

Bangladesh

School Classes

In Bangladesh, students remain in the same classroom and teachers rotate to the different rooms. There are both co-ed and same gender schools in Bangladesh. In the co-ed school, boys and girls may sit next to each other in the same classroom. All students wear a uniform to school.

School Relationships

Students have a formal relationship with their teachers and address them by “Sir” or “Miss.”

Extracurricular Activities

Students join clubs and other extracurricular activities through school in Bangladesh. Parents do try to give time to their child’s extracurricular activity.

School Rules

Cell phones are only to be used in an emergency and with the permission of the school authority.

Return

Bangladeshi students lose an academic year while they are abroad in the U.S.

Family Life

In Bangladesh, most households consist of parents, or a parent, and their children. Rarely do grandparents, aunts, uncles or cousins live in the same house even if they live in the same town. However, there are some joint families; sometimes grandparents move in with the family as they age, but this custom is changing and is less common. Families typically eat together, but it is not unusual to eat apart as schedules demand. Students are accustomed to making small and simple meals for themselves, however they will not be accustomed to making full meals for themselves.

In Bangladesh, many mothers remain at home and fathers are the only earning member; in some families, both parents work and share responsibilities at home as well. Both parents may expect to be seen as equal authority figures in all household decisions, however the father as the head of the family, has a great influence in all decisions. In Bangladesh, it is considered respectful to allow family members regular, individual time by themselves, to pursue their own activities, socialize with friends or to simply relax, but minors are expected to ask permission from elders or parents before socializing outside of the house.

Teen Life

In Bangladesh, children ask for permission before they borrow anything. However, sharing, especially with cosmetics, food, and means of transportation, is typical. Many things are considered common, though, like food, and can be taken or used without asking.

Responsibilities

Generally, house help are employed at home for cleaning rooms and bathrooms, doing laundry and chores. Bangladeshi teenagers are generally not given important responsibilities beyond their own academic performance. It is very rare for a teenager in Bangladesh to think about his or her own pocket money. Students do not take on employment of any kind and are dependent on their parents for financial purposes.

Parental Involvement

Bangladeshi parents often monitor what their children do online in the interest of their children’s safety. Parents may limit what sites a child visits online, or how much time the child spends on the internet. Many Bangladeshi parents are in direct contact with their children’s school and are kept aware of their academic progress.

Pets

Few families in Bangladesh have pets at home, and any household pets will typically be kept outside.



COUNTRY FACTS:

Capital: Dhaka

Population: 156,118,464

Area, sq. mi.: 55,598

Real GDP per capita: 16,000

Adult literacy rate: 54% (male); 41% (female)

Ethnic make-up: Bengali 98%, other 2% (includes tribal groups, non-Bengali Muslims)

Religion: Muslim 89.5%, Hindu 9.6%, other 0.9%

Personal Interactions

Mixed Gender Socializing

Boys and girls may socialize together, but group socializing is preferred. Teenagers in Bangladesh are generally not encouraged to have friends of opposite sex.

Friendships

Parents do not encourage teenagers to share money with friends or peers. Teenagers in Bangladesh have friends but always maintain a certain distance between each other. Parents are conscious about their child's friends.

Eye Contact

While talking to any person regardless of age, creed or cast everyone makes eye contact. In Bangladesh it is a way of showing respect.

Cultural Norms

Parents prefer to have a direct style of communication with their children. Bangladeshis are reserved and feel shy when it comes to displaying negative emotions amongst their peers and family. Personal space is valued and expected in Bangladeshi society.

Personal Hygiene

Generally, a Bangladeshi teenager will take one 10-15 minute shower once a day. In Bangladesh, each person usually has one towel for their individual use.

In urban areas of Bangladesh, it is generally thought to be unclean to wear the same clothes two days in a row. However, in more rural areas, it is more dependent on the person's ability to purchase clothes and he or she may rely on cologne and wash their clothes with less frequency.

Religion

Religious practice is both an individual and family event, but generally not a community event.

Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr: Bangladesh is a country with full of festive and celebrations. There are many major festivals and Bangladeshis celebrate a diversity of holidays.

Holidays

Eid, Puja, Christmas, Pahela Baishak (1st day of Bengali New year), Maghi Purnima.