

HOW MOTHERS FEEL about student tutors

TAHMEED CHAUDHURY

Private tutoring is a norm for late teens or young adults in Bangladesh, especially for university students who want to earn some pocket money each month. While it is a suitable way to pocket some cash, it also comes with a lot of drawbacks. The mother of the kid is the most arduous drawback you'll ever deal with.

These difficulties arise when an overly attached mom relies on you for her child's academic life, meaning everything starting from day by day routine to monitoring to grades are your, not your student's, results. Below I have outlined a few points which will indicate as to why private tutoring can be a stressful experience to you because of parents' misconceptions.

YOU HAVE NO LIFE; ONLY YOUR STUDENT IS REAL!

Yep, it may dawn on you that that is exactly how the child's mother feels about you. Apart from the weekly routine you scheduled to go over to her place to teach her child, you may also receive sudden calls at odd times which would be a plea to go over and help out her child with his/her homework or for an 'extra class' to help him/her prepare better. Not only that, she'll subtly ask you to cancel any plan you have to be at her service. Whether or not you have an exam the next day, or a family gathering, or any other work, your cries for being pardoned will fall on deaf ears. What they probably won't get is: you have a life too!

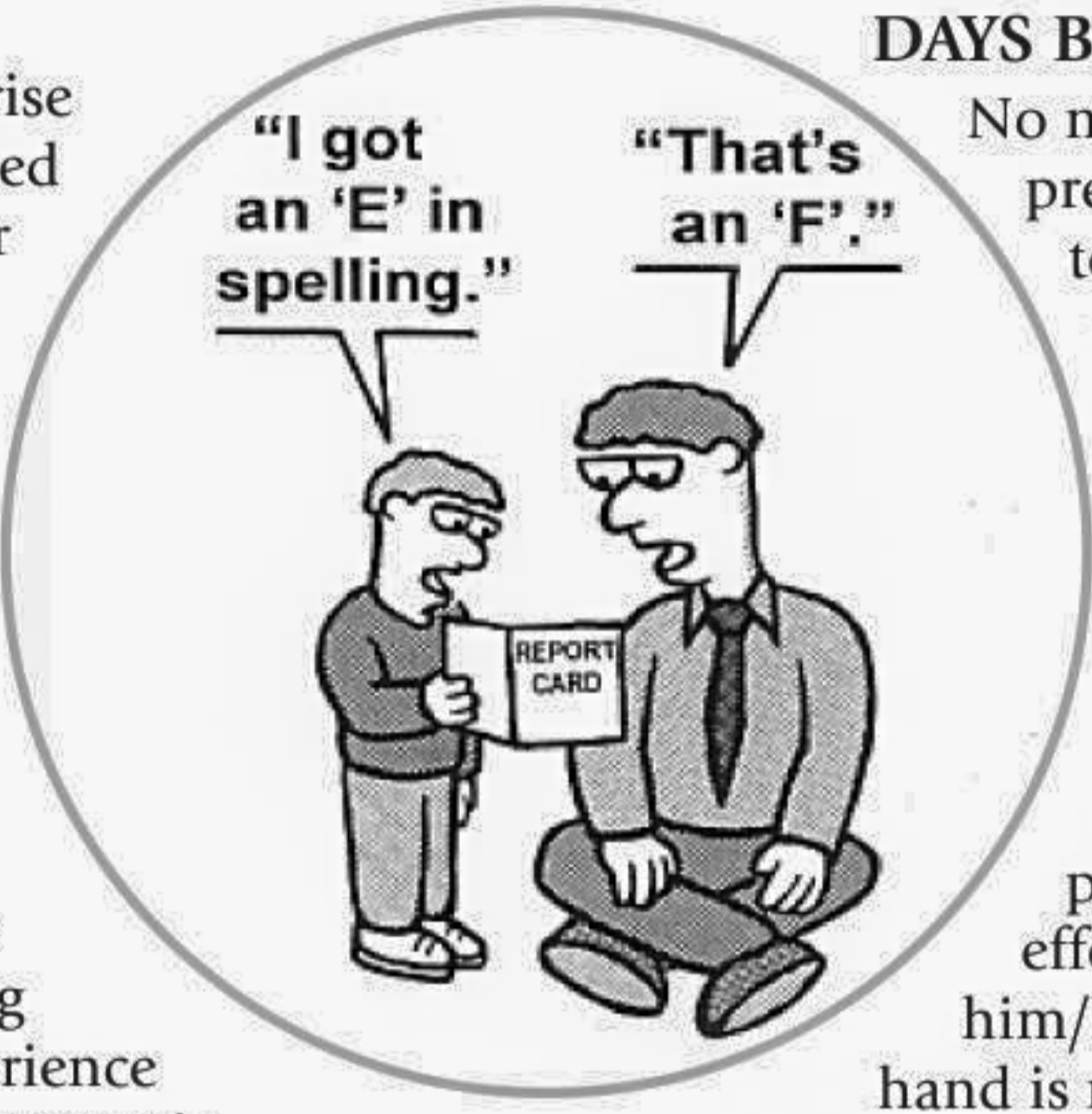
THE CHILD HASN'T DONE WELL? IT'S YOUR ENTIRE FAULT!

What mothers need to understand is: tutors are there to provide guidance and to help students grasp a better understanding of concepts, but it's not the tutor's responsibility to make him study

at home, practice and do well in tests. When the child returns a poor grade, you're likely to be interrogated heavily. Furthermore, every time the child goes wrong in anyway, the blame will be pinned on you. Yes, she expects you to teleport to her place every now and then to ensure her child is following the proper routine.

YOU HAVE TO BE THERE ON DAYS BEFORE EXAMS.

No matter how well you prepared the child for tomorrow's test last week, going there today is a must! Mothers believe your presence on days before tests will influence the child to reap fruitful outcomes. It's like putting a massive effort into preparing him/her for exams beforehand is not enough.



Sometimes you may wonder, "Why don't I sit for his exams as well?" DON'T EVEN DREAM ABOUT GETTING A RAISE.

Private tutoring does not pay a fortune but when you're working overtime, you expect some sort of an increment right? Well, forget about it. You negotiated a fee and after you were sworn in as the right one to take the child forward, money shouldn't be an issue, doesn't matter how many hours extra you put it. That's what parents probably think.

Before anyone goes berserk over what I've written, let me make it clear that I am not ranting against students' parents disrespectfully. Of course, not every parent is the same but those who are, shouldn't be blamed either. It comes from love and concern for their child, but they should really consider the fact that tutors have lives too.

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MODERN DAY CRICKET AND THE IDEA OF POWER HITTING

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You look at someone like Jason Roy or Jos Butler and wonder how much the game has evolved over the past few years. These young English lads have become what you can call the epitome of exponentially changing modern-day cricket batsmanship. It's a beautiful story, if you want to hear about it.

Previously there were two basic aspects of hitting a cricket ball and scoring runs: "proper hand-eye co-ordination" (i.e. timing) and "placement". But these days, with the explosion of T20 cricket; a third one has been added to that tally, and it's called "sheer muscle power". It has become so remarkably crucial that it has almost erased the second parameter "placement" from the T20 coaching manual. Here's why:

When Jason Roy, Chris Gayle or Glenn Maxwell sees a delivery being bowled at him, he tries to understand the length and automatically, has a full swing of the willow. Seeing the ball on to the bat is no doubt still critical in basic batting, but what has been added to that is the full-hearted 180 degree swing of the cricket bat – which batsmen of the previous era didn't use to opt for, most of the times. So why didn't they?

Here comes the third, still rapidly burgeoning batting parameter – muscle power. Modern batsmen, with the help of sports science, exacting fitness regimen and proper nutrition, have trained, built on and developed the exact precise mus-

cles that they need for hitting the cricket ball a very, very long distance. You see Jason Roy poking at a ball half-heartedly, and you also see someone like Suresh Raina poking at a same type of delivery – the only difference being that, Raina's poke landing at the bowler's hands on the other end, and Roy's poke landing around the mid-off region. Just a mere simple poke – and ball carrying to mid-off of a spinner's delivery.

That's why placing is a shot precisely doesn't bother modern day power hitters. Because of their extensively trained shoulders, lean yet strong biceps and balanced forearms, even if the hit a ball with 50% timing/effort the ball still clears the boundary by a long, long way. So why bother for placement? When you can just overpower the bowler?

You see Jason Roy or Chris Gayle hitting those big, fleshy sixes – in the blink of an eye – landing way into the second, third tiers amidst the crowd and you wonder – how the idea of power hitting have reshaped the game in the span of a mere 10 years. Reshaped the game to such an extent that it has started to affect even 150 stagnant years of Test Cricket. Oh how wonderfully fascinating and unpredictable the game is!

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