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Social Business All Over the World
Modern Slavery: How Long Will We Stay Quiet?
The Miracles of Dhaka Through the Eyes of a Foreigner
Changing the World One Social Business at a Time
June 2016 Immersion Program: A Gathering of “Yunus” Fanatics
Why You Should Attend the One Young World Summit 2016

Yunus Centre
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MESSAGE

From the People
We Love
It is a great pleasure for me to write a letter addressed to you, our dear interns over years and months. Hello to everybody wherever in the world you are. We miss you.

Sharing the concept of social business and the actions around it, with you while you were here was a great joy. I am happy that you took the message of social business all around the world. I hope you are enjoying it, and in the process you are deepening your commitment to social business.

With social business you also carry the goals of three zeros - zero poverty, zero unemployment, and zero net carbon emission. The energy and creativity of the youth that you bring in assures me that poverty soon will be in museums, the word unemployment will soon get unemployed, and the world will become safe for all forms of life.

I wish you all the success in your journey towards this new world.

Muhammad Yunus
Nobel Peace Prize winner 2006
I see tremendous potential in our youth in the fight towards a poverty-free world. It is one of our goals at the Yunus Centre to involve and inspire as many young people passionate about this cause as possible. This year we have had many motivated interns who helped us prepare for Social Business Day 2016, among other things. At the Yunus Centre, we do our best to demonstrate to our interns how the practical and theoretical frameworks of social business as well as Yunus Social Business Centres both home and abroad. It is always a pleasure when we see our goals realized among our interns who then go on to spread that knowledge and expertise among their peers and to others around the globe. We hope your journey is a fruitful one.

Lamiya Morshed
Executive Director, Yunus Centre
Out of all the responsibilities that a human being inherits in this world, the most important is his responsibility to others. At the Yunus Centre, we take this responsibility very seriously. It brings us great pleasure to help the young generation through our internship program. We were lucky to have a group of energetic, talented and ambitious interns who are working and advancing the idea of social business in the society.

Rahima Khatun Selina
AGM
Admin & HR
Chief of Internship Program
ARTICLES

From Our
Beloved Interns
I’m Bangladeshi. I’m Bangladeshi because while gorging myself in street food, the thought of “how” the food is made doesn’t cross my mind, not even for a second. I’m Bangladeshi because being stuck in Dhaka traffic- the kind of traffic where you feel like you’ve aged 3 years doesn’t bother me anymore and at times I even find myself smiling as my mind drowns away the continuous stream of honking and drivers shouting at each other from across the street. I’m Bangladeshi because at least once a day I find myself asking, “What is wrong with this country?”

The answer to the question is simple and not as multidimensional and layered as I was made to believe. There is nothing wrong with this country. There is however something wrong with the people that inhabit it. Working at the Yunus Centre and being able to witness firsthand what Nobel laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus has created from ground up has been an eye opener.

On the very first day of the internship, we were given the generic welcome presentation and a power point on the principles on which a social business is formulated. One of the slides however, stuck with me. Humans are fundamentally selfish but they’re also fundamentally selfless, a trait that in the 21st century is regarded as weakness rather than commendable. We live in a society where our actions are dictated by the benefit it generates for ourselves rather than for others. A social business on the other hand, is created upon the shaky grounds that we humans will put the needs of others above ourselves and that somehow will suppress our inherent human selfishness, thus build a business engineered by the selflessness that we are all born with.

One of the social businesses that we were fortunate to learn about during our time as interns at the Yunus Centre was Grameen Caledonian College of Nursing (GCCN). It is a joint venture between Scotland’s Glasgow Caledonian University and Grameen Health Care Trust and was established with the promise of providing an exceptional education on nursing and midwifery to talented and ambitious daughters of Grameen Bank borrowers.

Now instead of bombarding this article with statistics and facts that could easily be looked up online, I’m going to use this platform to talk about my personal experience there and how it impacted me enough to
decide to write about it for the intern’s magazine. We met with the college’s English teacher who first gave us a rundown of the programs at the nursing college and then proceeded to explain why the college succeeded in doing what it is doing.

The college is giving its students the chance to pursue a career in nursing which benefits both the student and the society. These girls were most probably destined to be married off and forced to take care of their families but instead are given the chance to change their stories for the better and push restart on their lives. Most importantly, they’re retuned the belief that they can accomplish anything, a belief that was wrongly taken away from them before it could even take root. We were told that none of the girls that graduated had to wait even a single day to seek employment - a clear indication of the tremendous social and economic impacts this social business has created. The expansion plans for the college are well underway and an overwhelming number of girls are eagerly awaiting their chance to apply to reclain their own destiny.

Now, if other educational institutions in Bangladesh emulate what GCCN has done then we can finally create a world worthy of our future generations.
A social business is defined as a business entity which is run on the basis of “non-loss-non-dividend” motive and the ultimate goal of which is to solve social problems especially those related to poverty. In Prof. Yunus words, “A social business is designed and operated as a business enterprise, with products, services, customers, markets, expenses, and revenues. It is a no loss, no dividend, self sustaining company that sells goods or services and payback investments to its owners, but whose primary purpose is to serve society and improve the lives of the poor”.

A Social Business is not primarily a charitable organization, but a competitive enterprise. It needs to recover its full costs in order to achieve selfsustainability. The owner never receives any profits/dividends. He, however, is entitled to get back his invested amount. Profits from a Social Business can be reinvested to expand the business. It can also be passed on to target groups such as poor people by lowering price and providing better service.

A social business aims at maximizing social benefits instead of profit. It tries to achieve social objectives rather than personal gains.

In Bangladesh Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus started a number of social businesses like- Grameen Bank, Grameen Danone Food Limited, Grameen GC Eye Care Hospital, Grameen Veolia Water Limited, Grameen Intel, and Grameen Caledonian College of Nursing etc. A visionary entrepreneur can achieve his/her success by his/her own way. Professor Muhammad Yunus said “We have done some of these in Bangladesh. Whenever I see a problem, I immediately go and create a company. That's what I did all my life.”

He has not stopped in Bangladesh. He spreaded and promoted his ideas all over the world. All over the world many social business organizations are working successfully. Poverty is not only problem of developing countries it’s all about whole world but different perspective and views. We know in our world some of the people hold a huge amount of money in their hand.

Social Business is such an idea which can help to reduce poverty and ensure equal distribution of wealth. Social businesses reduce poverty not only by solving social problems but also by disseminating non-capitalistic mentality among people. In the framework social business a person can always think about solving social problems where we can create a better world for our future generation.

“I think, social business is the most logical thing to do. If we had done that, we could reduce all the problems we have.”- Prof. Muhammad Yunus.

Social Business centres, institutes and programmes are running at different universities around the world - The Muhammad Yunus Innovation Challenge, International Development Initiative, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Cambridge, USA, Yunus Centre at Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China, Yunus & Shiiki Social Business Research Centre; Fukuoka, Japan, Social Business Short Course, Eastern University, Bangladesh, Social Venture Lab at National University of Singapore; Yunus Social Business Centre, University of Florence; Italy, Danone Endowed Chair of Social Business, European Business School; Germany, Social Business/Enterprise and Poverty Chair, HEC Paris; France, Yunus Centre Social Business Centre, University of New South Wales, Australia, Yunus Social Business, ESPM; Sao Paulo, Brazil etc.
Some of the companies operate social businesses in a very organized way. They follow the seven principles of social business and serve the society through their products and services. Different countries has different social problems, it depends on their cultures, values etc. They firstly identify their problem and then come up with solution to the problem in the form of a social business. I think it’s important to mention the names of some of these social businesses: Seniors House (Promoting the well-being of the elderly in society), Albania, Lala Land, Germany, SPARC (Improving sanitary conditions in Mumbai slums), India, Haiti Forest (A social business ecosystem approach to restoring tree cover in Haiti), Vitalius (Combating malnutrition with fortified food products), Colombia, Green Bio Energy, Uganda, Karnali Miteri Udhyog – Porridge factory to address Malnutrition, Nepal.

Finally, I would like to give thanks to Yunus Centre for giving me this great opportunity to know and learn about Social Business. I am also honored to have got the chance to meet and work for the social business pioneer Prof. Muhammad Yunus.
“Attending a Social Business Design Lab is a Must”

Nusrat Chowdhury

My Internship in Yunus Center has been a significant learning experience, starting from the desk work, the field visits and groups chats. In all of it I have learned a lot about the concept of social business. Even if in the beginning I doubted the theory of social business, the Social Business design Lab gave me a very clear and practical aspect of it.

If anyone needs to understand social business in root and in depth, attending a Social Business Design Lab is a must. I attended an open Social Business Design Lab on 30th June, where six new entrepreneurs were showcased to be funded by the different companies of the Grameen family. This new form of social business program of funding entrepreneurs initiated by the Grameen family is called "NobinUdaykta Programs" which literally translates to young entrepreneurs. Social business is amazing because all those entrepreneurs are not taking loan; rather they are borrowing money in terms of equity. And after all the invested money are paid back, each entrepreneur can own the whole business again by paying 20% ownerships transfer fee, which is very cheap compared to the interest any one has to pay in any commercial bank.

In terms of an investor, the concept of the program is, rather than giving charity to people invest in small businesses, where an investor gets back the invested money and can invest again on another young entrepreneur. As Professor Yunus said, charity money only has one life but social business money can be used again and again.

The Social Business Design Lab I attended showcased six young entrepreneurs, each of them was inspiring. During the presentation, Asma Begum one of the entrepreneurs, shared that she had been a victim of domestic violence by her ex-husband and during that time her ear got severely injured which resulted in hearing problems. Hearing her story, a guest came forward to help her to cure her ear injury. Seeing a group of people who are so dedicated and passionate about helping others was an amazing experience.

After the showcase, all the guests were divided into six groups to discuss and evaluate each entrepreneur’s business plan. The discussion group I joined in was evaluating the project of “Mitali Tailors” owned by Rumi Mallick. The group gave important feedback to
her, for example, we suggested focusing on tailoring business rather than selling readymade dresses since tailoring brings more profit. The group actually had elaborate discussion on cost, profit, breakeven point, extra expense, payback plans of the tailoring business. During the discussion, I actually got to know more about business structures and stakeholders, which was really helpful for me as I am not a business student.

This Social Business Design Lab did not only give me the chance to understand social business but also inspired me to invest in the social business.
On 25th July, the interns at the Yunus Centre got the chance to go on a field trip to one of the Nobin Udyakta powered projects at work at Dakhinkhan, Uttara. Nobin Udyokta empowers entrepreneurs to let their dream enter the practical world and also opens up the chance to hire more employees thus creating more job opportunities and boosting up the social economy.

Crawling through the semi-urban areas in our microbuses we finally reached our destination at 12PM. In the scorching heat of the summer, the 17 of us interns reached our destination and entered the first mini factory where the Nobin Udyakta and his staffs were weaving carpets from the scratch.

All of us packed ourselves in the small room seeing the carpenters at work. Not only were the carpets fabrics were of good quality but the designs themselves were also very beautiful. Beautiful enough to be sold from any posh showrooms!

How an idea can empower so many! The next tour was to the place where women were busily making clutches and money bags of many design and colours. The quality of the bags was so good that a few of our interns bought a handful!

After that we visited a pillows and mattress factory. The pillows were very fluffy and I almost bought a few of those pillows. Talk about emotional shopping!

The last place we visited was the factory of hand-made mats. Again, of simple design but very alluring.

As the mats were sold at a whole sale rate, each of the mats were only BDT 25! I think we bought almost a quarter of the mats available at the place with each of us taking at least 3 pieces.

Yunus sir’s quote of "We are not job-seekers, we are job-givers" and the implementation of Nobin Udyokta Project that helps to turn unemployment into entrepreneurship truly paved the way for the jobless to create job for themselves. We are thankful to be presented with this wonderful opportunity to experience the practical side of the Nobin Udyokta project and more thankful to Yunus Sir for his contribution to our country. 🌿
As Professor Yunus once famously said, “... making money is no fun. Contributing to and changing the world is lot more fun.” I similarly subscribe to the very idea that we, as individuals, can change the world by altering the way in which we think traditional business operates. In the summer of 2016, it all began with the opportunity to work closely with the Yunus Centre (YC), a resource hub disseminating the ideas of the Nobel laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus. Only after joining at YC did I realize the power of social business that has transformed many lives and communities.

With that being said, I have long-desired to make changes that impact on the lives of the rural poor, whose social and cultural fabric derives from more traditional bases. So, I have continuously thought how situation for the vulnerable in our society could be reoriented in a way that comprehensively moves across many scales in a thriving and sustainable way. This is where Grameen Shakti, a social business pioneered in Solar Home System (SHS) for the rural area, comes into play. While my time at YC, I had the opportunity to visit the organization and learn the business they operate with a social objective that fosters clean energy at an affordable cost throughout remote and rural areas of Bangladesh.

In point of fact, Bangladesh has an enormous population of 170 million people, ranking one of the most densely populated countries in the world. Electricity generation in particular has long been a chronic problem mainly persistent in the rural area, where 73 percent of the total population inhabits. At a finer scale of analysis, 30 percent of the rural population has electricity, leaving the others completely vulnerable to meet the burgeoning energy demand. Not only do people suffer in their daily life due to power shortage but also they lack on-grid energy supply that requires innovation and cutting-edge technology.

With a focus solely on renewable energy, Grameen Shakti has made a commendable progress, installing 1.6 million Solar Home System equivalent of 66 Mega Watt of energy as of November, 2015. Besides, the organization has constructed over 31,000 biogas plant and installed over 940,000 improved cooking stoves, reducing indoor air pollution, health hazard and greenhouse gas emission. Bringing green solutions to the rural area, Grameen Shakti has set a precedent in matters of POWER generation and inspired many, including myself, to solve social problem in a business way. Building the country with 10 percent renewable energy source by 2020, Grameen Shakti has continued to advocate for renewable energy that leads to socio-economic growth, which in turn, places Bangladesh at the forefront of sustainable development.

Seeing the world through Professor Yunus’s lens, I am now strongly motivated like never before to follow through my long-held aspiration to make significant headway, and in doing so, equip the rural, as well as the urban poor, with the
necessary tools for self-reliance and communal advancement.

On a humble note, the internship at Yunus Centre has opened the door to gain business know-how with a renewed impetus for social good. Likewise, the time I spent at Yunus Centre has allowed me to master particular set of skills to create innovative and self-sustaining business models. More so, the program has provided a professional platform where I could better fathom market mechanism and implement ideas catered towards a social cause. The learning process of a seamless and a joined-up approach at Yunus Centre has indeed shaped and organized my experience into a meaningful Whole. 🌟
Lazy, crazy, ambitious and bold – pretty much what our hapless coordinator, Kamrul bhai, had to say about us in the closing days of the program. I find the aforementioned “adjectives” apt and appropriate considering all the things we had done, to turn his last Immersion Program as a coordinator into a juggernaut of emotions and, sometimes, despair.

The June 2016 Immersion Program team was a diverse group of 9 socially-conscious, though rowdy, young adults who had crossed oceans, crowd-funded the cost of their travel and accommodation and sacrificed high-paying summer internships just to be inspired by a man, Professor Muhammad Yunus, who had fought taboo, political oppression and, sometimes, (sac)religious propaganda for more than four decades to improve the living standard of 8.9 million families in Bangladesh and 133 million households worldwide.

The Immersion Program started with a comprehensive orientation on Bangladesh, the centuries old Bengali culture and the world-renowned hospitality of the rural people of Bangladesh. We were officially welcomed by the Executive Director of the Yunus Center, Lamiya Morshed ma’am, and were cautioned about the rising terrorist threats in a country which is highly secular and usually peaceful.

“Lazy, crazy, ambitious and bold”
From the second day of the program, we got what we were promised: intense discussion sessions on Social Business, abundant field trips and long meetings with various Grameen companies to learn about their experience.

As if that was not enough, we got to spend an entire hour with our hero, Professor Muhammad Yunus, on the third day. We introduced ourselves to him and asked him questions about the future of Social Business and his plan for the future. At the end of the session, we took pictures with him and gathered all of our "Banker to the Poor" books for him to sign.

The second week of the program was dedicated to Grameen Bank. We learned extensively about the organizational structure of Grameen Bank; how they maintain their transparency and about their new products. Later, we visited the Grameen Bank Museum; watched a documentary on how Grameen Bank operates in the United States. The documentary was very heart touching. All of us were on an emotional roller coaster.

During our time at Grameen Bank, we went on a three-day field visit to Shivalaya, Manikganj (a small village about 60 kilometers from Dhaka). On the second day of the trip, we visited a couple of Grameen Bank Branch Offices, attended a village center meeting and visited the houses of several Grameen Bank borrowers. Before starting for Dhaka on the second day, we traveled another 15 kilometers further north to visit a Grameen Bank Area Office. At the Area Office, we had an hour long conversation with the Area Manager and the Program Office. The Area Office was completely computerized with its very own data-center.

The village trip would not have been possible without our Grameen Bank Coordinator, Shamim sir. His ubiquitous presence was felt by each and every member of our Immersion Program team. His outstanding translation skills helped us stay on the course when everyone around us was speaking in Bengali. I will forever remember the late night discussion sessions with Shamim sir and Kamrul bhaiya at the dining hall of the rest house.

The third week of the Immersion Program was all about meeting the executives of the various Grameen companies. We visited the Grameen Caledonian College of Nursing, the Social Business Industrial Park, Grameen Knitwear, Grameen slum schools and Grameen Shikkha Vocational Training Center. We also visited the sites of various Nobin Uddokta Projects and had conversations with the Nobin Udyaktas.

The last week of the program was full of surprises. All of the Yunus Center interns and the members of the Immersion Program were invited to an Iftar party that Professor Muhammad Yunus and Mrs. Yunus attended. The day happened to be the seventy-sixth birthday of Professor Muhammad Yunus. So, after Iftar, we celebrated
Professor Muhammad Yunus’s birthday by cutting a beautiful birthday cake. Near the end of the program there was a special musical performance by one of our group members: Marie Colombier. She had been practicing that Bengali song since the first day of the Immersion Program.

The following morning we presented our Social Business plans to Kamrul bhaiya. The highlight of the month-long Immersion Program was somehow overshadowed by the excitement of the birthday party. Although the presentation seemed bland compared to the ostentatious display the previous night, each of the members pitched some useful solutions to the existing social problems.

The Immersion Program officially ended on the 28th of the month with the submission of a report on our activities and a feedback session. The feedback session was very interactive. Each of the participants provided useful suggestions to improve the program.

Social Business, despite being a budding concept has raised a furor among academicians and social entrepreneurs alike. Immersion Program provides a fantastic platform to learn about this emerging theory. Immersion Program bridges like-minded social entrepreneurs and raises awareness among the rising social entrepreneurs. So, I feel Immersion Program should not be confined within the premise to Yunus Center. It must be replicated in every country of the world. 🌱
As a Bangladeshi-Canadian, I have explored life both in Bangladesh and Canada. I have lived in Bangladesh till Grade 7, and my root was crucial in shaping my worldview. Moving to a country like Canada, where most of the basic needs are met with ease, showed me how hard the underprivileged majority of Bangladeshis work on a regular basis and yet fail to even meet their most essential needs.

I entered University of Toronto to study Environmental Science, but found immense passion in business. After drifting into the business sphere, I realized that for-profit companies are crucial to economic health, but are they healthy for our societies, our environments? Not necessarily. Even though I specialized in Digital Enterprise Management, I tried my best to take courses in Environmental Management. Environmental Management taught me about the value of our environment, and how important it is to take care of our mother Earth. Sustainability then became a key area of focus. I somehow wanted to focus on business, but environmental sustainability, and social well-being became very important to me.

I then began realizing that most multinational companies sometimes disrespect the same Earth that provides them with all their necessities - from raw materials, to life - water. The more I learned, my perspective of profit-maximization started transforming. I soon realized that in order to balance our economic, social, and environmental impact, we need to do things a little differently.

I have always been interested in Grameen Bank’s philosophy, but was never fully aware of things. Hence, I did my own research to find that Dr. Yunus’ solution in tackling issues such as poverty, unemployment, and environmental degradation is not only innovative, but also sustainable. His theory of the three-zeroes — zero-poverty, zero-unemployment, and zero-carbon emissions, had deeply inspired me. This vision seemed to align with my values.

I always wanted to improve the quality of living in under-developed countries such as Bangladesh. Access to clean water, proper sanitation, education, health, and employment are crucial in building economies, and enhancing quality of life. I took my passion for environmental sustainability to greater heights by being actively involved with World Wildlife Fund, whose mission is to fight off environmental degradation. I served as the President of this organization’s chapter at the University of Toronto Mississauga. Throughout my experiences with non-profits (i.e. WWF, FIMRC, Free the Children, UNACTO), I have realized that most non-profits mostly rely on external resources - mainly, monetary funds, for effective operation and smooth execution.

However, one organization’s operating strategy greatly caught my attention — they obviously focused on external partnerships, donor relations, and fund management, but their edge was that they were a self-sustaining business. The benefit of this unique concept is that it provides them with funds to ensure their organizational sustainability. They had an e-commerce
platform geared towards selling a selection of unique items, made available to the developed world. These products add value to the organization by not only making it self-sustainable, but also supporting the makers of such products, who are mainly from under-developed countries. Hence I decided to embark in a journey of exploration, and I have been in love with it ever since.

The Yunus Centre is one of the most impactful hubs of everything, and anything related to social business across the world. The experience has been exciting, and I have been having a great time here. I have been able to engage with, and learn about the different Grameen organizations, actively go on insight field visits, engage with future leaders, and also had a chance to create our own social business here at the Yunus Centre.

The world is a very sacred place — it is our core responsibility to love, protect, and take care of it, while letting all of the other citizens of this beautiful planet live in peace and harmony — together. We are the leaders of tomorrow. We need to consistently envision, and work towards a brighter tomorrow. 🌿
It is hot, I can feel myself starting to sweat even though I have only been outside for five minutes. I wonder how it can be that hot again if it has just rained the last few hours. I am sitting in a CNG (motorised Rickshaw). My Bangladeshi friend was next to me, and we were on our way to another friend’s place for dinner where we were invited.

It has only been a few days since I arrived on a Friday afternoon in Dhaka, feeling rather vulnerable as I got here just one week after the horrible attack had happened in which many foreigners and three locals were targeted and killed. It happened in a part of the city which was deemed safe beforehand. When I read about the attack, I was as shocked as everyone else and consulted with many of my friends if following through with my travel plans would be a good idea. Since I had been really looking forward to my first time in Bangladesh, I decided to go and I must say I could not be happier that I did.

When I started planning my trip, I was dreaming of various field trips, seeing the countryside and exploring Dhaka by foot. None of which remained a possibility after the attack. Many ask me if I feel very constraint being here at this time and I must say, I feel mostly protected by wonderfully generous people who have accommodated me with an extraordinary amount of attention and hospitality since I arrived. Especially everyone at the Yunus Centre has been of the upmost support and they
have gone a long way in ensuring that all the interns have an exciting and educational schedule nevertheless. It is true that daily life unfolded itself quite differently than what I had expected, but to me it seems rather a blessing. Mostly I try to commute by car, and I only travel by CNG with local friends who speak the language and know their way around the city. As restaurants, especially the western ones, are not considered safe anymore eating out is rarely an option. From the very beginning Bangladeshis did not only seem very worried about my safety, but specifically worried that because of such constraints I would not enjoy the country or have a chance to try the local cuisine. As a result of that, I found myself being invited to various homes where I have tasted the full pallet of Bangladesh’s famous dishes. I have always enjoyed travelling specifically because I enjoy food very much and if you feel the same way I do, then you will feel at home instantly in this country. So here I am, in the middle of what my family would call a terrorist zone and feeling more at home than I could have ever imagined.

Patrick Kennedy once said: “Terrorism is a psychological warfare. Terrorists try to manipulate us and change our behaviour by creating fear, uncertainty, and division in society.” What happened here in Bangladesh is a perfect example of this. Not only do the foreigners feel the uncertainty but everyone I work or live with is experiencing the terror at this very moment. Young people are concerned about what to wear so as not to attract too much unwanted attention, others are worried about their friends who have gone missing and many are simply still in shock and mourning. While this very well could have been the last straw that breaks the camel’s back, it turns out to be a call for action for many, not just here in Bangladesh. While my parents at home worried about my safety in Dhaka, my sister suddenly got stuck in Istanbul during the coup, and friends in Munich and Nice suddenly found themselves being very close to becoming victims themselves. All around the world there is tension, and terrorists use our fear to create division. I came to Bangladesh to broaden my knowledge on social business related to environmental issues and find myself considering another powerful aspect of social business altogether. Social business, quite literally, empowers us. It gives us not only economical strength, but also courage us to stand united against those who create division and fear.

I came to Bangladesh in very uncertain times, not knowing what will happen and what life will be like. I not only found a country that perfectly represents my relationship with food (eating a lot all the time) but have also found a country which stands united and could not have been more welcoming. I have experienced a great deal of generosity, curiosity and hospitality. I have learned how to eat with my hands, have tried to learn Bangla (and failed) and have worn a Sharee for the first time. To sum up: Dhaka in July is very hot, rainy, filled with traffic jams (even more so with the many police checks) and overly chaotic. And yet, my sole thought is: I’ll be back! 🌸
Bangladesh has been ranked 10th in the Global Slavery Index— the news title typed in bold stopped my fingers from scrolling down my Facebook newsfeed. With a frown of disbelief, I clicked on the link and found myself an article published on June 2, 2016 about modern slavery in Bangladesh. Along with data and personal stories, I found myself staring at sensationalized photos of victims of modern slavery taken from different corners of the country. I couldn’t take my eyes off the screen. At first I was filled with shock, but soon my shock turned into feeling of despair.

The article described the plight of 1.5 million souls enslaved nationwide, who are made to work 16-17 hours a day without any food or water break. After reading the article, I lowered my head in shame. I was ashamed of myself- not only because I wasn’t doing anything to solve the problem, but also because I didn’t even know that it exists in such extent in my own country. When I looked up, I was reeling from the image of an enslaved child with bloodshot eyes from Tangail. There was a silent cry for help, there was pain, but what frightened me most was the hopelessness in his eyes. We always hope for a better tomorrow, but it seemed like hope had been sucked away from the life of that child forever.

What is ironic is that slavery has become the norm for most of them and they know of no form of life beyond it. They have accepted is as their destiny. They don’t have anything to compare to. But we, as the fellow human beings, isn’t it our responsibility to fight for them? Or shall we turn our backs to them just because they belong to a lower socio-economic class?

We take so much pride in our national development and achievements such as acquiring the status of lower-middle income country. However, if we fail to secure something as fundamental as the basic rights of children, such achievements become invalid.

The key to break this barbaric circle is to recognize hope instead of hopelessness, taking one small step at a time. For example, providing alternative educational and economic opportunities can serve as an antidote to the despair they have been suffering from. Nevertheless, it’s important to take an approach that goes beyond a short term solution. We should extend our helping hand to the victims by providing access to tools of self-reliance so that they are well equipped with the right resources and opportunity. Beyond that, given the mass nature of the problem, it’s important to engage policymakers, development sector and human rights activists to bring a system-level change.

Moreover, in this era of technology, social communication can be the most potent tool for leveraging the power of individuals. As majority of us share the same dream of making these people what they were born to be - free - we can actively share our opinions on social media and gradually start a movement. We can spread the message that freedom is not a blessing that is bestowed upon some fortunate people; it is a birthright for everyone. That child from Tangail deserves a life of dignity and opportunity, just as every other person living on this Earth does. If I could talk to the boy from the picture, I would say only this, "You are not alone. You may not know us, but we will always be here by your side. We will keep fighting for you rights. And we will keep fighting until the very end."

It is a fight not out of pity, but out of responsibility.
Reflections and Deductions

My gigantic suitcase half filled with books; my weight’s worth of gift-wrapped Turkish Delights and I were waiting at the check-in line for my flight to Dhaka. The figure of a man with a sore expression was hurriedly approaching the line. As the figure, who I had figured was a stressful business man late to his flight, from a distance, approached his features resolved into that of my father’s. He approached me; asked me to step out of the line and told me that we had a decision to make. He had gotten some unofficial information from the embassy regarding a security threat that would last for three days.

He asked me to postpone the trip. He can’t be serious, I thought to myself. He doesn’t tell me this on the phone, waits until I go all the way to the airport, and right when my excitement is at peak, this has to happen. I wanted to tell him that the threat applied to the whole world right now, that Dhaka was not any more dangerous than Turkey was at the moment. My dad told me the usual stuff; it was his responsibility to protect me. I did not see any point in postponing the trip, but I could see that my dad was afraid. So I headed to the car.

I was angry with myself, for being too excited. Whenever you have high hopes or are too excited, this is bound to happen. I should have known it, I thought.

Three days later, on the night before my flight, the coup attempt took place in Turkey. From 10 in the evening to 8 am. I along with millions sat in front of the TV navigating between news channels, as mosques called out the adhan and salat continually, all night long. A coup was announced from the national TV, as the military instated a curfew. Before an hour had passed, our President was on Facetime with a CNN reporter and called every Turkish citizen to the streets to fight for “democracy”, as hundreds got killed fighting the military, but mostly among themselves. A couple of hours more into the night, soldiers took over the CNN building and the broadcasting stopped. For hours, military jets flew low over our houses as our windows rattled and our houses shook. At 8 AM the following morning, the army gave in. At 6 PM on the following day, I boarded my flight one of the few that wasn’t cancelled to come to Dhaka.

I was angry. I was outraged because only a small fraction of our people could see what was going on in our country, while the rest was deluded with enthusiasm at our President’s optimistic bluffs of democracy and unity. In Dhaka, I was greeted with apologies. People were sorry for what had happened in my country; they were sorry that I had to come to Dhaka at such a bad time. I did not agree. I thought that the timing was perfect. We shared the same concern with my Bengali friends for our countries. I had the opportunity to detach myself from my emotions and follow the events that unfolded in my country from a bird’s eye perspective. This was the best time to reflect and decide if all hope was lost for my country. Would we, as the coming generations of Turkish intellectuals, be able to save our country from falling in a bottomless pit of blind faith? As Immanuel Kant put it in What Is Enlightenment?, many are diseased of nonage: “the inability to use one’s own understanding without another’s guidance.” Following up on and adding to Kant, nonage can only be overcome with freedom. Freedom can be cultivated with confidence, economical independence and education. According to TSI (Turkey Statistical Institute), 11% of the overall population in Turkey are university graduates. Whereas this number is 14.6% in Bangladesh. According to TSI, the primary reasons for the inability to reach post-secondary education in Turkey are the lack of schools and the distance between villages and schools, as well as the

“I thought that the timing was perfect. We shared the same concern with my Bengali friends for our countries.”
cost of attending university. Turkey lacks an institute like Grameen that comes up with innovative solutions to develop the poor. GramCar is one of Grameen Global Communications’ projects in which social services are offered on wheels. “It aims to reach the unreach people in the remote areas by a car equipped with social services.” The social services are healthcare, education and ICT (Information and Communication Technology) awareness. The GramCar is also used by young women in the village as a school bus, to take them to the university they study at.

A solution Grameen has found for families who cannot afford their children’s college education is the Grameen Higher Education Loan. The loan is given to Grameen borrowers’ children. The loan operates in a no-interest basis, and the students only start to repay the loan a year after graduation. The loan recovery rate is 97%. In Turkey, education loans are available; however they have an interest rate higher than most loans. For example, the interest of a typical home loan ranges from 1.03% to 1.09, whereas a typical higher-education loan has an interest from 1.21% to 1.60%. For this reason, higher education loans are not popular in Turkey.

In Turkey, social businesses exist mainly as cooperatives, societies and foundations. There are some companies such as Mikado Consulting that design social business initiatives for corporations. A project that aimed to spread social business, The Social Entrepreneurship Project, was supported by The British Council.

Social Businesses that provide seed capital to entrepreneurs are more common in Turkey. Also, there exists a Turkey Grameen Microfinance Program, which successfully operates in the less-developed parts of Turkey like the eastern parts. Some activities exist in terms of social business in Turkey, but the businesses are small and disorganized. Most of them do not live for more than a couple of years, except for the very well known ones like GencTur and Cop Madam. In order to make social business more widespread and sustainable in Turkey, a social corporation like Grameen is the key.

At this point of my life, the one thing I know for sure is that social business will be my area of focus after I finish my studies. My aim is to work on the scaling up and institutionalization of social businesses in Turkey. I learned a lot during my immersion program, and still have much to learn.
The world belongs to those who believe in the power of their dreams. All great achievers are those who dare to dream and then develop the courage to chase their dreams. Dreams might change everyone's life and sometimes it can change the whole world.

Now, a question may arise that ‘How can an individual change the world, living in an impoverished, overpopulated and politically unstable country?’ Many people here fail to reach their full potential, owing to the dearth of opportunities. This can be disheartening. But we must bear in mind that problems are opportunities. It is our chance to prove our worth to the society. Problems are blessings in disguise.

When I dream big, I often take my inspirations from Nobel Peace Laureate Dr. Muhammad Yunus. We all know about his story of ‘Twenty-Seven Dollars and a Dream’ which changed the perspective of the whole world. His dream made him the ‘Father of Microcredit’. Now the world is slowly but steadily realizing his dream of sending poverty to the museum.

Dr. Yunus did everything to make his noble dream come to reality through a life-long struggle with his strength, patience, and passion. He reached out to bring positive changes in the world through the idea of Social Business. "Once we know where we want to go, getting there will be so much easier." - Nobel Peace Laureate Muhammad Yunus once said.

I have nourished a dream right from my childhood, which is to contribute to make a world where everyone will have equal opportunity in every sector. Where not a single girl will face any form of harassment. Everybody will learn to think about everything ethically. Only ethical awareness can bring the inner changes in our social mindset, which will ultimately lead to the solution to most of our social problems. Social Discrimination in our society is an enormous problem. We are facing it in every aspect of our lives - perhaps in different ways. Most of the Asian countries are fighting the wrath of Gender Inequality.

Both men and women are God’s wonderful creations for his beautiful world. As a human being, the right and respect of every individual should be equal. But in this region, especially Bangladesh, where 50% of the total population is female, women are deprived of their own rights and are discriminated in every sector.

Domestic violence is a common issue because women in our common social mindset are considered to be inferior to men to ensure that the men have the right to reign over women. Eve-teasing limits the free movement of young girls. Women are punished with acid attacks when they say no to sexual advances. Women are harassed when they go to the police, seek medical help, or dare to complain.

Over the ages, we have seen women fighting to gain their freedom and reform a just society for them. The scenario has been improving over the years as women are coming out breaking the shackles to chase their dreams. But majority of them are still left in the dark.

Women can contribute tremendously to the development of her family, society and country. Still there are many families who consider girls as burdens. Women in our society do not believe that they can take on responsibilities of their own family. Moreover, the government does not take the necessary steps that would help women to be in the decision-making positions.

If every individual man respects all female as an equal and ensure that they are not deprived of their own rights, then our world will become a different world altogether - a just and caring world. This small positive change, deep inside us, can help us change the society we live in. This will not be possible overnight, but as Dr. Yunus rightly said, “Once we decide that we will bring the change, getting there will be much easier.” 🌹
One fine evening, sitting in the luxuries of my air conditioned car, I was planning my shopping trip to a mall located in the posh area of Gulshan. As I peered out the window to catch a glimpse of the world that I was so unaware of, something caught my attention. There was a baby, peacefully sleeping on a bed strewn with garbage, dogs and crows being his only companions for the day. I wondered if he was dreaming or was plunged in the black of nothingness. Pedestrians in the streets walked past him, oblivious to his nightmares and my scattered thoughts. They did not waste a second glance on him, as if he were no more than the stray dog lying beside him. It seemed that the baby’s miseries were a natural thing, something they were long used to.

But I couldn’t avert my eyes from this grotesque scene nor could I find a solution to it. I kept on looking with utter helplessness. I asked myself surrounded by the promises of a material life, my mind betrayed me. All it could think about was the world is to the less fortunate. It is during that instance in time that I had an epiphany - to change this world. Bringing change however, is easier said than done. Where do you start? Who do you start with? Will your actions make a splash in the pond or a drop in the ocean? As I pondered on, I remembered the name of the person who certainly made a splash in this vast ocean of misery. Professor Muhammad Yunus. I have heard his stories at every corner of Bangladesh, googled his name a thousand times, the tales of Grameen Bank was uttered over and over from elders to children. His work of forty years has reduced poverty by an astounding 20% in Bangladesh. His dream of putting poverty into museums is now marching towards reality. This realization was what led me to the steps of Yunus Centre.

So I’ve been asked what exactly we are learning here. First off, I learnt to take off my rose-tinted glasses and acknowledge the harsh reality. The reality was that 26% of the Bangladeshi population is still living under the national poverty line of $2. And to tackle poverty we had to go beyond microfinance. That’s when Professor Muhammad Yunus launched the concept of social business.

When I first heard about it, I questioned its credibility. One of the seven principles of social business stated that – “Investors get back their investment amount only. No dividend is given beyond INVESTMENT MONEY” but I viewed this principle as a big flaw. I could not wrap my head around the idea of running a business without dividends. It was a session with Professor Muhammad Yunus that finally convinced me that why ‘no dividends’ was important for a “social” business. He told us that if we really wanted to make an impact on the society then we would have to look beyond our own needs. It boils down to our internal war of doing good for ourselves only versus doing good for the world.

If I really wanted to change the sleeping baby’s fate I have to choose the latter. Going up to the baby and just handing him a handful of notes wouldn’t do that. He wasn’t asking for my pity, but my help and I am determined to help him in the right way. That’s what Yunus Centre is teaching me; to help people out of their miseries forever, not only for a mere few hours. ✪
One Young World is a UK-based charity organization that was founded by David Jones and Kate Robertson in 2009. It is the world’s largest youth forum, which gathers together the brightest young talents and leaders from around the world. The charity hosts annual summits throughout the globe, previously in UK, Switzerland, USA, South Africa, Ireland and Thailand. The upcoming OYW 2016 summit will be held at Ottawa, Canada from 28th September to 1st October.

The summit brings together a diverse group of young achievers from 196 countries, where they all developed innovative sustainable solutions and frameworks for pressing global issues that are discussed at the conference.

“If you have to see the world, you do not have to visit every country in the globe. Just attend One Young World!”
- One Young World Ambassador

Delegates at the summit are privileged to have Counselors who will be facilitating the summit. These Counselors have been activists, politicians, musicians, CEOs, academicians, TV personalities, chefs, athletes etc. The Counselors and delegates get to interact with each other to come up with sustainable solutions for the pressing issues that are faced in the world today. The young leaders become inspired by the Counselors who lend their global stature to the viewpoints of the delegates, to create positive change for their country and for the world. Previous Counselors included Professor Muhammad Yunus, Kofi Anan, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, Arianna Huffington, Sir Bob Geldof etc.

Delegates become One Young World Ambassadors after each summit. They either take an initiative of their own or even get involved with an existing initiative, to tackle the social issues of the society, like unemployment, human rights issues, gender discrimination, environmental degradation etc. This program helps delegates to improve their performances at work, gain new skills, knowledge and insights, which will help them further in their career. At the same time, they actively participate in trying to create a positive impact for their respective countries and globally.

Being an OYW Summit 2016 delegate represents a unique opportunity and an eye-opening experience for each and every delegate. Through this global network, they can get wide access to future leaders of the world, where everyone can work together for better tomorrow. Delegates from each and every country attend this summit from around the world.
I was 10 when I heard about Grameen Bank and Dr. Mohammad Yunus being collectively awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. That was the first time I heard about the man but not the first that I'd heard about the organization. Like the other 81,000 villages across the country, they happened to be operating in mine as well, in the district of Brahmanbaria. Although I grew up in Dhaka, my family and I often visited there and the bank’s loans would sometimes slip into discussion at village gatherings. Some people talked about how they were paying them back. They argued on how to save their money so that they wouldn’t miss payments. One thing that I noticed but took for granted at the time was that almost all of these people were women. The enthusiasm in their voices was not something that you always found among the women in the village.

By August 1996, Grameen Bank had financed the building of over 320,000 houses for the landless, of which around 91% were owned by female borrowers (D.C. Barua, “Housing For The Rural Poor: The Grameen Bank Experience,” 1996). 20 years later, this number has more than doubled to almost 700,000 houses (“Grameen Bank Monthly Update in US$: May, 2016,” 2016). After the floods of 1987, there was a serious need for affordable housing and the bank expanded its housing program to tackle the problem. Most of these houses were built with loans made to women who didn’t own a house and often didn’t have the support of a male
earner in the family.

Women in Bangladeshi society were widely viewed as a burden to the family that the parents needed to marry off quickly. After marriage, a woman could easily be abandoned by her husband and left without a source of income or a place to stay. She would be unable to provide her children with shelter or food (D.C. Barua, “Housing For The Rural Poor: The Grameen Bank Experience,” 1996). This meant that the woman did not have a voice in her society and was always dependent on the whims of her family or husband. She had to rely on others for her own and her children’s well-being. The housing loans gave the poorest women of Bangladesh the opportunity to build their own dwellings which could then be used not only as places to raise their children but also as places to base their businesses. By producing a generation of women homeowners, Grameen Bank paved the way for female empowerment in parts of Bangladeshi society that were considered the poorest and most backward. These women gained confidence in themselves once they successfully built their own homes from the ground up. They were able to break free from social norms that would restrict them from improving their livelihoods even during natural disasters. This no doubt played a part in fueling the entrepreneurial spirit among many of them that helped them to set up sources of income from those very homes.

The Grameen Housing Loans program probably opened the door for a substantial change in Bangladeshi rural society. Once women who were victims of flooding and other natural disasters began to rebuild their lives with the help of loans, they changed the way that they were viewed in their communities. They proved that a woman could be more than a mother, she could be a homeowner, a business-owner, a source of income for her family. It was wonderful to see the effects of this change among the women of my village. The excitement in their voices spoke of a brighter future for their daughters and grand-daughters that we could be proud of.
Happy Birthday, Professor Muhammad Yunus: An Important Day in the Lives of 7 million People.

Istiak H Khan

How do you celebrate a life that has changed 7,060,000 lives? That was the question that I was faced with just a few weeks after starting my internship at the Yunus Centre. The answer to the question was a rather memorable and enjoyable experience. 28th July is a day of extraordinary joyfulness at the Grameen building as it is the birthday of Dr. Muhammad Yunus. Not only 28th, but the festivities begin well within the beginning of the week at some of the sister Grameen companies, as it is extraordinarily hard to cram the reasons to celebrate Dr. Yunus into a single day. 25th July was our day of celebration as made convenient by the weekend. The preparation began as soon as James, Anika, Maria and Ankur the photographer stepped in. 200 balloons, a plethora of ribbons were among some of their chosen decorations, chosen to introduce an aura of felicity around the Yunus Centre conference room. As the clock struck 3, interns started to gather for the party that was intended to coincide with Iftar. Marie, Intesar, Saheli and Munim were the first people to be noticed, as they were rather loud with their rehearsals for the song that they were planning sing for Dr. Yunus (a vehement fan of interns’ talents). Meanwhile, the poster with intern’s and employees’ birthday wishes became the primary objective for everyone at the iftar because - everyone, including me was restless to let Dr. Yunus know about how much he was loved and appreciated.

At 5 PM, Dr. Yunus finally joined everyone at the conference table, the centre of which looked like a balloon pit. Every once in a while, one of the balloons would burst and would be the reason for a fleeting smile, or sometimes fear on the peoples’ faces. After a brief introduction with everyone, Dr. Yunus quickly proceeded to the song that was fabulously sung by the newly formed band. And soon the call for Maghrib prayer faded in and initiated the eager feast. It was great to see the intern’s munch down bengali delicacies, a cuisine that was totally new for some of the international interns and immersion participants.

Mr. Yunus had finished reading the greetings on the poster that was made for him and expressed his gratitude. The interns were grateful as well, for the food. It was amazing!

By then, everyone’s phones were out and about, all everyone wanted was a selfie with Dr. Muhammad Yunus - birthday boy hype!
Other than the fact that it was Dr. Yunus’s birthday, there was something special about the day as well - the office didn’t feel like the office. It was loud, it was fun, a birthday cake was involved which was accompanied by what I call ‘intern shenanigans’. But it was all okay, because deep beneath all that was going on, the Yunus Centre was well on its way to change the life of thousands of people. Some of whom didn’t even know their own birthdates, and Dr. Yunus’ birthday was a celebration that celebrated their improved contemporary circumstances.
My internship experience at Yunus Center was absolutely wonderful with all the experience of knowing more about Grameen Bank, Yunus Centre and other related social businesses. My internship journey became fulfilled after meeting with Noble Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus himself. It was really wonderful and a great honor to have finally met him. Such a world famous person he is, but yet he manages to be so modest and down to earth. We all know that, Prof. Yunus was awarded the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize, along with Grameen Bank, for his efforts to create economic and social development. Prof. Muhammad Yunus has shown himself to be a leader who has managed to translate visions into practical actions for the benefit of millions of people, not only in Bangladesh, but also in many other countries. Loans to poor people without any financial security had appeared to be an impossible idea. From modest beginnings three decades ago, Prof. Yunus has, first and foremost through Grameen Bank, developed microcredit into an ever more important weapon in the battle against poverty.

Internship in the Yunus Centre is a great platform for all the change-believing youths out there, who want to know more about social business and want to get them involved with different social ventures of the Yunus Centre. I made the right decision by applying for this internship, as I got to see in person how all the social businesses are working to solve different social problems of the society. While doing my internship at the Yunus Centre, I have learnt more about the concept of social business which is a form of business that works to solve different kinds of social problems of the society, creates employment, ensures gender equity. Above all, it creates a positive impact on the society. I would like to suggest to the youths out there if they want to do something for the society within a business concept they may consider starting a social business. I was always a fan of Professor Muhamamd Yunus and was always mesmerized by how his microcredit concept worked to eradicate poverty all around the world. Then I met the person who was dedicating his life to eliminating poverty and who had been able to transform an experimental project to lend money to the poorest of the poor into a huge and thriving bank, the Grameen Bank, with millions of borrowers across Bangladesh.

Ending poverty became his life purpose. He is very compelling and striking enough to motivate and inspire his colleagues and employees. It was wonderful to see his colleagues being inspired, dedicated and hardworking employees. What sets Professor Yunus apart from many other leaders is the fact that day after day, decade after decade, he has struggled relentlessly and single-mindedly against all kinds of obstacles and challenges to bring his dream into reality. Professor Yunus is also the recipient of numerous international awards for his ideas and endeavors. I think youth can exercise their entrepreneurship skills as Professor Yunus says that, the first criteria of social business is to let people release their entrepreneurial spirit.

Social business is a new and exciting form of expression. It provides an outlet for the creativity that millions of people already carry the potential for. It is open to people who may not feel comfortable with the restricted,
one-track road to profit, while still being open to traditional business makers. Nobody is excluded from starting a social business.

I am truly glad that I got the opportunity of meeting the person I truly admire and now recalling his statement, “Put poverty in the museum”, which we also want to. After meeting Professor Yunus in person, now I have became a fan of his full of life smile, which reminds me of do something from your heart which also change people’s life and become the happiest person on earth. 😊
Teaching in a classroom in 1974 at a time of famine, Yunus said, he felt like a “deserter.” “You go out of the classroom and you see people dying of the famine, dying of hunger,” Yunus said.

Bangladeshi Professor Muhammad Yunus, the 75-year-old social business leader, who founded the borrower-run Grameen Bank in Bangladesh and is seen as a pioneer of microcredit and microfinance, encouraged a crowd of several hundred to eschew traditional business concepts, and instead to focus on a model that places profit far beneath the goal of helping others.

“You talk about people dying from illness and disease ... this is not from disease. This is simply from not having even a handful of food.”

“All the things I teach in the classroom are useless,” he continued. “It doesn’t make any sense to those people. I said, ‘Why am I teaching all those empty kids? Why don’t you meet with the people in the village next door and see if you can give some help to at least one person?’ That, Yunus said, was the spark to leave his campus. He soon started giving out loans to poor families. When it became clear he might run out of money, Yunus eventually turned to a bank. When bank officials questioned and resisted his calls to lend money to the poor, he offered himself up as guarantor. He eventually started Grameen Bank, which has loaned out more than $8 billion in 30-plus years.

Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus unveiled a ‘Three Zero’ theory to improve human lives in the world in the Post Millennium Development Goals regime after the year 2015.

“We should move ahead with three goals—Zero poverty, Zero unemployment and Zero net carbon (CO2) emission—to achieve the vision of Sustainable Development Goals to improve human lives,” Yunus said on the occasion of celebration of Sixth Social Business Day.

His ideas, as always, are simple. He said that the world must adopt a policy of: a) zero poverty; b) zero unemployment; and, c) zero carbon emission. Only then would the world have a sustainable development. Any other plan will not be sustainable. To achieve his “Three Zeros” plan, he said, we need four things: 1. Harness the energy and creativity of the youth; 2. Use the power of technology; 3. Transform businesses into Social Businesses; and, 4. Ensure good governance.

There is no use of population if there is no food and the earth is polluted. But we always forget where our strengths lie. The world has a very big community of young people and they can work together to make the world livable. Most importantly, the youths today got the advantage of technology which was never available before. The world is changing at an unbelievable rate and all of it is coming from technological innovations. But these technologies are in the hands of the rich who are using them to gather more wealth. But if the same technology was used to solve the problems of the world -- poverty, unemployment, environmental degradation, population management, etc. - then the world would have become transformed.

The immediate task should be to use the magnificent innovations of science and technology to trigger “sustainable growth” and not to increase the wealth gap.

Everything that has been said above can be achieved only if a society is based on the rule of law, democracy, fundamental rights, gender equality, accountable and god governance. It is only in an environment of good governance that Social Business can thrive.
As we all know, an internship is a temporary position with an emphasis on the job training rather than merely employment. It is an opportunity to work in one’s desired field. Before I joined Yunus Centre, I was very concerned because I didn’t have any idea what exactly I’m going to do during my internship. But I was very happy to be able to work for Dr. Muhammad Yunus.

It is not only an internship for me, it’s a blessing. I’m doing an internship here for completing my graduation degree and at the same time I am getting the opportunity to work in the secretariat of Dr. Muhammad Yunus. I was lucky enough to meet him in person and take photos with him as well. But most importantly I got to learn about the 7 principles of social business, from the pioneer himself. At the beginning of my internship, I found myself to be clueless. On my first day, I was very nervous because there were so many interns from all around the world, and I wasn’t used to diversity in my classroom. But after some time I got to know them and they were very friendly. It allowed me to gather experience and make memories.

During my time as an intern we were assigned to work for the Social Business Day 2016 and everyone was talking about it. All of the employees and interns were looking forward to this lustrous event. But unfortunately the terrorist attack at The Holey Artisan restaurant in Gulshan led to security concerns for the international and local participants. And inevitably, we had to postpone the event.

After cancelation of the event everyone was very upset, but work must go on. Yunus Centre is always concerned about “People suffer so much, for so little.” I’m doing Bachelor of Business Administration from University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh and I major in marketing. After studying business Studies extensively in college, I realized all they taught me was how to maximize profits in order to become rich. However, in my entire life no one has ever taught me how to do business only for the good of poor people; only for solving a social problem; only for the society; only for increasing their standard of life. This is the main lesson that I have learnt from Yunus Centre- a way of conducting business for the benefits of society as a whole.

I don’t know what I’m going to do with my life and with my career, but these three months will certainly have a massive impact on my future endeavors. I will always hold on to the values I attained from the Secretariat of Dr. Muhammad Yunus.
Over the years the number of students graduating with a GPA 5 in Bangladesh is increasing at an exponential rate. But do these results reflect reality? The answer is NO.

Education has become one of the fundamental necessities to survive in this world. In Bangladesh, the number of students (both male and female) enrolling into schools has been increasing in the recent years and a majority of them graduate with a grade level of GPA 5 (the highest possible grade).

However, good grades are handed out to students who successfully memorize and vomit their answers. Does that mean we are truly learning? Are we preparing to be leaders of tomorrow? Are we motivated to become advocates of change? Our education system enables us to memorize, but not understand, interpret, or gain knowledge. Our system trains us to read and write, but does not encourage us to think on our own, expand our horizon, and share our vision for an impactful change.

The lack of creative and interactive courses in the curriculum is limiting the student’s ability to acquire basic skills such as using a computer and expanding their general knowledge. In a recent interview conducted by Masranga TV, students achieving a GPA 5 were asked a few general knowledge questions that most of them were not able to answer, such as “What is the fullform of GPA?” or “When is our mother language day?”. It is a shame to see that our education system is unsuccessful in educating our youth.

What’s the point of a degree if you do not possess any leadership qualities or meet the minimum job requirements? It’s a question all of us have to ask ourselves including parents and teachers. Obtaining education should be a fun experience rather than a burden for students who only aim to please their parents with good grades.

Teachers play a prominent role in shaping a student’s future and surprisingly teachers in Bangladesh promote memorizing instead of teaching the syllabus in an interactive manner. This is due to lack of incentive. Teachers have to teach in poor school environment with minimum wage. The lack of facilities provided to both the teachers and students has hindered the development of the education sector of Bangladesh.

Hence it is high time we shift our attention to changing this diseased system. The first action is to help engage students in activities outside classroom. We should also make use of multimedia boards within classrooms to widen their horizon. Also, it is very important that we train our teachers to adapt to a more interactive education program so that they can provide guidance to their students in order for them to compete on international platforms.
To most of us, university means more independence, freedom, harder work, and being away from home. The university life is one of the most memorable and important moments in a person’s life. Choosing a university is a big decision in anyone’s life as the experience will define you for the rest of your life. After a lot of discussion with my family I decided to get admitted to NorthSouth University and leave my hometown Chittagong. There are many things to do while you are in university. You can do a lot of things such as participate in sports, debating, playing in a band or singing in a choir. However, most students decide not to participate in any of these opportunities because they want to study, do homework or sleep. Unfortunately, I was one of them.

The ideal university lifestyle dissipates quickly once the reality is reached. Many young adults imagine vivid pictures of what university might be like for them. However, once they mature into independent men and women, and enter into the university of their choice, they soon realize the reality of the university lifestyle. They must learn to adapt to their new surroundings as quickly as possible to achieve the sought after degrees. Students come to the realization that life is not as easy as they might have hoped for.

It is often said that university is the greatest time of one’s life. Many high school students believe this and look forward to it. Some enjoy the idea of being able to come to class late, leave when they want, and have some control of their own lives now that their parents are out of the picture. The majority of university first year students enter picturing an easy, fun-filled ride. This is mostly the reasons behind low grades of first-year university students.

Students quickly learn that many classes stretch into the night. Often, students are not in classes with their friends, but with other students who sometimes can be old enough to be their parents. There are many middle-aged adults going back to college to get their degree at the same time an 18-year-old student is going to start his or her college degree. With this large student age diversity, new students often find it hard to fit in with the system. It also takes time to understand how the grading policy works for universities.

How you can cover all your study materials in your scheduled time. My faculty members in NorthSouth University helped me a lot throughout these tough times. Without their proper guidance and teachings I wouldn’t have been able to come this far. NorthSouth University is a great place to study because it offers so many opportunities like organizing seminars and symposium, debating, impromptu speeches, drama, music, publishing student journals, contributing poems and stories to the national dailies, donating blood, administering polio vaccines. All of these are mostly organized by 14 different student clubs. The clubs are run by the students and supervised by faculty advisors. There are events going on all year around.

In conclusion, my life in the NorthSouth University was extremely challenging and beneficial to me. It gave me the chance to increase my knowledge in academic and non-academic fields; nurtured my personal skills and enhanced my career. In fact, I think that many uncertainties such as personal and academic stress may impede the success of my university life. It’s hard to say goodbye to the university and my friends, but the experience and knowledge I gained through my university years stays with me even when I am getting prepared to embrace the professional career with new positive energy.
Photography for me is a means of communication and a power of observation. Looking through my lenses, I see socially deprived Bangladesh hidden under the colors and lights of the city. A click captures influential images that can act as weapons against social crisis. Photographs act as evidences that can advocate for the scarcities and backlogs of the society, economy, environment. Issues as common as drug-abuses, human trafficking, child labor or famine, pollution, unearthly conditions of workplaces, be it domestic or migrants. The power of a properly executed photography results in broadening or narrowing its viewers. A photograph can surely make a difference if the subject and agenda flashes clearly out of it at glance or long gazes as it is the most progressive method of documentation.

The main aim is to utilize the opportunity to cover the socio-economic issues and make the viewers not only think but actually visualize about the issues that they tend to ignore in their day to day lives, may it be a big event or a small chaos.

Beautification or degradation of anything can not only be done by words, images play a pivotal role. A human brain tends to capture images faster and hold it for a longer period of time than reading about it and then picturizing things. When exposures are many requirement of words become less.

During the earlier phases of being a photographer, I had never imagined how powerful and influential my work can be. What my lens captures is what a normal human eye misses. Gradually my hobby turned into a passion, rapidly changing my views on society. Framing real life situation through my camera lenses has always been a challenge to overcome. When I see through those lenses I see what my country is and visualize what Bangladesh can become with all our efforts. The struggle is tough in this country but the motto for a photographer is to strike, strive and win hearts by uniting people.

Ankur Roy
Do you know that people who don’t read books are enemies of the entire civilization? Or a reader lives a thousand lives before he dies and the man who never reads lives only once? There are lots of examples like these two to justifying the importance of reading books. I need thousands of pages if I want to describe the benefits of reading books. Once you learn to read, you will become forever free.

If you read a world famous book, it means you are getting yourself involved with that prominent writer. No one but only a reader gets the opportunity to spend some time with those exceptional minded people who write books from their life’s experiences. Therefore, the habit of reading books is called the finest habit of a human being. In other words you can say that it is the most benevolent addiction with no side effects.

Genuinely, it is true that many people find reading books an uninteresting hobby because they are incapable to unearth the absolute aromas which are hidden in every page of the book. Luckily I’m an average reader now but to be upfront I was one of those people for whom reading books was less impressive. Personally I only go over my academic books to pass exams though my family always insisted me to read books beyond textbooks. However we cannot deny that there are lots of families who discourage their children to read books outside textbooks as they think reading books are not very productive. It is our family’s responsibility to raise their children in righteous path and most often this can be done through making them read more books.

It is said that a room without books is like a body without a soul. If you want an education, go to the library. So every family should maintain a personal library for the overall well-being of the family members.

However, it is sometimes impossible for us to read books as we should because we are involved in different activities. Every day we are obliged to go to a lot of places to maintain our personal life. In this situation we need to keep studying in other ways instead of giving up forever. We can catch a few pages first thing in the morning. We can easily read books while we commute as we remain stuck in jam or in our work places.

It is definitely commendable that the idea of a library in work place is starting to become quite common in our country. Some government and multinational companies as well as many nonprofit organizations are now in the process to set up libraries in their premises. It is expected that this number will increase significantly in the future. Lastly I’m ending with a famous quotation that is “You don’t have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them.” 📚
Hello!

My name is James Mongol, and I have recently completed my undergraduate program in International Studies from York University, Canada. I have a long standing interest in purpose-driven business not only to develop professional skills but also to give back to the society we live in. The internship at the Yunus Centre will give me a sheer opportunity to gain insights on social business that can add value to my future goal as an entrepreneur.

Seeing myself from a personal level, I am fun to be with, as they say. More often than not, I try to nourish a positive temperament that allows me to be attentive towards my peers. Besides, I am an avid reader of self-development books and a humble billiard wizard. Cheers!

I am Priyanka Ball, from Bangladesh and I am currently a senior at Bryn Mawr College. I am majoring in Math with a minor in Economics. I have been quite familiar with Professor Muhammad Yunus’s work as I am from Bangladesh. After becoming one of the commitment makers for the Clinton Global Initiative University, my interest in his work specially on social entrepreneurship has increase even more. My commitment, YOUNIFI, connects social organizations and people based on mutual needs, skills and interest so that they can achieve greater personal development and higher social impact. Since the start I have always looked up to social entrepreneurship while implementing my project in Bangladesh. Even though I have know about micro finance before, I understood it more last semester when I took a class on micro finance. Most of the materials we read in class were about micro finance in Bangladesh and about Grameen’s innovative model. It was very inspiring to read about something that has been developed in Bangladesh when I am studying abroad. The opportunity to be an intern at the Yunus Center will help me give a better understanding on microfinance and social business.
I am Istiak Khan from Bangladesh, currently studying Economics and Business at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana. Personally, I am fascinated by economics and financial markets in particular. Ever since I read about Dr. Muhammad Yunus's idea about a social business stock exchange, I couldn't help but wonder about its possibilities, shortcomings and viability. So, I decided to contribute my summer to learning as much as I could about Social Business at the Yunus Centre. While off-the-clock I like to read, workout, take road-trips, watch American football and brush up on my Spanish skills.

I am Anika Shama. I’m doing my BBA from University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB). I’m doing Major in Marketing, now I’m doing my internship at Yunus Centre. I’m here to learn about social business, social events and people. It’s a great platform for me, I’m learning a lot. There are so many interns are coming from different countries, I’m getting opportunities to communicate with people from different universities and different countries and know their perception about social business. I’m working here for the Social Business Day 2016. Yunus Centre is a store of knowledge, I’m trying to gather and enhance my knowledge as much as possible.
Hey there, I am Maria Yesmin, at first I want to introduce myself as a change believer and a youth leader. During my undergraduate time, I kept myself involved in working with many youth leading organization and always devoted myself to work for the change of the society. I have recently completed my bachelors of business administration from United International University, Dhaka, Bangladesh. I have got the opportunity to represent my country abroad and making my country proud. I really love learning and meeting new people making new friends and knowing their culture. While doing my internship at Yunus Centre I got to learn about social business and how the impact of it can make a difference in many people’s life. I like watching movies, reading books, social works and I love coffee.

I am Nabil Bin Arif, and I am a 2015 graduate of the Digital Enterprise Management (HEA) program at the University of Toronto, which bridges the gap between business, culture, communication, and information technology. I am a Gordon Gressy Leadership Award Laureate - the highest distinct leadership award at the institution. I was the Class Valedictorian for University of Toronto Mississauga’s graduating class of 2015. I am a not-for-profit, leadership, photography, basketball, strategic marketing, governance, technology, and health enthusiast. I am greatly passionate about leadership, and am also an emerging social innovator, who believes in the power of Green IT, sustainable business, and sustainable development. In previous roles, I have served as an elected Governor for the University’s Governing Council, and the President for the University of Toronto Mississauga World Wildlife Fund Club. During my time on the Governing Council, I have served on the Academic Board, Mississauga Campus Council and Academic Appeals Committee. I plan on pursuing my Master’s in Sustainability Management.
My name is Anika and, I am an undergraduate student studying BSc in Government and Economics. I was drawn towards the idea of Social Entrepreneurship because I saw it as a potential key to sustainable and inclusive development, that works essentially by unlocking the potential of those worse off. I have been lucky to meet a diverse set of peers over the course of my internship here at Yunus Centre. The fact that so many people are committed to the common cause of poverty-eradication despite their varied cultural and academic backgrounds gave me a newfound sense of optimism. My hobbies include reading books and traveling.

This is Md. Khalid Hossain from Dhaka. My father is a decorated War Veteran who fought for his country in 1971 during the Liberation War of Bangladesh. I am their eldest child. Recently I completed my BBA, major on HRM from Eastern University, Bangladesh. As a General Secretary of “EU Business & Social Entrepreneurship Club (BSEC)” I was involved with various extracurricular activities regarding Social Business.

I had also participated in one of the prominent Social Business Plan Competition of Bangladesh as a finalist team of ‘Social Business Plan Competition’ in ‘Social Business Academic Conclave 2015’ under the BSEC of “Eastern University” as a team leader of ‘Team Dynamo’.

Before joining internship program at Yunus Centre, successfully I completed a certificate short course at Eastern University upon Social Business. So, I have also very much interest about social business which is first defined by Nobel Laureate Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus. Doing internee at Yunus Centre it is great opportunity to me achieves professional experience as well as learn how to be an entrepreneur of Social Business.
Hello, I am Intesar Syed Borno. I am from North South University, Bangladesh majoring in Marketing. As a student, I successfully accomplished learning all phases of both the creative and technical elements of marketing initiatives. But I didn’t get the chance to learn about social business and how it can be effective in our society. If we don’t use social business as a weapon against poverty, our economy can’t grow. And we can’t compete in the global market. The internship at The Yunus Centre gave me a whole new experience and the opportunity to meet Professor Muhammad Yunus and how simple ideas can change the world. And these lessons will help me throughout my life.

Raised in Dhaka, Bangladesh for most of my preadolescent years till my family and I decided to immigrate to Canada at the tender age of 13. Spending most of my formative years in Canada, one of the most culturally diverse countries in the world, I was fortunate to have met people who enriched my perspectives and given me much insight.

My professional goals align with the values and beliefs of Dr. Yunus who has been an enormous role model in my life for his contributions to the society. Exposure with the Yunus foundation has helped me further my knowledge and bring clarity to my ambitions. For me, success has always been a progressive realization of a worthy ideal. The Yunus Centre was my next step and its ideals and values are ones which I now represent. The opportunity to intern with the Yunus foundation has help me accumulate evidence of my own abilities, and exposure to first hand knowledge of the organization and it will inevitably play a vital influence in my future endeavors.
I am Shikhor Wahed. I'm from Bangladesh and am currently studying at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. I just finished my first year there and met some wonderful people from all over the world who are trying to find ways to make our planet a better place. I first heard about Dr. Yunus when he won the Nobel prize back in 2006; it was a huge deal for us here in Dhaka. I was really young at the time but I remember how intent I was on learning about his work and I think that that’s when my interest for Economics grew. I decided to major in the field after my first semester of college. Although the concept of social business strongly appeals to me, in the future, I hope to work on raising awareness about the importance of education, especially for underprivileged children, in the country.

Hello! My name is Sariha and I am a 3rd year law student studying British Law in London College of Legal Studies (South). Despite my background as a law student I like to explore my new options on learning new things hence my journey in Yunus Centre as an intern. My greatest passion of life (till now) has been doing Model UNs and learning French. I am currently also a member of Social Business Youth Alliance and in the past have volunteered in VBD and UNYSAB. I thrive on the on books of A Song of Ice and Fire by George R.R. Martin and adore the tv series Game of Thrones as well. Reading has always been a passion of mine and if were to pick only one book it would be the Millennium Trilogy (sorry I can’t just pick one). I am also consumed in wanderlust and aim for a Euro Tour someday.
Hi! I am Ali Ehsan. I finished my O'levels and A'levels from Maple Leaf International School at Dhaka, Bangladesh and I will be moving to Pennsylvania this fall to finish my undergrad in Economics at Lafayette College.

I like reading books and I spend my free time reading biographies and autobiographies of successful people - my favorite book is "Long Walk to Freedom" by Nelson Mandela. Beside reading books, I also have a very good taste in fantasy movies and pop songs. Social Business is my newly found love and I have been exploring all aspects of it for the last one year. My decision to intern at Yunus Center was driven by that very passion and love.

My name is Talisha Faruk and I am currently majoring in Legal Studies with a minor in Global Poverty and Practice (GPP) at the University of California, Berkeley. However, I am certain that my degree in this field alone will not aid in furthering my aspirations of becoming a future advocate of change. The GPP Minor, which I am currently completing, gives students an opportunity to examine contemporary forms of poverty and wealth inequality through academic coursework and a student selected practice experience, and I have decided to fulfill this requirement by completing an internship at the Yunus Centre. I believe my internship at the Yunus Centre will help cultivate just the type of skills required for as an aspiring law student such as myself. By providing exposure to areas, which serves as a foundation of change, such as ethics, justice, and current world social and political issues the overall experience would enrich my education to a great extent. Furthermore, serving such a role will instill in me a sense of community, an understanding for ethical and comprehensive decision making, and awareness of responsibility within my home country of Bangladesh, further motivating me to work towards achieving my goals.
I've always had a terrible luck with introductions but I might as well get on with it. I'm Naushaba but often times people tend to drop the ‘Nau’ off it and just go with Shaba. Just my luck. Currently, I am an undergraduate student studying at York University where I’m majoring in biochemistry. You must be wondering ‘what? Biochem?’ Well yeah, I’m a science geek interning in a social organization, but I strongly believe that I can find the connection between science and social business somewhere along the way and that’s what I came to learn at Yunus Centre. To my pleasant surprise I have already bagged a few ideas I can work towards in the future if I’m fortunate enough. I think that is one thing that Yunus Centre can promise you – ideas, and that’s a wonderful thing. Back in Canada I also work for an organization called ‘Let’s Talk Science’ that makes us go around in different schools all over Toronto to give an insight to children about the different disciplines on science so that they are encouraged to pursue Higher Studies in the field of science. Besides being a wannabe scientist, I also enjoy cooking. I’ve had too many urges to grab my passport and head to the Australian Masterchef. Between research papers and deadlines I find a little solace in music and t.v series.

I’m Munim. Recently completed my graduation in finance and banking from national university of Bangladesh. My special place of interest is Music. I love listening to different genres and relating the lyrics to my personal ups and downs. I’m also inspired by the works and philosophy of Prof. Dr. Muhammad Yunus because from my childhood I devoted to work for the poor people. Along with microcredit I am very fond of his idea of social business which based on the selflessness of people. I strongly believe poverty is unnecessary and this world could be a better place of living only if all the people live equally. So as an intern in Yunus Centre, I am learning more about the revolutionary idea and philosophy. I am determined to use this amazing experience to put an end to all distress.
Hi! I am Joanna (or Jo, if we're already friends) and I absolutely love travelling to new places, especially when there is good food involved, which mostly is. That is, however, not what brought me to Bangladesh.

A couple of years ago I made the mistake of studying something I was not very interested in but one of my genius Professors introduced me to Social Business and I have been hooked ever since. After I have had failed forward with my first attempt of studying I did things like working in retail industry, managing a social business, as well as being a flight attendant, to name just a few. During those years I stayed active in the Social Business scene and visited many conferences and events and just learned a lot.

One year ago I finally started studying what I am really passionate about: Global Challenges at Leiden University College in The Hague, The Netherlands. I major in Earth, Energy and Sustainability and am exploring a new side of mine, the environmentalist. When I am not learning how to safe the world, or better yet how to ensure the survival of humankind on our planet, I am running the MakeSense hotspot in The Hague (if you don't know MakeSense check us out: www.makesense.org, or I am climbing with friends or doing some other sporting or eating activity. I came to Dhaka and the Yunus Centre to learn more about the Social Businesses here, where it all started. I was especially looking into Social Businesses that tackle environmental issues and was curious to learn more about cultural challenges in setting up a social business. I think I forgot to mention that I am originally from Germany, if you are ever around, let me know!

I'm from Bangladesh and I have completed my undergraduate studies in Accounting & Information Systems from Jagannath University, Dhaka, Bangladesh. I became interested in learning more about social issues that affect a large number of people - such as poverty and business opportunity. Ever since Professor Yunus' work became well known I became very interested in his concepts and way of work. Therefore, when I heard about the internship program at Yunus Centre I thought what better way to learn about social business than to work for the Nobel Laureate himself. I dream to have my own social enterprise and business one day through which I can change the lives of people in a positive way.
I am Farah Shah and I am currently finishing high-school at United World College. I have always taken an active interest in business and economics. The concept of social business has always attracted my attention since I was born and raised in Bangladesh which is a developing country. This is why I decided to intern at the Yunus Centre this summer because not only does it focus on social businesses but it is also headed by Professor Yunus who has been one of the greatest leaders that the country has seen and has also helped shape a lot of promising futures. However, on a lighter note, I enjoy reading, writing and going for runs during my free time. I also enjoy roles which involve speaking up but at the same time contribute to the community which was why I enjoyed volunteering as a peer counsellor at my school and also representing UWG China for the Inter UWC Student Forum this year.

I am Maayesha Tasneem Chowdhury, studying BS in Economics, with second major in International Business (BBA) at North South University (NSU). I was previously an initiator of a social business project, for which I am currently the Business Development Manager, known as "Photopreneurs". I believe that social business can help us achieve sustainable solutions for social issues, which can have a greater impact in the global economy. My specific areas of concern include gender discrimination, poverty, environmental degradation, and education for underprivileged children. I've always had a passion for the non-profit sector, as I aspire to study Development Economics or Social Entrepreneurship in future. I've got to learn a lot about social business by working for SBYA Global, previously as the NSU-wing Executive and currently as the Leadership Team Executive. I'm also the Students for Liberty's South Asian Local Coordinator for Bangladesh which is based in Washington D.C., was a key member of Activista-Bangladesh and UNYSAB. Besides all this, I am a language, history and Model UN enthusiast. I'm learning French, love travelling, singing, reading books and playing keyboard.
I'm from Bangladesh and I was born and raised in Kuwait. I moved back to Bangladesh in 2011, I graduated from International School Dhaka in May 2015. I took a gap year after graduating to explore different choices. During my gap year, I worked as an intern at a firm in Kuwait to gain experience and I traveled to America to explore different universities. I love travelling and reading. I want to do a double major in economics and political science. My goal is to build my own unique social business that will focus on women empowerment and education. I am extremely ambitious and working at Yunus centre has motivated me to achieve my goal. I learnt a lot about the concept of social business and the initiatives that Dr. Yunus has taken to solve social issues around Bangladesh. I walked into Yunus centre with the hopes of understanding how to create a social business that is solely based on theatre and I have been somewhat successful in finding an answer to my question. The internship program helped me expand my understanding of a social business, which was crucial for my future. It has also equipped me with tools that will help me execute my plan in reality. Dr. Yunus has been my role model since I was 11 and working under him has been my dream since I was a child. This has been an amazing and unforgettable experience. I will never forget all the amazing people I have met at Yunus Centre as they made my time there more interesting.

I am Sheli Chamon Muna, and completing my BBA on Finance from University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh. I introduce myself as a Positive, Independent and Confident person and always commit to never give up. My parents have always encouraged me towards extracurricular activities and to flourish my mind towards new things. So I have passion for music and learning anything new. I always dream of a world where lives will have equal value. As a woman, I am conscious about my rights. I want to be a leader to inspire our youth to channelize their creativity towards social welfare. Currently I am involved with the “Go Green” project to increase awareness on environmental issues. Working at the Yunus Centre as an Intern is a Big opportunity for me to learn about social business and I strongly believe that I can solve social problems through generating Social Business model to achieve my dream.
Hello! My name is Aurona Sarker. I have completed my S.S.C from Holy Cross Girls’ High School, securing 3rd position in Dhaka Board. After S.S.C, I went to US as Kennedy-Lugar YES scholar with a full scholarship from US Department of State. During my time there, I had the opportunity to attend multiple training programs and conferences, among which Civic Education Week at Washington D.C. and Telluride Association Summer Program at Cornell University are the most memorable ones. Currently I’m enrolled at Asian University for Women and I’ll be majoring in Economics. I’m the co-founder of Campus2Career, an online news portal that provides information about career related opportunities to underprivileged youth who don’t have access to such information. Along with plenty of deadlines, unfinished drafts and black coffee, working in Campus2Career brings me a new challenge everyday. Despite all the difficulties, I take the challenges because I believe no potential should go unrealized in this world. By bringing opportunities at the students’ doorsteps, I inspire them to believe in their dreams and themselves, rather than believing in “impossibles.” When I scribble down notes on the yellowish pages of my notebook, my words speak of possibilities and hopes for youth.

I’m a Turkish 13 year-old from Istanbul. I study at Robert College, Istanbul, as a rising senior in high school. I’m planning to study abroad for university. I aspire to study industrial engineering and concentrate on sustainability, social business and inclusive business. My hobbies are cooking, diving, reading and horse-back riding. Reading Professor Yunus’s books in order to prepare for a research project I was going to participate in at Koc University, Istanbul first sparked my interest in social business. For most of my high school career, I have done extra curricular activities related to social and inclusive businesses, including participating in a research project on the subject, starting a social business within a for-profit Turkish fashion retail company, Koton, and being an intern at Yunus Centre. During my internship, my aim was to come up with ideas to develop Turkey’s rural poor through social business. The biggest obstacle that prevents social businesses from spreading in Turkey is the predicament of changing people’s mindsets. During my internship, I got more insight into how the people of Bangladesh first became accustomed to social business when it first emerged with Grameen Bank in 1983. This insight is particularly valuable for me, as I view social businesses as the key to the empowerment and development of the rural poor.
Hi friends! I’m Afrida and I suppose it’s worth mentioning that I have successfully completed my first year at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) as a business Economics major. My spare time is dedicated to finding new places to brunch and trying to convince my friends to go on spontaneous 2am pancake runs with me. At UCLA, I spend my time working in a research lab that works with Huntington’s disease on mice and being part of the youth board of a national Alzheimer’s advocacy organization known as The Youth Movement Against Alzheimer’s. To put it another way, as Gandhi so brilliantly stated, I’d like to believe that I’m taking the first steps to being the change I want to see in the world. We all have a burning passion to do what’s right and that need to be a part of something bigger than myself is what led me to intern for the Yunus Centre.
GALLERY

Our Most Favorite Moments