

Abdul Aziz - Transcription

Audio quality – ok, but sound of wind from about 6.30 mins to end.

Long interview focussing on travelling around the country searching for jobs. Mention of racial discrimination

0:00:00

LMI: Here we go, I'm interviewing Abdul Aziz at the Sangat Community Centre on... whatever day it is today.

AA: 18th of..

LMI: 18th of... Yeah, in July. What's the date today?

AA: 20th I think.

LMI: 20th, that's right, sounds right, July. Okay, so Abdul, if you want to give us a little bit of a sort of background of how you came to live in Keighley, who you are, what you did for a lot of your working life.

0:00:33

AA: Shall I start from the beginning?

LMI: Start from the beginning.

AA: Right. In 1943, 5th of January 1943, I was born in Mirpur -Pakistan side of Zad Kashmir. I did my O level in Mirpur. Then I did my job two years as a clerk in a Mangla Dam, which is the second biggest dam in Pakistan. In the meantime, I got a passport, and then came 14th of February 1962 in England. And I remember that there was snow all over, you know, it was my first time experience, to see the snow!

LMI: Just after your birthday as well!

AA: I was so cold I was shivering. Besides that I didn't have any warm clothes. I just had a pad and one coat.

LMI: Where did you arrive? In London?

0:01:35

AA: In London Heathrow Airport. So, from there, my uncle from mum's side, he used to live in Sheffield. He came in 1953 and he settled down in Sheffield at that time. But Sheffield was too far, and I had it too cold, you know.

LMI: Even colder in Sheffield.

AA: So I thought I would go to Slough. There were a few people from my village who were living in Slough, and working in Slough at that time. So I asked an English person, I want to go Slough, would you guide me how I would go? What bus should I take or train or... So, luckily I was standing near the bus stop and he said, 'From that stop such and such bus will go to Slough.'

0:02:28

LMI: Wow! That was lucky!

AA: And in Slough, the street I wanted to go was near the Slough railway station and Slough bus station. Was only 2 Street away, where my relatives from my village, people were living there.

LMI: How did it feel just to arrive? Was that all on the same day as you arrived?

AA: Yes, same day. So I went to their house, but it wasn't their house, they were renting their home. And then they were amazed, they said, 'How did you come?' I said 'By bus.' They said 'Good job you didn't catch a taxi,' Because the taxi of that time used to take...

LMI: Yeah, expensive...

AA: Very expensive. They knew that the Indian and Pakistani didn't speak English, most of them. And the people who used to live in Bradford they used to take three or four, and charge £120 £130 per head at that time. Just imagine! 1962! When the wage was only £10 a week.

LMI: Exactly, exactly.

0:03:47

AA: So they were fleecing us, you know, they were robbing us. So anyway, when I went in Slough, and my relatives and village people, they asked me how did I come, and I said, 'By bus.' They said 'You are lucky!' They would have charged me about £40, £50. See, there was no limit on that time, you know, whatever you can get for a passenger. Anyway, I stayed there about one week. And next week I caught the train from Slough to Paddington, from Paddington to St. Pancras, and from St. Pancras... was it St. Pancras? Or King's Cross? To Sheffield. I remember it was a night, about 7 or 8 o'clock, when I knocked the door, Mamu's door, you know. From the railway station to Mamu's house, I got a taxi, and that taxi only charged me about 5 shillings or something like that. And when Mamu opened the door, he was shocked. He was...

LMI: He didn't expect you?

0:05:14

AA: He didn't expect me, he didn't expect the taxi.

LMI: He was a friend of yours was he?

AA: No, my uncle from my mother's side. When he saw the taxi, in his mind he thought I got a taxi from Heathrow to Sheffield, which will be over £100. His face was... shocked.

LMI: Like you were a ghost or something?

AA: I said, 'Don't worry, I paid him.' I think he said, 'How much did you pay?' I said five shillings. 'Where did you get the ticket [taxi?] from?' I said 'From Sheffield railway station.' Then he was happy, and we went inside and everybody were happy to see me. And then I have a dinner. And the next day, see because we were all young, single people.

LMI: Yeah.

AA: And most of them, they were working either day or night. And if you don't cook, you starve yourself. You go hungry.

0:06:28

AA: So the first time when I got up, the first time they said, 'You have to learn how to cook. And how to feed yourself.'

LMI: It was all men as well, was it?

AA: All men, yes. No ladies on there. Matter of fact, I can say, in all England probably, I'm working in the labour class, you know, not the people who...

LMI: No, no, no, not managers and middle-class people.

AA: The people from a high society came in England, you know, obviously they come with family, but not working class.

0:07:04

AA: So, the one person told me how to make a curry, a meat curry, and the other one told me how to make chapatis. And then after two/three days it was my duty to make curry and chapati for three/four people. You know, there was a combined... two/three people share all the costs and make their own food. So, I was the one who was unemployed, and I had to do it for the rest of them.

LMI: What were you like? Did they like your cooking?

AA: I don't know.

LMI: So what I'm interested in is how you ended up here in Keighley. And what you did when you got to Keighley.

AA: So this is what I'm going to go in[to]. After two weeks, my uncle from mother's side, he said that Sheffield is a steel city. I was only nine and a half stone at that time, and was very

young. He said, 'It's too heavy jobs for you. You won't be able to do it. I will take you to Leeds. There is textiles. They are all right for you.' So he took from Sheffield to Leeds... to one of his villagers, the person who...

LMI: Was he from Mirpur as well?

AA: No, not from my village. It was my mamu's village, my uncle's village. So luckily I got the job next day. I went out to try the job. I got the job. And I worked there about... on that time I think it was 45 hours, or 44 hours. You have to work Saturdays [as] well.

0:08:55

LMI: Yeah, that's right. I worked in factories on Saturday mornings, as well.

AA: Saturday [?] No overtime. So the week after, I got my wage, was £7.50. I was shocked you know, when I saw my wage. I came home on Friday, and I asked everybody, 'How much do you get?' And some people said £10, some £14, some £12, and one of them said £16. And I said... well, they all can't speak English. They are all uneducated. I'm a little bit educated. I should have more money than them. But I didn't realise, they worked the night shift and worked longer. And they earned their money. But the next day I didn't go to work. I said 'I will try for another job, a better job, you know, better paid job rather than £7. 50.

LMI: What year was this? 62?

AA: '62, 1962. It was March or April, I think. And that factory was a furniture factory, you know, they make frames for the sofa sets, chairs, and all sorts of it. And luckily... well, unluckily, the overhaul was just across the road, and they could see everything, you know.

0:10:46

AA: I put the best suit and tie and went over for a try. I didn't get a job. The next day, I went to the factory. I have to... stair. It was a stair, you know. It was top floor where I was working. So I went up to the last stair, tried to open the door, and there was the foreman standing on that door. He said, 'You don't need to come in. I got your book. Now you are free to try for.

LMI: Oh wow!

AA: I don't know.

LMI: So you just got a job straight away?

AA: Pardon?

0:11:35

LMI: You got a job straight away?

AA: No, I didn't get the other job. I lost the job which I had. He said, 'No, you are free, and go.'

LMI: Oh, I see.

AA: 'You can try for another job. You are free now.'

LMI: Oh right. Basically, you're off.

AA: He gave me a sack.

LMI: Yeah.

AA: And I had no job. And when my uncle...

LMI: Was that because you hadn't gone in to work?

AA: No, no, no. The day I tried...the day I went to try for another job, somehow he was looking.

LMI: He found out?

AA: Yeah, he found out. He was looking to go to our house, you know. And he thought I was going somewhere to try the job.

0:12:20

LMI: So you were out. You were out.

AA: Yeah, he sacked me the next day. So Mamu, my uncle came the next week and he said, 'You got the job, you were very lucky, the people don't get a job on here.'

LMI: Was he cross?

AA: At that time you know, 1962, there's some people were waiting for five months six months eight months, no job. 'And you were lucky to get a job straight away, but you just thrown it. Now what are you going to do?' I said, 'I don't know.' He said 'All right I will take you to Nottingham, to a person I know. You will try there.' So he took me to Nottingham. And there were two people in their house. Usually we were overcrowded but somehow I think there were only two people living in that house. And they never made chapatis. They made a curry, or used to eat with bread.

0:13:29

LMI: Bread, yeah.

AA: Yeah. But sometimes there were no curries, and I don't know how to... Mind you, I was unemployed, I didn't have enough money.

LMI: God, that sounds difficult, tough times.

AA: To buy the food and that sort of thing. So I stayed there one week and I was getting fed up, couldn't find a job. So, I moved to Derby.

LMI: Oh, you're getting around, aren't you?

AA: And same thing happened, no jobs.

0:14:03

AA: Then from there I moved to Banbury, Oxfordshire.

LMI: Yeah, that's very different.

AA: Between Birmingham and Oxford.

LMI: I know it, yeah.

AA: There was one Pakistani house. On that time... nowadays there's plenty of farms and warehouses, you know, on the motorway. M42, M40. Well, at that time, it was a backyard. It was a town without prospect or without any activity or any farms. There were two farms. One was a small foundry, the other one was a chicken factory, where the Asians were employed, you know. And I didn't get a job from there. Then I moved to Oxford.

0:14:47

LMI: [Laughs] I think you're doing the whole of the country here!

AA: Yeah, I was chasing the jobs. But there were no. Mind you...

LMI: Were you getting desperate?

AA: I was desperate.

LMI: Yeah.

AA: So, I went to Oxford and then the next day one person said he's going for an interview. I said 'Can I come along?' He said 'Yeah.' And we both got a job, and the job was... a small town between Banbury and Oxford. It was RV Kent and the railway used to bring all that RVs [army??] to store. And we used to unload on a tram.

LMI: I wonder where that would have been? Between Banbury and Oxford?

AA: Between Banbury and Oxford. I will remember, anyway, I [will] probably remember in five, ten minutes. So I worked there. Week in hand. Second week they gave me wage. That was £8.50. Only one pound better off!

0:16:01

LMI: Getting better!

AA: Yeah, but over here in Leeds I used to pay 50p for a bed. 50p a week for a bed. And then £1 for the food. So it was £1.50 expenses. Or there was £1 for a bed, £1.50, no £2 for expenses. So £2.50, I wasn't better off. After 2, 3 weeks I went to Slough, and I told them my

problem. They said, 'Why don't you move into Slough?' I said, 'I haven't got a job. I can't afford sitting down at home.' They said, 'All right, we'll ask around and maybe some person make a promise for you, you know, for a job.' So then a week after that, they said 'They got a job, come around.' I went to Slough. I got a job. From Slough... Egham, that's in Surrey, that's a long way.

0:17:19

LMI: Egham, yes, it is a long way?

AA: Do you know Egham?

LMI: Yeah, I know of it, I've never been there.

AA: It's Royal Holloway College there. I will tell you the Royal Holloway College story as well. So I got a job in Egham, and luckily they paid £17, so I was...

LMI: Oh better.

AA: ... satisfied. The reason I was struggling so much, and that job was twice more than I got it previously. So I stayed there for a couple of a couple of years, I think. And we used to get the bus from High Rackham to Stand, I think it was, 441. But from Slough to Egham, it used to take an hour, and hour and 20 minutes, in one side, and an hour and hour and 20 minutes on the other side.

0:18:22

AA: So I thought I would better try in a trading state, Slough trading state. That was... on that time, biggest one trading state in Europe.

LMI: Yeah, yeah.

AA: Industrial estates.

LMI: Yeah, yeah.

AA: So I got a job on there, in a firm called Capsule. They used to make... See, I got a little dementia sometimes, I forget. They used to make the tubes, you know, that toilet paper, kitchen paper. Even the fabrics, they made all sorts of tubes, you know. Heavy tubes, light tubes. I worked there. My job was to sort out all the orders and load the trucks.

0:19:01

LMI: How long did you do that for?

AA: There was another two years, I think. I was there two years.

LMI: So about 22, 23 now are you? By that point you're 20 years old? How did you get to Keighley? That's what I want to know.

AA: Yeah, after, well in Slough I stayed there for four or five years, went back to Pakistan, got married, came back.

0:20:06

AA: The houses on there, the cheapest one was £4,500. And a friend of mine was living in Keighley, we came from the same village. He said, 'The houses in Keighley, you can get about £50.'

LMI: Yeah, yeah, my first house in Bingley was £350.

AA: And then I find out the £50... the councils issued a notice to some houses that they're going to demolish it.

LMI: Oh right.

AA: And the people, they said, 'Well, you take over my house. You pay the bill. Give me £50 and you pay the bill and all that.' And that's how the £50 were.

0:20:55

LMI: Okay, so you stayed in it until it got demolished?

AA: Yeah, 'You stay until it demolished.' But I came here end of 1966 in Keighley.

LMI: Yeah.

AA: So I stayed with him. I still remember that... his house was 22... I forgot the street. And we roughly were living about 18-20 people, something round. So I stayed two weeks up there, then I got a job in John Agassiz. [Haggas's] Do you know John Agassiz?

LMI: Yeah, I know the name. What did they...

0:21:39

AA: Ghalif Expo.

LMI: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

AA: They used to make... They used to spin it.

LMI: Oh, they did...

AA: Yarn.

LMI: Spinning yarns. They did spinning.

AA: Yeah.

0:21:50

LMI: Yeah, of course, Haggas. Of course, I know it really well.

AA: John Haggas's, yeah. Yeah. They gave me a job as a packer. You know, all those yarns which had been finished.

LMI: Sent to mills all over the place I guess, weren't they?

AA: Sent wherever the orders came from, you know. And I used to pack them and ride on and then load them on a truck. One day, I think it was about four or five months, one day I found out that people were working the same job on a daytime, because I was working from 8 to 8, something like that.

0:22:29

LMI: 8 at night to 8 in the morning?

AA: Yeah.

LMI: On a night shift?

AA: Yeah. And on a day shift there were two people working same job. And they were working 8 hours. And they were getting almost the same money. And when we worked overtime, they had time and thought [half?], and I had normal time.

LMI: Oh my word.

AA: So when we work overtime they used to get more than me. Say if we work 50 hours instead of 40 hours their wages were more than me.

0:23:22

LMI: That makes a big difference. Big difference.

AA: When I find out, I work in O&O and went to see my personal officer Mrs. Amon. I remember now. So I went to her office, she was a postal officer, and I said, 'Mrs. Amon, I'm treated very roughly.' She said, 'How do you mean?' I said, 'Look, I work 8 to 8. As a packer I take all the yarn from the winding machines and pack them and then load them.' But sometimes, only one truck in a week I used to load it, but mostly it was done on a daytime.

LMI: You used to pack the boxes?

AA: I used to pack the boxes for 12-hour shifts, which I was working, and then evening shifts you know they did used to start from 5 o'clock to 9 o'clock and their shifts, I also used to pack their shifts as well.

0:24:50

LMI: Alright, okay.

AA: So, I used to manage from 5 o'clock to 8 o'clock, while the two people used to manage from 8 o'clock to 5 o'clock. I said, 'That's not fair.'

LMI: No.

AA: 'And that's a racial abuse.' She was very upset.

LMI: Really? So was it, the people getting more, were they white people were they?

AA: Yeah.

LMI: So there was definite racism going on?

0:25:15

AA: Yeah, one was English, one was Ukrainian.

LMI: Right.

AA: She didn't like, she tried to explain, 'You know Abdul, you work at a night, and we like you, and so and so, there's a lot of people waiting for a job. You were lucky to get a job. I said 'Look if you don't sort it out, I will go to the Race Relation Equality.' On that time I knew the Race Relation officer. He was called Major Mujahid. He was Pakistani military man.

LMI: In Bradford?

AA: In Keighley. And she said 'No don't go there. I'll try to sort it out. I'll see what I can do.' I said 'I'm not coming to work till you sort it out.'

LMI: Did you have a trade union as well?

AA: No. They tried a lot of times, but people were so frightened they didn't want to join the union.

0:26:34

LMI: Oh, that's interesting.

AA: So the next day I didn't go to work, and she came around. She said... two hours I was living. She knocked the door. I was pleased to see her. She said 'Are you ready?' I said, 'No, I haven't had a breakfast yet.' She said 'Get a breakfast, come around to see me.' So I had a breakfast, I went over to see her. She said, 'Well, we decided that you will work on a day. One of them'... I think he was Ukrainian, 'we're going to sack him for some reason.' Probably he already phoned the job and gave in notice.' I don't know. 'And you will get, you will work on his place, you will get the same money. So you will be two of you working on day. But I want your surety that you don't misbehave with a young girl. You know, all the young girls works in there.

LMI: Oh you were a young man then, weren't you?

AA: I was 30 years old.

LMI: Did you promise that you wouldn't misbehave then?

AA: I said, 'Don't' worry, I have no intention!'

LMI: And you were married!

AA: I was married, yeah. And I got a house and I had a wife in there, a brought a wife. So she put me on an equal foot, equal wage and equal everything, you know.

0:28:12

AA: And even sometimes... my overlookers... sometimes I forgot what they were. Overlooker, he used to come around and he said... he probably doesn't give a job to the English laborer who was working with me. But he used to say, 'Just go there and do that, do that, do that.' One day I was so fed up, I said, 'Why don't you tell him as well?' I said 'Next time I will do one day, and next day he will do it. If you don't like it go and tell the office. It's a racial discrimination, I don't like it.' And he was amazed. He didn't expect it that way.

LMI: Oh really. That's interesting.

AA: I would say that. So from then on he was very fair.

LMI: Oh that's interesting. You stood up for yourself.

AA: Pardon?

LMI: You stood up for yourself.

AA: Yeah.

0:29:23

AA: And then another thing happens. There's two young Australian came around. They were rugby players, and somehow John Haggas took two of them. One was an electrician, the other one was a packer, like me. And my overlooker, he was a rugby player in some time, I think he was right tall, six foot four inch, well built as well.

LMI: Yeah, lot of rugby in Keighley.

AA: And Australian, he is well built as well. So they are both friends, very much friends. And every time...when any department that is short of packers or laborer, he used to say, 'Go in such and such place that they need a extra laborer or extra packer.' So I did for four or five weeks. And after six weeks I said, 'Tell him,' I forgot his name, the Australian, I said 'tell him he goes there.' He said, 'No I'm telling you to go there.' I said 'No, I'm not going. He's a packer,

I'm a packer. Why should I go every time? It is his turn, he will go.' So, what he did, he told the manager, I refused to work.

0:30:44

LMI: Oh really?

AA: And manager asked me to office. So I went in office. He said, 'Did you refuse to work?' I don't know what, overlookers then, I don't know, something like that. I said 'I didn't refuse. The only [thing] I said, 'Be fair to both of us, we are both packers, and every time someone needs extra, he sends me. Why doesn't he send him as well? So he said.. he put the pants in his mouth. After a few seconds he said 'All right you go back to your work.' And he told the foreman, he said 'Send the Australian to work. Take a turn, for both of them.' So he asked the Australian to go, the Australian said 'No I'm not going.' So he told the manager 'The Australian said he's not going.' And the manager said, 'Tell the Australian if he's not going he will collect his book in 10 minutes. I'll give him 10 minutes. If he goes to work. If he goes wherever he said, you know. If he doesn't want to go, get his coat and get his book.' And that Australian went. And after that they [?]

AA: And at that time I realized we're going to stay in this country. And being a labourer is not good prospect in future, you know. I should do another job, some sorts of it. So I applied for [?] lathe turner in vocational centre, Leeds.

0:32:05

LMI: Oh right. Engineering job.

AA: Engineering job. I told my personal officer, Mrs. Amon, I said, 'I'm going to finish such and such day.' She said, 'Have you found another job?' I said, 'No'. She said, 'What are you going to do then, you have a family and a house?' I said, 'I know, but I can't be labourer all my life. And I wanted some sort of skill.' She said, 'What do you mean?' 'I'm going vocational center in Leeds for a lathe turner.' She said, 'That's a good prospect, but I tell you, nobody will employ you.' And that time in engineering it was unheard [of], the Pakistani working in engineering, you know. So I said 'Well I don't know about... the only way I will find out once I'm a trained at this group.'

0:33:46

AA: I got a job, I mean I've been trained, I got a certificate, and I found a job in a small firm. I did about one year on there.

LMI: In Keighley?

AA: In Keighley. Marine engineering in a Marine Road near Morrison Street.

LMI: Oh yeah, yeah.

AA: After one year I went to John Smith Grand.

LMI: Oh I remember John Smith. Yeah absolutely. Are they still there? Have they gone?

AA: No they're gone long ago, long ago. It used to be at the B&Q, we had the B&Q.

LMI: Yeah, that's right. Yeah, yeah. Yeah, lots of people worked there.

AA: I went to the Labour Exchange. See, in the meantime, I went to Pakistan. My father was, my mother was, no, my father passed away. My mother was sick.

LMI: Yeah.

AA: She had a gallstone, and I went to Pakistan, and she had an operation and then I came back. I didn't find a job where I was working before, so I went to Labour Exchange. I told them 'I am unemployed and I'm looking for a job.' They gave me a card for John Smith. They gave me three cards, one for Bradford, one for Bingley, one for Keighley. And then I thought, 'I don't like going into Bradford or Bingley'... when it's snow, you know, the buses stop. 'How would I go to work?' At least I can work.

0:35:25

LMI: What year was this by now?

AA: 1972 I think, 1972, 1973.

LMI: That's when I became a father, when I had my first child.

AA: So, I went to the John Smith Grand. In the reception I told the ladies, I gave her a card. I said 'I came for a central lathe turner, I'm a central lathe turner, I came for a job.' She called the foreman. I forgot his name. That's the dementia, you know, you forget half of things.

LMI: You're doing very well.

AA: So, she called the foreman. The foreman came in, in reception, he looked all round. He just ignored me. And then he asked the lady, the receptionist, he said, 'Where's that fellow who came for the job?'

0:36:27

AA: She said, 'He's standing up there.' He said, he's a pakistani.' He says, 'Are you the lathe turner?. I said, 'Yeah.' He said, 'Do you know, this firm established 1889, or something like that, 1887,' he said. And it was 1972. He said, 'Nearly 100 years no black person came here to work. You are the first. Not even anybody tried it!'

LMI: Definitely a bit of a trailblazer here!

AA: He said 'Not even anybody tried it. You are the first one. That's why I didn't expect you.'. So he said, 'All right, come along.'

0:37:12

AA: He took me inside, showing all the departments. And it was a union shop. You [had] got to be in a union to work in there, you know. And he took me to the union rep, and he told him that I'm going to work in here. He was very nice person. He welcomed me and said, 'I will take you, but you have to be a union member before you start.' I said, 'I have no objection. I rather like union.' So I worked there about 23 years, I think. I got a gold watch. Then they... it was closed and took it to Derby. You know, the American body, they closed it down. They had a grand shop in Derby. So they took it up there and I was unemployed. Then I found another job, Parsons Street, Aireworth Engineering.

0:38:04

LMI: Which? Aireworth? Yeah, yeah.

AA: And then I worked 10 years on there. The manager on there was very, very nice person. I still got a personal link. In every Christmas, he sends me a card and I send him a card. Even now we speak to each other in a telephone. So, I worked there another 10 years, and then I retired.

LMI: When was that? When did you retire?

AA: 2004, end of 2004 because I was born 5th January. So 5th January of 2005 I was going to retire. I didn't bother to go after Christmas.

0:39:16

LMI: So it's nearly 20 years ago since you retired?

AA: Nearly 20 years.

LMI: So did you get very homesick for Pakistan when you lived here?

AA: Yeah, you had to go every two, three years. And then I tell you... the other side of it. I got a son who is a IT consultant.

LMI: Oh, yeah.

AA: You know, I told you I work in Egham.

LMI: Yeah, yeah.

AA: I used to pass, well, my bus used to pass by the college, Royal Holloway College, every day, from its gate.

0:39:56

AA: It used to be the ladies.

LMI: Ladies' college?

AA: I think that Mr. Holloway, when he built the college... I don't know when and why. I think it was the first ladies college in England. It was for ladies education. Then later on it was mixed, boys and girls. And I used to see them... there was very elegant uniform, and I said I wish if my son... he had the education in this college. And exactly that happened!

LMI: Oh really?

AA: Yeah. In 1993, I think.

LMI: He went to Egham College?

0:40:52

AA: He went to Royal Holloway College. And he did his computer science.

LMI: Oh, excellent.

AA: Well, he went to Overland Victories for the primary.

LMI: Oh yeah, yeah.

AA: From there he went to Skipton, Ermysted Grammar School.

LMI: Oh yeah, yeah.

AA: From Ermysted Grammar School he went to Royal Holloway College.

LMI: Oh, Royal Holloway, yeah, yeah.

AA: And before he had a result, he got a job, at a multinational company, an American company. I think it was based near San Francisco. They offered him a job before he even passed his exam.

0:41:30

LMI: That's quite a big journey for a man who grew up in a village in Mirpur, isn't it?

AA: Do you know where he got his first job?

LMI: Tell me.

AA: Saulteaux, France. What they call it? French Riviera.

LMI: Yeah.

AA: Uh, Nice.

LMI: Oh, that's a nice place, Nice.

0:42:07

AA: Yeah. Very nice place. And there's another funny story. When my son started on that job, I was working at John Smith, John Smith Grand. And one day I found out the accountant made a mistake on my wage, so I went upstairs to his office, and I told him. I said 'My wage is not right.' He said 'Let me have a look.' He said, 'What's wrong with it?' I said 'Such and such, you know, I worked so many hours, and you didn't put in.' And he was on... my clock card as well, so he checked the clock card and all that. He said, 'Oh I'm sorry I made a mistake. Good job you came here. I'm going on holiday tomorrow.' And I just asked him, I said, 'Where are you going?' He said, 'You won't know that.' I said, 'Are you going abroad?' He said 'Yeah, going French Riviera.' I said, 'Whereabouts?' He said 'Nice.' I said, 'My son is there!' He was surprised! And he said, 'What your son does?' Well, my son told me that they were making some sort of program for a banking system, you know.

0:42:53

LMI: Oh right, yeah, very...

AA: And I said he's probably doing something banking. He said, 'He's a bank guard?' I said 'Well I don't know. What do you mean?' He said, 'Well the people who stand outside the bank, you know, with a rifle?' I said, 'No he's a computer engineer!' He was amazed, you know, that my son is a computer engineer.

LMI: He thought he was a guard, a guard.

AA: He's working on it. First of all you have to know.

LMI: That is impressive.

AA: You see, a lot of people didn't expect that we the Asians will have a knowledge of... Mind you, there's three doctors in my family now.

LMI: Really?

AA: Three, four chemists, two dentists.

LMI: Brilliant. In Pakistan as well as... or over here?

AA: Not in Keighley, Bambury, Reading, Keighley.

LMI: So when you came over to England, did you think that it was to make a life like this? Or did you think you'd just stay for a while and then go back?

0:44:26

AA: Oh, when I came here, we had... everybody had a plan to go five, six years. We'd make so much money and then we'd go back.

LMI: Go home again, yeah.

AA: But we never made so much money! We still here!

LMI: You had to keep working. Oh this has been great. Great story.

0:44:52

AA: My grandson is a doctor.

LMI: So is mine.

AA: In Airedale.

LMI: Oh really? Oh fantastic.

AA: It is first year, you know he graduated last year. My nephew, my younger brother's son, he's a doctor in Cambridge. His wife is a doctor, then my niece, daughter is a doctor. She was in the expo now she's got Milton Keynes. And there's another nephew's daughter she's a doctor now.

LMI: You must be so proud.

0:45:35

AA: My mum, she got a good memory, you know. She was brilliant. No education, nothing, but...

LMI: That's interesting, isn't it?

AA: She could solve a lot of problems.

LMI: She was a bright woman?

AA: Very bright, very, very bright. Very disciplined, yeah. I think we... She was like a computer. We were about 20, 30 offsprings living in England, and every time she could call that, for instance me, Abdul, came Oxford such and such day, went back such and such day, in Sun came such and such day.

LMI: That's amazing.

AA: Nearly everybody.

LMI: All of them?

AA: Yeah, all of them.

LMI: Wow, that's impressive. That's impressive. I can hardly remember my grandchildren's names!

0:46:32

AA: Tell me. Tell me. I got dementia and I also forget.

LMI: You're doing very well for someone who's got dementia, I must say. Listen, that's great. I'm going to have to stop now, but that's been fantastic. Fantastic stories. That's really brilliant, really brilliant. And I hope you got used to the cold weather in England!

AA: I got anamnesis when I uh...I wanted for a... well that's nearly about 50 years or 60 years now. You know, when I travelled on a bus from Slough to Egham for a job. Eton College. It was in a way, Eton College. We used to pass Eton College, Windsor.

0:47:24

LMI: All those places.

AA: All those places. And I used to see the Eton College students having a uniform in the long form. And I used to wish my offspring, my son or anyone would go there. And that probably hasn't come true yet. It might come true in a few years' time, or ten years, or twenty years.

LMI: But it's good that you've fought for your rights. Maybe they don't want to do that. Maybe they believe in more equality.

0:47:57

LMI: That's very good. Great stories, great stories. I'm going to turn this off now. Right...

AA: OK, I think I'd better go now.