

“Less is Not Enough” Dilemma of Alternative Primary Schooling Opportunities in Dhaka, Bangladesh

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Abstract. This paper focuses on urban working children of low-income families in Bangladesh, and non-formal primary education (NFPE) programs that are available to the children. Through highlighting a few elements of one NFPE program in Dhaka, the paper examines its dilemma, as the nature of the program generates the unintended consequence. The NFPE program unintentionally perpetuates the constructed notion of “working children,” distinguish their students from those in the formal school, and continuously prepares them for the subordinate segment of the society where they are today.