

Yemeni Arabic transcript:

ل: في هناك أي مشاكل تواجه الشباب اليمني أو البنات اليمنيات الآن؟ حالياً؟
ف: اهه... في مشاكل، يعني اللي من ضمنه هو التعليم وأكل القات، يعني هو أهم سبب هو أكل القات. يعني ساعات يكون الأب و الأم ياكلوا قات و هذا يسبب لهم أنه ضياع عيالهم و أولادهم. فالبنات تشرد و الليد يشرد تلاقيه بالشارع يشرب سجارة و يخزن و البنات تاكل سوكة و موكة و ده الكلام.
أما بالنسبة للتعليم المناهج عندنا التعليمية أبدا ماتغرسش أنه ماتغرسش من بداية العام من أول سنة دراسية أنه كيف الأدب كيف التعامل مع الناس كيف... فعندنا كمان الشعب أنه محتاج حد ينميلة هاذي النقطة. أنه ماينفحش ضروري أول ماتدخل المدرسة أنه ده عيب وده كده وده كده... تعليم دراسة قرآن صلاة، يادوب انه يهتموا بالدين أيوه بس مايهتموش بالأخلاق كمان. فهذا النقص في منهجنا. و كمان عندنا في مشاكل الزواج، غلاء المهور طبعاً، هذا أهم سبب في بهدلة الشباب عندنا. يعني الأب أبو البنات يطلب مهر كذا كذا و الولد يكون رايدها ما يحصلش نصيب. فيضطر أنه يروح يتسلع ويدور ويعاكس البنات وكده و البنات نفس الحكاية أنه لو أهله مازوجونيش وكذا تتحرف تروح بالغلط تتحرف أنه تشرب مخدرات تروح أي مكان أي... كحول أي حاجة.

English translation:

L: Are there any problems that young Yemeni men and women face currently?

F: Uh... there are problems. I mean they include chewing *qat* and education; I mean the main problem is *qat*¹. Sometimes the father and the mother both chew *qat* and this causes the loss of their children. The girl runs away and the boy runs away to the street and starts smoking and chewing and the girl starts eating *soka*², and things like that.

As for education, the educational curriculum never teaches [kids] good manners and the right way of behaving from the first year of school, so people here need to work on this more. [It should be emphasized in the curriculum] that this is not accepted and that's not good and things like that, from the first year of school; [there should be] education, *Quran*³ and prayers. They pay good attention to religion but not to good manners as well. This is the fault in our curriculum. We also have problems facing marriages, the high dowries are one of the most important reasons for youth's bad conditions here. I mean the girl's father asks for a certain [high] dowry and the man wants to get married [but he can't pay it] so they end up not getting married. So he [the man] finds himself hanging around the streets and wandering about and harassing girls. The same happens to the girl since her parents didn't let her get married, so she does bad things and strays away; she takes drugs and goes anywhere.... [drinks] alcohol or anything.

¹ Qat: the leaves of a tree that is considered as a drug in many places, Yemeni people chew it to pass their free time.

² Soka: a drug that many young men use; they put it between their lower lip and teeth.

³ Quran: the religious book of Islam.

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