

# *YUNUS CENTRE*

## *INTERNS' MAGAZINE*

*ISSUE NO. : 02*

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# *Message*



I am elated to talk about the work of the young people, the interns in our institute. Their dedication towards their work and the motivation that fuels them to travel from all over the world simply to broaden their knowledge on social business never ceases to amaze me. These young people come with an unquenchable thirst. It is our responsibility to plant the concept of social business in their young minds in order to create a better world where the youth take charge and begin to have socially conscious thoughts at an early age. Because they are young, they tend to be more flexible, more inquisitive and full of zeal; hence they can easily channel their energy towards working to reduce poverty. Many of the interns come from a variety of different countries meaning that the concepts they learn here can one day be extended to their native countries, fueling the global growth of social business. Our purpose is to create a world without poverty by leaving poverty behind in poverty museums. In order for this to happen, no one but the next generation needs to lead this path of the reduction of poverty. To all the young people, I am encouraging you to become social business entrepreneurs and contribute to the world rather than just making money. Changing the world is a lot more fun than just making money.

**Dr. Muhammad Yunus**

Nobel Peace Prize winner (2006)

## *Message*



It's a great feeling working with the bright and talented interns at the Yunus Centre who are from all over the world. We want to motivate the concept of social business and ensure a platform for youth to nurture their social business ideas for the future to accomplish Professor Yunus' three zero goals; zero poverty, zero unemployment, zero carbon emissions. Our 6<sup>th</sup> annual Social Business Day that was took place on May 28, 2015 was definitely a great opportunity to inspire our interns and challenge them to become the generation to overcome the most difficult crisis the world is facing. The youth are the new job creators and entrepreneurs, they are today's assets and tomorrow's leaders, and therefore, it is our duty to show them the path to contribute to make the world a better place by helping people, as in the words of Professor Muhammad Yunus, making money is happiness but making other people happy is super happiness.

**Lamiya Morshed**

Executive Director, Yunus Centre

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# **Internship Objective**

The internship program's objective is to allow people from different backgrounds, cultures and religions to come together and work for one of the most inspiring Nobel Laureates ever, the iconic Professor Muhammad Yunus. While working here interns gain a valuable insight on Professor Yunus' philosophy. By actively participating in different social business events, meetings, field trips, research and office work interns can learn about the world of social business and how it is a glorious step towards development of the world. Not only are interns getting a firm grip on social business and its principles, interns are also acquiring a myriad of skills which will certainly be beneficial for them in their future endeavors of education and profession.



# **6<sup>th</sup> SOCIAL BUSINESS DAY, MAY 28<sup>th</sup>**

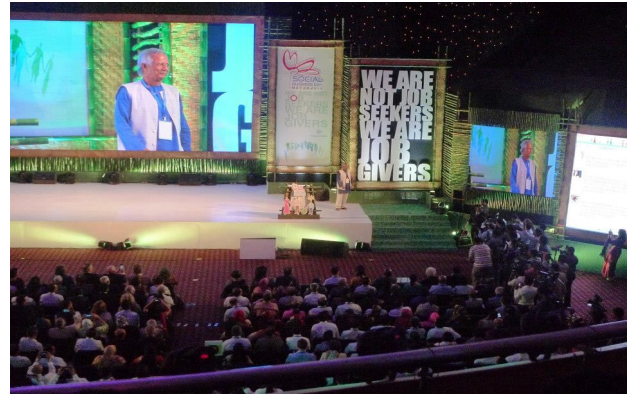
*By Nazifa, Fabiha, Fahima, Hema, Nafisa & Mahbub*

Social Business Day was a very cherishing day for the Grameen Family. No one can explain the day better than Professor Mohammad Yunus as he said, “This is a family gathering. That’s what we do every year. It’s like our Christmas, our Eid or Hariraya. That’s what it’s all about. We all gather together. Family gathers around, so we know that we are family getting bigger as we become grandfathers, great grandfather maybe. And we invite our close friends, our well-wishers- that’s why you are all here was an experience that made me closer to social business.”



We interns were an integral part of the day as we volunteered for the whole day and evening. Our work didn't only start on the event day, we worked for a whole month to make the event successful. We made the list of the guests, invited them, registered the guests, planned a field trip for them, helped in making the slides of the presentation, wrote the announcements to make on the day, made entry pass for the guests, even packed gift for the guests.

On the event day we arrived at the venue at 7.00 am and stayed till 10.00 pm. We received the guests from the gate and then ushered them to their assigned seats. Some of the interns were in the registration booth and helped the guests to register for the panel and also greeted them with gift bags. After the registration was done, all the interns went to the conference hall and attended the program. Important people from all over the world attended this event. It was amazing to see how much the concept of social business was being implemented all around the world.



We met different kinds of people working in different organizations. For example, we met people who worked in organizations that worked for handicapped people in Bangladesh. We were inspired when we saw that an auto mechanic school, called Japan Auto mechanic Training School was educating young men from poor background. This school was in Tangail and the students were getting trained as an auto mechanic and were also being taught English. After three years of training they were fully qualified to work in many countries. This was just one example of how much social business is being implemented.



Before SBD, social business was just something that we had heard about, but after attending SBD I got to see how many lives have changed and how much progress our country has made.

There was an interesting session where all the audiences were split up into several panels based on the topics of discussion. Panel 1 was about 'Social Business and Academia'. Mr. Faiz Shah, director of Asian University Of Technology, Thailand, was the moderator of this panel and Dr. Gillian Sullivan Mort, Professor of Marketing; La Trobe Business School; Australia, was the rapporteur. The panel members were from 15 different countries like Bangladesh, Australia, Italy, and Taiwan etc. They shared their views, ideas, and experiences about social business academia. They had talks on how they launched Social Business Cell in their respective universities, how they are functioning, their findings and also



recommendations on social business academia. From Bangladesh, Barrister Shameem Haider Patwary, VC, Dhaka International University shared how they successfully introduced Social Business short course in his university, his students' experiences, and outcomes of the short course.

Panel 3 was, "I want to finance a social business. How should I start?" It was very helpful for us because it gave us an idea about starting our own business. The panel thoroughly discussed about the process of getting a loan and then utilizing it in the most efficient way. The coordinator of the panel was Aarti Wig who asked some related questions to the panelists and then they discussed about the whole topic. After their discussion, they took questions from the audience. They tried to answer as informatively as possible in the short span of time. The whole process was very interesting and was a new experience for us.

The topic of Panel-4 was "social business and technology". The panel coordinator was Mr. Asir Ahmed. There were a lot of discussions on how technology can help to transform social business. Currently technology and social media is everywhere and this can be used to make a greater impact. The speakers talked about how people are so well acquainted with technology now. Long time back when anyone wanted to use a technology to help in rural areas, there were trust issues. It was difficult to convince people that technology could actually bring a change. People are more eager to use technology to change condition in rural areas than slums in urban areas. Technology was more expensive in the past, now it is more affordable and a good number of the population can use it. Mobile phones are used a lot in villages now and so mobile banking is possible. So technology is an important tool to speed up the process of development in countries where poverty still exists.



In the SBD venue, there was a marketplace to showcase the successful social business projects. Different Grameen companies like Grameen Trust, Grameen Shakti, Grameen Telecom, Grameen Intel etc also had their stalls. All the stalls were decorated very well, they sold their books, products and they showcased their business plans and their experiences in this journey. In the stall section, there was a stall from Grameen Health Care Ltd and they provided health services for the participants of the event.

In the marketplace, there was also a corner for Nobin Udayktas (New entrepreneurs) named as Nobin Udyoktas' bazar. In total 46 stalls was there where various businesses like handicrafts, ladies purses, dairy products, hatchery, computer accessories, fashion & tailor, cosmetics, crystal bags, nakshi katha's etc were presented. The bazar was very well decorated, and very crowded with local and foreign customers and visitors. It was totally a new experience for Nobin Udayktas because they usually sale their products in rural areas but the Social Business Day come up with a chance for them to introduce their products to foreign participants.

The success stories of Social Business in China, Morocco, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, Taiwan, and Italy were affirming the positive impact of social Business. It is just evidence that with good governance the Social Business can be the tool of achieving the "Three Zeroes" of the Philanthropist visionary Professor Muhammad Yunus.

Everyone had a story. People came with an objective of learning about social business, promoting his or her social business or getting enough knowledge to start their own social business. We also volunteered for the panel sessions. There were panel session like- Social business and Youth network thus our panel room was filled with youth. Each of them having the curiosity to know more about social business and presenting their ideas. It was inspiring to see people from different backgrounds and with different perspectives working towards a brighter future for Bangladesh.

As a student, there could be nothing more inspiring than this. It made us believe that maybe one day I can bring a change too in someone's life. Social business day was one hell of an experience and it was very educational for us.

## **Global Social Business Academia Network: Pre-Meeting on 29 May 2015**

*by Ho Jung Choi*



After having inspirational Social Business Day on 28<sup>th</sup>, professors gathered again on May, 29<sup>th</sup> as a pre-meeting to discuss about Global Social Business Conference and Academia Conference, taking place in Berlin, which will take place in Berlin, Germany, this November. 200 professors at 60 different institutions from 20 different nations joined to be in Global Social Business Academia Network. The network is to further develop and stretch the idea of social business, a newborn study, with top minds of humanity by hosting academia conferences around the world. The pre-meeting began with a remark from Professor Yunus, and went on with an open discussion as a brainstorming session with diverse topics. Later on professors were divided into 6 different groups to discuss specifics about each topic given.

As discussion gradually heated with bursting ideas, professors spoke with passion especially on the definition of Social Business during pre-meeting in an extensive manner because professors, at first, needed to clarify the essence and definition that can be understood easily and clearly to public, which

will encourage and motivate future social entrepreneurs during the Global Social Business Academia Conference in Berlin. Terms, such as social enterprise, social business enterprise, social business, and social venture, were frequently discussed and required some clarification among professors to identify its specialty. Though clear definition did not seem to be established, they realized defining the term must be done. The meeting went successfully. After lunch break, some professors left and the rest remained to talk further. Finally professor Yunus addressed a closing remark. It was an opportunity to get a sense of how global top minds communicate to one another with certain manners. I wished to carry it through all the way together as I had worked on this ever since the first day of my internship at Yunus Centre, but I have to go back to continue my study at Penn State this fall. I hope this upcoming event in Berlin to be successful.

## **Field Visit**

### ***A Trip to BOGRA***

*by Moinuddin Sekander*



After days of planning, a Grameen field trip for us interns had finally been arranged. The original plan was to stay at village Bogra for 3 days 2 nights. This was later not the case as the duration had been reduced to 2 days 1 night due to the trip being too much of a ‘hassle’. A meeting was arranged with the director and interns to talk about the prospects of the trip and the conclusion being the individual expenditure of each intern were to be increased to pay for our coordinator’s costs in attending this very trip and in compensation booked we were booked a cheaper hotel. So we set out on June 15<sup>th</sup> by van towards Bogra, traversing through rural Bangladesh for 5 hours with a few stops along the way. Although the scenery was breathtaking, the rough roads, traffic and occasional stench gave balance to the world. The trip exposed us to a whole new perspective of Grameen and its endeavors to eradicate poverty first hand, with meetings with managers and seeing the organizations inner workings,

particularly of Grameen Shakti, Grameen Danone and Grameen Eye Care. Usually people just read about such organizations but we were lucky enough to witness it first hand. It also gave us a good amount of time out of work at the office! Despite the many setback and compensations along the way, the few of us that got to go spent time and money to get this unique feel, which in my opinion, was a memorable trip for everyone including the coordinator himself.

## ***Grameen Eye Care Hospital***

*By Saeeda Zaman*

Upon entering Grameen Eye Care Hospital we were greeted with a strange image: rows and rows of shoes left outside of the hospital insinuating the level of cleanliness of the hospital. Despite being located in a rural city, it was the conspicuous that this was a proper facility. We wandered through the hallways and stairs observing a variety of features. Some amenities included counselors who provided advice on the proper medical course of action patients should embark upon. Some parts of the building were divided by differing ophthalmic issues. The glaucoma section was separate from the cataract section and so on. Patients littered the waiting rooms of the hospital, but it did not appear to be congested, unlike many hospitals in this country.



It did not matter where the patients came from or what their socioeconomic backgrounds were. Here, they endured no other treatment besides that of a professional. “We will never compromise quality,” shared a doctor. Lower income patients were able to be treated free of any costs due to the subsidies that come from the slightly higher fee charged to patients with more income.

All the women staff was wearing bright blue saris, matching hijabs and white coats. While many were nurses, others served as managers, or played a role in the hospital’s daily activities. For instance,



the hospital had a store on its first floor which sold glasses that were manufactured by some women just a few levels above. All of these different women were educated and had heard that the hospital presented several positive opportunities for women to work in. For their convenience, there were hostels available for them to stay in if they so wished. In the cases of women with children, there was a nursery in the hospital in which women staff was able to bring their children. The career

prospects for the women represented the mantra of social business, “We are not job seekers, we are job givers.”

Despite the impressiveness of the hospital, the issue of having a proper staff in areas such as this exists here just as it does in any rural areas all over the world. The hospital employed a total of eleven ophthalmologists, seven men and four women. According to the International Council of Ophthalmology, Bangladesh only has a total of 610 ophthalmologists making the density only four ophthalmologists per every million people. Beyond the scarcity of the ophthalmologists, there is also the issue of encouraging them to leave behind an urban setting and potentially a higher income. While the doctors were still very well paid, it can't be denied that they would be able to make more elsewhere. However, if a doctor chooses to work in a hospital such as this, clearly monetary benefits are not what they are seeking but rather a societal impact. People such as this become doctors to make people's lives better, not chase money.



All in all, the quality of care provided by such a clean infrastructure is unlike what the typical underprivileged person accustomed to, making it a staple of social business.

## ***Grameen Danone Field Visit***

***By Camila R Olmedo Mendez***



Rise and shine, that is if you want to see the early morning action of how Grameen Danone produces Shokti Plus fortified yogurt. The journey starts at the milk collection point an hour and a half away from Bogra village. Micro-farmers line up, both hands holding about 20 liter bucket of milk – ready to pass the density test of the milk for quality. They are paid on the spot and assistance is provided for their cows if needed. Next step is transporting the 650 liters of milk collected a couple of kilometers to the cooling milk area –

and then heading to the factory installation back in Bogra where yogurt is made fortified with imported micro-nutrients.

Grameen Danone has been working hard to provide a quality product while helping locals and fighting malnutrition in the area – while striving to be a successful social business model.

The field visit to Grameen Danone was entertaining in regards to looking at the supply chain the company has managed. As a social business, one of their objectives of reducing poverty by creating employment is surely fulfilled.

As mentioned, they engage local farmers to supply milk for the fortified yogurt and they employ a couple of vets plus milk experts. Also they also use different distribution channels to release their product, so they employ “Shokti Ladies” who get paid on sales commission.

Although the company has experienced a rough start, they are using different strategic techniques to make the innovative yogurt be successful in the market. The overall experience was nice, but the most insightful part of the visit was speaking to Mr. Pieret, the rural sales project manager. He was able to share some challenges the company has, such as being able to successfully cross price the product to cover up expenses as well as to measure and track kid's nutrition levels.



As a YC intern my main concern lies on –how to make social business self-sustainable. For

Grameen Danone it seems that their plan to expand and start using more strategic marketing techniques will help them reach this point. However, at the moment, working with Danone Communities hand-in-hand seems to serve as the backbone for their business model.

So the questions arise: What is the balance in social business between social impact and self-sustainability? Is it pragmatically possible for a twenty year-old to be able to fight malnutrition- or any other social issue- without the aid of a for-profit multinational? Can Grameen Danone offer fixed supplies to wholesale buyer- and then be able to track the impact – or what other measuring methods are they taking?

I do not doubt the capacity both Danone and Grameen have to be able to push through until the company breaks-even and provides enough profit for expansion. Having tried the yogurt myself and living in a shelter full of kids who most enjoy the product – I believe it will be interesting to see how my questions are answered and how this business expands through Bangladesh and other countries.

Before rushing back from the day trip due to a strike in the city of Dhaka – we were given samples of the product and before I left I made sure to recommend Grameen Danone to launch a Shkoti Plus Fortified Froyo – it would have been as if I had never visited if I had not.

## *Grameen Shakti*

*By Sravasti Sarker*



On 16<sup>th</sup> June, a group of interns from Yunus Centre visited a village in Bogra where several households, with the blessing of Grameen Shakti, are now able to use solar panels at affordable costs. Grameen Shakti is the pioneer in providing green and clean energy to thousands of rural households. It

intends to improve livelihood through access to green energy. Grameen Shakti has developed successful market based programs. It has some social objectives for popularizing Solar Home System (SHS), Biogas plant and Improved Cooking Stove (ICS) to millions of rural people. Rural electrification through solar PV technology, day by day, is becoming more popular in Bangladesh. Solar Home Systems (SHSs) are highly decentralized and particularly suitable for remote, inaccessible areas. GS's solar program mainly targets those areas, which have no access to conventional electricity and little chance of getting connected to the grid within 5 to 10 years. It is one of its most successful programs. Currently, GS is one of the largest and fastest growing rural based renewable energy companies in the world. GS is also promoting Small Solar Home System to reach low income rural households.

SHSs can be used to light up homes, shops, fishing boats etc. It can also be used to charge cellular phones, run televisions, radios and cassette players. SHSs have become increasingly popular among users because they present an attractive alternative to conventional electricity expenses such as no monthly bills, no fuel cost, very little repair, maintenance costs etc. They are also easy to install anywhere.

GS installed SHSs have made a positive impact on the rural people. GS has introduced micro-utility model in order to reach the poorer people who cannot afford a SHS individually. Another successful GS venture is Polli Phone that allows people in off grid areas with the facilities of telecommunication through SHS powered mobile phones. GS has developed an effective strategy for reaching people in remote and rural areas with solar PV technology.

## **71<sup>st</sup> Social Business Design lab**

*By Fahima Mahzabin Chowdhury*

Yunus Centre Design lab is an excellent idea to help to generate social business ideas and support it. It enables people from multifarious background such as Business person, Social business practitioners, Potential investors/ entrepreneur, Donor communities, Academics, innovators, Social workers, NGO personnel etc, Philanthropist, Young entrepreneur to come in the light of the concept of social business and explore in order to make it more viable to solve the social issues. The Event is always presided by **Honorable Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus**.

Yunus Centre also allows its interns to attend the social business design lab. Attending 71<sup>st</sup> Social Business Design lab was an amazing experience for the Interns. It was held on April 16, 2015 at the Grameen Bank Auditorium at Grameen Bank Bhaban. There were in total 6 projects to be show cased in the Social business design lab.

The very first project was “Choa Boutiques” which is owned by Ms. Mafia Mafia Parvin. She is a former Grameen Bank borrower and she has paid back all of the loans. Her Boutique is situated at



Shenpara, Sadar, Rangpur. Her business plan included a total investment of Tk. 5,15,000 with a Self investment of BDT 3,65,000 (from existing business) and Required Investment of BDT. 1,50,000 (as equity). Her main product is Handicrafts that includes some Sharee, lungi, three piece, one piece, bed sheet, pillow cover, panjabi, scarf, towel, wall mat, TV cover, chair cover, nokshi katha, nokshi tissue box etc. The products were beautiful and of good quality. Her proposal was highly acclaimed by everyone present.

The Next project presented by Ms. Khuku Rani. It was project of a Grocery Store Named “M/S Khuku Store.” It was amazing seeing a woman who only had an education of grade 5th only, came up with such idea to financially stabilize herself. This grocery shop is situated at Thakurgaon. This shop carries all the goods of daily necessity. It seemed a great idea as the location of the shop is very convenient for all the locals to come and shop. She explained she would like to invest more as she believes she can supply to more demands. She presented a total budget of BDT. 233,000. Where self investment is BDT. 83,000 (from existing business) Required Investment BDT. 150,000(as equity)

“Shahed Decorator” was the next project presented by Ms. Poly Begum. Basically this business is a proposal of catering services. She explained how she operates her business of providing decorative items which is a very profitable business. In Bangladesh, in the time of festivity, catering services are always hired to arrange events. With the new investment she would like to expand her business with this new proposed budget of BDT 450,000. Her Self investment will be BDT. 300,000/- Required Investment from GT- BDT. 150,000/- .



Md. Al Amin, son of grameen member Ms. Taslima Akter Kulsum, presented his proposal of a local shoe manufacturing company. Md. Al Amin has a belief that with his experience of running business and designing shoes he will be able to establish a good source of income for himself also create some employment in his factory. He was appreciated by everyone. With a Self investment of BDT 1,30,000

(from existing business) and a required Investment BDT 150,000 (as equity) he presented a total budget of BDT 2,80,000.

Naznin was the next “Nobin Udyokta” (new Entrepreneur) who presented her business to the session. She shared her story of how she with a 3 Months training from SERAC Bangladesh on handicraft especially on showpieces started her own business and became financially independent. She is also a daughter of a grameen member. She expressed her desperation as albeit high demand she is not being able to provide products due to lack of capital. She displayed some of the product she made and those were really wonderful. Everyone present in the session praised her product and all the products were sold out instantly. She requested an investment of BDT 100,000 and with an additional investment of BDT 30,000 she hopes to be able to run her business smoothly.

Cow rearing and fattening is a great business in Bangladesh as there is a high demand for cow meat. Mr. Md Forhan Firoz Rony with his business plan of “Forhan Cow Fattening farm” described how

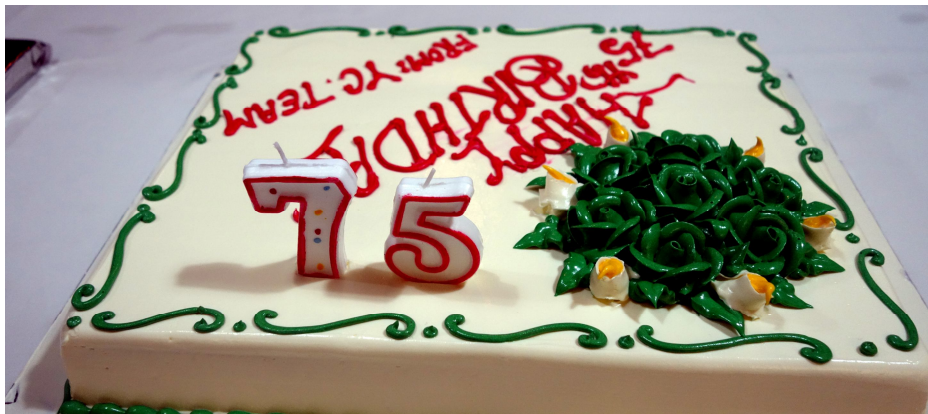
he plans to expand his business as he strongly feels there is a great prospect of this business. He shows his in depth knowledge regarding cow rearing as the participants inquired about the various issues regarding the topic. He suggests if he can get a total investment of BDT 324,000 he will be able to do his business successfully.

After the presentation there were certain discussion regarding the pros and cons of the proposal. After proper inquisition the new entrepreneurs were advised by the specialist so that they can have a better impact. Then with an ending session of congratulating the NU (Nobin Udyokta) on their successful sanction of the investment by the investors, the 71<sup>st</sup> Social Business Design lab concluded.



## **Professor Yunus' Birthday**

*By Afsara Maliha Hannan and Shivan Shamaila Sayeed*



28<sup>th</sup> June is celebrated as the birthday of the iconic Professor Yunus; An occasion that not only stays within the boundaries of his home, but a celebration that ignites exuberance among all our hearts.

Our very own team of interns and colleagues here at the Yunus centre took the opportunity to organize a small gathering to celebrate his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. The interns took turn to sign their names and

well wishes on a card that was presented to Professor Yunus along with dozens of bouquet of flowers because one simply wouldn't suffice.

We disturbed the silence of the office and invaded the professor's privacy simply to sing a half hearted, half dazed birthday song; shuffling feet to manage a prominent position close to the professor in order for a good picture. The office oozed with unparalleled enthusiasm. Pictures were shot, memories were captured with cameras that distorted everyone's face, so you might as well point to a dude with a moustache and claim, "hey, that's my uncle Pedro". The Professor took all this in with a hearty smile and in good spirit. He accepted all our gifts with grace and loving warmth.



Later in the afternoon, the conference room was embellished with myriad paper crafts and balloons positioned all over the ceiling. The interns, along with Professor Yunus and his colleagues sat down to enjoy a presentation organized by the Yunus team. The presentation projected before everyone in the room comprised of a series of heartfelt video messages from fans, friends and families all over the world wishing Professor Yunus a Happy Birthday. No adulation could tantamount to the magnanimity of Professor Yunus's work. However, it was the little messages of appreciation that overwhelmed the Professor with all the love he received from everyone, but more so, we felt overjoyed to have been able to come across such an event and be part of a celebration that so few are privileged to experience.



# **Archiving at Yunus Center**

*By Waeese Hossain*

Archiving is a really important job in keeping track of records. Some of the interns here at Yunus Centre is responsible for scanning papers, sorting out newspapers, magazines, cards, and photos of distinguished Dr. Muhammad Yunus. We have the responsibility to keep track of all news about Dr.

Yunus. We do this so that information does not get lost and so that people later in time could read about him and be inspired by his works. Some selected individuals from the archiving team are given the job to edit the scanned documents. This is to ensure that the scanned documents are clear and visually appropriate for other readers to see. Some of the applications that the interns use to do this are PhotoScape and Adobe Acrobat. The interns are always reminded the significance of the job of archiving due to the documents living on as mementos of the honorable Dr. Yunus' history. Hopefully someday are inspiring



individuals into thinking critically about lifestyle choices in order to make this world better for the unfortunate. Interns also take great interest in reading some of the articles where they too are truly inspired by such literary pieces. Archiving member Afsara described her job as “inspiring for the next generations”. She also concluded “spending time and reading the articles gives me a first hand insight on what Dr. Yunus has achieved and how he achieved. I constantly find myself questioning my personal life goals and trying to find ways to match the Noble Laureate”. Other member like Zarraf says “at first I thought it was a job for the new interns but now I realize we’re the lucky ones doing the job. We are the blessed interns that constantly get opportunities to read such articles and I personally think its life changing to do so.” – Archiving Team

## **Reflections**

*By Fariha Tasneem*

The first time I walked into Yunus centre, I knew I was going to be a part of something extraordinary, After all, it's not every day we get to work with a noble laureate. The working atmosphere inside the Office is breath taking, the very view from the sixteen storied building provides a calm fondness for the employees, when you are introduced with a superior officer with a smile of gratitude, and you instantly know this is the right place for you to work.

During my internship at Yunus Centre, I have been exposed to people from different cultures. This exposure has not only given me the skills that are crucial for developing a successful career in international development but has also urged me to bring about positive social changes in an effort to change the world..

I have learned about Social Business, how it works and its economic impacts in society. I have seen how a little investment can make a greater difference. I had the opportunity to organize the annual Social Business Day and volunteer for it, where over 2000 participants were present from home and abroad. I had the chance to discuss the real world problems and developing sustainable solutions with international and local actors, corporate and social leaders, NGOs, students, and innovators. The event gave a chance to explore myself and seek valuable insight about organizing an important event.

Through my internship career, the knowledge I have gained is beyond comparable, every day I was introduced with a new task and a new strategy for accomplishing those task, it not only taught me the importance of time management but also provided me an insight for building a successful strategy for work. Meetings with the superior officers and my fellow interns boosted my level of confidence in the office.



The Yunus centre is truly a unique place to work, it not only teaches you the value of social business but teaches you the moral aspect of a successful company.

### ***By Sakif Raman***

I had come here with the goal of furthering my knowledge of this very young concept called Social Business. Ever since I have been here, there has been no contradiction to this. In my very first task, I had the opportunity of editing numerous articles based on social business and in the process, I was able to go over every single one of them in detail. Each one of them brought out a different aspect of social business and also the myriad of objectives which social businesses have accomplished. Definitely, this broadened my overall view in this field. In addition, I got to know of the rich history of Dr. Yunus and Grameen Bank. I also had the privilege of working with opening speech of Dr. Yunus in SBD 2015. The speech was not only a source of motivation and inspiration for me, but also introduced to me the '3 zeros' which are major targets for our country. These include zero poverty, zero unemployment and zero net emission. I firmly believe that in order to achieve this, there should be extensive contributions to our research and policy making with a good collaboration between the two. This led me to my next task of compiling quotes of Yunus sir from his many interviews and speeches all over the globe which will be published as a book. Such a book, I believe, will unleash the latent potential in the youth of our nation culminating in an immense transformation of the country placing it as one of the developed nations of the world. Inter alia, meetings with Grameen sister companies and Design Labs have been extremely eye opening.

## **Tips and tricks:**

- **Visa:** You can check Bangladesh embassy website before applying for visa, and review which is better for getting visa (applying for tourism may be better option).
- **Hotel:** Dhaka has numerous hotels with varying qualities. Some hotels you may want to consider may be: Hotel Grand Prince (near of Yunus Centre-10 minutes walking distance, \$12 per day), Pan Pacific Sonargaon, Radisson Blu Hotel, The Westin; etc. Besides these hotels there are several sorts of hotel in Dhaka City.
- **Dress:** Bangladesh is conservative country. Long and loose pants are appreciated, and nothing above the knee is acceptable. Long sleeve shirts are recommended, and a shawl is suggested for women.
- **Food:** In Dhaka, you can budget food costs at US\$ 5-6 per day, although the cost may vary depending on the quality of food and/or restaurant. It is recommended that you refrain from street food while in Bangladesh to avoid health issues. As tap water is not drinkable in Bangladesh, bottled water can be purchased from most stores in both cities and rural areas.
- **Transportation:** Dhaka is notorious for its traffic. Rickshaws are used for short distances, at a price of 10 to 50 BDT depending on the trip. CNGs (baby taxis), which are faster motorized vehicles, cost between 100-300 BDT depend on the distance traveled.
- **Climate:** The climate is sub-tropical with a mild winter from November to February, a humid summer from March to May, and a monsoon season from June to October.
- **Shopping:** You may buy clothes from Grameen Check, Arong, Bashudhara Shopping mall, Jamuna Future Park; etc.
- **Tourist places in Dhaka:** Zoo at Mirpur, Bangladesh National Museum (Shahbug), Lalbagh Fort, Ahsan Manjil, Dhaka University Campus, Hatir Jheel, Gazipur Safari Park, National Parliament House, Dhanmondi Lake; etc.
- **Tourist places outside Dhaka:** Chittagong, Rangamati, Cox's bazaar, Bandarban, Sylhet, Khulna, Bagerhat, Taj mahal Bangladesh (Narayanganj); etc.

# Interns of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter'15



***Md. Abdullah-Al-Hadi***

I am from Stamford University, Bangladesh. A love for retail and fashion, a passion for landscape photography, a desire to make changes in the world with kindness and compassion and make the world more better by solving the problems through Social Business. To know more about Social Business and how it's actually work? I came to attend a 'Social Business Design Lab' February-2015. And then I know that here we have a change to do an internship at Yunus Centre and I applied for it. I am very proud to be a part of the organizers of the biggest event 'Social Business Day-2015'.

***Fariha Tasneem***

I am a student of Environmental Science and Management in Independent University, Bangladesh. I joined Yunus Centre for my internship program with the hope of understanding the different aspect of social business and how the social objective of an organization can contribute to the betterment of the economy.



***Hera Sandhu***

I am from the UK. I have been studying Economics in London and working at the Yunus Centre has helped show me a different way of thinking that is not taught in traditional academia. I recommend an internship at the Yunus Centre where you will meet interns from all over the world and get to discover different aspects of life in Bangladesh.

***Nafisa Hassan***

I was born in Saudi Arabia and lived there for 12 years. Then I loved to Bangladesh and have been living here since 2005. Now I am currently studying in University of Toronto in Canada and just finished my first year. I love to dance and read books. I am an Economics student and social business was a concept that always interested me. What could be more amazing then working in Yunus Centre, which works on all the activities related to social business? I knew that this is where I can learn more about social business. I hope the knowledge I gain from here along with my degree, will help me make a significant change in the future.



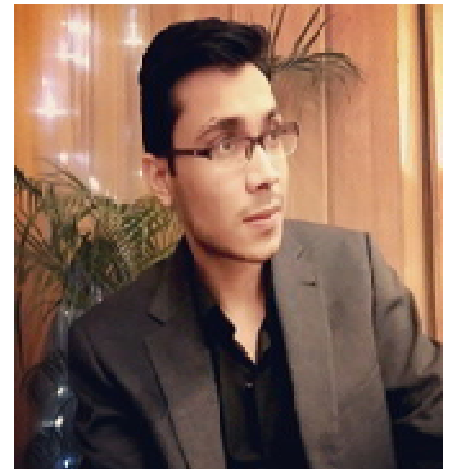


***Fahima Mahzabin Chowdhury***

I am from Bangladesh and done my graduation from North South University. From the very early years of my life I would always stare at the sky and get enchanted with the beauty of this universe. I pursued my education in engineering. As I was looking for a sustainable solution for the social issues, I perceived science and technology with the collaboration of social business can have a stronger impact. Working at “Yunus Centre” has been a privilege so far. Working with so many young enthusiastic people from different parts of the world, learning about their culture, sharing ideas with the same promise for a better tomorrow has been so motivating that I am so sanguine for a beautiful world.

***Alif Haq***

I am from Bangladesh and a boy of different character in order to meet different requirements. Very often I move towards the field of knowledge where something is lying to be achieved by someone and that is me. I do believe to be a man of charming personality in future and on that ground I am moving forward. To work as an intern with the students of various part of the world is the main achievement on my part which will help me to accelerate my studies to build up a shining future. I guess the certificate of the Yunus Centre is a backbone for me to introduce myself everywhere in the world as it is accepted globally.

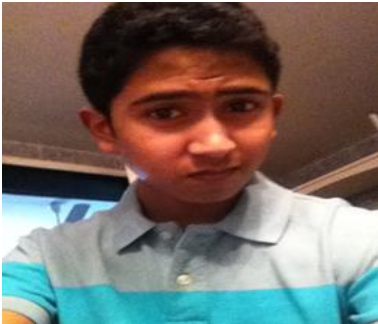
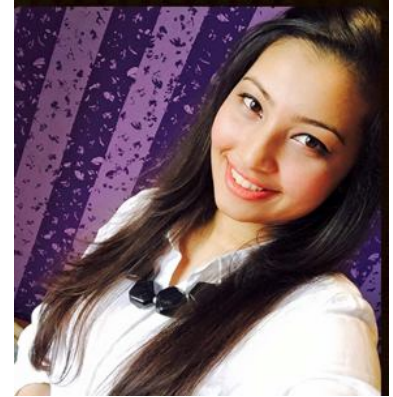


***Nazifa Tasnim Hasib***

I am 23 year old girl and have recently completed my BBA from North South University. My major Subjects were Marketing and Human Resource Management. I like to read, I like to think, I like to dream, I like to talk, I like to listen, I like exploring new places, I like to go shopping. The highlight of my period in this place had been the meeting with our first noble laureate Dr. Muhammad Yunus. The highlight of my period in this place had been the meeting with our first noble laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus. We attended several group meetings together and I even had the privilege to take a picture with him.

### ***Fabiha Salsabil Saleh***

I am 24 years old from Bangladesh. I recently finished my BBA degree from North South University. I have joined in Yunus Centre as an intern to contribute something good to our society. I like to meet new people and get to learn different things from them. I am looking forward to learn a lot about social business and youth entrepreneurship on the Social Business day. I can't wait for the day to start as it will be an opportunity for me to gather knowledge on entrepreneurship and apply this on real life.



### ***Moinuddin Sekander***

I am 17 year old senior in Chittagong Grammar School. I am a Bangladeshi born Canadian citizen who is very interested in the field of Engineering. I am doing internship at the Yunus Centre to gain knowledge about Social Business in hopes of being able to, in the near future, contribute to the improvement of the country.

### ***Ishraque Kareem***

I reside in Dhaka, Bangladesh. I'm 21 years old. I'm very much into music; I sing and also play the harmonica and the guitar. My main goal is to study International Management and stay connected with other business related topics such as marketing, entrepreneurship and of course, social business. My time here at Yunus Centre has helped me to enhance my knowledge on social business and develop ideas/skills on particular sectors of work, experiencing the social business design lab and most importantly, to be able to participate and attend the social business day.



### ***Camila Olmedo Mendez***

I come from the heart of South America, Bolivia. I believe that social business offers a revolutionary way for our generation to engage in business and start looking at life differently. As an economics major, I was eager to join Yunus Centre to experience the practicality of how this new business model plays out in Bangladesh and analyze if this model could be replicated in my own country. Couple days here, and I have been able to take amazing photographs, try spicy foods, and meet people from all over the world.

### ***Amir Mohammad Khan***

I am from School of Business of Independent University, Bangladesh. I have completed my BBA degree doing major in Marketing and minor in International Business. I like to ride bike and listening music, like to travel new places. Now I'm doing my internship at Yunus Centre from 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2015. I am learning a lot from here about Social Business. Professor Yunus is always an idol to me, that's why I tried to do my internship here. I found such a new and exceptional thing from here; hope this will be fruitful to my future.



### ***Aresha Manami***

I am just a 20 year old from Bangladesh hoping to contribute to my country and leading it towards development. I completed my first year in Economics at the University of Toronto. I love exploring new places, shopping, baking and volunteering. I have always been interested in the welfare of people thus I have volunteered at various community service organizations. Joining Yunus Centre is another way to give back to the community through social business.

### ***Sakif Rahman***

I am a rising sophomore at the University of Rochester, majoring in Financial Economics and Applied Mathematics and residing in New York, USA. The things that I love include watching cricket, playing and watching soccer and listening to music. Through Yunus Centre, I have got a feel of the operations and financings of social businesses, which are atypical of a capitalist society. I am specifically interested in exploring how to maximize the re-investments of a social business dollar and efficiently use them in order to have the greatest social impact.

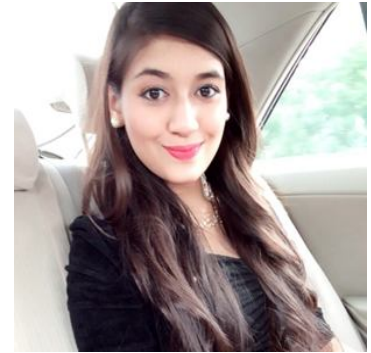


### ***Srabasti Sarkar***

I was born in Bangladesh and have completed my primary and middle school education in Bangladesh. However, I have obtained my International Baccalaureate diploma from United World College of the Atlantic in United Kingdom, Wales. I am currently pursuing my Bachelors in Government and Economics from Smith College, Massachusetts. I am interested in pursuing my career in the fields of international politics/relations and international development in some United Nations organizations. Also, I am an avid reader and an intensive writer.

### ***Shivan Shamaila Sayeed***

I am currently doing my A levels from Scholastica. I am dedicated, hardworking and I give my best in whatever I do. My hobbies are making sketches, painting and swimming. I like doing social work and my future goal is to be a part of an organization which helps young people to maximize their potential and bring out the best in them. I am ambitious in serving our motherland in various platforms ranging from small to large.



### ***Afsara Maliha Hannan***

I completed my primary education in Sunnydale and then our family shifted to India where I studied in The Heritage School. After a year we returned to Bangladesh and now I'm currently a student at Scholastica with one year away from finishing school. A constantly changing atmosphere has taught me to make the best of my situation, and that is what I hope to achieve here at my internship in Yunus Centre. My Hobbies are bike riding, sketching and baking. Things I do at Yunus Centre are Archiving files, enhance my knowledge of social businesses and meet new people and share ideas.

### ***Zarraf Ali***

I am an American born Bengali. I was born in the state of Pennsylvania. I am a student at Strath Haven high. I am mostly interested in science related topics in school like physics and chemistry. I applied to Yunus Centre because I want to learn more about social businesses and how it helps the community as a whole and the benefits it brings to the people. I am also extremely curious of how this business will provide aid to end poverty around the world making it non-existent.



### ***Julien Verzier***

I am 23 years old and am currently finishing my fourth year of study at 3A International School of Business and Development in Lyon. I came to Bangladesh three years ago to get to learn about the way Grameen Bank, through its vision contribute to the local development in Bangladesh and abroad. Inspired by Professor Yunus work, I started my own social business in South Africa in 2014. I came back to Bangladesh to work with the Yunus Centre in May 2015 to learn from other's experience and study in depth the process of starting a new social business.

### ***Ho Jung Choi***

I am from South Korea. I just finished my military duty in Korea and came to Bangladesh for summer internship. I am currently enrolled in Pennsylvania State University in the United States of America. To pave my path for the post-discharge life, I was in search of ways to help others and I came across Yunus social business through the website. Since my passion so closely aligns with the goal of the company, I wanted to see if I could contribute myself in moving forward in this social enterprise business and share experience being a part of the social projects.



### ***Rokeya Chowdhury Hema***

I am from Bangladesh. I am doing my under graduation degree major in Marketing in Dhaka International University. I am interested to work for the society and social entrepreneurship and in near future I would like to be a social entrepreneur. Therefore I join Yunus Centre to get knowledge about Social Business, Microfinance and I had the chance to meet up with the managers of different Grameen Companies. Apart from that I am very fond of travelling, exploring new places and meeting with new peoples, watching movies, outing with friends and love to spend quality times with my family.

### ***Saeeda Zaman***

I'm your average American teenager with a Bengali heritage. I came to Bangladesh to explore my roots and understand the way the people actually live. Most of the people in my world would never even imagine the way people here live. My goal is to show millenials that it is possible to be a normal teenager but still pay attention to the world. I want people to look past the color spectrum, the cultural differences, the language barriers, the geographic dissimilarities and see that we are one species. My adventures are being shared on my YouTube channel Saypien. Say like speak and Saeeda. Sapient like Homo sapien.



### ***Asif Ebna Aziz***

I'm 22 year old BBA graduate (Major in Finance) from University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh. I am doing 3 months Internship at Yunus Centre and love every second of it. I have a Social Business which calls "Chitro Social", it's a Bangladeshi Handicrafts Social Business & also I am Head of Operations in Social Business Youth Alliance Global. I became interested in learning more about social issues that affect a large number of people such as poverty and business opportunity. My biggest passion is Business development; as such I found great pleasure in learning about Social Business and its model.

### ***Mahbub Rahman***

I am from Bangladesh who is dreaming to work for 'British American Tobacco-Russia'. After completing BBA in Marketing from 'University of Dhaka', I am currently doing my MBA in Marketing from the same university. I love doing things that makes me happy and those things are being involved with Social enterprises, Social Business Clubs run by University students both local and international field that strive to solve social problems which will help to develop my society. It was so amazing to work with such amicable People. I had also attended meeting with Grameen Caledonian College of Nursing and Grameen Veolia Water Ltd. That helped me a lot to get insights about how social business works.



### ***Shahida Akter Sharmin***

I came from Dhaka International University. I like to reading book, watching movie and really want to be a film maker in my future life. I was worked at Yunus Centre as an intern in Social Business team for Social Business Day 2015. I learned a lot about social business from Yunus Centre and really I feel proud to be a part of Yunus Centre.

### ***Waez Hossain***

I am 17 years old. I was born and raised in Bangladesh and I am currently studying under the IB diploma at ISD. My interests are in to economics specifically developmental economics and my dream is to see my country eradicate poverty. My hobbies are playing football and a tradition in my house is to play football with family and friends every night.



### ***Anika Muzib Suchi***

I am a 19-year-old Bangladeshi. I am an undergraduate student studying Economics at the University of Exeter in UK. Coming from a country plagued with poverty, hunger, inequality and instability have always urged me to bring about a change. I believe social business will help me bring about a sustainable solution to these abject predicaments. I have been engaged with social business for a while. I have been working with **Social Business Youth Alliance** as Exeter Coordinator and being inspired by the brilliant philosophy of Professor Muhammad Yunus I took an initiative to start a Social Business Society at my university. It is a great opportunity for me to work at Yunus Centre as it is helping me shape and to incubate ideas of social business, enhance my knowledge and work with joy!

# Photo Gallery







The Daily Star

