

People should wake up in the morning and say 'I am not a job seeker, I am a job-creator.

- Muhammad Yunus



Yunus Centre



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MESSAGE

FROM SINCERES



MESSAGE

FROM : CHAIRMAN

Yunus Centre keeps buzzing with you, the young people coming from all corners of the world. I am always impressed by your intense desire to learn about social business that brings you to Yunus Centre. You come to us to deepen your understanding of social business, and experience it. We take our task seriously making sure you get a thorough exposure to the concept and use it to create a better world. We wish to equip you with tools to create the world you want. You are already powerful. You become extra powerful through acquiring the tool of social business.



We encourage you to imagine a world where there is everything you have in your dreams. We introduce you to three zeroes to see if you would like to adopt them as your goals, whether zero poverty, zero unemployment and zero net carbon emission can become your destination.

Glad to see you publishing your own newsletter to remain in touch with each other, and also with us. I welcome this initiative and say hello, through this newsletter, to all of you far and near.

We'll be happy to see you again, here at Yunus Centre or somewhere in the world.

Keep up your journey to create a new world.

Muhammad Yunus

Chairman, Yunus Centre

MESSAGE

FROM : EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I am delighted to have this energetic group of young people as our interns. Their interest in social business not only motivates us, but also strengthens our belief that the world can become the better place we all are trying to build – a world free from poverty, unemployment and the high level of carbon emission that harm us and our planet.

The youth are the new entrepreneurs and job creators; they are already today's leaders who will contribute to realizing the vision of Professor Muhammad Yunus, "Making money is happiness but making other people happy is Super Happiness." I hope the knowledge they gain from Yunus Centre will be useful for them in their future ventures.

Lamiya Morshed
Executive Director
Yunus Centre



Our happiness knows no bound when we find our interns with the flag of social business to lead their societies. They are special by their ambition, merit, hard working mentality and thirst to acquire knowledge.

Our effort to them becomes more meaningful when we see they complete the internship program very successfully and proceed to their destinations. We believe-the day is not far when they will lead the world to win three zeros- zero poverty, zero unemployment and zero carbon. We wish their success.

*Rahima Khatun
AGM
Admin & HR
Chief of Internship Program*



ARTICLES

*from
beloved Interns*





A closer look at Grameen Shakti

BY: A F R A N U A R E Y

I must say I was lucky to be part of the YC team and to be able to work alongside wonderful people. As it was my first experience working around an official ambience I learned how to operate in such environment. Amongst learning new things and working for Professor Yunus, I had the great opportunity to have a closer look at the continuous success of Grameen Shakti, one of the social businesses. Grameen Shakti is a phenomenon that brought changes to the pattern of carbon combustion in Bangladesh. It is a huge step for a low developed country like Bangladesh to contribute positives changes to the ongoing issue of climate change. So far, Bangladesh has already increased implementation of renewable energies such as Solar PV program, Improved Cooking Stove Programs (ICS), Biogas program and Organic Fertilizer in the rural villages. As a result of the continued progression of renewable energies has rejuvenated and improved the lives of hundreds of villagers in rural Bangladesh.

With that being said, the success of Grameen Shakti has been reflected in the progression of women in the rural villages. There are currently 45 Grameen technology centers to scale the production of renewable energies.

- Focus on income generation
- Local technology transfer
- Awareness development
- Flexible management
- A listening culture
- Strong internal audit system
- Non-profit village renewable energy scheme
- Pioneering solar systems for homes in Bangladesh
- Reduce footprint, pollution, deforestation.



At these centers, women are being trained to be solar technicians who will be trained to produce SHS accessories at an affordable price and others are providing after sale services.

Moreover, Grameen Shakti has brought success in to our national economy in term of jobs, cost efficient methods to bring electricity in the rural area and unleashed many ways to generate income. And, this continues to grow! Now, people don't have to use kerosene lamps and can use mobile phones and charge them in their homes. This technology is helping to bring down panel costs and also, bulb costs are coming down. As a result, less energy is wasted and the prices are cheap to keep this phenomenon growing!

It's a huge transformation in our economy and energy sector after social business like Grameen Shakti taken the charge to primarily help people from deprivation of basic needs.

Alike other social businesses, Grameen Shakti has no intention to make personal profit. It has been proved to the most effective way to spread the use of renewable energy. Also it is cheaper to install renewable energy like solar panel as a social business. Any profit made by Grameen Shakti is continually being invested into the use of renewable energy. Due to its long going investment 8 million people in Bangladesh can light their homes and businesses using Grameen Shakati's solar program where as in the past seventy percent of the population had no access to electricity.



The success of Grameen Shakti has started in Bangladesh. Now, it has grown into a community and the idea is gradually turning into another big accomplishment in other developing countries. This is one of the programs have proven to be cost effective to reduce the effect of climate change. In order for to bring that accomplishment to another level is to bring awareness among people through education. Thus, it's important for us, youth, to bring light to notoriously rising global warming. The question is: If not now than when?

I has grown up in Chittagong as my father is a doctor and he was posted there. But we often visited my village in festival vacations to celebrate it with our relatives. By these occasions, I have heard about Grameen Bank from many of my village poor people at very younger age, but had no idea about the person behind it. I first heard about Dr. Yunus when he won Nobel Prize back in 2006. The day I can still remember. I was 12 at that time. A news on winning Nobel Prize of Dr. Yunus was broadcasting on TV channels.



My father called me and said- this man is not just a person who dreamt to do something for the poor people of the world to change their life, but also worked to make his dream to come true and today he got recognition of his work and brought a Nobel Prize in our country. At that tender age it was not possible for me to realize what he did, but I could understand that this great personality has done something for the welfare of the poor people of the world. After that day, I have always dreamt to meet this Nobel laureate. But there was no chance for me. Gradually I got the concepts of micro-credit and social business and my respect and thirst to meet him increased. After completing my graduation I have got the chance to join for an internship program at Yunus Centre, by which I have met Professor Yunus finally.

INTERNSHIP AT YUNUS CENTRE

A dream from my tender age

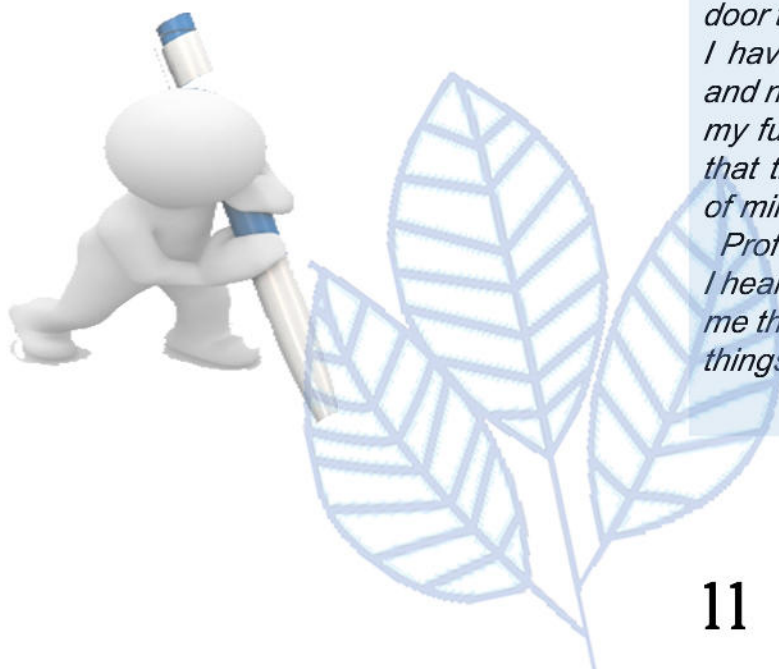
BY:
NUSRAT JAHAN MOURI

internship program at Yunus Centre, by which I have meet Professor Yunus finally. That's the consequence of how one of my childhood dream came true that year. And surprisingly the day I have joined at Yunus Centre as an intern was 1st January- my birthday. I have got best birthday gift for that year.

Internship at Yunus Centre is really enjoyable, educative and effective for building up communication skills. Each and every officials and stuffs have a helpful mind for the interns here. At first I have learned the office etiquettes. I have done some desk works and also visited some offices of other businesses of Professor Yunus like Grameen Shakti, Grameen Shikha, Grameen Veolia, Grameen Shakti Samajik Byabosha, Grameen Global Communication, Grameen HealthCare, Grameen Trust, Grameen Bank, Grameen Caledonian Nursing College etc. Each office visit was illuminative, as we got detailed idea about whole activities and objectives of these businesses. Among these two, I liked Grameen Shakti and Grameen Veolia very much. Hence I am a graduate with Forest and Environmental Sciences background, I think these two businesses are doing best role as an agent of Environment Conservation.

However, I am a student of Chittagong University and my university is exactly located at the birth place of microcredit-Jobra. As I have lived there for 4 years, I heard a lot about the works of Professor Yunus. But the concept of social business was new for me. Even when I have joined as an intern here, I had a very little knowledge about it.

After reading a book of Dr. Yunus- "Building Social Business: The new kind of capitalism that serves Humanity's most pressing needs" and participating in a social business design lab at 12nd January, I have got a clear concept about social business and could realize its significance. Social Business Design Lab is an opened door to gain social business know-how. Although I have learned and experienced lots of useful and necessary aspects which will be an asset for my future endeavor, I have no hesitation to say that the most amazing and exciting experience of mine at YC was meeting with Nobel Laureate Professor Mohammad Yunus at 29th January. I heartedly want to thank Yunus Centre for giving me the chance to meet my Ideal and learn lots of things which will enrich my future endeavor of my career path.



Serve The Poorest & The Poor themselves

- Mashkur Lutfullah



Services



Internship at Yunus Centre is always educative, cognizable and exciting as it provides the interns the lessons of office etiquettes, desk works as well as office and field visits. I have joined at Yunus Centre as an intern on 1st January. From then to till the date, I have visited several offices of social business initiatives of Dr. Yunus like- Grameen Shikha, Grameen Shokti, Grameen Communications, Grameen Caledonian Nursing College, Grameen Veolia, Grameen Healthcare, Grameen Trust, Grameen Bank etc. Visiting all of these offices gave me the opportunity to meet the Senior officers, Managing Directors and Deputy General Directors and had knowledge about these social businesses, their visions and missions as well as their business operations. I hope all of these will help me in my future endeavor. However, among all the social businesses I have visited, I like Grameen Communications the most. I have visited Grameen Communications at the 1st week of February 2017. Grameen Communications is a leading IT solutions provider in Bangladesh, concentrated in software development & implementation, hardware support, training etc. From there I come to know that Grameen Communications provides IT solutions and support services to a wide range of users.



Grameen Communications is capable of developing rapid solutions and flexible training programs for new customers. I think their programs are very much helpful for the rural people. They provide easy treatment for the poor people. I like their program like Gram Web, Gram Health, Gram Car. These 3 things attract me most.

GramWeb is capable of supporting more than 85,000 village website (One website per village) in Bangladesh using villager-friendly portal template and Content Management System (CMS). This project aims to create village information entrepreneur (VIE) in each village to produce, own and generate income from their information. GramHealth Portable Health Clinic system aims to produce technologies to provide healthcare service to the doors of the unreached. The call center doctor provides consultancy to the remote patients on the basis of their health health record. The archive can be an invaluable source of information for the patients and researchers to know the area based health situation and trends. For More Information. Gram-Car Social Services on Wheels (SSW) endeavors to create social entrepreneurs by introducing multi-service community car to sustainably serve the unreached people with basic social services. The car can bring mobility to the villagers' life by taking the social services to their doorsteps leading them to increased productivity and thus accelerate social development.



GramCar



GramHealth

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**We are serving more than
70 national & international organizations**

Grameen
AmericaGrupo
AVAL

I am very happy of being a part of Yunus Centre as an intern. I hope the lessons I have got from this renowned institution of Nobel Laureate will enrich my career path and I am very much grateful to this organization for giving me the chance to meet this great leader.



PAVEMENT TO HEALTHY NATION

Grameen Caledonian Nursing College

SUMON AHMED

we all know more or less that the Health sector of Bangladesh is vulnerable due to shortage numbers of Doctors and Nurses and their low standard quality. The disparity in numbers of physicians and nurses is one of the major problems in Bangladesh's health sector that is still unable to provide minimum standard services to the people living mostly in rural areas. According to International Standard the ratio of Doctors and Nurses supposed to be 1:3 whereas in Bangladesh this ratio is almost opposite.

There are only 0.4 nurses for 1 physician means 2.5:1 (WHO report) in our country. That is horrible. To solve the problem in 2009, an agreement was reached between The Grameen Trust and Glasgow Caledonian University to establish a high quality college for the education of nurses and midwives in Dhaka. The aim of the College is to develop nursing and midwifery standards in Bangladesh to an international level through the provision of the highest quality education and research. The College is a new organization following the social business model that prioritizes girls' health and prosperity as fundamental to ensuring the health of future generations and accelerating economic progress. The College is a prototype for a chain of future nursing colleges located in most district towns of Bangladesh. This new vision for the amelioration of female health through social business truly offers an innovative practice to the current health care marketplace in Bangladesh with a new approach to health education and service. This financially sustainable and replicable model will help address the health-related needs of the hardest-to-reach girls, while creating employment for thousands.



VEOLIA



I noticed all of their stories had something similar and that was the struggle they had to go through to break the norm in order to bring a change in the society for betterment. Since then I was highly motivated to do something similar to them but in a different way. I have still not found the way yet but I am quite hopeful. In 2014, I attended a youth summit and saw Professor Muhammad Yunus for the first time. He was the chief guest and had delivered a Keynote Speech. I cannot explain how deeply he had motivated me then. The summit was organised by SBYA Global- Social Business Youth Alliance, Global. The organisation is based on the principles of Professor Muhammad Yunus and his concept of social business.

A tour de Social Business!

BY : PRIYANKA MALLICK PROMA

Professor Yunus is also the adviser of this organisation. This made me more interested to be a part of SBYA Global. Working there I got to know more about social business and by then I had already started to develop a little knowledge about the concept of social business. At first, I was very surprised to know that a business can also help people or the society and keep running at the same time. As I had always known that any business always runs with the motive of profit maximising, at least as an Economics graduate that's what I had learnt.

ARTICLES



Ever since I was a kid I was always interested to do something beyond the academics. I used to always be inspired by people who had achieved a lot more than the ordinary. Luckily, during my school days I found some seniors who were involved in some social services. I joined with them and also convinced few of my friends to be a part of it. I started with some fund collecting activities for social causes and slowly I got to know about various events that were being conducted by some renowned organisations. I attended them and I was mesmerised by quite a lot of speakers who had shared their journeys, successes and achievements.



গ্রামীণ আর্থিক
সহযোগিতা



GRAMEEN TRUST



GRAMEEN SHAKTI



Grameen Telecom Trust



In the coming years I started reading about a lot of successful social business ventures and a lot of new social business plans. I got more opportunities to meet Professor Yunus and got even more inspired every time. Soon in December 2016, I finished my graduation and joined Yunus Centre as an intern. You could say it was one of my dreams coming true as I could work for one of my role models so closely. Working here at Yunus Centre I got to visit a lot of Grameen's social business project offices I had read about mostly, that included Grameen Caledonian College of Nursing, Grameen Veolia Water Ltd, Grameen Shakti Shamajik Byabosha, Grameen Communications, Grameen Trust, Grameen Health Care Services and so on.

I understood that people living outside of Bangladesh were more interested about doing social business than the people of our country. I failed to understand why though. I learnt the main reason behind that was we Bangladeshis do not understand that it is also important to improve our society and surroundings with our lives. However, as little as the number can be there are people who still want to change the society for good and Yunus Centre as a hub for social business is always beside those people to help them with their social business ideas and projects.



Yunus Centre also has a project called 'Nobin Udyokta' under the Grameen Shakti Shamajik Byabosha where the children of Grameen Bank members can get help for starting up their own businesses. Social Business Design Lab is such a platform where these young entrepreneurs present their projects to get help and aid for it.

You would be very amazed to know that the concept of social business that is so widely popular now has been developed by Professor Muhammad Yunus way back in the early 1970s from a small village in Jobra, when this concept did not even exist. Now after many years his works of development is named and known to be as social business that everyone else follows. As closely as you will study and observe the social business ventures of Grameen you will understand that each of the project is so vital at combating the most pressing issues of the society, starting from poverty alleviation, healthcare provision, education, hygiene issues and many more.

At last, I am so glad to have had the opportunity to learn and gain more knowledge about social business practically. Not only that, now I know the areas that needs the most attention if we really want to develop and make our surrounding and nation better off.

One of our field trips, we visited Grameen Caledonian College of Nursing in Dhaka. It was a great moment to us. Grameen Caledonian College of Nursing (GCCN) is a non-profit organization. This institute is set up as a social business which takes students from rural villages and provide them proper schooling to become a good nurse and also provide the direct placement facilities.

Health care is a big problem in Bangladesh. Mainly this problem has been created lack of nurses. In Bangladesh most of the nurses are not well educated. On the other hand our students are also not interested to study in nursing institution. According to World Health Organization the ratio of doctor to nurse is 1:3. But in our country this ratio is reversed and the ratio is 3:1. To mitigate this problem in 2010, Noble Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus established Grameen Caledonian College of Nursing. It is a first becoming significant element of nursing development College in Bangladesh. Now it has 220 students. Most of the students are Grameen borrower's children. Ms. Niru Shamsun Nahar is the principal of Grameen Caledonian College of Nursing. Most of the students are very poor. They do not have the ability to pay the tuition fees and other expenses. Then all the expenses and accommodation facilities are provided by this collage as an education loan.

In 2009, The Grameen Trust and Glasgow Caledonian University reached an agreement and establish a high quality college for the education of nurses and midwives in Dhaka. The aim of the College is to develop nursing and midwifery standards in Bangladesh to an international level through the provision of the highest quality education and research. Key partners for the project are Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU) and the Grameen Health Care Trust (GHT).

THE POWER OF NURSING

Naima Jahan

After their graduation when they get the job then they repay the loan with zero percent interest rate. After completing the course students have been appointed as staff nurses in a number of private hospitals in the Dhaka area and giving service in health sector like United Hospital, Square Hospital, Bardem Hospital, and Heart Foundation Hospital. They also get the opportunities of BSc program in Glasgow. Four graduated students from first batch already have been completed and tow students from second batch are receiving their B.Sc. program in Glasgow Caledonian University.

Do you know that while you are reading this, a person dies from hunger (in every 3.6 seconds); among them 75% are children? Yes it is very ironic in a world where 1/3 of foods are getting wasted every day! Our beloved Dhaka city is not an exception also. In Dhaka city more than 18 million people live. So many people are living below poverty line and starving for food every day. On the other hand, everyday there are lots of functions going on where lots of food gets saved after the function and becomes wastage. When we scrape off our dishes after a large meal, too full to finish the remaining scraps on our plate, we rarely pause and think about the significance of our action. It seems routine to us! Our routine practices, unfortunately, make it difficult for us to conceptualize the magnitude of global food waste.



Journey of “Food For People” A ZERO HUNGER WORLD!

BY:
NUSRAT ZAHAN HAPPY

Our app has all the details of the slums and number of people living there. They can select the place where they want to feed; it can be a slum or an orphanage. Our job is to collect the food from the source and then immediately transfer it to the poor people. FFP is founded by four members who enjoy the equal status in the organization. It also has a strong advisory panel.

Therefore, we can see two different problems and it can be solved if there is a media between these two parties; the people who are wasting food willingly or unwillingly and the people who are starving for food. Food For People (FFP) is coming with this solution by making a bridge between these two parties. Food For People (FFP) is a social business mobile application. It follows all the initial principles of social business developed by the Nobel Laureate Dr. Muhammad Yunus. Our purpose is to serve the needy people with the food which got saved by many functions. On the other hand there are lots of people who want to feed the poor people but they don't know where to give, where to feed.



Food For People



The co-founders of FFP are MD. Atikur Rahman, Nusrat Zahan Happy, MD. Iqbal Hossain Shemul, and Antara Homyra Lima. As our chief patron we are blessed by having Mr. Md Sabur Khan, Chairman of Daffodil International University and Daffodil Group. And as our advisor we have Mr. Syed Maruf Reza, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Entrepreneurship, Daffodil International University. In addition to this, we have more than 50 enthusiastic and proactive volunteers. The mission of FFP is to create a better world where nobody will die because of hunger. We are driven with a broad objective to assist sustainable development by empowering the slum people. We do not stick to feeding the poor only but also empowering them by engaging in recycling activities.

FFP has Green Craft Products which are made of waste papers collected by the slum people. It will create a sustainable impact on their life and the environment also. The mission of FFP is to create a better world where nobody will die because of hunger. We are driven with a broad objective to assist sustainable development by empowering the slum people. So far we have collected foods from several big functions and distribute those foods to the street and slum people of Palashi, High Court area, Ashulia, and Dhanmondi area. Additionally, as a recognition of our social initiative, we have become the National Winner of the Global Startup Competition "Get In The Ring (Gitr)" organized by the Kauffman Foundation, USA hosted by Daffodil International University at the Radisson Blu, Dhaka on 17 January 2016.



We have also represented Bangladesh in the Regional Final of the Get In The Ring (Gitr) held at the Four Season Hotel in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on 15 February 2016. We believe that business is not a selfish endeavor to maximize profit only. We have to consider business as a process which is devoted to the society's welfare and to minimize the social injustice. If the deprivation increases the social disorder will arise. So, we should consider business from the human perspective. Food For People is aiming to minimize the socio-economic inequality and minimize the feeling of deprivation among people by generating employment so that they do not have to depend on others to manage their food rather they will buy their own food and their necessities. Please "Lend Your Hand" and be a part of this great mission!





Youth Financial Inclusion

The Grameen Approach

by: Hyacinth Zia

Shuily, in her early thirties with her shy yet warm smile won my heart as soon as we walked into her shop. Her shop is an extension of her house, which is opposite to a local Madrassa. Her eyes beamed as she told us her story. Unlike most women of her community, she took a brave step of leaving her husband after he married another woman while being married to her. 'I took my son and I left, my brother told me that he'll get me a loan from Grameen to start up my own business. I get only two hours of sleep every day. I make samosas and sell it to the children of the madrassa and I sew clothes for extra income. I am doing quite well, my mother helps me out and I have a daily income of 400 takas from selling the samosas'. Grameen's Nobin Udyokta Program, helps strong independent women like Shuily and so many other youths to take control of their lives and to choose the path unconventional. With approximately two billion people in the world, mostly among low-income households excluded from financial services, Grameen Bank has seen huge success in bringing banking services to the poor through the concept of microfinance and Social Business models.



Professor Muhammad Yunus, the father of micro-credit and the visionary who thought of putting poverty into museum, introduced Grameen's Nobin Udyokta Program in 2013. He envisioned youth entrepreneurship as a solution to social concerns such as youth unemployment and youth financial exclusion. This year, the project will step into its fifth year of operation. On looking its fifth year, I want to share my takeaway of the Grameen approach.

Partnership models for financial inclusion

The Grameen approach is simple. It yields to the creation of viable businesses that operate to find solutions for challenging social concerns. Nobin Udyokta program offers a partnership model instead of microcredit loans to the children of current or previous Grameen Bank borrowers. Grameen from the start focused heavily on the education of the children of their borrowers to ensure that the poverty cycle does not continue. Nobin Udyokta takes this central idea of microfinance a step further.



How does the model work?

Firstly, young entrepreneurs with previously owned businesses or investment capital find investors for their projects amongst Grameen institutions like Grameen Trust, Grameen Telecom Trust, Grameen Shakti Shamajik Bybosh Ltd and Grameen Kalyan. The business proposals are evaluated by the finance and accounting units as well as other management units for approval. Once the proposal is accepted then a partnership between Grameen institutions and the entrepreneur takes off.

A new wave of entrepreneurs

Design Lab organised by Grameen each month, provides a platform not only for young entrepreneurs to meet investors but also encourages creation of innovative social business models. The entrepreneurs also get professional advice from business executives. Number of submission of business plans from Nobin Udyoktas at the Design Lab is growing every year by leaps and bounds which is a testimony of the success of the model. The significance of financial inclusion for the youth is often understated. If today's youth are provided with financial opportunities then they can grow into tomorrow policy makers and game changers. The seeds Professor Muhammad Yunus planted five years ago, it has now grown into a tree that promises a brighter future for the youth of today and for generations ahead.

In the sands of love, time and happiness In the sands of love, time and happiness In the sands of love, time and happiness In the sands of love, time and happiness In the sands of love, time and happiness

In the sands of love, time and happiness

PRATIP - TANIA - CHIRAG - ADITI - ADITYA - ANDREI - GOVIND - UDISHA

In the sands of love, time and happiness In the sands of love, time and happiness In the sands of love, time and happiness

It was perhaps the most inauspicious start to any journey, when we landed at the Dhaka airport on the 28th of February 2017. The air conditioned breeze was cool, the check-out and immigration brisk, but just outside lay an automobile strike which had paralysed the city for the entire day. After a long wait and a loss of two thousand rupees, the eight of us finally boarded a cooped up van to head to our pre-booked hotel at Mirpur -1. This was my introduction to Dhaka, erstwhile known as the Venice of the East. As time rolled by, Bangladesh to us became that proverbial "shehzadi". She showed us her beauty when the wind threw up the white satin purdah to reveal a beautiful face while for the rest of the times she preferred to remain hidden under a veil of noise, traffic and rush. However, in those glimpses, I lost myself completely but in return found a sense of serenity and warmth which perhaps had never befallen me ever.



We began our journey in Bangladesh with a meeting with Professor Yunus. Despite winning the Nobel peace prize, he was humble and gracious. His address to us outlined his journey and inspired us to do achieve greater deeds and work harder. He then patiently answered all our questions and advised some of us on our business plans. My friends Chirag, Andrei and Govind, who had entrepreneurial ambitions were visibly moved by his call to become self-employed and be a job creator. The meeting which lasted for just over an hour, created an impression of positivity and ambition which I believe would stay with us for our entire lives. Our first foray into understanding the land and the people happened in a small town called Manikganj. My first centre meeting at Manikganj saw me going to one of the Grameen borrower's house - a house which epitomised the bottom 10 percent of the world. Despite the obvious lack of money, the love oozing out of the woman's heart melted me. I usually ask direct questions, regarding plans, profits, earnings and the like. But here I found myself asking about how she lived, how much she missed her son and how did she go about her things. Her stories unravelled emotions which are felt by all of humanity. My two friends who interviewed her – Aditi and Aditya also found themselves gently swept away by the stream of Love, sorrow, hope and aspiration. As I got up to take my leave, she came closer and in a husked voice told me that I reminded her of her son – a son in a faraway land out for earning and whose voice she hears once in every week over the phone. And here I was, a person from another land who had never met, stayed or even spent more than a couple of hours with her finding the love of a mother.

After a couple of days at Manikganj we headed out to Sylhet to catch a glimpse of the countryside. While Manikganj was beautiful because of the warmth of her people, Sylhet dazzled us with its tea gardens, river and waterfall. Despite being there for just 2 days we covered Madhabkunda, trekked till the zero point at Jaflong and toured the Lavachora forest reserve. The trek to Jaflong was especially memorable. It was cloudy with a light drizzle when we made a trek from “mamar bazaar” till the zero point restaurant. While sipping hot tea at the restaurant, we glimpsed the beauty of the region which was gleaming as a pearl in the rain. After that we made our way to the border, where we were mesmerised by the mountains of Meghalaya and the hanging bridge which joined two of them. The Indian Border Security Force guard nearby engaged us in a friendly conversation. As we soaked our feet in the cold waters of the Piyain River, we couldn't but feel small at the grandeur of Jaflong. The weeks after the Sylhet trip flew past us like a breeze. Our next encounter was at the Grameen Caledonian College of Nursing.



I knew that brand Grameen was a Nobel winning international phenomenon and that the Caledonian college of nursing was a reputed institution in the land of Scotland. The Grameen Caledonian Nursing College, showed me how effective the combination was in fulfilling the ambitions of the children of the Grameen borrowers. As I heard tales of the poor students who studied day and night to clear the reputed examination, I was enthralled and dazed by the amount of hard work put in by the students. Their fluency in English, their diction and the smile with which they greeted us, really swept us away with joy. The meeting with the students was a textbook case of how hard work, determination and focus can change decades of misfortune and destitution. We toured many of the Grameen initiatives such as the Caledonian College, the Grameen Danone plant, textile mills and Grameen Sikkha. One of our trips saw us visit a slum school at a Dhaka slum. The kids in the school made us all reconnect with the child inside of us. We recited some of the poems which they had learnt and at the same time taught them some of our own. In the slum school we spotted some saree weavers, who were busy crafting designs on sarees. A short conversation ensued and in that we got to know their meagre earnings. These were the people whose children we had interacted with in the school. Their dismal surroundings put a pall of sadness on our faces which were livened only when they said that they were working so hard so that they could send their children to the school. In the past two weeks we visited several of the social businesses of the Grameen foundation. We learnt their models, understood their ideas and tried to gauge the future of the initiatives. The eight of us are from varied backgrounds, regions and customs. But this trip gave us all a sense of commonality, love and mutual respect. Bangladesh melted and then recast us in her own shape. As we come to the last week of our trip, we cannot but feel our old selves blowing away as sand in the wind and at the same time being reborn a new person. I think that by the end of the trip, Bangladesh, like the shehzadi, losing her fingers in the curls of her hair, will lose us in her sea of love only to cast us on a secluded river bank as a new person with a new vision, to take on the world in a new way.



P INTERNS **PROFILE**

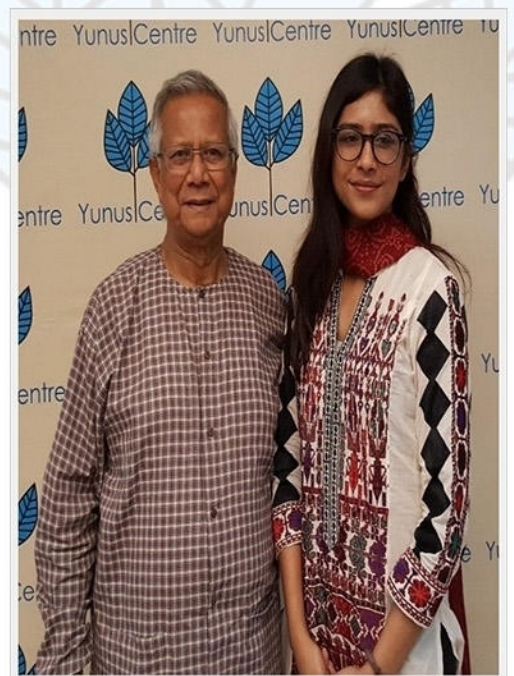
NUSRAT MOURI



I am Nusrat Jahan Mouri. Recently I have completed my graduation from Institute of Forestry and Environmental Sciences, Chittagong University. I have three hobbies- reading books, gardening and traveling. My journey at Yunus Centre as an intern is not following my graduation ambience, hence I have joined here to learn about Noble laureate Mohammad Yunus and his microcredit concept as well as social business which has changed life of ultra-poor people of our country and augmented in many countries of the world. Being a part of development works is my passion from very early stage of my life. Tracing my adherence, currently I am a member of Youth Volunteer of Environment and in the past have also volunteered in Volunteer for Bangladesh (VBD). Though my subject in science, I am here because not does it focuses on social business, but it is an institution of Professor Mohammad Yunus who is one of the eminent protagonists of Bangladesh and brought the pride of Noble prize for us being first Bangladeshi Nobel laureate.

Hello, I am Afra. I am currently doing my undergrad in Communication and Media Design in Monash University Malaysia. My experience at Yunus Centre has enabled me to look at social business completely differently. Coming from a science and arts background, I had a little idea about how social business or anything business related operated in the real world. Working in Yunus Centre widened my horizons in the near future and also taught to be how to remain professional at a work place. I hope my learning experiences comes at use in the near future.

AFRA NUAREY



MASHKUR LUTFULLAH



Myself Mashkur Lutfullah. I have received my BBA degree in Marketing from American International University-Bangladesh. I have started my internship program in Yunus Centre from 1st January 2017. It is a great organization. All employees are here reacted like family members. Beside my study I also running with my musical career. I have my own band, named PRACHEEN. I played Bass Guitar in my band. Apart from the above, I have kept a keen interest in traveling. As I said in the beginning, I was born here in Mirpur, Dhaka and I've lived here my whole life. But I would like to see more of the world.

I am Nusrat Zahan Happy, a proud Bangladeshi. I have recently completed my graduation in Finance from Daffodil International University being a Chancellor Gold Medalist. I have completed one semester in South Korea in International Business with the Korean Government Scholarship Program. I am a woman with great passion for the betterment of society, particularly in the areas of poverty reduction by social business. I am the co-founder of Food For People. It is an initiative for creating a hunger free society. Our startup won the first prize in Get in the Ring Bangladesh 2015 and we have competed in Riyadh, KSA in the regional final of the contest. I have participated in "AUAP-UKM Global Leadership Program-2016" in Universiti of Kebangsaan, Malaysia. I am currently doing internship in Yunus Centre in order to gain practical experience in a research environment which corresponds with my vision for my future.

NUSRAT ZAHAN



SUMON AHMED



I am Sumon Ahmed. I am currently studying Economics and Finance, M.Sc. in Germany. I finished my BBA major in Marketing from University of Dhaka. During my bachelor study I tried to engage myself in social work. I worked for BADHAN – a voluntary blood donors' organization for almost 5 years. When I started my Masters I have come to know that without developing socio-economic condition of general people equally Sustainability is not possible in the World. Being interested in Social Business I have started doing an Internship at Yunus Centre. It is a great opportunity to know about Social Business and how it works on sustainability. I want to do further research on Social Business and Sustainability. My only hobby is to Travel.

My name is Naima Jahan. I am 20 years old, from Bangladesh. I am the first year student of National University under the department of Management. When I was in intermediate level, I read the concept of social business of Noble Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus sir in my text book but I have no practical knowledge about social business. And I am so lucky that I got the opportunity to work at Yunus Centre. Yunus Centre is such a platform to know how Social Business contributes to mitigate poverty and improve people's live. We also hope "soon we will visit the museum to see poverty".

NAIMA JAHAN



HYACINTH ZIA



After I was born my mother, the artist and my father, the writer collectively agreed to name me Hyacinth Zia. Hyacinth because of the 'hyacinth girl' in T.S Eliot's poem The Waste Land. Growing up, I decided on a new profession everyday as I discovered more about the world around me. Finally after my As levels I decided on welfare economics. My interest in welfare economics was gradual to my understanding of the things that deeply affected me as a child. They still worry me now. At an early age, I was saddened by how lack of economic freedom could make people helpless. As I grew older I realized that poverty was not the only problem of our society, much like a plague poverty breeds to other social crisis. In progression of my understanding of major social concerns like gender inequality, child labor, fundamentalism, disparity, I have come to learn that these problems are interlinked to all aspects of human life— social, political, economic.

Hi! I am Priyanka Mallick Proma. I have just finished my graduation in Economics from North South University. Apart from that I am involved in two other organisations and few voluntary works. I am very passionate about trying out new things and so I'm constantly experimenting with different things that I can do. I love travelling and I strongly believe it is very important to see new places and meet new people to gain better perspective in life. I also believe as a girl I have a lot more duties towards my society rather than just fulfilling the responsibilities of my family. I have always aspired to achieve something great in my life that will not just make me satisfied but also help at least one person to be better off and make others around me happy.

PRIYANKA MALLICK





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