**Title**: Exploring the Students’ Understanding of Cultural Contents in SSC English Textbook

**Research Questions**

1. How do students perceive the cultural content of the SSC English textbook?
2. How do students relate the cultural content in the textbook to their own cultural backgrounds and experiences?
3. To what extent do students believe that cultural content enhances their language learning and communicative abilities?

**Qualitative data**

**In your opinion, write what you understand by cultural content? Write it...**

The most of the students say, cultural content talks about festivals, cloths, food, beliefs, and societal life. Student-1 has mentioned, “Our beliefs, and way of life, everything regarding the way we live including our food, dress festival etc. are cultural content.” Another group says it informs about tradition, daily life activities, rituals, and attitudes. Some students understand that cultural contents that related to ethnic people, their life, food habits, clothes, crafts, daily life activities and their various symbols of beliefs. However, student-2 mentioned that poems, songs dance and folk stories can be cultural contents. Though student-3 understand by cultural content which engage them with their cultural knowledge, importantly, another group of the student say, cultural content talks about unique identity, history and language.

**What do you find most interesting about the cultural content of the textbook?**

The text about various festivals (e.g., Pahela Bioshakh, 21 February) is found most interesting by the majority of the students. Also, some students show their interest in history and various historical places that have in their textbook. Another group of them find interest in ethnic people and their cultures. Moreover, student-1 have zeal to know diverse foreign cultures with complaining tune due to scarcity of text about it. Last point is about biography of great people. Student-2 keens on reading the text biography and their attitude.

**What do you find not interesting about the cultural content of the textbook?**

Most of the contents of the text are not interesting to the students as they complain. One group of students says, the textbook has huge lack diversity and what it has they are not details for enjoying them. Second group says sleeting the contents have discrimination such as it not represents qual potion culture of the community as well as global. Moreover, one student says,” I am not interest in various ancient beliefs and superstitious attitude because it creates chasm between oversee culture and us as well as it causes a prevention of development.” Another student says that the books have the known content and there is no point of going through random story to know them again which also support another comment of the student that this is just a reputation ‘Bangladesh and global studies’ (SSC textbooks for Science student). Student-1 tells, I personally don’t enjoy the detail content about underdeveloped life style or religious beliefs and customs. One also questioned the standard of the contents as low.

**Can you provide an example of a specific cultural topic or content in the textbook that you can relate to your cultural background or experiences?**

the major group don’t response to question. some of the students mention only one lesson’s name that is Pahela Boishakh of the textbook. One student says, “In the textbook, there is not much cultural content which I can relate to my experience and background and the prime reason of it I live in the city. However, I may say, Pahela Boishakh can be an example.” Also, another student mentions a lesson ‘Independence Day’ from the same unit 4. Although, student -1 mention one unit name half of its “Heritage”, the complete name is “World Heritage”. Moreover, student-2 gives the example of a lesson name ‘Shat Gombuj Mosque’ which is have in the same unit 8.

**Which source do you think needs more focus, and why?**

The large portion the student feel urges to fucus on the international cultural contents. Because they will create huge opportunities of jobs for the students. Moreover, it will enhance students’ global knowledge as one student says ‘it helps us to learn about the culture all over the world.’ And another student states it gives a wide perspective that can help the student to understand the world better. Student-1 says ‘to turn a country into developed one international source should be more emphasized.’ The second large students support that local source should get more focused because of its richness and diversity. Student -2 says, “our country is enriched with cultural contents”. Showing concern of local culture student-3 opines that to prevent our culture it is importantly needed to be more focused on local source because day by day people are losing their own culture. Moreover, student-4 believes their own people don’t about their own culture rather they prone to foreign culture in spite of having many learning in the local source. However, some student’s statement suggests to keep balance between local and international sources. In contrast, only one student talks about target source mentioning that it will fit student to compete more.

**Is there anything else you would like to share about the cultural content in the SSC English textbook?**

As one student emphasize that cultural contents are very important for development of the nation and the country. But, in the textbook, it has huge lack of diversity of cultural contents. Such as, student -1 says, “More diversity regarding the countries should be entailed in the curriculum.” Some students suggest ethnic and foreign culture should be included more along with the local culture. Moreover, a student questions the quality of the content and suggest to improve it. Similarly, student-2 recommends to avoid childish content to make it more learner friendly. Another thing has been shared by a student that they want the simplified version literary works (e.g., Shakespeare).