

S2 A - BAYEREHENMAA

0

(We will think about it) We have heard.
(She said, we have heard) Nana, we have heard. Start. (Yes. Please, I want to start our conversation. First, we want to know your name) They call me Nana Ya Serweah. (And your age) As I am speaking I am seventy ^{eight} years old. (Please, can you give us your address?) My address is only my house. Hmm, my house address, and again, if it is necessary, I will use Young Farmers Association. Any letter can pass through, and they would bring it to me. (What type of Association?) If it pass through the Marketing Manager (Youngsters Association) Yes, (Please, what is the house number?) There is the house number; I go out and come in, but I have not seen. (Please, where ~~is~~ ~~it~~ were you born?) I was born at Oduom, in Kumasi - I came from there, but I don't know. (Please, Oduom, is it at Kumasi?) It is at Kumasi, near Tech. (The way to Kentintorono. Please e,) It is the home town of my father, Kyimiye. I was born at Oduom, I was born at my father's home town at Oduom. And my mother's home town also is Bebere. (Bebere?) Yes. (Yes) It is at Nwomaso (Nwomaso?) Yes, it is next to Nwomaso, the same town. (Please what how many children have you? What is their number?) Myself, I have eight children. (Eh, What is your career?) My job is the game. (Please, when you was a girl, what type of work did you start?) When I was a girl

I was a house-wife. It mean, I didnt work I looked after my children my children. (Please, when you ~~were~~^{were} not married, and you was^{not} looking after your children and husband, what did you do?) Oh, at that time, if you are a child, they don't allowed you to trade. (Please now, you said, you sell yams. How did you start?) The way I started was that, I went to Accra with my husband and settled there. When we went, we saw that, they were selling yams in the market, which was Makola. So I went and looked for a while. When I went there, it was not too long, that they transferred my husband again to here. So, when I came, I saw that, the sale of yams is here. So, I started selling. (Please, what was the crisis or problems in it? What was the difficulties in the sales of the yams?). At that time, when we travelled ~~to~~^{and} bought the yams, we had no problems, we got cars. Again, if we go, those people who were selling yams was not^{too} much. So, if we go to the bush, we got some quickly. We also got car to bring ~~them~~ it here, because, the drivers, if you go and buy yams, hundred here, hundred here, times ten, we call it thousand. That is thousand You can bring it. If you get hundred here, hundred here, even five, you can bring it from the bush to Kumasi and sell. As soon as you arrived, they would buy and pay you your money (So, there was no crisis?) No, at that time, there was no crisis.)

(3)

(Please, has your husband objected to your business activities or helped you in your business?) Oh, he helped me.

Please, how did the crisis came later?)

What brought the crisis was that, more people got involved in the business. If anybody comes from the village to Kumasi, she have to sell yams. If you also come, we cannot say, we will not allowed you to sell. You have to sell some. Because of this, the farmers in the bush, the money they paid to the labours to grow the yams, it became difficult for them. It became difficult for them. So, if they grow the yams, the price become high.

Because, he hired people to dig the yam holes, weed and took off the grass. We call it gifa, and they pull it. So the price of the yams are expensive. So, if we go, we buy the yams from the bush, so if we bring it, we loose; we loose. So, if we ^{also} loose, the transportation for the drivers, becomes difficult. (Please, while you were selling the yams, has your husband ever gives you troubles?) No, he never troubled me, because I helped him.

(Now, has your business helped you, have you got something from your business that has helped you?) It has helped me, because it is through that that I have looked after all my children at school. (What helped you to move forward in your business?) What helped me to moved forward is that, at

that time, we don't use more money for business, it was not more money ^{burning} ~~in~~ Our time, we called it hundred pounds. So, maybe your husband can help you, so that you can go and buy the yams. The driver who would ^{also} go to the bush for the yams, because he would get a little commission from you, if he has money, he can help you to buy more yams. If you return to Kumasi, as soon as you get the money, you pay the money, and you also pay him the money he gave to you. So, this was the helped we got from there. (Thank you. Please, have you been able to acquire any property because of your business?) I have not acquired any property. The only property that I have acquired was that, I used the money to ~~looked~~ look after my children. Now it is my children who are doing something to glorify me. (Yes, I have heard, thank you. Has your business enable you to help family members or other people?) Oh, it has helped more, because, if somebody come to me that she wants to sell yams, I allow her to go into it and sell the yams so that she can start life. (Please, as at now, your work is the selling of yams. Have any of your children joined you in your business, that she is learning what you are doing?) No, my children didn't sell some when they grew up, and completed their schools they have ^{gone} married and travelled with their husbands. So, they never sold yams. They

also have their own business, and I am sure, they are ~~intrested~~ interested in it. They didn't sold some of ~~the~~^{my} yams. (So, have you trained any other woman in your business the way you used to do the yam business?) As I ~~was~~^{was} saying, if people come to me and say they want to sell some of the yams, I took them into the business, so that they can sell ^{some} of the yams, so that they can do something for themselves. (Thank you, now, these modern girls, if any young woman come to you, that she want to start the yams business, so give her some advice, can you give her a little advice for us?) Yes, the advice that I would give to her is that, first, I will ask the name of your home-town, and you tell me. I have a big book, which I will write in your name. And I will let you understand that, because you would travel, you have to be polite ~~neat~~^{neat}. (What do you mean, by neatness?) Neatness is that, when you travel, you don't have be loose to men. Again you have to buy the yams in a very good way. The yams you would buy, if somebody help you to bring it, maybe ^{if} a farmer gives you one hundred tubers or two hundred tubers of yams to sell and return it after later, you have to be faithful and return the money. Again, members, we have ^{form} a union. Maybe, somebody have hired a car to load her yams. If she arrived ~~in~~ the bush, and maybe somebody is in the bush farm; she would say, as for

me, if you take me, I will give you one pound. And she would take the car from the person who brought the car from Kumasi. If you do such a thing and they bring you to me, I ^{will} suspend you indefinitely. I will not allow you to do the business again. Because you have disobeyed the law. (Thank you. I am coming to the second part. Please Nana, now, how does your life differ from that of your mother and grand-mother?) During the times of our grandmothers and our mothers, they had no crisis like now. It was good for them. How does your life differ from them now?) What makes our lives differ from them now; if I look into it, people have become more; we have become more. The girls have brought forth and their children have become more. So, it has ~~brought~~ ^{brought} crisis to us. (Mepa wo
 Please, what again? If you look into your life now, and look back to your grandmothers time, yes) Now, we are in crisis (In what way?) We are in crisis, in our feeding, we are in crisis in our clothing, we are in crisis in our children and grandchildren schooling. It is a very big crisis for us. (Please, would a young woman today be able to start as you started? If you look at these modern girls, the way you started, and your humbleness and so on, what is the different in these modern girls?) Today's young women, those who are serious to do the business and look after their children, they try to do business seriously. Even, some of them, if they come)

they cannot stay, but they run away and walk up and down and would not do the business. Some of them, ~~if they~~ ^{have} joined it about thirty or fifty five years now; they are all in it up till now and they are selling the yams. They travel and bring the yams (You are saying that, some of them cannot stay when they come, rather, they go away. Please what has brought that changes?) If she comes she would not take my ^{first} advice, that she must be careful, when she goes to the bush. It means, if she go and buy it ~~at~~ at a high price and bring it here, if she comes she would loose, she cannot go ^{there} again, and would run away. (Nana, Please, can you tell me something, that when you grew up and you was able to work properly, did something bad happened to you, that if you were to be given another change, maybe you would change it ~~and do~~ for a new thing? If something didn't go well, something that didn't go well in your business or didn't go well ~~with~~ for you?) I know; If I was ^{like} ~~as~~ at first or as I used to travel at first, I think I know ~~that~~ ~~how~~ I would do my business well. Because, at first, I said that, the business was easy, it was easy, but now that it has become difficult, maybe I would also ~~find~~ get some wisdom to do my job very well. (In what way. Explain it. Maybe, you will get a little advice for me) Yes, the only advice I would give is that, If I get up in the morning, and would go to the market,

I served my children and my husband before they leave; my husband goes to work, my children also go to school, before I go to the market, and sell my goods. (At first when you were young and did very hard work, was there anything that didn't help you, or you didn't do it well, that if you were to be given another chance, maybe you would change it.) At first, what didn't help me was that, I didn't attend school.

Because I didn't attend school, nothing went well with me. But now that there is civilization as I am speaking, I feel that ~~that~~ everything I am doing will go well with me, because I would learn. (It means that you would go to school before you start trading.) That's it. I would go to school before I start trading. At that time also, we, like myself, ~~my~~ I ^{am} ~~was~~ the only child of my father. So I was near to his heart. He didn't allow me to attend school. (Thank you

very much. Nana, Please, in your ~~at~~ business, what has been your happiest moment in life?)

Yes, my happiness is that, Eh, as a woman like me, I have never attended school, any good thing that would come to Kumasi, big things that would bring glory, they call me to do it. This also brings happiness to me.

Even, when the Assembly was not in Ghana, when they were introducing it in Ghana, in Ashanti, even I was among them. (In your happiness, ~~it is~~ one thing that is very important than everything, what is that?) The most

important thing is that, as an illiterate, and have never been to school, but when the Government is calling educationist, they call me also, in this I am very proud (So, at that time, you became very happy) Yes I was happy. (What I want to ask is that, in this world, there was a day, that something happened in your life, maybe two or three things has happened in your life, that you became very happy. Maybe, the day you was called to assembly and noticed that, you are the only woman, and excuse me to say, you have never been to school, but they have called you, that day was your happiest day in this world, or something else. That is what we are looking. Sometimes, it is a bit difficult. Like me, I was saying that, if they asked me about my happiest day in my life, the day I brought fourth my first born; when they brought it to me, and I saw that, I have brought a person into the world. This, if I remember and recollecting my happiest day in this world, that time, up to that time, it was my happiest day in my life. Because, since I was born and eyes were opened, and I attended school. Yes, we want to hear something like this.) Yes. (Maybe, it is how you brought forth, or business, or something else eh-) (Maybe your marriage) (Yes, marriage, we want to hear something like this) The first thing is that, when I grew up and in my puverty time, they took me through the custom: - "bragor" I was

happy. I also got a husband. First, I got married
 but I divorced, it didn't go well with me
 so I divorced. Again, I married the second
 person. I brought forth all my eight children
 with him. So, when I brought forth I was
 glad, for I saw that, I have become a woman.
 So, I was very happy. (So, as you are saying,
 the time they put you through the custom way
 "bragors," and you saw that you are coming up
 and your life is ~~beginning~~^{beginning} to change, that day
 was your happiest moment in your life.
 So, you have seen the "bragors." It is all
 about bringing forth. Myself also, it was
 about bringing forth. Myself also, when they
 did the "bragors" to me, I was happy, I noticed
 that I have become a woman. I have joined
 the women. Truly, when they also finished,
 I didn't play and bad games. I got married
 I brought forth, and they laid it on me.
 (Thank you very much. In your life also,
 who have done ^{something} bad to you, or have pulled
 you back in your life? Maybe, in your
 business o, in your marriage o, as I am
 saying, Maybe, there was a day that something
 tried to pulled you down. He has make
 you become miserable. Something like that)
 Myself, as I am — (Nana, please, what
 have helped you very well? What you are
 saying is different. ~~is there~~ Has something
 helped you in your life) The most important
 thing that has helped me in my life is
 the yam business. (The yam business?) Yes,
 because, it is the only thing I have done,

in my life. (Who has influenced you most in your life, do you remember such a person?)

I stayed with Ashanti Queen mother, Nana Konadu Yiadom. The time I stayed with Ashanti Queen Mother, Nana Konadu Yiadom, what she told me was that, if you are a young woman, and you are starting life, don't use your mind to play bad games on streets, instead, you must stay home and lead a good life. If you lead a good life, everyday, you would have your profit. So, so, I feel that, the profit I got from it, ~~are~~ my children, whom I feel proud of them. (It

means that, it was the advice given to you by the Queen Mother, that helped you) Yes, It was that, that influenced me, you see?

So I obeyed it. At first, if I did bad things Eh, they would do something to me and drive me out from the house for ever.

(Yes, "Kyiribera" You did not go through the custom way") Yes. If I do bad things, they will drive me from my house, where I live, and send me to some bush. So, I was

frightened. I was frightened, so, you will not do bad things. Because of this, when I brought forth a child, I was proud of myself, I was proud of myself, within my heart. (Please, Nana

did she gave you this advice before you went through that custom "bragors", or after the bragors?) When they were coming to do it

to you - (When they were coming to do the "bragors" to you?) Yes, when you was growing She gave that advice to me when I was

growing. (Did you stayed with her in the Palace?)

Yes yes (Do you feel fulfilled in life? | By the grace of God, I feel very well. Everything I do, I feel good in it. (How has the current economic situation affected your life?)

Eh, What troubles me in my life now, ^{is that,} there are some modern fashion, which was not here ~~in~~ the past, but now they want to bring it. This thing, I don't like it at all in my heart. Example is that, we, the Ghanaians living in our own country, in Ashanti, we have our own land which we cultivate and feed ourselves, but now they say, we have to weigh our food and eat, it is something which worries me in my heart.

I don't agree at all. (Mod (Thank you) This thing has never happened before. (Please, what has changed most in the community and the general ~~com~~ society / country for the past ten years?) Eh, the changes I have seen is that, about four or five years ago, our present government, has make us to understand that, Eh, a woman, if you are staying with your husband in your house, and the man die's, in the older days, our grand-parents, as soon as you die, they would come and collect the keys from you and locked the doors and drive you out from the house. They would say, if your husband is dead search for another place. Now, this government also, has told us that, if your husband dies, nobody have the power to drive you out from the house, till they buried the corpse and the)

funeral rites. If he have any property, they divide it with his children and the widow.

When I heard this story, I understood it. (Say^{can} you add something different, or this is good to you?)

About what (Eh, something again. This one is very good.) (If there is something more. This one is good. It will help us very well. Maybe there is something new, you will say again. It may be good or bad. All is good.) (Please, how have women's and men's views in the African context on marriage changed over the years? Which changes have been positive? What changes still need to take place?)

Today's modern women, at first, our mothers and grandmothers, their marriage is not like now. Now, our children like business, they like business. Their marriage, it is how I see it. But it shouldn't be like that. At first, when our mothers were married and lived with their husbands, they went to the farm with them and cooked the food, the woman cooked the food for the man. The man goes to the farm with the woman and return's with the woman. ~~Before~~^{cause} the woman is a woman, she is the one, who is coming to the kitchen to cooked the food for the man to eat. Boiled water and took it to the bathroom for the man. When he is taking his bath, she has to hold the towel on her arms, till the man finished his bathing she would stand behind him. When he finish she would give the towel to the man to dry himself, and take away the bucket, before she return's to the kitchen and cooked the food, and

Send some to the man, before the woman gets some to eat, and take her bath. This is what I feel at first that, it was good. But today, I think, the women won't get time, because of their business, they won't get time to do as their grandmother's did. (So, these changes, which of them is good?) Ah? (These changes, which is good, the modern one or the ~~first~~^{old} one?) The first one also was good, this present one, because of the business, they don't get time to treat the men. (Yes, they don't care for the men properly) Yes. (Still now, what changes can we add to it, and what can we do to improve it?) All about it is that, as I was saying, at first, there was no civilization, and if these things was there, it would be good for us. But as at now, if the woman did not work, she would not eat. So, it seems to me that, we should take it like that. If the woman did not work, she would not eat. At that time also, there was no work. (Yes, Nana, thank you. Please, at first, the men many took many wives) Oh! (Is polygamy a necessary evil?) Ei! (What ^{serious} problems was in polygamy?) At first, the men, how they married, it was because of the farming, it was ^{because of} the farming that they took many wives. Because, if he finish cultivate the land, he would give this women a portion, this one, a portion, this one a portion, and the women are ~~is~~ there, and they are working. That was why they married more women. But now, it is not there. I feel that, this present one, it is good. (So, polygamy did not bring brought you any problems, was it good for)

you? You, as women. Was it not evil to you. Was it good for you? It was evil to us. Because, you will not get your husband to do anything, with him, that will bring happiness to you, because, we are many. If he goes to this place, you would not see him, maybe one or two weeks. You see? So, we were troubled, but it is something like a custom, so you cannot say anything about it. He would say, I have married, if you like, you can marry me, if you don't like, go! You also, you cannot go, so you will stay. It is not good, but you stay, and you are bringing forth children. (Nana, thank you very much. As at now, our ^{present} lives, do you think polygamy is good or bad?) Polygamy, it is not good at all. (Please, in what way, does polygamy become's evil?) Thing that makes polygamy becomes evil is that, now, expenses is too much. Expenses is too much. So, as a man, if you are going to work, and you say, I am going for to take two or three wives, if you don't take care, you would be disgraced. So, if you have one, and both of you have one mind, you will get peace. Me, this is my advice. So, polygamy is not good. (Thank you. Nana, Please what are your views on Family Planning? This present Family Planning?) Family Planning, Eh, my views on Family Planning is that, at first, I was able to bring forth eight people, I had no hardship, I did not suffered as my children are suffering. Because, at first, if I buy a yard of material, maybe, one shilling and sixpence, I sewed it for my child, and he/she walks around. But)

now, you cannot buy, even two and sewed ^{it} for
 you child. You didnt gave him/her sandals,
 you didnt gave him/her ~~the~~ socks, they have
 add all these to it, at first, it was there, but
 it was not as much as now. There were poor
 people among them. So, this present Family Planning
 myself, if they will listen to what they are
 saying that, they should give birth to two or
 three children, it is good. We must give birth to
 that. (Your views is that, you support the Family
 Planning, for it is good for the women to do
 it) Yes, it is good. Because, these children, some
 of my children, even, have given birth to four.
 Sometimes, I tell them to give birth to more
 children, They answered, Mother, there are more
 difference between the time you gave birth.
 If I study it also, it is true, it is not like
 that, so they cannot look after them. How the
 children attend school, if you have about three,
 and they are in collage, if you are not care-
 ful, you will faint at once; you will think
 about it always. So, it is not good. ~~They~~ should
 give birth to few children: From four to three,
 I suport it. (Thank you very much. Please, Nana,
 you said, you have eight children. You gave
 birth to eight children) Yes (Yes, as at now, if
 you were to be given another chance, would you
 have the same number of children as you have
 now?) Now, as for me, maybe I will have four
 exactly as my children have, done (Please, why?) Why,
 why? Now, I cannot look after them (Yes) Now,
 I cannot look after them. Even, the food they
 eat, is a problem (So, would you give birth

to four, three, two or one, how many?) Maybe I would give birth to four, or children, so that I can look after them. (Thank you very much.) Now, in Ghana, it is not good. (Please, Nana, you see that, there are many laws, now what are your views on the current laws on intestate succession and the registration of marriages?) Hmm, about this, it is good, if we go and asked. (It is good, if we register) Yes in this, people will testify that you are his wife. (And what do you think of the registration?) The registration also - ? (As you was saying, that, at first, if your husband dies, they would will come and drive you away, yes you have said it already, so that's all. Now, what are your views on the registration, is it good for you?) Yes, it is good, because, nobody can cheat you again. (Thank you very much. Please Nana, do you belong to any women's group in Kumasi or elsewhere?) I do not belong to any women's group, except the yams group. For am I going to stop the ~~the~~ yam's group and join a different group? while in my group, I have people, at least, I have about thousand people, which I ~~to~~ rule over them, I may get about thousand people. Why am I going to join another group, and everyday, they would say come here, go there; and what would I do to my children? So, I will not join any group, a part from my yam group. (Please, do you join any group in the church?) Oh, In the church, I ^{have} join a group (The church is also a group. Please, what type of group? Tell.)

us) I join the good shepherd. (Good shepherd)
 Yes, the good shepherd group. (Please, ⁱⁿ what
 Church?) Anglican. (Anglican, where is it?)
 Saint Anne, Ashanti New Town. (St Ann's,
 Ashanti New Town. Thank you very much!)
 That's all. In the church, I think it is ~~good~~
 good.) ~~In the church, St Anne's and yes~~
 (Yes,) (Oh, it is good, if you have more)
 (In the church, St Anne's, and the yams
 group, and what else?) (Is there anything
 again?) And I am in the men's group, you
 call it — (Don't mind, you just say, Men's
 Fellowship) Yes, Men's Fellowship. (Men's
 Fellowship) Yes, that one also, I am among.
 (Do they allow women to join it in your
 church?) I alone, because I am an elder, they
 allowed me support them. (Patron, Patroness)
 Please Nana, in the Palace also, are you not
 in any group? You see that, they always
 calls you to the Palace) No, that Place,
 because I am in the market as a Queen-
 mother, so they made me ^{as} an elder in the
 market. So, if the Ashanti King is doing some-
 thing, and He brings me an invitation, I give
 share it to the whole market people; those
 people, whom I know, I share it ~~among~~ to them
 It is because of this, that if they are doing
 something in the Palace, they call me in.
 (Thank you very much, Nana, Please, Eh
 in what way — as you are saying, you
 gather many of the women, you help most
 of the girls and the women) Yes. (What
 are some of the ways in which women's

group like yours, are helping to nurture, teach, support and train young ~~women~~ females to help them face and prepare—) Them? (I mean, now, we have many groups, we have the yams group, you see?) And this also, belongs to who (We will explain it later, and you ~~to~~ should give it to the ^{Nana} Queen-mothers) Those in the market? (Yes, so we shall explain it later) (We shall explain it to you after we have finished. You see that, we have different groups. You see that, we have the yam Queen-mother, you are, you are in the yams group, you see?. And we have maybe, Eh, Plantain Queen-mother and her group) She also, everybody have her group. (Oranges, yes. Everybody have her own group. You see that, as you are saying, you help the women a lot, teach them and so on. In what ways do they also help the women, as you are doing?) About this, if she is in her business, (They are teaching, supporting them) If she is in her business, and she is using her mind to do something, they would not come and tell me, maybe, Eh, in the market if something is going on, as you have given me this invitation, then, I ~~could~~ send my secretary to give them the invitation, that, maybe this group or, this union wants to meet ^{with} us, Then, I can send it to them. (Thank you. Please Nana, in your own group also, by your grace, please, what are some of the ways ~~to~~ you teach, or support, and train the women, because of the high cost of living, or face.)

this present life? Because, there is a difference between your time. Maybe, members of the group, do they sometimes sit down and plan to do something to help ~~the~~ members of the group? Yes, (What do you do?) What I do is that, last year, I have a time to pour libation to take out the curses upon Ashanti Nation, that the yams are coming. Yams ~~are~~ are something we eat in a year. So, if it is getting to the end of the year, and you didn't protect it, maybe it would bring trouble to somebody. So, if I sit down ^{today} and decide to pour libation, I ~~&~~ invite all the yam sellers, those who travel, and those in the market, and all the people at home, and they come and gather. I tell them my mind, I tell them my views. So, I have pity in my heart that, a big group like yams, we have no fund. Every day also, people bring letters to us to go and do this. Next day, somebody would say you must go and do this. So, I sit down with the union, I told them my mind that they should help me to get money for them, as capital, and they should take it after my death, for the money is not mine. So, when I said it, the women made up their mind that, it is not bad news that I am telling them, so they agreed. So, only last year, if I pour libation, two months coming will be one year, that I brought that law. Since we started, we have obeyed it. Everybody who returns from your journey, you give me only one tuber of yam for the

Committee members. Members of the committee will collect it and sell it, that is what we use to raise a little capital. (Please, Nana, in what ways do you help with your fund?) We help like, ourselves, tomorrow → everyday some of my children are dying, some of them also, their mothers are dying, if somebody dies, and they inform me, it is that money, that we have kept some of it aside, and we collect some ~~of~~ for the funeral donations. (Thank you, Nana) If somebody also gets ill, if you have sold yams ^{before}, and you have become old, and you are at home and you are not selling yam again, I call upon the committee that, Eh, maybe, you should send about one pound or hundred pounds to this person, maybe, five thousand. You should ^{give} five thousand to this person, you should give five thousand to this person. You should add two or three yams to it for her ~~as~~ to eat. I did this (It is like those who have sold yams, and they have gone to pension, those, who cannot work again, you help them little by little in their homes) Yes, I help them little by little in their homes. (Thank you very much) If they die also, I again give something. (Nana, please, it is not that I am worrying you, Eh, those old women at home, whom you help them little by little, and the group you have formed, if somebody is in need, you go and help her in the funeral, after that, is there anything again? Maybe there ~~are~~ is something again -) There is nothing again.)

After #

(Ah. Maybe, Eh, as you help somebody in the funeral, maybe, somebody also is having a wedding, or something like that, can you go and help her?) Oh, as for us, we attend funerals, if you are going to ^{perform} the funeral rites, and you asked us to go with you, why not, if you are celebrating your wedding ceremony, we should not come and help you? If you are celebrating a wedding ceremony and you come and inform me, you are my sister, we will go and help you, and we will give you the little we have. (Please, what do you think women's groups * like yours and others, should do to improve

Conditions of life for women and the family? You see that, most women depends on us.

As a group, what can we do to ~~help~~ improve the lives of women, or our family?) Now, by the grace of God, Eh, a change has opened for women, if you go to some place with your husband, you can talk. As for talking, woman cannot talk in public. But now, if you a woman, you can talk in public for people to agree with you. At first, ~~we~~ they took us as foolish things. If you are ^{staying} as a woman, and you are in a business, and you are strong, you can do the work. Maybe, your father and your mother have sent you to school, because you can learn. But, maybe a job, or money, if it comes, they say it is for the men. They would not allowed the women to handle it. So, this, it was something disturbing. So, now, if the women

Come together, that we also, we ~~we~~ will form a group to ~~do~~ help, I feel that, if we fix this story in our group, it is good. They take ~~we~~ the women, as fools, because they don't allow us, the women to speak, but now, we can talk.

(Thank you very much, Nana, please, what do you think are the most important current problems of women? You see that women, by all means, we have something that worries ~~us~~ us) Our little problems is what I have already told you that, it is what worries ~~us~~ women. If you are in a particular institution and you are educated, and you are promoted, they would give ^{it} to a man, because she is a woman, it is ~~no~~ something that worries us seriously. (It is like, they oppressed us) We are oppressed. (Discrimination) Yes.

(Discrimination, because you are a woman.) It is like, you are not among. They have given your share to somebody. So, it is ~~not~~ not good, so, the women who have form groups should record it (Thank you very much. (So now, what can we do about it, like you have said. What can we do about it now?))

What we should about it is that, the groups we have formed, can work for us. But you, who is outside, you cannot do it, like the foundation of the group. (Thank you Nana. Please, woman, your work, Nana, your business and your family, your business is there, and your ^{family} business is also there. Can you choose one, that, I am doing only the business, for I have ~~put~~ ^{rejected} the family aside, or choose only.)

the family, I would not work?) (What type of family? (Yes, maybe, your husband and children?) Will you choose only them? Yes, maybe you can mixed your marriage, the family with the business? This is the way I can explain it. The family and the business. Somebody may say, he would not allow his wife to work. Somebody can work, and leave her husband and children like that, you see? Somebody also, can get married and look after her husband and children, and stop working, she would not work.) This is what I said at first that, in the olden days, the time of our grand-parents and mothers, we combined with our husbands; we work. And a woman if you sit down and say you would not work, but you will look after your family alone, what can you do to support them? Not so? (Yes) Yes (It means, Eh, you can do=

S2 A.

S2 A.

S2 A.

~~What~~ come in, like yours
 Will it come in like yours? (Yes) So, as I am sitting here, is it recording the story? (It is recording all you are saying. So, if you need one, we would give you one, after we have finish, and you can keep it. If we finish, we can give you one of the cassetts.) Yes, you can bring me the casset, so that I can play and listen, yes, now, have we finished? (It is left with a few. Please Eh, our business testifies that, we are tired, you see?)

What are the tensions in our business and the family? What are the difficulties or tensions in it? You have combine both the business and marriage and children together. What difficulties would you face?) It is true, there are difficulties it is true; but it hard to happen. (What show's that, there are difficulties?) Eh, what have brought the difficulties is that, ^{one} only woman, you are working. Again, you are married, and prepare the meals. You family also, is not good, but you can help. Again, you help your children to attend schools, and train them properly. So, it brings difficulties (So, each day, it is like you are panicking, you are panicing.) Like that, you have no peace at all. (So, what should you do to have peace? Somebody may say, if you get married, you are married, you dont have to work. Somebody said, if you are working, you dont need to marry, you see? Somebody said, choose one. And we have ~~the~~ combined all the three together, what can you do to have a little peace?) About this, I cannot express my views, because, Eh, today, as I am sitting here, I have made up my mind that, my money, I am going to buy food-stuffs, as I was looking somebody have come from the villiage. When she came, she ~~was~~ coming for money. She was coming for yams. ~~go~~ to eat. So, my money, which I was going to use to buy food stuffs has reduced! Another person also came, she said, Nana, I am coming for money to do something. In this also, the little)

I was ~~for~~ using ^{to buy} for food-stuffs, it has reduced I am saying that, this is the family one. You have not done ^{it} for your children, so, it is difficult. (So, you are thinking too much, you panic) You are thinking. I would not do - If I am sitting, I talk, if I am going, I am talking and talking, you have come and collect this money, this, I am talking. But nobody did nothing to me. Myself also, when they came, and because I am an elder, it is not good, if I didn't give it to them. (Thank you Nana. Please Nana, what do you imagine or know are the disadvantage of being the only woman in a profession or office eg. law, medicine, engineering and military which are dominated by men. If it was you, what can you do?) Ei! (Being the only woman in a special institution with men.) Yes, it would be dangerous for you. You would be frightened, because you don't have this thing :- any happiness in it. Because, you think about it that Eh, only one woman, you are among these men, you have no peace, or any happiness (Nana, the time you said that. you went to assembly; ~~many~~ there were more men, maybe, there were few women there, Eh, when the programme was going on, what did you taught about it that, you are women, only a woman, Eh, did something happened, that helped you, or discouraged you in that post? As an only woman, And you alone has become an assembly woman.) I am a woman also, an illiterate, if they give me the programme)

that, this is what we are ^{going to} do, and if somebody is sitting near me, I asked the person about what we are doing, he answered, we are doing this. If they raise the discussion, somebody say this, somebody say this, somebody say this, and I sit down quietly, and I raise up my hand. As soon as I raised my hand, they say, Nana wants to speak, Nana wants to speak. The contribution I will give, it is (foul) (final) They will take it (Final) final (yes, final) Final, they take it. Then you should take that word out O, (We will say it correctly. We will correct it.) And they say Nana's contribution is final. (Yes, final. They take it. Now, there is sense in your explanation) So, I don't talk by-hart (Specially, if they didn't take your contribution, what would you do?) Ah, then, it may be disgrace (And it would be something like panic.) (Please because you are a woman among them, and they accept your contribution, it is because there is sense in it, that is why they accept it. And if there something, and as a woman, if you are doing it, and they say no, about this issue, Nana, stop, and let's do it in a different way, at that time, will it bring something bad, or spoil something?) Yes, that was what I said first, if you are in some institution, and you are a woman among them even, something, maybe, there is a post, they say, a woman is not among, and they put you aside, you see? (Thank you Nana, what examples in history can you think of where)

women's contributions have been overshadowed. She has helped her husband or somebody?

(Maybe, in the country. Maybe, a woman, in the history, a woman has done something very important for the nation.) Ei, women, we have

done something little. At first, we saw in the country, a woman like Nancy Tibo, she was a Ghanaian woman, she helped in Ashanti district.

Yes, she was the person I knew. (Have you heard in the history, that a woman had helped like this? Some country, politics, war; maybe some good things) Then, it ~~must~~^{maybe} be at overseas.

(There are some in our own Ghana, I want to remind you. Queen-mother of Ejisya.) Oh, it is in Ashanti, Yaa Asantewa was a woman, when the white men tried to rule us in the olden days, she was the woman, who rised up and asked, Ashanti's, where are you? Rise up. The men, were going back. She said, "I have rised up!" As soon as she pick up the gun, all the people followed her, and she won the victory for the Ashantis. So, Yaa Asantewa was a woman, worked hard for the Ashantis.)

Yes. (Nana, you see that, Yaa Asantewa did well I am sure, that everybody knows. Our next generation would hear about it. Yes, and many countries. Many people also did something, but they never mentioned; it was kept behind close doors, it was sealed. Maybe, few people noticed it. Some people also, never knew.

Is there anything like that, could you remember anything like that?) About those people who did great things? (Yes, they didnt mentioned some

it, ~~like~~ ^{like} Yaa Abankwa o, some people did something like that, but they never mentioned it, and it has kept behind close doors.) Yes, is it a woman or a man? (A woman) Then I don't know anybody. (You mentioned some, like Nancy Tibo. After she has helped, and settled everything, later, we didn't heard about her again.) We didn't heard anything about her again. They never mentioned her name, because she was a woman. (Yes, it is the men only, that we mention their names, that they have done this, they did this) (Please, Nana, thank you very much about what you said. Eh, now, please, what do you think are the oppressive structures that keep women in positions of powerlessness? Maybe, we are doing something, but they are oppressing us, they ~~are~~ control us, and we can't, - or, we can't come out with our knowledge, you see? We cannot express ourselves. It is like, we know nothing. But, maybe we know something.) Some of them also depends on their husbands. It depends on their husbands. Because, she feels that, if she did something great, the man would say, ~~you~~ she want to overcome him (Yes, she wants to become greater than him.) Yes, she wants to become greater than him. So, maybe at home or in the country, he would not help his wife to do it.) No, never, (Yes) He would not help her. He don't want her name to be mention (Please Nana, some of them, maybe it is not their wives only Even, somebody, maybe she was in a certain society. Example, Nana, maybe, in your group

in which you are training these children. Maybe, a certain child has knowledge about something. Now, that you are at home, and can't go to the market, maybe, the child has wisdom and wants to do something, but the elder would oppress her. They won't give her the chance to do it. You see? (Is there anything like that?) It is like that, it is like that, because eh, even, my children, whom I have trained them, and has formed a ^{committee} group and I have

and some of them are among ^{even} the serious person, who wants to do something, they want to pull her ~~to~~ ~~come~~ down. And that person will stay ^{there}, just like that, later she stops (When she leaves, ~~the~~ what she was doing, -) Yes, she stops what she was doing. It is something which disturbs. So, if they come and inform me, I go to the market and advise that person, maybe she would understand. (Thank ~~you~~ very much, Nana. We have had a conversation with you now. Please, now, is there any question you think we have left out or more to be added? or do you have something to add to what we have said? Maybe, we did not asked you, or you have some knowledge which you will tell us, or maybe you will add something to what we have already asked you for us?) Let me see, what I will say, is what you have record. It's all-right. (Nana, we thank you very much. In this, we thank you very very much. We pray that, God strengthen you, so that, ~~the next~~)

present ~~about~~ children, who knows nothing, if they
 wants to know something, they would come to
 you, and you also would give them a little
 about your knowledge. We, we knows nothing
 Oh. If we didnt learn from you,) If you
 dont know anything, (by your grace) are you
 not the one, who is giving, - you are giving
 me directions. (Yes, but, I was asking you
 the questions, and you also gave me your
~~answers~~ answers. What you have learn, we
 also have to learn some of it. (Thank you
 very much. God bless you and give you
 strength.) This lady, do you says, she under-
 stand ^{the} twi? (Yes, my grand-mother. When I
 came, I told you that, my grand-father is
 Adam chief.) Ah! (I came here with her
 and another lady) (We were the first people
 to come here) (It was me, and a lady - --

END OF 52 A. AND 52 B