

# Poverty Alleviation or How to Become God in 6 Easy Lessons

By dDoja

**Step 1-REALISATION:** Those people yapping away about poverty alleviation are about as intelligent as an overzealous salesman trying to sell a water heater to an Arab bedouin. Let's face it: we need poor people. People that use a two inch layer of garbage to carpet their floors and who would consider a divine blessing to be able to live in a cement and concrete house in exchange for scrubbing toilet bowls. Can you imagine the Queen of England wearing a pair of yellow work-gloves furiously scrubbing away at a stain on Prince Charles' clothes? No; pragmatism is the order of the day pragmatism equals poverty.

**Step 2-ACCEPTANCE:** Of course it's much easier said. A long time ago it was much easier to find poverty-stricken waifs. Now (now being QUITE a long time after the great Y2K party) after the detrimental work enthusiastically attended to by the various NGOs and government bodies throughout the world,

poor people were almost an extinct commodity. Gone were the days when all that the Latino community did in America was clean out latrines. But what could one do? Start a war in some fast developing African country so that the civil strife would cause an influx of refugees whose only option of a livelihood was to take any job offered to them? No; the process would be too expensive (convincing strong regional leaders, arming their cadres, shipping the weapons, etc. etc.), risky (the majority of the refugees could well decide to "influx" into some other large economy) and a wholly short term solution. An alternative had to be the answer.

**Step 3-CRUCIAL DECISIONS:** What could be the best manual laborer? Someone who has minimum basic intelligence and instinct and could perform a job given and could adapt oneself to still perform that job in an event that the job had modified or mutated in any way. To put it in an example, someone who knows

how to flush the toilet and who can figure out that if the toilet doesn't work all that he has to do is reattach the chain to the flush handle. Such was the ideal laborer. It had to be created. It was up to the scientists now, as always, to solve the world's problems.

**Step 4-CREATION:** To store all those commands would require a lot of memory space so the scientists needed something that could hold a lot of information in the limited space of a needle-hole. The scientists used brain cells. It was important that the created workers not look remotely human (if it looked human it would evoke sympathy, if it evoked sympathy H-R groups would go on the streets screaming their lungs out for the rights of our bonded brothers, etc. etc.). Other conditions that needed to be taken in account were that the unit be able to repair minor faults, be able to reproduce (so as to do away with costs incurred in producing future units) and be capable of passing on general information on

proper performance of a task to a new unit so that the core group of scientists or future generations of scientists would not have to keep programming them.

**Step 5-EVALUATION:** The created unit had long spare limbs and splayed hands. It had two extra arms thrown in for good measure (it can beat the eggs AND toast the bread) and a very small stomach (economical food intake). The unit had the ability to create food internally. It also had self rectification properties and after a certain passage of time, could produce a similar unit which in turn could learn by observation and direct communication with the parent.

**Step 6[Optional]-REJOICE:** Rejoice. Humanity has evolved to another tier and has become Gods (someone give me a glass of champagne).

Sports can be enjoyed in two ways; playing it, and watching someone else play it. Which ever you do it, both can be equally enjoyable. But when it comes to sports like football or cricket, it's actually much more exciting watching it than being in the field playing it.

But then, there are two ways of watching too. The first is watching it live at the stadium, while the second is in the living room, on the sofa, on TV. So which is better, the stadium or the living room?

Some people would rather prefer the living room (sofa and all). Why go all the way to the crowded stadium, pushing and shoving, and tearing your life out trying to find yourself a seat when you can peacefully walk into your living

room, sit down comfortably on the sofa, switch on the TV and voila? You have the game live and exclusive ready and served to your viewing screen. With the ticklish comments of Geoffrey Boycott and the squawks of Tony Greg and co., and popcorn and soda within hands reach, you can put a pillow behind your back and watch on for hours without getting turned into mash potatoes every time you move. And the best thing about it is you get to see the players real close and get to see their expressions and reactions. You can see replays of doubtful decisions so on and so on.

But then there are some people that just cannot hold their emotions when it comes to watching sports. Shouts of "atta boy! Go get em!" Some how come out of their mouths. So if it really does come to shouting and squawking, growling and barking, then the stadium's the best place to do it.

**WATCHING SPORTS**

**STADIUM**

vs

**LIVING ROOM**

eb Khan



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At a stadium (specially during a cricket), you get to see the game ultra-exclusive true, but the players are so far away that you can't really say who's who. And I doubt anybody could see a ball from that distance. The truth is that nobody can actually keep track of what's happening without constantly looking at the scoreboard. And those who are too far away from that, or don't know anything about scoring simply shout and scream at anything whether it's their team or the other that's winning. In a recent review, a group of people were sent to go around the stadium (in a particular cricket match) to ask people the difference between watching at a stadium and watching at home. 68% said that they had come to support their teams, 29% said that they had come to have some fun, whilst 1% said that they had nothing to do so they dropped by (!!!). So as one can see that the whole point in going to a stadium is either to support their teams or just to party. So

Suddenly the man behind you pulls the one on your shoulders down and places himself there. All you can do is watch open mouthed.

That was a little far fetched wasn't it? Any way it does give you some idea of the states you confront at a stadium. It's just the kind of person you are. If you want to watch a peaceful game, then home is the best place for it. But if fun and enjoyment is the target, then I suggest you go to a stadium before your mum kicks you out for breaking the TV screen.

## PENETRATING THROUGH DARKNESS

by Kamrul Hakim

There exist a lot of problems in our education. But nothing is more terrible than "Student Politics".

Now a days it has come out as a national problem. Our country has lots of merits & potential. While our scintillating students are achieving fame and honor for this country in foreign lands, a huge part of our students are jeopardizing both their lives and the future of this country by playing with pistols or E bombs. A Majority of them are university students. But neither the government nor the opposition parties worry about this pivotal national issue. They are just enjoying the whole drama. These days, a guardian of a university-student can't be certain whether his or her son or daughter will come back home. Thousands of negative thoughts spin in their minds. At any time she can have an unexpected death-news of her son. If this is the real picture of our education, then what our future will be?

One of the main causes of this mayhem is "money", to specify "black money". In these days, many of our university students have more money than many teachers can imagine.

The external appearance of our university students has changed. Now, they handle a mobile phone instead of books & keep pistols in their pockets instead of pens. Now one can enjoy (!!!) "shotgun show" at the university campus almost every day. Some times, it is logical to many people that if our students can bear a mobile phone and run a private car during their study-period, why they should run after jobs after completing their studies. Even our honorable President has mentioned it many times, but nobody ponders about it. Our university-hostels are replenished with illegal arms and weapons. Because of their illegal & vulnerable activities, some Ereal students have to suffer a lot. Who will carry the responsibility of these sufferings? But the real thing is that everyone knows who is actually buttering E up and pampering these so-called students. The reality is that, none of us value our country more than our own desires. E

If we really want to get hold of this matter, now it is the best time to ponder about our education. Otherwise, it will only increase our miseries and we will be in so much dark that none can penetrate us out of it.

At last, I want to put an end to my article by penning a true picture of a boy named "Mohsin". He was my friend when I was studying in Kindergarten and high school. He was not so brilliant but an average student and was modest and gentle. After my change of schools, there was a long gap lasting for five years between us. A few days ago, I caught sight of him and was staggered by his Ephysical appearance and his way of his talking. Soon I got to know that he had emerged as a small "cadar" of a political party during his college life. Now handling a pistol and picketing during the 'hartal' is an easy-to-handle matter for him. The last time I saw him, he was riding on a rickshaw, putting one leg on another like a monarch with a cigarette and wearing black sun-glass.

## Teenager's Insight on Life

By Realization.

### Diary entries:

5<sup>th</sup> Jan. wed.

Ammu's birthday tomorrow. It's Rlyaad's birthday today. Wonder where he is because nobody picks up the phone at his house? I hope he has fun. It's his 16<sup>th</sup> b'day you know and we are not with him. I have an idea, this year most of my friends will be turning 16 and I will try and make it special for all of them somehow... I hope this works out. Nothing I ever think of does.

Anyway, what should I get for ma? Man, choosing presents that mean something is such a big headache. Hopefully I'll think of something I can afford by the end of today, maybe she'll like a bag.

6 days to go for my English language exams.

7<sup>th</sup> Jan. Fri. 29<sup>th</sup> roja.

We had a class with Miss Jane in school today probably our last class with her

before the exams.

I am a bit disappointed because I was hoping it would be Eid tomorrow but unfortunately we are going to have 30 Rojas this time. I have fasted all of the 29 days till today!!

Shahrier and all left fro Dhaka today. E-mailed Ronny. Ovi called he asked me to do the May '99 paper (does show he cares...a lot).

I can't find my shalwar the purple one I was planning to wear fro Eid. I'll write my letter now.

8<sup>th</sup> Jan. sat. 30<sup>th</sup> roja.

I just broke a crystal bowl in the drawing room (it was an accident) and Abbu's furious, but it wasn't my fault the thing is, I know better than to tell him that now. I have a runny nose and a sore throat feeling horrible.

10:30 pm. We have big plans fro tomorrow. I'm thinking about Ovi we'll probably be going to his house tomorrow.