

Children's vision for outdoor learning environments in Bangladesh

Theme/Place:

Greening spaces for children and youth - Bangladesh

Authors:

Dr Matluba Khan, Dr Tom Smith, Lia Chowdhury

Context and objective:

This study was conducted as a response to the effects of pandemic on children' learning and wellbeing. Schools in Bangladesh were closed for more than a year and this study explored children's vision for rethinking learning environments that can support outdoor-blended learning during the pandemic and in longer term.

Methodology:

An ethnography was conducted with 20 families in Bangladesh- children, parents and grandparents that included video interviews, drawings and craft based methods to understand the effect of the pandemic on children. Following this an in-depth qualitative study was conducted in five primary schools to explore children's vision for learning environments during and after the pandemic.

Results:

Both parents and children were expressive about the negative effects of pandemic on children's academic progress, social skills and mental wellbeing; some positive impact was reported too. Teachers, children and parents unanimously thought that outdoor learning in the school grounds and in the neighbourhood could help with children's wellbeing and learning as schools reopen and for future years.

Contact:

khanm52@cardiff.ac.uk



A child's drawing of their outdoor learning environment (Credit: authors)



A conceptual image of children's vision for outdoor learning environment (Credit: authors)











