

WHY I CHOSE TO BE A TEACHER

MADHU WAL

I chose to be a teacher because teaching is not just a profession, it is a mission. Children, who are like clay are moulded and shaped by the hands of a teacher. Pandit J.L. Nehru said, "The destiny of a nation is shaped in her classrooms." No career, no work can be more rewarding than that of a teacher who is occupied in building the personality of a student in order to equip him to face the challenges of a competitive world in the throes of transition and change.

The love and affection, the respect that students shower on a teacher who is able to inspire them by example in all spheres far surpasses the joy that wealth can bestow. What great satisfaction it gives to see your students acquire new dimensions to their personality, gaining confidence and poise and all a result of your inspiration, of your instruction. As has been rightly said: an average teacher tells, a good teacher explains, an excellent teacher demonstrates and an outstanding teacher inspires.

I chose teaching because being with children is like being endowed with perpetual youth. The love, laughter, mischief, creativity and imagination of children are like an eternal fountain of joy and vitality.

Monotony never sets into this profession as each child is God's special creation to be nurtured. Each child is an individual who needs to be dealt in a way which is never the same. Each day unfolds a new learning experience for the teacher. So there's no juncture in a teacher's life that he can claim he's reached his zenith.

I realised that through teaching I would be able to fulfill my soul's craving to make a contribution in shaping the world of tomorrow. I chose the profession because of the passionate conviction that in it lies my special destiny. Today after nearly four decades in this



profession, each day I can wake up with a song in my heart, each day I can walk with a lighter step, each day I can be elevated to the higher levels of awareness because each day brings with it a set of new challenges and new situations to be tackled. Each day becomes a harbinger of a new dawn of hopes and expectations, of possibilities unanticipated, of experiences untold, of dimensions manifold.

Teaching offers maximum scope for creativity to flourish. Innovation and experimentation, exploring uncharted territories by way of teaching methodologies give to one a great sense of power which is almost

intoxicating.

*What sweeter fruit can there be?
 What greater beauty the eye can see?
 Herein lies the astounding territory
 Of the human brain's unexplored mystery
 All laid vast for me to create
 Newer vistas and horizons to appreciate
 To mould new shapes, new visions, new dreams
 To sail on forever on limitless streams.*

The writer is vice principal of DPS STS School Dhaka.

Striving to Feed the Starving Durnibar Foundation's "Save the Starving"

SALMA MOHAMMAD ALI

On December 4, 2015, a number of families set out from their respective slums across Dhaka city and congregated at the Pani'r Tanki Field, Mohammadpur. Waiting for each family was enough basic food to last two months, courtesy of Durnibar Foundation, a youth based non-profit organisation founded in 2012 and dozens of its volunteers, led by a team of Durnibar board members.

Funds raised from Durnibar Foundation's "Hunger Action 2015" event, which took place last month, were used in purchasing rice and lentils. During the "Save the Starving" event, these were distributed to 50 underprivileged families. The volunteers divided the families into groups and helped them form queues as they started distributing sacks of rice and lentils. The event "Save the Starving" is repeated every two to three months throughout the year and has been distributing food to the same families since October 2014.

The families present at the event all had a few things in common; they combat extreme poverty on a daily basis and have children of school-going age. These children spend their days working



to earn and feed their families instead of studying in classrooms with books and stationeries. By forgoing education and engaging in child labour these children were losing their chance at having a bright future, not to mention being exposed to harmful conditions at various workplaces. Durnibar Foundation, in addition to providing food through "Save the Starving", has arranged for these children to attend local schools in their areas.

When asked about the purpose of "Save the Starving", Azman Anju Khan

Chowdhury, the General Secretary and Founder of Durnibar Foundation replied, "The desired outcome of this event is a bit of a chain reaction, by providing a number of families with basic food throughout the year, we are not only meeting their food costs, but this also means their children can attend school instead of engaging in child labour to earn for food. In the future, these educated individuals will in turn send their children to school as well. In the long term this is likely to increase literacy

rates and bring down poverty levels."

This event was held under the "Feeding Bangladesh" project of Durnibar Foundation. This project, the biggest of the foundation, aims to help root out certain problems that are gnawing away at our society – hunger, malnutrition, child labour, lack of education and poverty, by taking steps such as raising awareness, campaigning, fundraising and distributing food.

Jorina Begum, 47, a dweller of the Bosila slum who has been a part of "Save the Starving" since the beginning, explains, "Previously, life was very miserable for my kids as they had to work to somehow ensure that we managed to eat twice a day. But now they are going to school after Durnibar Foundation handed over a year's basic needs to us." Many slum dwellers like Jorina had similar things to say about the event. The event ended around evening, after the volunteers distributed all the food and bid farewell to the families.

Salma Mohammad Ali fears she is becoming a crazy cat lady and uses writing as a means to grasp on to sanity. Send her your views/hate/love at <https://www.facebook.com/salma.ali209>