

SHOULD YOU MAKE MONEY FROM YOUR HOBBIES?

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According to contemporary society, if you manage to make a profit from something you are passionate about, it is a sure sign that you have made it. Living in the age of entrepreneurship makes the capitalist urge to commodify your hobbies and turn them into profitable side-hustles stronger than ever.

When all time not dedicated to profit or productive output feels like a waste, it is easy to give in to the romanticised tale of commercialising hobbies. And if you are lucky enough to make it work, it can be both meaningful and economically sustainable.

But is the overused quote about not having to work a day in your life if you turn your passion into profit all there is to side-hustles that emerge from our hobbies?

Most people have one or two hobbies, but due to the lack of accountability, it is hard to make time for these hobbies regularly. When you are turning your hobby -- be it painting, photography, video editing or any other creative skillset -- into something you can make a profit off, you are held accountable for finishing things on time which makes it easier to actually do them. Commercialising your hobby can be the best thing ever as you are getting entertainment, profit and meaning — the holy trinity of value when it comes to any kind of work.

However, in many cases, commercialising your hobbies can result in you taking everything personally and losing the ability to separate your personal life from your professional life. When you are trying to make profit off your creative endeavour, there will occasionally be harsh clients

who misjudge your work leading you to question your abilities. To make things worse, when you love what you do, you naturally want to do your very best, which is not always feasible. Striking a balance between working yourself to death and feeling like you are not giving your best can potentially make your work more stressful than a job you have no emotional attachment to.

The reality of turning your hobby into a side-hustle will always come with a string of menial chores that just has to be done. Meeting deadlines, spending hours packaging or catering to your clients' needs while sacrificing your preferences and so on constitutes the backstage of every gig. It is one thing to do something you love for the sake of doing it. But when your creativity is linked to income, it can put a lot of stress and pressure on you which can make something you previously loved feel like a chore.

The truth is, anything you like doing will come with its own set of things that are necessary but less enjoyable. In other words, even your most favourite task will come with its own sandwich feedback. No one enjoys the work they are passionate about one hundred percent of the time.

So, while trying to make money from your hobby, the question you should ask yourself is not what you are passionate about rather what you are passionate enough about to deal with its occupational hazards.

Tazreen is stuck reading painfully depressing postmodern poems and absurdist plays. Send aid in the form of memes or fluffy book recommendations at tazreen-zahan@gmail.com



Change Your Life With 7-Minute Crafts

MRITTIKA ANAN RAHMAN

Hi guys, welcome to 7-Minute Crafts. Today we're going to make candles out of a raincoat.

First, we take a perfectly fine raincoat. Then we completely obliterate it. Because I have no respect for how things are intended to be used and I fight capitalism by not buying things but also buying different things to use to make the things I want. Capiche?

Now we're going to learn how to make a suitcase out of a pair of socks. Imagine yourself strolling into an airport and people thinking, huh, that person really made a suitcase out of a pair of socks. Because socks have no intrinsic value and cutting things up into tiny pieces is how I escape the unanticipated stress of adulthood. My parents keep forgetting my name.

So, you take a pair of socks. You add wheels to it. Now it's a seriously unsafe rollerblade. Now you extend the pair of socks upwards by knitting really fast. Oh, did we mention you need mad knitting skills for this? Well, you do. Now extend the socks horizontally as much as you did vertically to have a rectangular shape. Once you have ample space inside, stick thick pieces of cardboard on the interior of each side. Add a couple of handles at the top and boom you have a suitcase.

We're going to throw in another useless segment now and make this 7-Minute Crafts video over 10 minutes long, because we want the ad revenue as much as Foodpanda users want good customer service. So, let's make a dress out of a pair of tights. You take a pair of tights, and start stretching it. Once you can fit your whole torso into each one of the legs, you cut out a hole for your leg, one for your arm and one for your other arm. We're going to gloss over the fact that you very likely have a fourth limb but we're hoping you're not going to catch on to that. Now we will quickly replace this tube-shaped monstrosity we created with a slightly better version we bought at a store and bam! You have some sort of a garment?

Finally, we're going to learn how to have a giant picture of Timothée Chalamet on your walls. You print a giant picture of Timothée Chalamet and stick it on your walls.

Thank you for watching 7-Minute Crafts. This is a cry for help.

Mrittika Anan Rahman is a daydreamer trying hard not to run into things while walking. Find her at mrittika.anan@gmail.com

