now he has got two teacher, two kids, GCSE girls.

*OK.*

Teaching Maths and Science and English.

*So, whilst you were living in, in India, your dad, was he still in Uganda and you’re brothers? Did everybody come to India?*

Everyone gone India. Uganda become empty.

*Is this before Idi Amin? Before nineteen seventy two?*

Ya.

*So you left before then? Did you hear, when you heard that er…Idi Amin said all the Ugandan Asians have to go?*

Ya.

*Can you remember when you found out?*

Yeah, they tell us, that’s why he was telling, if I win I will kick every Asian and every British citizen.

*He said that before he became, em, in power?*

Ya. And everybody knows that he is going to come in power so, British people also tell that er, who wants to come er, in Britain…who wants to go America. So we went back home.

*You said you’d go to India instead.*

Ya.

*Did you have er, what kind of passport did you have?*

British.

*British passport.*

I was born in British colony. [LAUGHS].

*So, in…in, when they made the announcement you was already in India. You already moved.*

Ya.

*When you heard about it what did you think? You weren’t shocked because you already knew?*

Ya.

*Did you have a lot of friends, and maybe other family members that were still in Uganda, that wanted to stay?*

Ya my sister and big brother were in Uganda, when Idi Amin come in power they come here.

*To UK, or to India?*

No.

*They came to UK?*

Ya. Brother and sister come to UK. My sister is in Preston, my brother is in Coventry.

*Coventry. So what happened to your dad’s er…soap factory, did he sell it or…*

Ya he selling, and more money.

*Yeah. Can you remember what your brother and sister were saying about Uganda, during that time? Was it dangerous for them?*

Ya.

*Were you worried?*

At that time we have got no worry.

*Yeah.*

[LAUGHS].

*[LAUGHS].*

Its finished?

*Yeah almost, just wanted to talk about when you left India, how old were you when you came here?*

Hmm?

*When you came to UK, when did you come to…*

Nineteen….ninety five.

*Ninety five? What made you decide to leave India to come here?*

I come here, because they give right here. They allow us, one got British citizen and they can go there.

*So you came with your children and husband?*

No only those who get the British citizen, passport holder only they can get out.

So who did you come, er, to UK with, did you come alone?

*Hm.*

*Did you come here by yourself or you came with your husband, or your children?*

Myself.

*So you’re children grew up in India?*

[NODS HEAD]

*And what was it like when you first came to…where did you come first, London?*

Forest Gate.

*Forest Gate, what was it like? You said ninety, ninety, ninety five? What was it like then?*

It was funny XXXX, that we have to go in cold, walk work.

*Yeah it was cold?*

*Did you start working, or you stayed at home, when you was here?*

After one month when I get insurance number I start working.

*Where did you work?*

In Udal metal.

What's that?

Udal metal.

*Udal metal? Oh ok needle-making?*

Huh?

*Did you say needle making? Metal?*

There was big factory. Three four departments. They were making metal things. And electrical things, I was XXXXX.

*OK. Where was that factory?*

Leyton.

*In Leyton. Do you know whereabouts in Leyton? Whereabouts in Leyton was it?*

You take fifty eight bus?

*Mm, no. Yeah sometimes, fifty eight or one five eight or three ‘o’ eight from the Forest Gate.*

Yeah. Then we take em…take fifty five, forty three something bus go there, and walk twenty minutes.

*So it’s after Leyton station?*

Ya, go further Mark House, near the Mark’s House.

*Near Mark’s House.*

When we take another bus, two-three bus and walk twenty minutes.

*Did you work there five days a week, every day?*

Five days, sometimes seven, six days, Saturday overtime.

*Well, do you remember how much you got paid? Was it OK, was it a lot of money?*

At that time was three fifty.

*A month?*

No.

*A week?*

One hour.

*Oh ok. Three pound fifty an hour. How did you find the job?*

My friend take me.

*Yeah. Did you enjoy it?*

Ya. Its hard job but enjoy it.

*What did you like the most?*

We have got drilling work, putting the screw and tick off. We are making you know, XXXX job. Everything.

[LADY INTERRUPTS AND SITS DOWN IN THE BACK OF THE COMMON ROOM].

Excuse me, sorry is it ok if I sit here and have my lunch?

*Yeah, yeah that’s fine yeah.*

*Em, and was that your family and then you changed jobs at any point? How long did you stay there?*

I got there, in ninety six.

Mm.

Up to I retire, I was working. When I had a knee problem, they give me redundancy.

*What was the name of the factory?*

Udal metal. Its famous, factory in this area.

*So you stayed there for all that time and then you retired, at the end?*

[NODS].

And when did your children come over, you said your son is here?

Ninety nine he come here.

*And your other children are in India?*

[NODS].

*And your husband?*

India. He’s in India.

*Do you ever want to go back to Uganda? Did you ever go back?*

[SHAKES HEAD].

*Would you go back now, or…?*

No there is nobody there. If anybody is there, relative, every day we seen the news, problem is problem.

*It’s not, it’s not the same. Even if you’re to go back to your…old…area…Tororo. It’s probably completely different.*

Ya. They have broken everything. Every houses.

*Who?*

They live there…

*The Africans?*

The live there, the neighbour maintain it, so is gone.

*Can you remember what it was like with the Africans, how the African, Ugandans and the Asians, did they get along? When you was there?*

They live in mud huts.

*Africans?*

Ya. I know they living in mud huts.

*In the, outside the city, or in the city.*

Ya. There are African town is XXXX, they live separate, our Asian town is separate.

*So everybody lives separate?*

They have got separate place to live.

*What was the African part like? Did you ever go past it?*

We never go their side.

*Yeah, but it’s just mud, mud house?*

[NODS]. Yes.

*What about the European side? This is, the British….*

Ya.

*People, what were their houses like?*

Just like here.

*Yeah?*

Ah, the have got particular soap, they buy fruit and everything from one, two, three, four soaps, particular soaps they buy from there.

*Mm. And where would the Asians shop…people, would you shop in…in the market or…were there other shops you went to maybe in the city or…*

No. Every soap is in the city.

*Yeah.*

Just like you know Green Street.

*Mm. Did you have like green street in er, Tororo. All Asian shops?*

Ya.

*What kind of businesses did they have mostly, like soap factories, clothing…?*

Clothing, food, everything.

*Did you have like Indian food there food aswell, did they bring it over, did they sell Indian food some of the shops?*

No in the…nobody buys readymade food.

Of course, yeah.

*But all the, all the spices…*

Ya.

*All Indian spices, they bring them over from India?*

Mm.

*and you can buy them easily from Uganda? So when you when to India, it was not really too much of a change?*

[SHAKES HEAD].

*No? What was the thing you most liked about England?*

[SHORT PAUSE]

*Did you, did you ever want to go back to India when you came here, or you was happy to be here?*

I’m happy to be here.

*Did you find the weather was too cold, in the beginning?*

Ya first, but now I’m use to.

*You’re use to it?*

[LAUGHS] Ya.

*So you feel more at home here, or you feel at home in India, or…*

Oh here.

*Yeah? East London?*

*Would you, how would you think, now that it’s been forty years, since Idi Amin er… took all the Asians out how do you think they should remember Ugandan Asians? Because it’s been a long time. Do you think it’s something to celebrate; do you think they should talk more about the story?*

No, no, no, you know. In Leicester or somewhere.

*Mm.*

They put the Idi Amin photo just like god.

*Yeah.*

Then they, he kick, the person, and now they become billionaire here.

*Mm.*

*Do you know any stories of people? Do you know anybody?*

No.

*There’s some people I've heard of, they came to the UK with…no much money and then you know, after working working working constantly, they became very rich like…*

Ya.

*…have you heard of the Nagrecha brothers?*

Ya. I tell him, I’m telling you that they are praying like god.

*Mm.*

When he kick us, when we come in this country, first everybody struggle, but then you know, the, every family member is working in this country. Wife, husband, kids, everybody go to work and now they become billionaire.

Yeah.

*Why is that, do you think it’s because…*

Because the people, in…in… Africa only men was walking just like over India. Nowadays all the ladies are all going to work. But the first man is working, and Uganda also man is working, the wife and kids are not working.

*So you wouldn’t work if you was in Uganda.*

Ya.

*OK, thank you very much Hansa.*

### The End

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**Interview details**

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