

CultureTalk Bangladesh Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Comparing NGO and Public Schools

Interviewer: You have studied in a public school and now you work here....

Teacher: Yeah.

Interviewer: ... What's the difference between that school and the BRAC school?

Teacher: Well, students and teachers in the country, the main difference that exists between them... we usually treat the students very kindly and with humanity, or that great humanity must exist between us and the students... and that's the thing. But in a public school, you won't find that. The teachers are usually kind of hot-tempered and their way of communicating with them [students] ... the behavioral aspect... is ... that [they] do it with an air of ... do it with bad temper, as a result students... but here, compared to that, we don't behave like that with children. We talk to them very kindly, or if we meet their parents on the street, we talk with them. Tell them about good and bad. This is not what happens in a public school... it doesn't happen. When we studied there... perhaps if they (teachers) ever came across our parents, they... they perhaps...they never talked willingly. Compared with that, we talk to their (students') parents, as a result they...our... perhaps after seeing us at it... they send their kids to our school every day, or in our school what matters the most is that students are taught amid merriment... studying becomes fun. In between classes, we sing sometimes and have fun. Different stories, various rhymes, poems, songs... we do these. There's dancing too... various... in our school kids learn and have fun at the same time... but that's not present in a public school. And.

Interviewer: The exams?

Teacher: Well, the exams... various...chapter...after every four or three chapters, we do an evaluation... this exam is held so that students... the student knows all the subjects or points made in their whole book, so that they are not lacking in any area. But this usually doesn't happen in the public schools. They do not do any kind of evaluation. They study in one go and then are tested semester-wise... twice a year. That is not the case with our school. We take an exam after every two or three chapters.

Interviewer: How does that help?

Teacher: In public school, taking the exams at such long intervals... students get confused and can't hold it all in their head. And they don't even get good results. But in our...

Interviewer: Is there anything good about the public school... a feature that can't be found in this school?

Teacher: Yes... I can talk about that... take the environment they are in... the environment here is not so good. By good environment I mean, they...they have a bench. They can sit down on a bench and study. And [in] the room they are studying in, they have ceiling fan... and the fan is kept turned on...studying in cool air... they are comfortable. But our students are not able to take part in that kind of comfort. They have to sit on mats, and it's very hard when it's hot. We suffer a lot in the summer. We have to study in extremes of temperature, when it's very hot or cold. Because not all the kids can buy proper winter clothes. And the environment that we live in ... this environment gets very hot in summer and very cold in winter...we and the students of BRAC feel it to a great extent.

Interviewer: What's the reason for this?

Teacher: The reason is perhaps the rooms... the material or support the government can provide them with... we don't have that. The money the government is giving them, they can use it to make buildings and make better facilities for studying. But we don't get that. And comparing at that level, nothing is being done about it, or nothing is being done right now. And whether something will happen or not, I can't say.

Interviewer: But in the end, everything goes well, right?

Teacher: Yes even through this hardship, our children, BRAC's students, are studying, and when the results come out, students from BRAC have better results than those from public school.

Interviewer: Okay, students from BRAC school...now this is a primary school?

Teacher: Hmm.

Interviewer: After primary school then?

Teacher: They are in the fifth grade and, at the end of it, they will have an exam with students from public school...they will sit for a joint exam. They will be marked, and if they do well then BRAC will take their full responsibility... responsibility for their education.

Interviewer: The admission?

Teacher: Yeah, letting them study, helping them get admission... BRAC gives them all that.

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

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