

The Major Guide to University Majors

This is what it looks like to judgemental acquaintances

RASHA JAMEEL

DISCLAIMER: Please note that the guide given below takes into account the lack of subject diversity in Bangladeshi universities (take it up with the education board, don't come for me please) and thus only includes the most popular subject choices for university. Cheers!

Behold,

A concise and highly-exclusive guide to understanding how your self worth is directly proportional to the market value of your university major of choice, because that random uncle at a family event said so.

BUSINESS STUDENTS

Always be wary of science students, comparing their majors to yours for no reason is one of their favourite hobbies.

Finance and Accounting: Understand that most people will only acknowledge the "BBA" you add before introducing the major. You are most likely to be considered smart and ambitious.

Marketing and International Business: The "BBA" before the major will once again stand out like an Oreo in a sea of *toast biskoot*. You will however face questions like "So this is international law or what?"

Management: You don't need me to tell you that the "BBA" will once again be acknowledged first. However, further description of your major such as "HR Management" might earn you the tag of "basic".

SCIENCE STUDENTS

Steer clear of commerce students, you will

always feel underdressed if not undermined.

Engineering: If university majors could collectively be considered the equivalent of well-cooked *kacchi biriyani*, in our South Asian subcontinent, this is the gem: the proverbial *kacchi er aloo*. You will be hailed as a hard worker, unless you're a woman, because then you'll just be headstrong. Majors such as CSE however, might be met with indifference.

Architecture: It doesn't matter how hard you try to explain your major, all everyone might understand is "interior

ma in terms of major.

Medicine: You'll be expected to not have a life whatsoever, and might end up being considered as the biggest nerd in the room.

Life Sciences: The second cousin of "didn't get into med school", you'll be met with a lot of disapproval, most of which will be centered around the supposed lack of jobs for majors such as Biochemistry, Microbiology, etc.

ARTS AND HUMANITIES STUDENTS Remember to avoid crossing paths with students in science and students in com-

won't be fully recognised and confused people will end up dismissing you as carefree.

Social Sciences: Economics might get you a lot of wows but the same can't be said about Political Science, International Relations, Psychology, etc.

Law: If you're a woman, you're in "the wrong subject for women in this country" and if you're a man, you'll be assumed to have a lot of "political clout".

So, to quickly recap, FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS.

You must understand that the people



designer". But you'll be considered brave for taking on such a difficult major, unless you're a woman because architecture is apparently "not a woman's field".

Pharmaceutical Sciences: The first cousin of "didn't get into med school", you will be addressed henceforth as the "future medicine counter assistant".

Environmental Studies: This branch of science is rather obscure to most people still, you just might end up being an enig-

merce, they consider you their punching bag.

Literature: Welcome to the world of tags such as "teacher-like attitude" and "un-ambitious". Baseless judgement will never not fail to completely unacknowledge the developmental potential of your major.

Media and Communications: Congratulations, in the eyes of condescending people, your major of choice is essentially the *elachi* in biriyani. Your major's appeal

passing all these judgments have nothing constructive to say and ultimately have nothing to do with your life. Stay calm, clear your mind of doubts. May the winds of fortune bless the path you choose to embark upon.

Rasha Jameel is an overzealous Ravenclaw who often draws inspiration from mundane things such as memes. Send her your memespирational thoughts at rasha.jameel@outlook.com

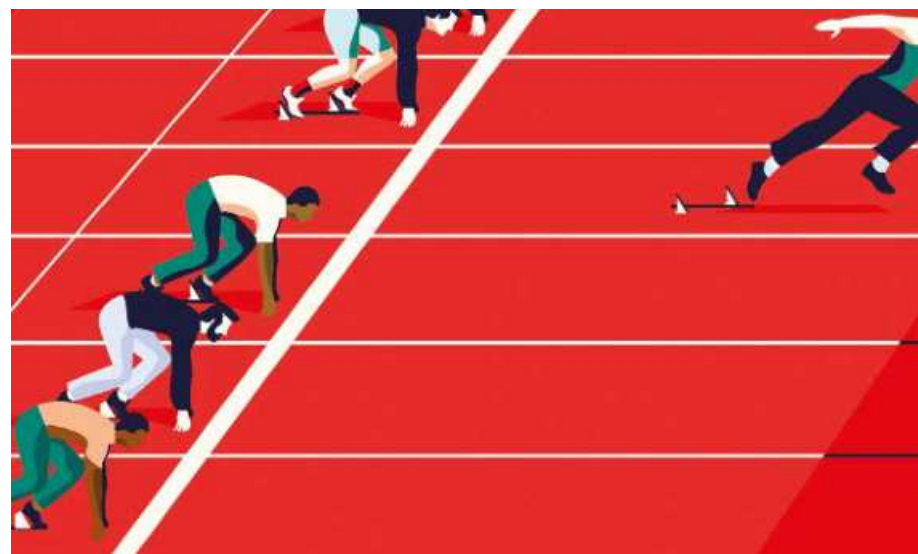
THE MERITOCRACY PARADOX

SHAROSE ISLAM

In an ideal world, political and economic power would be conferred upon the most meritorious and talented. A world where wealth, connections, and social class would be irrelevant. Such a world would be following a meritocratic economic system. Whilst countries like the USA like to claim that they are, in fact, meritocratic, meritocracy leaves no room for nepotism or corruption. But that's not what we are here to talk about today.

To the short-sighted, the idea of meritocracy sounds perfect. However, that is far from the truth. A truly meritocratic system is a paradox in itself because it states nothing about the determinants of what "merit" really is. What it doesn't take into consideration is that "merit" is subjective. A painter may be meritorious in their art, but because most people cannot grasp the depth of the work, they may not be considered meritorious and thus, may never "succeed".

Another facet that remains undefined in the theory of meritocracy is "success". Is success money or fame? Or is it social status? Let us assume that "success" is knowledge. But knowledge comes at a



cost. To be successfully knowledgeable, you would have to attain education from a well-reputed university. Going to university is expensive and only so many people can afford to do so. Say, you get a scholarship, and you work long and hard, and become "meritorious". Now you want the same for your child, so you work long and hard to earn enough so they can focus entirely on

their education and then go on to repeat the same cycle. It all ultimately boils down to money and power, the two determinants that are supposed to be non-prevalent in a meritocratic society.

The most significant loophole in this theory is its contradictory system of reward. In a meritocratic society, individuals are rewarded based on how successful

they are; which ultimately makes their reward, in simple words, a conflict of interest that ends up debunking the entire theory as a sham. If the theory were to be remotely applicable to the real world, individuals would have been rewarded based on their effort. There would be no "geniuses" because everyone would be on the same scale as long as they were making the effort to be so.

The point of this argument is that "merit" is irrelevant. It is not objective. In fact, basing success on anything but objectivity would create scope for favouritism, nepotism, and classism. Would you rather work hard or work smart? Is effort necessary when you are genetically more intelligent than your colleagues? The paradox lies in the fact that even the people at the top preaching meritocracy do not realise that they are, in fact, lucky as they are already "there", while others are still making it.

Sharose Islam is currently seeking rehabilitation in order to recover from her near lethal over dosage of Milo. In order to set up an MAA meeting, reach out at: [facebook.com/sharose.islam](https://www.facebook.com/sharose.islam)