

Research Article



Teaching in Two Worlds: Weighing the Pros and Cons of Teaching in Private and Public Schools

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Abstract: Since there has been a significant rise in the number of private schools for the past couple of years in Uzbekistan, there is a dilemma for teachers where to work: in public or in private schools? This article is an examination of the pros and cons of both private and public schools as the best working places for educators. Additionally, this article explores the reasons for teachers' preferences to private schools rather than public ones and depending on observations offers some solutions to the key matters.

Keywords: educators, private school, public school, salary, working condition, staff support, well-being, corruption.



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Introduction

It is true that schooling has become the most remarkable profession, whereas the conditions for working public school educators can distinct completely from private ones. Every school offers some challenges and conveniences for educators. This article will discuss the benefits and drawbacks of public and private schooling, dealing with incomes, conveniences, and teacher fulfilment.

Literature review

The questions related to comparisons of public and private schools have a long history. A group of scholars such as Hoffer, Coleman and Kilgore (1982) concluded that private schools are much better than public schools in their research, where tried to take into account the difference in issues such as the role of family in this case. David N. Figlio and Joe A. Stone (1997) tried to compare differences between private and public schools, where they included the performance, management of the school, the quality of teaching process, class size and school facilities. An excellent review was provided by McEwan (2000), who argues that, with a few exceptions, there is generally insufficient evidence to reach strong conclusions with regard to such comparisons. Methodological difficulties found in this literature include the size and nature of the available samples of schools and students (e.g., small sample sizes, self-selection into public or private schools), as well as key student, family, school, and community variables that remain unmeasured but may be associated with both public versus private school attendance and student achievement.

Methods

Different traditional and contemporary methods are being used in investigations related to schooling process at present time. One of such approaches is comparative method based on finding certain similarities between two objects or ideas. Another effective method is contrastive which aims at disclosing certain differences between the questions under consideration. Thus, comparative and contrastive methods are used to study pros and cons of teaching in private and public schools in Uzbekistan.

Results and discussion

It is not always an easy task to choose the right education option for children in modern society as the number of schools is abundant and can be found everywhere. It is important to consider the benefits and drawbacks of each school, whether to give a child to a public or private school. It is evident that Private schools are known for their smaller class sizes, specialized programs, and rigorous academic standards. These factors contribute to a more personalized and focused learning environment that can benefit certain students. With fewer students in each class, teachers are able to provide individual attention and tailor their teaching methods to suit different learning styles. This level of personalized instruction can lead to better academic performance and a deeper understanding of the material. In addition to smaller class sizes, private schools often offer specialized programs that cater to specific interests or needs.

Although private schools offer certain advantages, public schools also have their own set of benefits. One of the most important advantage of public schools is the diverse pupil body they attract. Public schools are open to all pupils in a given district, regardless of their socioeconomic background or academic abilities. This diversity can expose schoolchildren to different cultures, perspectives, and experiences, fostering a rich and inclusive learning environment. Moreover, public schools often offer a wide range of out of class activities such as sports teams, optional courses, and organizations that cater to various interests and talents. Participating in extracurricular activities can help schoolchildren to develop important life skills such as teamwork, leadership, and time management.

It is not possible to imagine schooling without the main staff – teachers. Teachers play an essential role in school life as much depends on teachers who teach different school subjects with different traditional and contemporary teaching methods. Even altitude towards teachers looks similar in all educational institutions, however there can be found certain specific differences from school to school. The following factors can be stated as important issues in private and public schools in our country:

1. High wages

One of the most notable differences between public and private schools is obviously salaries. In Uzbekistan, educators of private schools earn an average \$650, which means much more than teachers who work at public schools for the salary of \$350 per month, including monthly bonuses up to 50% for qualifications, certifications of CEFR, and category levels (2nd, 1st, and High). However, by contrast, private schools offer higher wages regardless any certifications, offering only a straightforward payment system valuing teachers' teaching methods instead.

2. Facilities at working places

Another vital factor that influences school teachers' job performance is accessibility of resources and conditions at working places. Mostly, public schools have witnessed poor teaching materials and up-to-date technologies. Educators regularly invest in their own stuff to assure productive lesson delivery that can lead to their personal financial drain. Furthermore, there are still some public schools with second-rate physical conditions, with old infrastructure, inferior airing, and packed classrooms that affect learners and educators' well-being.

On the contrary, well-maintained facilities and teachers' accessibility to modern teaching tools, such as smart boards, laptops with Wi-Fi, and well-equipped libraries can be offered in private schools. Additionally, private schools also prioritize teachers' support with essential resources, avoiding the financial burden on teachers. This opportunity provides teachers to concentrate on educating rather than concerning about the loss or damaged equipment.

3. Well-being and Breaks

Another crucial factor of teachers' job satisfaction is well-being. Majority number of public-school teachers struggle with brief, interfered breaks, along with the high-cost menu, there are unsanitary meals that can lead to illness, impacting teachers' performance and well-being, due to limited options for nourishment during the day, which effects their energy and productivity.

By contrast, teachers are always treated not only with free and hygienic meals in private schools but also enjoy fancy breaks with colleagues. This fosters a sense of community and creates relaxing and recharging moments for educators which lead to a more positive and supportive work environment at school.

4. Professional growth

Apart from all mentioned above there is one more feature that makes working in private school appealing is providing educators with excellent opportunities for professional development not only in the country, however offering to exchange experience with educators in foreign countries as well. School principals and managers often show their appreciation for the team by arranging team-building events, training courses, even international workshops. Teachers are engaged, motivated, updated with the latest teaching methodologies by these initiatives.

On the other hand, such opportunities can be rarely noticed in public schools that can cause limited professional development which makes teachers feel undervalued and unsupported in their professional growth.

5. Corruption and Ethical Challenges

One of the greatest controversial issues of public education is corruption. Informal payments, favoritism, and other unfair practices are a challenge for teachers and parents as well. This may create a difficult environment for teachers, as they may feel compelled to engage in such practices or else be penalized. By contrast, private schools are better managed and tend to have higher expectations in terms of supervision. Therefore, teachers in private schools are in a better position so that they do not have to deal with corrupt issues, making their working environment clearer and fairer.

Teachers and parents alike face the pressures of informal payments, favoritism, and unfair practices. This can create a stressful environment for teachers, as they may feel forced to participate in unethical activities or face consequences. In contrast, private schools operate under stricter management and are typically held to higher standards of accountability. As a result, teachers in private schools are less likely to face issues related to corruption, leading to a more transparent and fair work environment.

6. Teacher Satisfaction and Confidence

Overall, compared to public schools, educators in private schools tend to highlight higher satisfaction due to better pay, supportive work environments, opportunities for development, and ethical standards contribute to this satisfaction. Although public school teachers enjoy security and government-sponsored benefits, issues pertaining to resources, meals, and corruption incidents are demoralizing.

Conclusion

The experience of teaching in public and private schools is quite different with its own set of pros and cons. Public schools offer perplexity with insecurity of work, social claims, salary compensations linked with certification and categories. However, the level of satisfaction of teachers is hampered by rustication of infrastructure, low exposure for development and corruption. On the other hand, private institutions pay better, offer modern facilities and professional opportunities along with taking care of teacher's mental health. Thus, private institutions are suitable for people who want to achieve an improved equilibrium between work and personal life and have growth opportunities.

Each system has its benefits and disadvantages and choosing which to follow depends on a teacher's goals, both personally and professionally. Public schools are still an option for those looking for security and long-term benefits. Private schools with a focus on dynamic, resource-driven and fulfilling career options are fast gaining as the first choice among teachers.

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