



She is every women

FROM CENTRE

which brought in the mandatory stuffing of various sweets, blessings, and light hearted taunts that all the elderly women had to offer until my face resembled a ripe winter tomato.

From the corner of my eye, I could see the loving husband giggling with his phone out, documenting my red stained poker face that veiled my helplessly clueless self. I reassured myself thinking that if there wasn't next year, there still were six more lifetimes to get back at him for this, in addition to half a wish that he come back as a mouse and I as a cat in the next life!

My strategy had worked — as the women of my family started gathering and dancing, I stepped away unnoticed. I looked out at the younger girls on the other

side who were celebrating, no longer was I that little girl who always thought she was missing out on all the real fun of shidur khela.

Our eyes met across the mandap, and we both signalled for the exit point. As I reached the gate, my husband was already there waiting with a packet of tissue in his hand. Redemption indeed did exist, or so I thought. As I wiped off the excess sindur as much as possible, he rubbed some off of my cheek with his thumb and placed it on the centre of my hair parting, and gloatingly remarked "I'm the only man who can do this to you," and quickly grabbed the remaining laddus before I could move the thali away from his grasp. Alas, the residuals of the sindur left on my free left hand also found its way on his cheek due to the distraction

caused by his own successful attempt in stuffing all the laddus in his mouth. My father-in-law, upon seeing this, also joined in, telling off his son for not sharing what was left of the sweets with his wife, and by association, him as well. I smirked and said, "You owe me coffee and brownies."

As we made our way out, we asked a passer-by to take a photo of this couple's first Bijoya Dashami — this was my first shidur khela after all, but unbeknownst to the whole world, and the husband too, as we smiled for the camera, this photo inadvertently also documented yet another happily married Sarkar woman to have partaken in a shidur khela.

By Supriti Sarkar

Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed

LEARN. KNOW. GROW

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Things no educational institute will teach you

Finishing your Bachelors is surely a step in the right direction, but it can never guarantee your success in life. Because the life lessons you can learn from your surroundings can never be taught in a classroom alone.

Here are a few of my learnings that my education institution didn't teach me:

1. How to maintain relationships: As human beings, we are bound to maintain civil relationships with other people. How you build and maintain relationships with others has a lot to do with how successful you will be in the future. Knowing how to manage your relationships will aid your success.

2. Being morally correct: Even though, many institutions do include a subject on morals and ethics, they only teach the theoretical idea of morals that necessarily can't be translated directly into real life situations.

3. How to develop emotional intelligence: Emotions are something that not many of us have control over. And having the capacity to handle interpersonal relationships with empathy isn't something that many of us have mastered.

4. How to manage money: Your education might teach you how to earn money, but it will never teach you how to save that money, how to plan for a financial crisis, or when to invest — these can only be learnt from mistakes or personal research.

5. How to find a job: Irony, right? Whereas we spend so much money and



time on our education just so we find ourselves a job, our education system never teaches us the process to actually look for a suitable job for us.

Life is already hard for all of us. On top of that, our education system doesn't properly cover practical life situations, which can sometimes hold us back from reaching our true potential. Which is why, it is so important to not let life whizz by with your head on books, and instead meet new people, and experience new things, to stay in the game.

Photo: LS Archive/Sazzad Ibne Sayed



Puja Greetings

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Tangail Saree Kutir

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