

# The consequences of having a dark sense of humour

RASHEED KHAN

The first rule of Fight Club is that you do not talk about Fight Club. The second rule of Fight Club is that you do NOT talk about Fight Club. Congratulations, now you know what to do about your dark sense of humour. However, the first two rules also indicate that it's pretty much a paradox, so here's an article talking about the consequences of having a dark sense of humour.

The first consequence is the classic "Wow, this guy is completely whack." But the statement can both be accurate and inaccurate.

Yes, by societal standards, having a dark sense of humour can be a very strange thing because you won't find many people cracking a joke about someone's tragedy. It's hard to explain why we find it funny because it's like trying to explain why people laugh at slapstick humour like "HowToBasic"; I'm quite sure you'll find plenty of sophisticated people sipping their tea with their pinky finger extended, saying

it's not "real humour". But it doesn't necessarily mean it's not humour, it's just creepier humour.

That's the "inaccurate" bit of our statement out of the way. Why would it be accurate? While there are plenty of people



who are actually completely normal, there are a few people who could actually be crazy. As I've always thought, the person with a dark sense of humour is both the likeliest and the least likely to get around to freaky stuff, but don't take my word for

it.

Having a dark sense of humour can also cause people to assume you probably have no feelings. How do you explain to people that while you do joke about those things, it doesn't mean you DON'T feel bad about

that kind of stuff? But, assumptions are facts under the right circumstances, so someone will "assume" you're being rude because they don't conform to your style of humour.

It can't be all bad things though, right?

While, it's hard to find fellow face-value nutcases like yourself, you wholly cherish the ones you can find. Plus, the humour makes for fun times.

Here's a short story: this one time, I "haha" reacted to a friend's post about a petition on animal cruelty. I felt horrible about the topic, obviously, but I reacted that way because I was sure we had the same sense of humour (and also because inappropriate reactions are funny). What happened next was a nightmare. She messaged me to ask why I did that. When I found out that it had offended her SEVERELY, I apologised sincerely and told her it's a joke. But she ignored my apology and then proceeded to bash me because, I quote, my "cool dark humour" wouldn't let me see how horrible this is. Moral of the story: seriously, take those first two rules to heart.

*Rasheed Khan is a hug monster making good music but terrible puns and jokes where he's probably the only one laughing. Ask him how to pronounce his name at aarcvard@gmail.com*

## Volunteers act first

### UNV and UN Women observe International Volunteer Day 2017

FARAH MASUD

Volunteers – crisis managers and life savers at the time of need. Nothing short of superheroes, one might add. Their most defining quality is that they act first. And to acknowledge their courageous and selfless contributions, every year on December 5, the United Nations observes the International Volunteer Day.

This year was especially grand as UN Women Bangladesh and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), along with other Volunteer-Involving Organisations (VOI) joined together to disseminate knowledge about the value of volunteerism as well as host the finale of the Youth Video Contest 2017 at EMK Center in Dhaka. In addition, they conducted '16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence' starting from November 25 to December 10.

The event commenced with speeches from members of Youthopia.bangla (a joint project of UNDP and UNV), UN Women and UN Volunteer Bangladesh, followed by the screening of videos made by the Youth Video Contest 2017 finalists. The two categories for the videos were 'Preventing Sexual Harassment against Women' and 'Volunteers as the First Responders in Crisis'. Out of a total of 35 submissions, 12 videos qualified from the first round for the first category, while 3 videos qualified for the second.

In between the screening of the videos,

Linda Germanis, Innovation Hub Project Manager, UNDP-UNV shared her own experiences as a volunteer and what it really means to be one. In her speech, Germanis mentioned how she had started out by volunteering for a few months and then going back to her work as a management consultant, but later realised that

she wanted volunteerism to become a part of her daily life. She also emphasised on the importance of acquiring necessary skills in order to create substantial impact through volunteerism.

She said, "For a long time, entrepreneurs and artists have been reminding me

of volunteerism. After researching, I found out that they all have something in common. The CEO of Nike, The Wright Brothers, the author of Harry Potter – they all really started voluntarily, freely to take part into an enterprise, to chase a dream, but not only that, they really wanted to do that with quality and impact."

In the second half of the event, the young volunteers who were present in the audience exchanged their own views and opinions on volunteerism with Fabio Rodriguez, Project Coordinator of Youthopia.bangla. Rodriguez mentioned, "I am always surprised by the energy,

initiative and resourcefulness of the youth of Bangladesh."

And finally, the winners of the Youth Video Contests were announced. In the first category, Youth for Change in Bangladesh won first prize for its film "Stand Strong: The Time is Now", while Md. Sadat Rahman Shakib bagged second prize for his film "Aparajita". The third prize was awarded to Fahim Ahmed Shuvo for his film "Respect for Woman". For the second category, Abdullah Al Mamun Arin won first prize for producing his film "Humanity", Mohammad Shazed bagged second prize for "Story of First Responder of Rana Plaza Tragedy", and Rashid Shahriar won third prize for the film, "V Fact".

The first, second and third prize winners of the best videos for each category received a DSLR, a compact camera, and an action camera respectively. The winning videos will be shared through Youthopia.bangla as well as social media channels of UNV and UN Women to raise awareness among the youth on gender-based violence and volunteerism.

All in all, the event was a great way to acknowledge the Bangladeshi volunteers who have been working tirelessly to address social problems. It also provided a platform to educate and inspire young people to actually go out and create impact through volunteerism, besides collecting funds and being active on social media regarding social issues.

