

# Why can't women have pockets?

HIYA ISLAM

When was the last time you bought something that had actual pockets? A dress with pockets is a gem as rare as the dodo. It takes you to a realm where you walk freely with your belongings safely tucked inside. It's 2020 and what do we still not have yet? Flying cars, cyborgs, space trips, and pocket equality.

A study has revealed that on average, women's jeans have pockets that are 48 percent shorter and 6.5 percent narrower than men's. The back pockets perform much better but we all know they are never as convenient. The struggle is real for every woman out there and they know that their pockets are downright ridiculous.

In present day, the norm is that you cannot fit an entire fist in it or have nowhere to put them in the first place. Everyday items like receipts, loose change, pens, cosmetics etc. need a place to be put into. Purses and bags are great, but carrying one isn't always convenient. They are an inseparable appendage—a burden that often slows us down and restricts free movement.

One argument that supports the lack of functional pockets in female fashion is that these tend to ruin the



ILLUSTRATION: NOOR US SAFA ANIK

aesthetics of the clothing when worn. Is that a legitimate reason? There has been a lot of talk regarding the need of utilitarian clothing for women. But the fashion industry

only emphasises on the aesthetics. This is why we have either no pockets or fake ones.

There are certain theories that explain why females cannot have pockets. For starters, promoting pockets would reduce the need for clutches, handbags, purses and so on—a major loss to the bag industry. Just a plot to keep women purchasing bags of different sizes and colours.

It started with carrying tiny pouches which eventually got sewn onto clothing. Thus, pockets were born and came into style around the 17th century. However, these still weren't as easily accessible due to layers of garment, unlike men. Fast forward to the 19th century when they were gone due to reasons various, some patriarchal. Enter: figure hugging dresses and purses. And since men were mostly involved in money matters, women never had the option to carry cash. Twentieth century saw the rise of pockets after years of campaign and finally here we are at the 21st century, still wondering why men can shove entire kingdoms into their pockets whereas women can barely fit a debit card in the age of huge phones.

Hiya is currently struggling to reach her book-reading goals. Find her at [hiyaislam.11@gmail.com](mailto:hiyaislam.11@gmail.com)

# Celebrating women through **basketball**

MOHUA MOULI

Deshi Ballers returned this year with the event "Ball for Equality 3x3 Basketball Tournament". The event was held on March 6, 2020 at Gulshan Youth Club, with title sponsor Save & Serve Foundation, official sports partner Decathlon, media partner SHOUT, adventure partner Ground Zero BD, and radio partners ColoursFM and Dhaka FM.

Twelve teams participated in this year's tournament, welcoming young women from diverse backgrounds and age who are passionate about the sport.

Marsha Binte Siddiq, a member of the team Sunny Ballers gushed over how exciting the tournament was for her team, "Our team played together back in school 10 years ago. It was exciting to have the same level of coordination with one another even after all this time."

"The competition this year has been a lot more fierce because all the teams are

PHOTO: TANVIR ALI PHOTOGRAPHY



better trained than they were last year," said Ashreen Mridha, Co-founder of Deshi Ballers.

After the final against Bengal Ballers, team B23 consisting Aryah Jamil, Manar Tanvir, Sana Noor Manzur and Syeda Ariba Haque took home the championship.

"It's been a surreal experience for us. We grew up playing in our school and we were always inspired by our seniors. It was amaz-

ing to play with them in this tournament," said Sana Noor Manzur.

Armina Hok from team Bengal Ballers was recognised as the top scorer of the tournament. Manar Tanvir from team B23, Umama Zillur from team Malteasers and Mashiyat Tanvir from team B20 won the title of MVP, Free Throw Queen and Skills Challenge Winner respectively.

The champion and runner-up teams

were awarded with special gift hampers and coupons by Decathlon. The top 4 teams were provided with team tickets to play paintball by Ground Zero BD and were also provided with free tickets to the Joy Bangladesh concert on March 7 by chief guest Nahim Razak, Member of Parliament, Convener, Young Bangla, Advisor Save & Serve Foundation.

Other guests during the closing ceremony included Md. Showket Hossain Jibon, General Secretary, Gulshan Youth Club; and Sayeda Kabir, EC Member, Gulshan Youth Club.

Deshi Ballers is a female-led organisation that was founded to create a platform that could empower women in Bangladesh through sports, specifically basketball.

The organisation was founded by Ashreen Mridha and Gulnaha Mahbub Monika. Other organisers of the event includes Ibrahim Mohammad, Uzma Ahmed, and Md Fahad Yasin.

To find out more about Deshi Ballers, visit [www.facebook.com/deshiballers](http://www.facebook.com/deshiballers)



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