



PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

There are 5 Types of Bangladeshi Food Bloggers

None of them will surprise you

FATIN HAMAMA

From claiming that the patty is juicy to claiming that the patty is *juicy*, Bangladeshi food bloggers are the most diverse bunch of people on the internet. There are, however, only five notable types.

The Burger Person (Duh)

This one here has probably never been to anywhere but famously overrated burger joints to film the same review that has been produced a hundred times when the restaurant in concern had a BOGO offer going on. These bloggers consider burgers that are soggy with sauce, as burgers juicy and bursting with flavours.

The Food Challenge Devotees

They have yet to learn the difference between reviewing food and trying not to choke on it while attempting to finish 50 chicken wings in 20 minutes. While I respect that they have found a way around having to actually pay for the food they mostly waste rather than eat, someone needs to tell them that I just want to know whether the pizza at the new place is actually edible, not whether they can inhale food instead of eating it.

The Ramenverse Inhabitants

The fire noodle warriors are the only ones who actually shed tears and sweat for the content they create. Why these bloggers, people with the spice tolerance of a toddler, choose to do this every other day is beyond me.

Can they even taste what they're eating if they're THAT busy crying from the heat and trying not to drool all over the food?

I mean, flavour profiling aside, WE GET IT. Buldak's ramen is SPICY. It's now time to stop if you only plan to keep filming yourself suffering for the same genre of food over and over again without ever actually doing the review part.

The PR Gang

Since the term explains itself, one of the many things I'd like to unsee for life is another positive review about an unappetising dish from a mediocre restaurant from paid bloggers who've only been filming cheese pull boomerangs since 2016.

No, Anika. We do not want to see more of the affection between you and pizzas with sad little sausages and capsicum pieces floating in a sea of rubbery cheese. Trust me, the packaging with pop culture references that aren't pop culture references make it worse, if you know what I mean (I know you do).

The Screamer

Let's just say that I would actually try listening to what they're saying... if only I wasn't so busy trying to juggle between lowering the volume and flinching if I fail to, every time they... talk.

Also, can you *imagine* how painful it must be to enjoy a meal at a restaurant properly while someone in the next booth keeps shouting about the *juicy* burger they're having? No wonder Mejhobhai keeps getting weird stares while filming at a restaurant.

I could go on, but all this talk has made me hungry. Time to go comment under BurgerPizz's posts in hopes of free bad pizza!

The Problem with Online Slang

DURDANA KAMAL

Gen Z have grown up with never-before-seen accessibility to knowledge and discourse. While they continue to spread positive messages of acceptance that many of our former generations failed to recognise, there are many problems that are still left unresolved.

One such problem may exist in the way they express themselves online.

Words such as "woke" and "lit" seem to have crept into the day-to-day social media vernacular. They are starting to be referred to as "Internet slang". However, is it correct to categorise these phrases as such?

Last May, Saturday Night Live (SNL) writer and comedian Michael Che got involved in controversy after writing a sketch making fun of "Gen Z slang", in which five people played stereotypical Gen Z characters, speaking in an exaggerated fashion, using words such as "pressed", "stan", and "no cap".

There was an uproar on social media after the live show aired, with people pointing out the fact that SNL had tried to pass off African American Vernacular English (AAVE) terms as Gen Z dialect. Many discussed how the writer's intention was to, perhaps, poke fun at the internet youth's misuse and appropriation of AAVE. That argument, however, was rendered useless when Michael Che revealed in a now-deleted Instagram post, that he actually had no idea what AAVE even was.

AAVE is spoken among the Black community. It is also commonly known as "Ebonics", it is a dialect of American English. AAVE can be differentiated from the standard American English dialect because of its contrast in vocabulary and diction.

In the SNL sketch, AAVE was branded as Gen Z language. It is not just slang, it is a dialect used by Black people to interact with one another. AAVE also has a defined grammar, which was ignored in the sketch as it seemed like there were some AAVE terms sprinkled throughout and being passed off as Gen Z slang.

This has sparked up the age-old debate about cultural appropriation. Black culture, music, and art have been influential throughout the ages. There is not enough acknowledgement of the fact that a lot of modern pop culture takes inspiration from Black culture. Historically, people of colour (POC) have been robbed of opportunities because of negative stereotypes, and cultural appropriation encourages that mindset further.

A lot of people fail to distinguish the difference between appropriation and appreciation. Well, it is perfectly fine to appreciate Italian food, enjoy Korean shows and music, travel to foreign countries and engage with their traditions. However, one has to draw the line, the moment a dominant group steals from an oppressed group, puts their own label on it and fails to understand the gravity of the effect it has on the community.

Sharing of cultures has been perpetuated since the beginning of civilisation, but it is also important to acknowledge and honour ideas, artistry and origins, and to recognise their sources.

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