

# Working Student's Woes

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Remember that magical moment when your favourite teacher asked you to be his assistant? Or the time when your neighbour thought you were 'perfect' for her undisciplined, notorious and educationally-backward child?

Long gone are the days when student jobs like tutoring or part-timing in stores simply implied that the student was in financial need and needed the job to fund their education. And no longer are such activities frowned upon by society. They have just become a part of the flow.

What still remains a matter of worry is though these jobs are fascinating and less-humiliating than asking your parents for pocket money, there are times when they take over your educational and personal lives. In some cases, a part-time job may no longer remain part-time. And the best way to avoid such situations is to ponder sensibly over the offer when it comes instead of impulsively accepting it.

Priorities vary from person to person, but it helps to keep a balance. If your education is your major priority, then it will not help if you spend your studying time checking copies or haggling with your product importer. On the other hand, if you wish to keep your job, you cannot ignore it till your deadlines and then wait for a miracle to happen.

A good decision will be to allocate your time efficiently. Make a routine and follow it to a T. Make sure



you have ample time to study, to spend with your family and – most importantly – maintain your health. Sleep is one factor that you cannot ignore, because with droopy eyes, you can do nothing perfectly.

There's always a way to ignore pressure and hassle. If you are working as a tutor, it is going to be better for both you and your student to sit together and come to a mutual timing that suits you both. It can be helpful having a partner to take over your mini business when your exams are going on, might get you a few precious days free to study.

And not to forget the golden rule, there is nothing more sensible than maintaining a good relationship with your boss. Help him know when you're being overwhelmed so that he will at least consider cutting you some slack. However, all people are not the same. You may face situations when your finals are knocking at your door, and your boss is just not ready to grant you a few days' leave. In that case, you have to make your own decision, and get your priorities straight.

Although they have their drawbacks, these jobs are some of the best things that can happen to young adults. To have your own pocket money and to be able to say, "I've earned it" with a smug look on your face every time someone questions your spending habits is an undeniable pleasure. But it is all about how well you divide your time so that there is enough for your studies, job and personal life.

# SMU: Canada's International University

ARMAN R. KHAN

The Canadian University Application Centre (CUAC), Dhaka organised a reception programme for Dr. Robert Summerby-Murray, President and Vice Chancellor of Saint Mary's University (SMU), Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada and Marie Braswell, Director, Admissions & Recruitment, SMU on March 1, 2016 at Westin Dhaka. The Canadian High Commission participated in the reception. The programme was attended by various esteemed educators of the country, alongside potential students, parents and alumni of SMU.

Marie Braswell informed the audience that 35 percent of the 7000+ students at SMU were international students, with quite a few Bangladeshi students in the mix. She also mentioned that the most recently elected President of the SMU Students' Association is a Bangladeshi.

Speaking of the various programmes at SMU, Braswell said that SMU's Sobey School of Business is renowned in the region. She also said that the engineering and science programmes of SMU are well-reputed. As for the funding, Braswell assured that SMU provides around CAD \$6 million in student scholarships every year.

Dr. Robert Summerby-Murray, President and Vice Chancellor, SMU expressed his delight on being able to visit Dhaka. Expressing gratitude to the audi-

ence, he informed that SMU is the leading mid-sized university of Canada and that it is often referred to as "Canada's international university", crediting to its student base representing 116 countries. He went on to talk about the new four-step strategic plan that he is trying to implement.

CAD \$24,000 awarded to bright and promising undergraduate students. In Nancy's absence, a memorabilia was handed over to her proud parents by Dr. Summerby-Murray.

Afterwards, in an exclusive interview with SHOUT, Dr. Summerby-Murray

understanding with some universities in Bangladesh, and are working on more affiliations.

The President and Vice Chancellor of SMU further informed us that there are work opportunities for SMU students to support themselves – both on and off campus. After graduating, students can stay in the province of Nova Scotia for two years on a student visa. He said that there are lots of organisations in which graduates can seek employment during those years.

Lastly, Dr. Summerby-Murray informed about graduate programmes at SMU. There are graduate and doctorate degrees in various fields of art, business and science with sufficient research opportunities.

"With tech entrepreneurship on the rise, international students are changing the nature of innovation," he said.

The relationship between Bangladesh and Canada are better than ever before. We hope that the reception of Dr. Robert Summerby-Murray and Marie Braswell organised by CUAC opens more doors and creates more opportunities for Bangladeshi students seeking admission in Canadian universities.

*Arman R. Khan is an engineer, a caffeine addict, a dreamer and a culture enthusiast who takes life one day at a time. Correspond with him at arman.rahman.khan@gmail.com or tweet @ArmanRK*



The VC of SMU speaks at the event.

PHOTO: DARSHAN CHAKMA

Dr. Summerby-Murray said that learning wasn't restricted to the students only – even the teachers are encouraged to learn through research.

It was announced that a Bangladeshi student at SMU, Nancy Gomes, is the first ever recipient of "Anne J. and Albert T. Isaacs Bursary", which is a scholarship of

informed that there are lots of opportunities for eager international students at Saint Mary's University.

"Undergrad students from affiliated universities in Bangladesh can transfer almost half of their credits to SMU, provided they have good grades in the courses." SMU has a memorandum of