

# RISING STARS

The Young People's Page

## Sexism: Not Another Girl

by Badhan (A-level student)

'Oh no, not another girl!' cried the father with disappointment. The news of the birth of a daughter seemed to shatter him into pieces like a broken glass. He couldn't help looking at the baby and his wife without accusing eyes. To him his wife had forever become a criminal and the baby a victim of one of our most baseless prejudices. This is quite a commonplace incident. An incident that has ruined many marriages, engendered unrest in many families. But why? What is it that the birth of a son can bring that the birth of a daughter can't? Why this discrimination?

There is this certain school I know where there are uniforms for senior girls but none for boys. According to the headmistress of the school a uniform is to maintain the school's academic norm. So does that mean that boys are outside the school's academic norm? What is it that makes them so different? Why this discrepancy?

I once had this argument with this elderly man, quite known for being very learned and knowledgeable. He laughed at me and said I was ridiculous in saying that boys and girls should be treated equally. He also laughed at the whole idea of feminism. He said that the male sex is definitely superior and he backed his chauvinistic statement by saying if I would be able to defend myself alone if one or two men attacked me? Would I be able to go out late at night without male protection? He put the whole male sex on a higher pedestal merely because the creator has endowed them with more physical strength. Then why don't we put animals like elephants and man-eating tigers on an even higher pedestal since even the

mightiest of the male cannot fight them without help. If physical strength is the only reason for calling the female an inferior and weaker sex then the chauvinistic males are standing on a ground with very weak foundation. And unfortunately most males are standing on it with pride.

The discrimination commences right from childhood. A female child is taught to be submissive, to be ready to sacrifice and to be compromising.

way a male child is treated from childhood it is instilled in his mind that he is the dominator while the female is the dominated.

Sexism is a crime and the most pathetic fact is that the female sex itself is its greatest abettor. Most of us, the females, have accepted that we are the weaker sex and we need male support to survive. Unless we realize how wrong this is we will always be de-

after being always kept behind walls females have achieved no less than men. I really wonder how much more they would have accomplished if there weren't barriers built by society and this sexist world in every side of their life.

It is a pity most females specially in a society like ours are not living alone, but in a human society, along with others. As others are not under your control, similarly your life is not controlled by outsiders.



Inequal opportunities in learning

Photo: Anwar Hossein

And the way a male child is brought up, he learns that this is his world even before he knows his alphabets. If a child is given an apple and told that it is an orange, naturally he'd grow up to believe that an apple is an orange. Likewise, the

prived of our rights and we will never be given the respect we deserve. Male or female, we are all humans created in the same process by the same creator. Sex cannot be an issue here. After always being pushed into the background,

don't become aware of how we are degrading ourselves by letting this chauvinistic world push us around, we will remain the dominated forever. So don't let this sexist world take away your rights, your pride because they are not for sale.

## On Having Your Way

by A. Mawaz

At home, as a child, perhaps you could have what you wanted some of the time, because you were surrounded by near and dear ones who loved you. Of course you could not have what was not good for you.

Later in life you would find that you cannot have your way most of the time, as you have no control over everything. You are not living alone, but in a human society, along with others. As others are not under your control, similarly your life is not controlled by outsiders.

So you have to learn not to be easily disappointed, or frustrated, or become moody. You have to cultivate two qualities: tolerance and co-operation. Tolerance is consideration for others, for the way they live, for the opinions they hold, and for their independence. It applies to you also, as you expect the same treatment from others.

For tolerance you need patience, and understanding. You might get impatient if others do not understand you. You have to be patient and try to understand others. This exercise will take your whole lifetime, but it is interesting to study human nature.

Co-operation is getting things done together in a friendly spirit. Everything you do daily is not personal and private work. Not only you have to earn your living, but you have to work with others, for others, either offering a product, or service, or doing something for the group, society, or your country.

Co-operation involves a little of give-and-take. If you want something, you have to give something in return. Nothing in life is free; or you cannot

buy it or have it below the cost price. There are no short-cuts to success. You get what you deserve. Do not expect, or demand, something which you do not deserve.

There are two types of compromising in life: one of principle, and the other of detail. Be careful when the situation calls for compromising (or giving up) some principle of life, which are universally known and respected, for example, honesty, keeping your promise, etc. Some bad examples are cheating, being corrupt, dishonesty, stealing, telling lies, cruelty, blackmailing, etc.

So your objective would be how to have your way in life without making enemies and provoking others. Many believe in confrontation, that is, challenging face-to-face. There are other tactful ways of handling a situation. Winning a battle or a round (in boxing, for example) does not mean winning the war. Life will be full of 'battles' and 'rounds'. Use your brain, not under-hand means. You may cheat others some of the time, but you cannot cheat yourself, because you know what you are doing (good or bad). Anyway, it does not pay in the long run — you pay the price later, maybe indirectly.

Sometimes you might feel like teaching somebody a 'lesson'. Remember somebody might like to teach you a lesson too. You cannot use your whole life fighting all the time.

There is a time to relax and enjoy the simple pleasures of life. It is not necessary to have a long wish-list. Life could be, and is, much simpler.

Keep your PR (public relations) smooth.

Contributed by A.M.M. Adeb

## Life's a beach...

by Naheed Kamal

Have you ever been to a beach? If you haven't then you are missing out on one of life's greater glories. Beaches are beautiful places, the shimmering sand, the blue ocean and the sky so pretty, the surf, breaking, unusual shells and fishes... the many wonders of the sea shore. Being there makes you want to live forever, and just "be" forever. Like all good things in life I must find faults with them somehow or other, and so... although I love beaches I hate the sand. Sand has the odd habit of getting everywhere and into everything and simply refuses to wash off, it just sticks, to you. This does not however keep me from yearning for a hot, sunny beach. Why do I yearn for a beach? To get away from it all, of course. I will take a solemn oath not to read newspapers and magazines and will

only stroll on the beach, lie about and tan myself and not burn myself to a crisp so as not to get skin cancer. I want a lonely beach without a soul in sight. I want peace and quiet... I can dream all I want but of course its not all that easy. I can probably go away for a week or a month but eventually I shall have to return to "real life". Real life is great but tough and once in a while every body wants to get away. What with all the sign of the times flashing like neon signs right into my face it is hampering my efforts to sleep well at night. You only live once so live it up and who cares if the next person is used in the process. Everywhere you look you have got stress, problems, suicides, deaths, murders, pollution, ecology alert... DOOMSDAY!!! Your mind screams out: Give me a break!!!

I guess I am the last person to talk. I am a self proclaimed Miss. Eco Alkert. I scream murder when I see lights left on for no reason, a running tap gives me a coronary and littering makes me want to raze half the earth's population to the ground, which is probably not such a bad idea. May be they don't care or have any idea what so ever (because they are much too busy looting, polluting and destroying). They don't realize that they are digging their own graves. But as for me, I want to live on... Each time I go out I don't want to be smothered in suffocating exhaust and get a lung disease and die. Real life sucks. So very true, but it's got its rare moments of fun too. Earth is neither Heaven nor Hell. It is plain old Earth. So it has those ugly factory zones and exhaust emitting belching trucks and smoking chimneys. Its got death and birth, love and suicides, marriage and divorce, lice and that rare breed of honesty, it has psychos to bring the end near and loonies to remind that "The end is near". But let me remind you it is the only one we have got and although you might wanna be a recluse, a rock, and an island, because "a rock feels no pain and an island never cries", you like the rest of us have to live it up and make the most of everything and that does not mean you go to there and take advantage of what you have got. Like a beach... life too has its bad moments and the tide does turn, unless you wanna be a pessimist and say... Life's a beach then you die.

## Lazy Juan

Under the spreading tamarind tree lay Juan. Hat over his face, he had slept the whole morning. Suddenly he heard his mother.

"Juan, where are you? Sleeping again? You are the laziest boy I've ever seen. You sleep the morning away while your father works hard in the field. What shall I do with you?"

"Mother is waiting for you, so walk home." Go straight on this road and turn left at the big tamarind tree. You will see the open kitchen door where Mother is. Go! Go! Then he looked around for a safe place for the salt. Finally he put the bag in the river where the water was very shallow. "Here," he said to himself, "now nobody will walk away with it."



Still yawning, Juan got up, rubbed his eyes and stretched his arms lazily.

Mother met Juan at the door and said, "Go to the market and buy some salt and five live crabs. Don't play on the way and come home quickly."

Juan took the money and was soon on his way. Reaching the market, he saw and old woman selling crabs. He picked up a long stick and poked at the crabs.

"Hey, what are you doing with my crabs?" shouted the woman.

"I was trying to see if they were alive. Please give me five big crawling ones," said Juan.

After getting the crabs tied together, Juan moved on to a man selling salt. Juan said, "If your salt is really salty, then give me fifty centavos worth."

With the crabs and a small bag of salt, Juan started for home. Whistling, he passed by the riverbank. Suddenly he heard some voices calling him.

"Juan, come play with us. Isn't it a nice day to have fun?" Pointing to the crabs and salt to his friends, Juan said, "mother needs these, but I have an idea." Untying the crabs, he said to them,

## Good News for Tea Drinkers

by Alia Abid (class X)

It is a legend that the Zen Buddhist priest Bodhidharma founded tea when he searched for herbs to prevent his drowsiness. He found leaves which prevented his drowsiness and this was a shrub of tea.

Human civilisation has discovered three non-alcoholic stimulating beverages, namely coffee, cocoa and tea. Of these, tea is regarded as the most popular drink. Its use as a beverage has been in vogue long before the Christian era, and is deep rooted in Chinese mythology. Today, tea is virtually regarded as a universal beverage and even as a national drink of many countries.

Historically, drinking of tea is in vogue since 4th century. It began as a medicine and grew into a beverage. Tea became famous from the Orient to the Occident, from the northern to the southern hemisphere. At the end of the 16th century the Hollanders brought the news that a pleasant drink was made in the East from the leaves of a bush. The Dutch East India Company brought the first tea in Europe. It was known in France in 1636 and reached Russia in

1638. England welcomed it in 1650. Its cost started varying from fifteen to sixteen shillings a pound and this beverage soon became a necessity of life.

The tea plant, a native of Southern China, was known from very early times to Chinese botany and medicine. Tea was highly prized for possessing the virtues of relieving fatigue, delighting the soul, strengthening the will and improving the eye sight. Tea was also known to produce a condition of wakefulness and increase mental activity. The Buddhists used tea extensively to prevent drowsiness during their long hours of meditation.

In recent times tea-drinking is being used in many countries: Russia, Japan, India and Sri Lanka for the treatment of dental caries, asthma, rheumatism, inflammation and even arthro-sclerosis, which leads to attack of coronary thrombosis. The most recent view about drinking tea is highly encouraging. Scientists hold that drinking tea is effective in fighting against throat-cancer and it could be almost a specific remedy against all types of cancers.

## This is Your Life

by Fahreen Rahman

Live the life you have imagined Don't wish to be anything, but what you are And try to be that perfectly This life is yours Walk in the path that you think is right Not the path dictated by others Open your eyes, and broaden your sight And learn to differentiate the wrong from the right This life is yours Take the power to love what you want in life. And love it honestly Take the power to control your own life. For no one else can do it for you Have the courage to pursue your own desires Whether right or wrong For one only learns from one's mistakes. Go confidently in the direction of your dreams! Live the life you have imagined.

## Registration

Here are the registration numbers of the first members of the Rising Star Club. Please note that the registration has been renewed, and that your previous number may have changed. Members are invited to send articles, illustrations, and poetry. Jokes and riddles are also welcome. Please send typed entries.

Name	Number
Fazara Sultan.....	RS 0001
Badhan.....	RS 0002
Mahruba Sameen.....	RS 0003
Hussain.....	RS 0004
Ahmad Zakir.....	RS 0005

Ahmed Shahraab.....	RS 0006
Ahmad Sajid.....	RS 0007
Syed Akram Abbas.....	RS 0008
Musarrat Mahmood.....	RS 0009
Shafiqet Kamal.....	RS 0010
Naira Khan.....	RS 0011
Md. Atique Ullah.....	RS 0012
Arvid Chowdhury.....	RS 0013
Syed Qudsia Banu.....	RS 0014
Saiman Sakir.....	RS 0015
Fuad Khan Shishir.....	RS 0016
Norhat Naim.....	RS 0017
Siddique Nazir.....	RS 0018
Shabreen Shaka.....	RS 0019
Meem.....	RS 0020
Oulnaz Alam.....	RS 0021
Musyakin Ali Khan.....	RS 0022

## QUIZ CLUB

1. What is the name of the empress of Japan?
2. Where is Subic Naval Base?
3. Who was Timur the Lame?
4. Who is Sheikh Ahmad al-Sabah?
5. When and where was Beethoven born?
6. Who was the first Prime Minister of Great Britain?
7. What is the other name of Yeti of the Himalayas?
8. Who wrote Robinson Crusoe?
9. Complete this line: "It is a truth universally acknowledged that a man..." (Jane Austen).
10. When was the Taj Mahal built?

Here are the answers to Quiz Club 20th Dec, 1991.

1. Twelve fiddlers fiddling, eleven lords-a-leaping, ten ladies dancing, nine pipers piping, eight maids-a-milking, seven swans-a-swimming, six geese-a-laying, five golden rings, four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree
2. Mercurio, Gaspar, Balthazar
3. Carpentry
4. Saint Nicholas
5. King Herod
6. "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."
7. Gethsemane
8. Bing Crosby
9. Donner, Dasher, Cupid, Blitzen, Rudolph
10. Peter

Fill out this form and send it to us, and you will be a member of the Rising Star Club. Send in your writings, illustrations, and cartoons. It is an ideal opportunity to express yourself through the print media.

Name:

Father's Name:

School:

Full Address:

Telephone No.

Class:



by Ambari Rahim

from "Laughing Together", a UNESCO publication