

# How to get on with life if your visa gets disapproved

ZARIN REZWANA

*Once high school ends, there comes a time to realise our lifelong dream as years of toil results into being accepted into the target university. And as that happens, there begins a series of procedures, to set flight to the land of dreams. Sadly, there might be a stroke of bad luck, and the foreign embassy may have bad news. Taking a few points from people who have undergone such situations, here is what you could do.*

## DON'T LOSE YOUR MIND

As depressing as it may be to see your dreams slip off your fingertips, you have to get things together and make some of the most crucial decisions that you have ever made. Even if you think you have fallen off the bandwagon, it might really not be the case, because, you're not the only one, and there are people who have gone through the same thing as you. After processing the reason for which you were not able to go abroad, whether there was something wrong in the documentation or a blunder in the interview that led to your visa being disapproved, start considering your choices.

## REAPPLYING

Visas can be applied for at any time of the year. This makes it easier for one to reapply, with

for getting on with what you planned to do, but never got around to do it. Undertaking a gap year, Tahamid Siam, who had gotten into the University of Dallas, now plans to get on with coding, travel through the country, and then reapply after a year once he has utilised his break. He also plans on learning a third language in order to be applicable for another country as a back-up. Another student, Fayek Uthsho, has planned to shift his session from fall to spring and reapply then. He is also thinking of interning at an alumni organisation for some time,



and broadening his choice of countries to apply to, keeping all his options open.

## APPLYING AT HOME

Recently, many courses that were not being offered have surfaced. If you consider staying in the country, there are universities – both private and public – to cater to your academic needs. Although if you decide to sit for a public university admission test, you might have to toil a bit more to get in. "The aftermath of getting into a public university would be worth it," stated Toaha Hasnain, who would be trying out for IBA this session.

Lastly, whatever choice you make, remember that one professor had famously said: "Happiness can be found in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light."

*Zarin Rezwana is just a weird potato trying to be a French fry. Send help or send ketchup to riditah4@gmail.com*



# Teaching through Tech

NAFIS IMTIAZ ONISH

Smallfoot, a youth-driven initiative for educating underprivileged children, inaugurated its new social project titled "Smallfoot-Teach through Tech" on August 12, 2017. "Teach through Tech" is a technological education programme that aims to provide children from slums with training on necessary skills based on their passion.

Smallfoot embarked on its eventful journey in 2013. A small group of young university students began this project with the vision to provide disadvantaged children with learning experience they don't usually have access to. Currently, Smallfoot is responsible for the education of 9 kids from the slum area of Janata Housing, Mirpur in Dhaka. Their curriculum-based education is conducted by Time International Academy. The management of Smallfoot is responsible for educating these kids outside the classroom and raising funds to keep up with the expenses.

This year, Smallfoot won a fund of \$2,800 from Harpur Edge through the Harpur Fellows Program. The fund has been invested in starting up the 'Teach Through Tech' project. The objective is to help the children gain upward social mobility through computer and internet literacy. With that goal in mind, the 6-month long course has been designed in a manner that allows the kids to help their families after the completion of the course.

There are 20 students enrolled in the programme – aged 8-12, including the 9 children from Smallfoot school. Smallfoot currently has one lab in Mirpur with 10 laptops, with technical assistance from Technaf. Classes are taken by volunteers from the KL-YES alumni in 2 batches during

the weekends. The 2-hour long classes are dedicated to teaching the kids how to use a computer, maintain it, and perform different basic functions like typing, painting, using PowerPoint, searching in Google's Omnibox etc.

A major part of the course is dedicated to teaching the students "functional" English. Anuraddha Antaneel, the course-content developer explained, "Instead of teaching them how to spell out words, our approach is to first teach them how different words sound like. We will then move on to consonant sounds, vowel sounds, one syllable words, two syllable words, joint letters and then middle sounds. The idea of the ESL workshop is to have them be able to listen to a word and try to search the word up themselves. Thus, they not only learn the language, but also know how to bridge their information gap. We will then move on to mathematics, grammar and other conventional subjects to ensure that they get to choose what they want to pursue in the future."

Smallfoot has also impacted a group of motivated school-going children of Dhaka. Talaat, a volunteer for the programme, elucidated his motivation for the work, "The children are always keen to learn. The excitement that they have when they learn something new is truly inspirational."

Isbat Ibn Hasnat reminisced the hardships during Smallfoot's initial days and how long they have come. "The key is to never give up," he said.

Gulshan Jubaed Prince, co-founder of Smallfoot, urged, "For every 2 kids we need 1 volunteer. So, we are actively looking for volunteers to scale up the project. If anyone wants to support Smallfoot, please feel free to contact us."

