

Yemeni Arabic Transcript:

ل: بعدين معك الكليات الخاصة اللي هي الغالبة. الجامعات الخاصة والمدارس الخاصة مثلاً في عدن نحنا دحين مليون مدارس خاصة فتحت بس في عدن. في صنعاء في مليون مدارس انترناشونال.. مدارس عالمية.. دولية.. هادون اللي ياخذوا مثلاً مستويات أي بي ومستويات ال... وياخذوا امتحاناتهم لا بريطانيا. في مليون منهم في صنعاء بس في عدن في مدرسة وحدة بس. وأغلب المدارس الخاصة.. زيهم.. يمتحنوا نفس إمتحاناتنا بس لغة الدراسة بالانجليزية وغالبية الصراحة يعني أغلب الناس ما يقدرش يخلوا أولادهم ولا بناتهم يدخلوا على المدارس الخاصة، وبالذات لأنه كمان مختلط. وحدة من صاحباتي أهله كانوا قادرين يدفعوا للكلية الخاصة.. بس مارضوش يدخلوه... لأنه الكليات والمدارس الحكومية يعني أحياناً توصل لمستوى ماحد يتوقعه مستوى يعني من الجهل والإسراف اللامبالاة وعادي عندهم ماحد يحضر مافيش تدریس و غش.. توصل لدرجة محد يتخيلها.. توصل لدرجة أنه الطلبة نفوسهم يروحوا المدرسة بس عشان يادوا أصحابهم ولا يضاربوا حد.. يعني يدوروا بس أديّة. عشان كده أغلب الناس يسحبوا عيالهم من المدارس الحكومية ويدخلوهم مدارس خاصة. صاحباتي من صدق أتاترت في المدرسة الحكومية لأنه كان معاها لأنه كانوا صاحباتها مش تمام.. صاحباتها ماكانوش ينتبهوا للدرس ويضحكوا ويحشوا ويعني المهم يسووا كل شي الدراسة ما يدرسوش. البنات مستواها بدأ يدنى الدراسي. رجع أبوها يشتي يدخلها مدرسة خاصة بس المدرسة الخاصة مختلطة عشان كده مارضاش يدخلها، دخلها فصل واحد. ولأنهم عائلة يعني متمسكة بالعادات والتقاليد.. بعدين التدریس المختلط يأتز كثير على عدد الطلبة اللي يقبلوا... اللي يدخلوا المدرسة والرسم كمان. وبعدين معك أول ما تتخرجي. طبعاً لو كنتي في مدرسة دولية بتتخرجي على النظام البريطاني لو مدرسة خاصة عادية بتتخرجي على النظام حقناً. وبعدين لما يدخلوا كلية نفس الشيء. في عدن نحنا كليات خاصة دحين بدأوا يفتحوا في عدن، بحدود يمكن ثلاث كليات. الرسوم غالبية مرة.

س: يعني كم؟

ل: يعني بالسنة مليون، مليون تطلع كم، تطلع خمسة ألف دولار يمكن. غالبية مرة بالنسبة لدخل المواطن اليمني الافريج المواطن اليمني العادي المواطن اليمني اللي يستلم الدخل المتوسط. صعب يعني حتى لو جلس يشغل ثلاثين سنة مايطلعش المليون.

English Translation:

L: Then you have private schools which are expensive. There are now a lot of private schools that opened in Aden. In Sana'a there are a lot of international schools¹ that give A and AP levels and send their students' exams to England. There are a lot of them in Sana'a while in Aden there is only one. Most private schools take the same exams as we do (public schools) but the language of teaching is English. To be honest, these schools are expensive; I mean most people don't send their children to private schools because they can't afford them and they are co-ed as well.

One of my friends' parents could afford the private school fees, but they refused to send her. I mean most public schools could sometimes reach an unexpected level of ignorance, wastefulness and indifference. I mean no one comes, there's no serious teaching and there is cheating too. It could reach the point where the students themselves go to school just to make trouble and hurt someone. For this reason many people take their children from public schools and send them to private schools. My friend was really influenced by the public school she used to go to because she had some bad friends. Her friends (in the classroom) were not paying attention to the lesson,

¹ International schools are private schools that use the British grading system, while private schools use the same grading system used in public schools but require higher fees than public schools.

they were laughing and gossiping but they weren't studying. Then my friend's academic level started to go down. Then her father thought of sending her to a private school, but the private school was co-ed, so he changed his mind. He sent her there for only one semester. This happened because she had a family that was very attached to traditions and customs. The co-ed system and the amount of fees really affect the number of students going to a school. Then if you are studying in an international school you will graduate according to the British system. And if you are studying in an ordinary private school you will graduate according to the government's system. Then when you go to college it's the same thing. We have private colleges that have just started in Aden, about three private colleges. However, their tuition is extremely high.

S: You mean how much?

L: I mean like one million rials per year. How much is one million Rs? It's about five thousand American dollars. It's extremely high for the average Yemeni citizen who receives an average income. I mean it's very hard, even if he/she kept working for thirty years he/she wouldn't make this much money.

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