



Thakurmar Jhuli characters as everyday people

AAHIR MRITTIKA

Thakurmar Jhuli was one of the best things to happen to this generation. We've learnt the value of morals, friendships, and love through the intricate stories Thakurmar narrated to us. This is an ode to the remarkable characters we've come to love throughout the years.

BHITU BHOOT

This person probably buys into everything you could possibly ever say. It doesn't matter if it's absolutely ridiculous and *totally* made up, they're here to accept your word as the word of God. It's funny because they like to believe that they're intimidating and smart, when they clearly aren't anything but whiny 24/7. However, they probably have a sweet soul somewhere inside.

SHAKCHUNNI

The one girl in your friends' group who has zero chill. She's loud and not afraid to flaunt it. She's mostly busy naming the kids she's going to have with the guy she had a crush on for a day. Honestly, she just wants someone to love her and make her feel wanted. More importantly, she's ready to do anything for her loved ones, even if her tactics seem overdramatic at times. Her fierce personality coupled with her bad decisions make her greatly loveable, but she's cursed because she has her eyes set on the one man she can't have.

While you like to believe she's harmless, you secretly fear she's behind the disappearance of said crush's girlfriend. To identify a shakchunni around you, look for neon purple eye shadow and that iconic laughter.

BHOOT DADU

The wholesome kid who'll do anything to make you smile. He's an absolute sweetheart and we don't deserve his existence. He'll build you a house and give you teddy

hugs. We must protect and cherish him at all costs.

TEKO BOU

We all know who this is. The girl who goes back to her abusive boyfriend and worships him, after he literally does everything possible to hurt her feelings. She talks about a lot of issues with depth, things like inner beauty, until she has her own glow up; and then she proceeds to conform to the societal stereotype of being a 'dumb blonde'. This person will probably be okay with her boyfriend cheating on her with another girl. In fact, she'll call the girl 'sister'.

Lastly, she talks to plants.

BRAHMADAITYA

This is the kid no one has the guts to go up and talk to. He might look scary and big but once you get to know him, he just wants to help. It's a little worrying when he disappears with his shady friends in the woods at night and plays funky beats from 2010; but you'll learn to love him regardless.

BAMUN

This man is the epitome of perfection with his swinging *tiki* and manly moustache. There's no individual who compares to the great Bamun himself. This character will go to any length to care and provide for his family, be it walking up to a 30-foot-tall monster in the middle of the night or fighting green monsters to get to the city. He also denounces toxic masculinity any chance he gets, to cry in the middle of the woods every now and then. Most importantly, this man is brave and kind. He saved a tiger knowing that it may eat him later; and when that very adversary arrived, he managed to escape with his wits and patience. We've nothing but endless admiration for Bamun and his contributions to society. He's the man we aspire to be, but could never live up to.

THINGS THAT WE HAD IN THE 90'S

AYSHA ZAHEEN

Times have changed and we have come a long way as a society here in Bangladesh. Whilst some have managed to survive the transition and remain relevant, others have faded with time. Here are some that may not be as prevalent in availability, but remain memorable till date.

Good TV shows: Let's face it, the TV shows that we have today may be good but are nothing compared to the ones that we had back in the '90s. In those days, the only TV channel we really had was BTV with its reality shows, talk shows, soap-operas, etc. The legend goes that everyone would be home early on evenings TV shows were scheduled to air and the roads would be almost deserted. Shows like *Kothao Keu Nei*, *Bohubrihi*, and *Nokkhotrer Raat* were very much enjoyed by people of all ages. Again, BTV broadcasted a pretty good collection of international shows. The *Sword of Tipu Sultan* and *Alif Laila* were Indian shows dubbed in Bangla that were of immense entertainment to the children alongside the many foreign animated television series.

Good relationships with neighbours: Given that televisions were not as prevalent back then and people really only wanted to watch BTV, it was not uncommon for neighbours to watch TV together. Neighbours and relatives all around would gather to watch *Notun Kuri*. This practice went on well into the mid-2000s, when people would gather to watch the finales of singing and dancing reality shows of home and abroad. Nowadays, we barely know who lives next door, let alone the heartwarming practice. Neighbourhoods before were one of the most treasured relations in society. However, with time, the essentiality and dynamic of it is becoming obsolete.

Baby taxis and more rickshaws: Baby taxis may be available in other cities of Bangladesh, but you barely see one these days in Dhaka. Not only baby taxis, but there were also more rickshaws, too. There was not much traffic in those days like today, nor was the weather so unbearably humid. Thus, it was not unusual for people to take rickshaw rides in evenings simply for pleasure. Even without cars, people would reach certain destinations faster than we do now. Basically, roads were more peaceful and less-infected with harmful, black fumes. There was also this rustic charm that is now missing in most areas given the rampant urbanisation and deforestation.

Cassette players and VCRs: Back then there weren't many computers and laptops. There were no tablets or smartphones either. Music, however, has always been in fashion. Back then, cassette shops would teem with youngsters and adults alike. Almost every family owned an average-sized cassette player and many had portable cassette players. VCRs and VCPs were also very popular then. VCRs were useful for both watching cassette-videos and recordings. Since there was barely any access to internet, VCRs and VCPs were really important and access to them was pertinent.

In search of better, convenient alternatives, we let go of things that end up holding some sort of cultural significance. Whilst it is all for the best, it is still necessary to recall the things that shaped the era many reminisce about so vividly. Not only is it amusing, it also gives us a vision of how everything has evolved over time.

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