**Real life experience on 1971 Bangladesh Liberation war of Md. Serajul Haque**

The liberation war of Bangladesh took place on 1971. There were almost 70 million people on that time, among them around 3 million people died on the war. The rest of them suffered from cruel oppression of the Pakistan military. This interview is taken from Md. Serajul Haque, who was one of those sufferers. He is currently 76 years old and his religious identity is Muslim. His current address and his ancestral address are at the same place which is Harikhali P.C. College, Bagerhat. He can be reached out by this address.

When he was asked about his memory from General Election of Federation Pakistan (December 7, 1970) to the genocide of March 25/26, he recalled that there was a mass movement happening around from town to village. There was a genocide in their neighborhood Kaidapara Bazar. He, along with 9 members of his family, voted in the General Election and was overwhelmed to the utmost by seeing the victory of Awami League. However, they were in a constant anxiety thinking of the delay of forming their own government till March 7, 1971.

After the genocide of 25/26 and the declaration of independence, the ultimate oppression of the Pakistani military and government started. Because of that Mr. Haque had to keep hiding in his neighborhood. After sometime, he went to India, took training and participated in the liberation war. He took training and returned to Bangladesh because of the love for the country and her people. He was ready to sacrifice his life to set his country free, as he says. After being asked about his circumstances of then, he added that they used to pass several days in hunger, fear and much discomfort. But he somehow managed to follow the young people of his village and take training to join the war.

Furthermore, when he was asked about his view of the Bangladesh Liberation War at the then time, he said that, it was a much-required movement for our independence. Upon being asked if his view has changed with time, he denied it and said that, without an armed resistance freedom would never come till date. He supported the liberation war as it was the only way to set his country and her people free. Because of that, he directly participated in the liberation war as a freedom fighter and fought at the sector 8 under Major Abul Manzoor.

After being asked whether there was any change in his daily routine of the year 1971, he replied that there was a noticeable change. Previously, he did not fear to live in his own home, but after the liberation was started, he kept fleeing from here and there in fear of the Rajakars. He further added that, Pakistani military did not know the way of their village or their homes. However, it is the traitors whom we call Rajakars showed them the way. He also added, if the military found one out, they would kill the person immediately. In contradiction, if a person gets spotted by the Rajakars, then also the person got killed but after a lot of torture. So, the native traitors were more dangerous.

When Mr. Haque was asked if there was any difficulty faced by his family, he repeated the same story that, a group of the Rajakar came almost every day to his home and the whole family turned out to be in a nuisance. Even a close relative of him was sexually abused by the military, the people called Rajakar was also involved in this incident who revealed her to the military. He further added that, if these traitors were not there, then the liberation war would not last even for nine months.

The time he was asked for his opinion on the people from West Pakistan, he said that they all knew about the actual situation that the Pakistan government is doing all the mischief, not the mango people, hence they had no hate for them but for the government. Additionally, when he was asked about his perception of the then non-Bengali Muslims (locally known as ‘Biharis’), he said that he was not familiar with them, so he did not share his opinion on this matter. However, his opinion towards the people of West Pakistan did not change even till the current time. He further shared that, as he did not have any family member or acquaintance in West Pakistan, he did not have a clear idea on their role during that time. But his opinion remained same as he had over those people.

At the end of the interview, when he was asked for any relevant document from 1971, he said he had, but he was not willing to share that publicly. The reason he stated was some kind of political issue.

In the end, people like Mr. Haque, who fought from the front, made an actual difference to life of many Bangladeshi people. They suffered a lot during the Pakistan period, sacrificed almost everything on the liberation war and after those huge efforts, got freedom. Their efforts must be appreciated and evaluated with the highest prestige possible as they are the founding soldier of our nation.