

# 6 REASONS Why You Should VOLUNTEER More Often

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The one thing that every event has in common is the volunteers. Without volunteers, organizing a successful event is next to impossible. And that's where you come in and volunteer. But since volunteers never get paid, what is in it for you? Let's take a look at the reasons why you should volunteer more.

**1. CV:** You're growing up, like it or not, and will soon be looking for a job somewhere. All your experiences matter. Beside work or co-curricular experiences, your volunteering roles matter too, especially if you get a certificate. In fact, your activeness in such events adds weight to your CV, as it reflects that you are a team-player who knows how to tackle situations and get the work done.

**2. Making connections:** For a student, volunteering in events is the best way to meet new people with the same interests as you, since you both ended up volunteering for the same event. If you take a group of friends with you, chances are that you'll stick to them and not make connections. Don't do that. Moreover, don't be uptight when others try to strike up a conversation with you. Roam around, talk to others, and expand your network. As you work together, you'll get to know them better, and who knows, you might as well become friends... or more.

**3. Developing important skills:** When you volunteer, you'll have to work a lot. You may be divided up into teams with specialisation as per need. As you work in that specialized team, you learn more about it, what the tasks are or how to manage those. These things will help you later in handling difficult real-life problems, and during any event you organise, even if it's the *holud* programme of your cousin. Volunteering, after all, is an opportunity for skill development. Chances are that you'll get to meet influential people who might even offer you an internship if they like your work. Take full advantage of it and learn as much as you can with hands-on experience.

**4. Experiencing the good things for free:** Be it a concert, a literary festival, or an inspirational programme by accomplished personnel, when you're a volunteer, you can enjoy all those for free, mostly. Yes, your responsibility as a volunteer always needs to be of the utmost importance, but who's to say it will stop you from enjoying? In fact, during the briefing of volunteers for any event, the organizers always say, "Don't forget to have fun between tasks." The rest is self-explanatory.

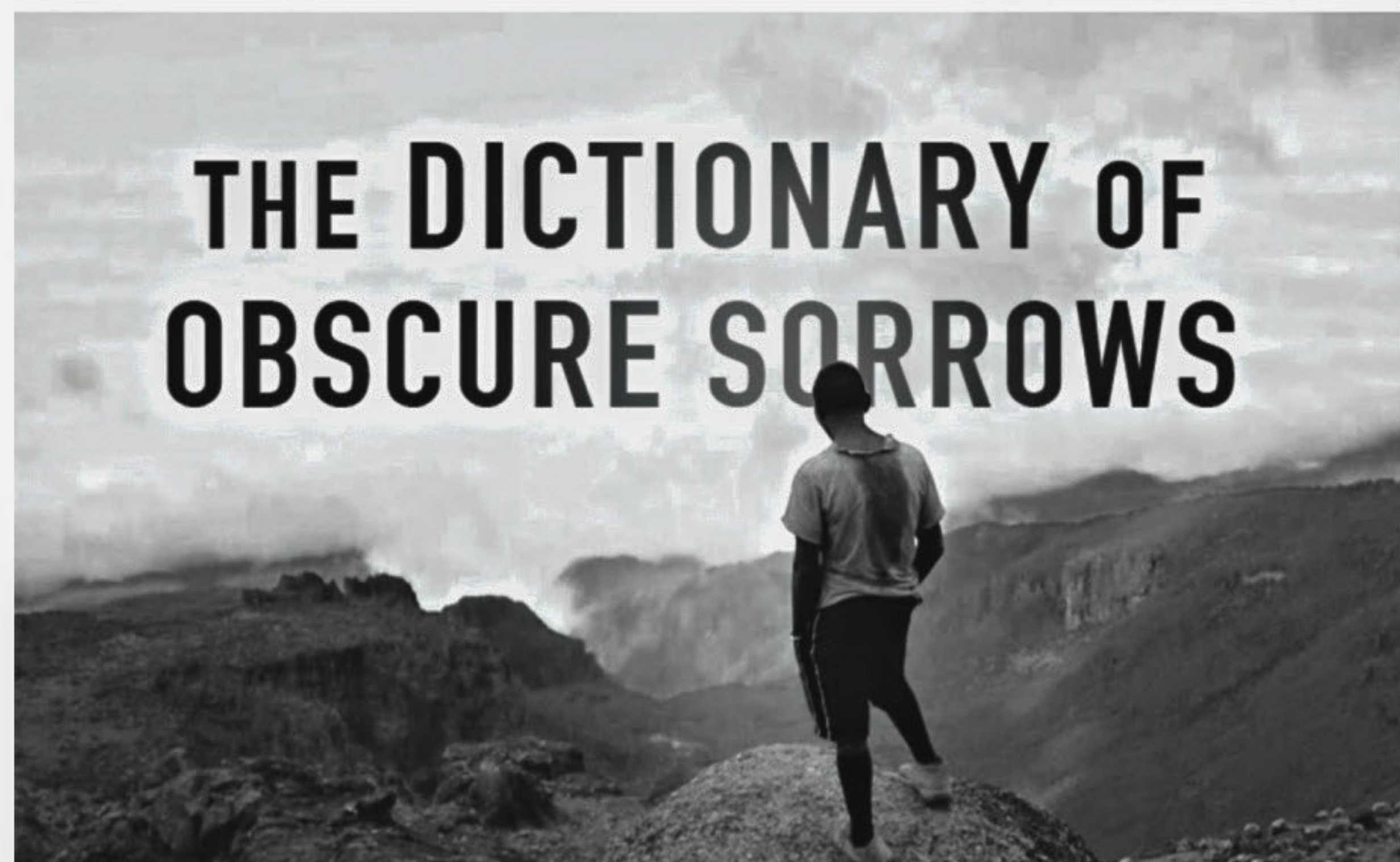
**5. Free goodies:** I once volunteered in an inter-university programming competition. Of all the goodies, we got t-shirts, bags, notepads, pens, key-rings and other stuff. Most events are like that. Each volunteer always gets a t-shirt at the bare minimum. This is not only to keep the volunteers happy, but also for promotional purposes on the organizers' part. But who cares about the finer details? Free goodies never harmed anyone.

**6. Food:** Organizers take great measures to provide sufficient food for the volunteers during meetings and during the main event, to keep the energy levels high. Shingara or biriyani, food is



good. If for nothing else, volunteer for the refreshments.

The next time your mother asks you why you want to work for an event which will not even pay you, inform her about all that you have to gain from your volunteering experience. Now go ahead, look for an upcoming big event. Be the volunteer that the event deserves, and also the one it needs right now.



## If ever at A LOSS FOR WORDS

MAHEJABEEN HOSSAIN NIDHI

The Dictionary of Obscure Sorrows, a video series, is the brainchild and masterpiece of John Koenig, who can best be described as a 'wordsmith'. This series features beautifully thought out words invented by Koenig to fill a gaping void in the English language for emotions left undefined. The short videos are around two and a half minutes apiece, each showcasing a unique, yet identifiable perspective that resonates deep within. Below are some of the words that are most relatable.

**Ambedo:** A moment you experience for its own sake

This visually stunning video depicts how "Everything is struggling just to exist". It's that feeling when you stop looking for deeper meanings, stop yearning for something else – something greater or more powerful – and just appreciate the moment at present as it is. It serves to remind us, "You too are a guest on this Earth whose life is not just a quest, an opportunity, or a story to tell."

**Klexos:** The art of dwelling on the past

Our past is like indelible ink; permanent, yet, never truly dried. The ink retains its fluidity, as the video shows how it could splash onto a new canvas and be spread to draw a different picture, or even shape another existence. Our past becomes inevitably morphed by the way we contemplate it.

**Koinophobia:** The fear that you've lived an ordinary life

Shot primarily on a toy-like model, the video delineates how small our life can seem when we take a step back and try to

analyse it. At times, everything, even the things that may have once appeared great, vibrant and vast, shrinks to something trivial, bland and plain insignificant. Koinophobia sets in as we meditate our ordinary lives.

**Lutalica:** The part of your identity that doesn't fit into categories

In the larger scheme of things, we often find ourselves shelved under different labels. In this, there are some labels where we comfortably fit in, while some we struggle to accept. We come to confront 'lutalica' when we find pieces of ourselves that don't belong under the general identities. This creates a sense of wonder about the people around, how they might be beyond their labels, and as the video suggests, "You look around at other people, trying to judge how loosely they fit into their own lives, sensing a knot of confusion hidden beneath a name tag."

**Zenosyne:** The sense that time keeps going faster

"It's actually right after you are born that life flashes before your eyes," the video commences. When we are young, we live in the moment because there are no other moments to escape to. We spend aeons just observing the world, taking it all in. As we set ourselves to the grooves of time, we find it flying. And soon enough, the interval between each birthday seems to get smaller with every passing year.

*With a keen eye and a broken brain to mouth filter, Mahejabeen Hossain Nidhi has a habit of throwing obscure insults from classic novels at random people who may or may not have done anything to warrant them. Drop her a line at mahejabeen.nidhi@gmail.com*

