

CultureTalk Bangladesh Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Students and School Supplies

Girl: The students here are good. They follow instructions, and they have a lot of respect for elders. They treat their elders with the utmost respect.

Interviewer: Such as?

Girl: Such as when they talk to elders, they talk very courteously. First they salute them, and then they ask about their health, etc. Every student of a BRAC school has this in them. Even if they meet someone older than they on their way, they stop and greet them and ask them about their well-being. To respect elders -- this is very much present in them ... among the students of a BRAC school. We teach them this during the primary stages, and they follow these steps throughout their time in the school. Even now that they have progressed to the fifth grade, they have the same respectful behaviors; there is no change in their manners.

Interviewer: Is this education offered for free or ... ?

Girl: Yes. It is free. They don't need to pay for their books, notebooks, stationery, etc. Our BRAC office provides them with all these things. Say this slate ... this slate was first given ... this slate was first given when the children were first admitted to the school. Every child was given a slate for their individual use. So they are given these slates for free at first, but if it is damaged then their parents have to pay twenty taka to get a new one.

Interviewer: What else do you provide them with?

Girl: These are all writing and learning utensils. They use these sticks for arithmetic and this pen is used for writing. And this pencil is used for writing on the slate. For erasing the things they write on the slate, we give this small container that they fill with water. They use this little sponge cushion and the water to erase previous entries from their slate.

Interviewer: You give all this for free?

Girl: Yes. We actually make the kids assemble all this, for their own convenience.

Interviewer: After how many days do you give them all this again?

Girl: Well, once they assemble all this, we don't give them new utensils unless they are damaged. There is no need for that really, because they usually last for a long time.

Interviewer: Okay, but say that their pens run out of ink.

Girl: Oh, if their pens run out of ink? We usually give them new pens every month or every two months. That's it.

Interviewer: What else? How do you like teaching here?

Girl: I like teaching here a lot! I joined this school thinking about all these children's welfare.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use everyday. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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