

CONNECT TO NEXT STEP

Take your next step to connect to us. Email us if you have an interesting story to share related to career.

f

facebook.com/
thedadilstar.nextstep

Email: nextstep@thedadilstar.net

The Daily Star

DHAKA, FRIDAY, JULY 6, 2018

ASHAR 22, 1425 BS

e-mail: nextstep@thedadilstar.net

NEXT STEP

THE FRESH GRADUATE'S GUIDE TO SMART SPENDING

If you told me a year ago that I was going to write this article, I'd probably laugh it off because saving was never my forte. I was really comfortable with the "broke in the middle of the month" life. But as you grow older, responsibilities hit you like a truck and you end up contemplating your life choices with your empty wallet.

This is why I come to you with what I've learned to help you be wiser about your spending habits. By following these tips, you will never have to starve yourself a week after your payday.

Money is a finite resource and it is your most precious resource during this age. If you do not have a good balance at the end of your first year of job life, you will be in a world of trouble. You will not be able to invest in fixed assets, shares, or even businesses. And those are the keys to sustaining your financial health. Worse yet, if you don't get decent pay, it is even more important for you to be frugal with your spending.

Now that we've laid some context, let's get right into the meat of it.

CLOTHES AND SHOES

Even if you're the least fashionable person out there, there's a huge difference between being a hobo freshman and a graduate. And you will end up spending more than you need on clothes. For this simple category, I like to follow a simple rule: utility.

First thing's first, open up your wardrobe and check the type of clothes you have. Check your office wear first. Do you have three decent shirts and three pairs of pants? Good, keep them aside for now. If you don't have those exact number of clothing items, buy them and keep them aside. Clothes bought for the office are always a good investment and you should spend for the long-term so that they can last you for a solid 2 years, even more if you're careful with how you wash them. Get a decent pair of oxford shoes for your office attire. That's it, do not spend anymore behind clothes for the office. Even formal shirts that look good are not worth it. If you seriously HAVE to get a wardrobe upgrade for the office, do it every six months. But it's best to stop at the number I specified.

Now look at your casual attire, this is where you will analyse and map out your outfit pattern. Everyone has a style of matching their clothes. Some people wear t-shirts, a pair of worn jeans and sneakers. Some people like to wear fancy trousers with patterned full sleeved shirts untucked with loafers. Categorise how you like to dress, because this is important. Remember that Adidas Ultraboost you saw online? It's already a very big investment so are you sure you will use the shoes *regularly* for two years? If you belong to the semi-casual camp, don't get those shoes. They will only end up collecting dust in your closet and you will have spent \$200 for absolutely nothing. If you really want sneakers, get a cheaper pair.

Always assess your current wardrobe and if a new clothing item fits that wardrobe. If it does not, no matter how much it hurts, let it go. Make it a rule to buy clothing items

only during Eid and at the end of the year. Even when buying during those times, keep your spending within a set limit. You really don't want to blow all of the money you saved so far.

FOOD

This is the real kicker and honestly, it is the most wasteful category on this list.

Sure, you might be thinking, "What's a mere 1000 taka for this exquisite cheesecake?" but when it adds up to 10 cheesecake escapades in a month, you end up losing BDT

set a monthly cap. I like to set aside 12.5% of my monthly income for these expenses. Most of my spending is on video games, so I set aside enough so that I can at least buy the month's best title. If you're a party animal, the 12.5% cap still applies. Don't cheat.

LUXURIES

Here, we put your fancy watches, your jewellery, and other vanity items. You are only allowed one luxury item purchase in one year. Sure you can go for more if you would rather have a fancy watch and an empty stomach.



ILLUSTRATION: EHSANUR RAZA RONNY

10,000 and gaining 10 pounds. Not a worthy trade-off. Food is something we can't live without, but that doesn't mean you need to shell out for the most expensive items out there. Just because you have cash in hand, doesn't mean you can go to that restaurant you've been eyeing during your entire university life. Well, of course you can, but the expenditure is not worth it. Opt for cheaper, more filling meals.

ENTERTAINMENT

Put everything that is for your leisure in this category and

At the end of the day, we all spend way more than we need to. If you are happy with your salary and think that there's enough dough for you to enjoy the bigger things in life, these rules can be a little more lax for you. After all, life is short and we regret the stuff we didn't do. But, bear in mind, your parents will not sustain you forever. Thus, you will have to be responsible with your money to some extent.

FARUK IFTAKHAR

THE BOSSMAN

BY E. RAZA RONNY



BEING A TEACHER'S ASSISTANT

It's a well known fact that having a TA experience included in your CV is a great plus, irrespective of the path you choose after university. However, only a handful of undergraduate students in our country, and perhaps an even smaller number of graduate students, opt for this position, as most of them are unaware of how to become one or have misconceptions regarding what a TA is hired to do. Here is a little background on what being a TA is all about.

What does a TA do?

A Teacher's Assistant (TA) is usually an undergraduate or graduate student who's working under a faculty member for extra income and a good reference letter. In most cases, a TA basically helps their lecturer/professor to get copies graded in time. Other responsibilities allotted to the TA may vary from university to university or teacher to teacher, based on their requirements/teaching policies/university code of conduct. These may include

important tasks such as helping the teacher review their course outlines and class materials before starting the semester, guiding students during lab activities, proctoring exams and quizzes, inputting grades into the system, or even taking a few classes when the teacher isn't available. They may also help with simpler tasks such as making slides out of course material or getting print-outs and photocopies made for class.

Why do people want to be TAs?

It's a lot simpler to be able to allot time for work between classes instead of having to make separate slots in your schedule. Working at your university instead of having off-campus jobs saves you time and energy. Plus, if the teacher you work under teaches courses from your major, you will basically be paid for reviewing your knowledge in your own field. The benefits of gaining more knowledge in your field, even from lower-level course material, cannot be underestimated.

Moreover, getting well-acquainted with your lecturer for work will also help you make more connections with experienced personnel from your field.

What are the requirements?

At an undergrad level, most universities/lecturers require you to have completed at least 75-80 credits under that discipline, with a CGPA above 2.50-3.00. As a current student, you must submit a copy of your university transcript, along with recommendations from previous lecturers or people aware of your educational background and qualifications. You may even be asked to sit for a qualifying exam or asked to give an interview. There are usually forms given out every year/semester, which need to be filled out and submitted within a given period.

SUSMITA NEWAZ

Susmita is a literature major who lives on tea and sweet toast. Reach her at susmita.newaz@gmail.com.

Making a DIFFERENCE

Bangladesh is rapidly moving towards middle income status by 2021. Our businesses definitely offer immense opportunities for the growing economy and this diversity needs a stage for the stories untold. See Bangladesh make its mark on the global map as Making a Difference brings you our proudest success stories from across the country.

Workplace habits to steer clear of

Like school or the dinner table, the workplace also has habits that are lauded and apprehended. Every individual's habits can have a cumulative effect on the entire office ecosystem, so it's best to not practice the following things at work.

Being late

The tardiness of one single employee can affect the work flow of an entire project. Even if your office has informal work hours, you should set a specific time for yourself, and always try to show up and get things done within at time. Your integrity and work ethic is clearly reflected in how punctual you are.

Dilly-dallying

Whenever you feel like procrastinating, ask yourself if it will affect your team members. If yes, then get it done as soon as you can, because you don't want to keep your coworkers waiting. Real life is not a university group project; here the consequences of procrastinating are dire. Negativity

There's a stark difference between being realistic and negative. Try not being the buzz-kill in the workplace. Every time a colleague brings up a rather adventurous idea, don't shoot it

down on the accounts of it being "baseless" or "impractical." You cannot expect all your colleagues to be on the same wavelength as you, or even expect them to always act rationally. So it's best if you don't complain and whine about every single detail that upsets you. If you feel that you have a genuine issue with someone or something, be professional and take it up with your supervisor instead of losing your temper.

Bluffing and slandering

Gossip may be hard to resist, but giving in to the temptation of bad-mouthing your coworkers will have a terrible effect on your image in the long run. Faking things and gossiping will only make people lose respect for you.

NAVEED ASHFAQUE

Naveed is studying Marketing at BUP. Other than being devastatingly comical he likes awkward silences and football. Reach him at naved1327@gmail.com

