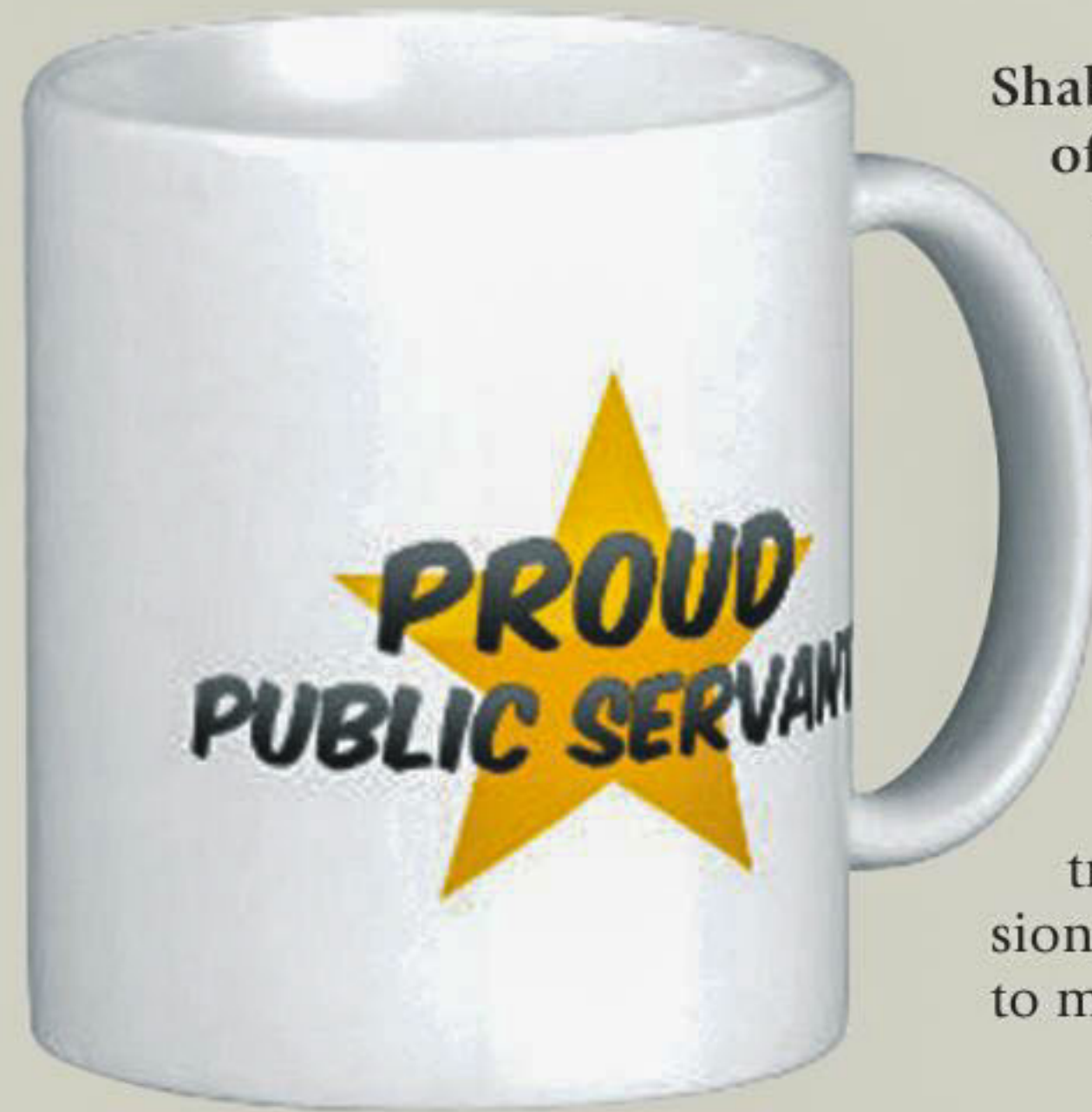


OPINION

GOVERNMENT JOBS: YES OR NO?

DYUTY AURONEE

There's no doubt that many young Bangladeshis idolise Mashroof Hossain, the supercop who has utilised technology to single-handedly bring about a much needed reform in the law and order system of the country. Though we look up to these heroes with great admiration, how many of us want to follow their footsteps? Broadly speaking, is today's youth really considering careers in public service at all? We asked students from both public and private institutions and this is what they had to say.



Shabeeb Ameen, Physics Department, University of Dhaka

I guess being a BCS cadre is a dream for most university graduates. Some students even study for the exam from the freshman year. Personally, I am more drawn to a career in STEM research. Hence, I might have to stick to the private sector that receives more research funding and support but I can definitely see the positives of being a BCS cadre. The position commands recognition and respect. Of course, the idea of bearing the tremendous responsibilities of such a profession fresh out of university is also quite attractive to many people.

Ishmam Chowdhury, Institute of Business Administration, University of Dhaka

It's interesting how the society always seems to "know" what I want to do in life. Most often they would think that I'll be getting into one of the multinational companies or a bank, but for me, a desk job is not as rewarding. In fact, I am not even sure when these jobs became such a lucrative thing. How is it that Foreign Service, Customs or any other Civil Cadet jobs never come up in such discussions? Though the public sector still has a few unpleasant issues, you can either sit where you are and point out what's wrong with everything around you or choose to act. I want to be a part of the second group and rather do something for my country instead of getting into a multinational company and branding myself as a global corporate employee.

Fariha Dola, BBA, North South University

I wish to get an MBA and settle for a job at one of the top-notch multinational companies. That way, I think, I will get a good return for my investment in my undergraduate degree. However, I am afraid to enter the rat race. Working for a private corporation requires you to go that extra mile if you want to climb up the success ladder. Long working hours and stress often ruin the balance between professional and personal life.

Anoma Barua, Bangladesh Medical College

The public sector is supposedly plagued with corruption. Although as a to-be doctor, I aspire to reach out to people and serve them at the grassroots level, I am afraid I have to do that on my own. The salary in government jobs also acts as a disincentive for me. The salary is too little for the amount of hard work that one needs to put in. I wonder how I will be able to do something for the people if I am not financially solvent myself. The recent reforms in salary structure and overall system, however, give me hope.

LIBRARIES – A THING OF THE PAST?

IMANI KHALED

I was desperately seeking a book for a long while and have been asking everyone – voracious readers, habitual readers, petty readers – about the remote possibility of having it in their possession and unfortunately I was met with that same disappointing "no" every time. A "no"

libraries were where people met their soul mates – disagreement and love for that same book created bonds. Internet allows access to more reading materials than the libraries. Use of public libraries has become so rare that stories of how our parents would walk miles to get to the nearest library only to get a copy of their favourite book builds

was often followed by that dreaded solution, "download the e-book." "You can try the library" has become an archaic expression.

The reality, however, justifies the possibility of this path to extinction. Readers are harshly aware of what libraries have become, as the digital age has established a new and faster gateway to the world of knowledge. Are libraries dying, then?

While it may not have come down to that yet, libraries are losing their lustre. Borrowing, ordering online or treading the muddy puddles of Nilkhet are not only faster and easier, there is no deadline hovering over our head as we race ourselves to the last page.

Gone are the days when reading was an important pastime and

layers of incredulity.

But don't write off libraries just yet. College means expensive books, and those precious morsels of information found within the yellowed pages of that last edition adds the star to your A's. The digital divide exists but there is a reason why museums are often the most beautiful buildings. Standing agape at the royal jewels will send the same chill through your spine as finding a lost edition on a dusty shelf.

It's wonderful to drop by a library on a random day and read the titles. Just the titles. The most profound inspiration in your life is perhaps lying lonely in a dusty corner, awaiting your arrival...

