

PAVING THE PATH FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

In conversation with

KORVI
RAKSHAND
DHRUBO

2023 Ramon Magsaysay
Award winner



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MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

Korvi Rakshand Dhrubo, founder and CEO of Jaago Foundation, has recently received the Ramon Magsaysay Award, which recognises individuals with notable contributions to public service, community leadership, and social development.

Since the award's inception in 1957, 13 Bangladeshis have received it. We recently caught up with Korvi, the newest addition to this list, to learn more about Jaago's achievements as well as his journey and experiences.

How does it feel to receive such recognition for your work with the Jaago Foundation?

I am very humbled and grateful to the board of trustees for recognising our work and making us a part of such a prestigious network. It feels surreal to be among the likes of the Dalai Lama, Mother Teresa, Sir Fazle Hasan Abed and Prof Muhammad Yunus among many others. This award is not just for me but for the entire community of Jaago, including all our students, volunteers, and kind donors.

What inspired you to start Jaago, and what were your initial goals?

I have been involved in charity work since childhood but realised that my efforts were making people lazy and developing dependency on aid. I travelled across Bangladesh to understand the lives of people and met a seven-year-old orphan who wanted to accompany me home. The guilt of being helpless then led me to establish the

Jaago Foundation in 2007.

We began by teaching English to 17 children in a slum. The goal has always been to impact people's lives through education, but our approach has evolved to include these children in mainstream education. While we started as an English medium school, we later changed the curriculum to an English version considering the feasibility and future potential.

How do you see the Ramon Magsaysay Award impacting your organisation?

This award is going to open new doors and avenues for our organisation. With more than 350 awardees, it promises a prestigious networking opportunity where we could learn from social leaders while also presenting ourselves as an example of youth leadership. Jaago Foundation's unique schooling model can be taken to different countries that face similar problems.

Can you highlight some key achievements of Jaago that you're particularly proud of?

Our achievement lies in the fact that children like Siam, who wanted to be a rickshaw puller, are now studying in top universities in the United States. Last week, our student Tamanna got accepted into UWC Armenia with a US \$90,000 scholarship package. Three of our students are presently pursuing their higher education abroad while around 20 students are enrolled in Bangladeshi universities. So far, we have been able to impact 30,000 students as our direct beneficiaries.

Could you elaborate on how the foundation approaches education in a way that sets it apart from other initiatives?

When we started, providing prolonged education was a costly initiative and it was challenging to find donors who would continue to finance projects for years to come. Our Digital School Program is funded by individual sponsors for each child. We have developed a unique model by identifying that individual sponsors are much more sustainable. At Jaago, anyone can sponsor a child's schooling by contributing Tk 2,000 each month.

Can you share some examples of how Jaago has positively influenced the communities it serves?

While working with education, we have also facilitated teachers' training and skill development in the process. Our online model has created several job opportunities for skilled youth and enables them to develop themselves. We founded 'Volunteer for Bangladesh' in 2011, with 40 young people in Dhaka. Presently we have 50,000 young people working as a community of changemakers.

What advice do you have for young individuals who aspire to make a positive difference in their communities?

I would emphasise the importance of teamwork because when you have a good team, the organisation just keeps evolving along the way. If you want to go fast, go alone, but, if you want to go far, walk together. Discuss your ideas with the team and take their feedback. As a founder, you should always keep your mind open to new and young ideas.

JOBS
SPOTLIGHT

1. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh – Knowledge Management Analyst
Deadline: 12 September

Eligibility:


● Demonstrated understanding of ICT and GIS based knowledge management principles

● Needs to have the capacity to deliver knowledge management and/or organisational learning activities based on ICT and GIS platforms

● Experience in information systems design and implementation as well as design and facilitation of learning events

Minimum experience: 2 years (with Master's degree) or 4 years (with Bachelor's degree)

Apply through the Careers section of UNDP Bangladesh's official website.



2. Daraz - Team Lead – Digital (Customer Experiences)
Deadline: 15 September

Eligibility:

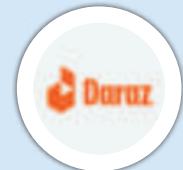
● Bachelor's degree in any discipline from any reputed university

● Must possess excellent verbal and written communication skills in both English and Bangla

● Needs to have working knowledge with reporting tools

Minimum experience: 2 years

Apply through Daraz's official LinkedIn page.



3. ShopUp - Area Sales Manager
Deadline: 3 September

Eligibility:


● Bachelor's degree in business from a renowned university

● Hands-on experience in FMCG sales and distribution

● Mandatory experience in the FMCG Industry

Minimum experience: 5 years

Apply through ShopUp's official LinkedIn page.



Surviving and thriving in a fast-paced work environment: A guide

In today's business landscape, the pace is relentless. The need to adapt and excel in a fast-paced work environment is not just a skill but a necessity. While the rapidity can be exhilarating, it can also be overwhelming. So how does one not only survive but excel in such a setting? The answer lies in a combination of understanding your role, effective communication, task prioritisation, time management, adaptability, burnout prevention, employee engagement, focused tasking, and the judicious use of technology.

Understanding your role: The foundation of success

Firstly, understanding your role within the organisation is paramount. This goes beyond merely knowing your job description. It's about understanding how your responsibilities align with the company's values and overarching goals. "When you understand your role, you become a cog in a well-oiled machine. You're not just doing tasks; you're contributing to a larger mission," says Shah Omar Raju, a visual design specialist at an outsourcing firm. When you have a clear understanding of your role, you can make more informed decisions that contribute to the organisation's objectives. This not only makes you an invaluable team member but also provides a sense of purpose and direction in your daily tasks.

The importance of communication

Communication is the linchpin of any successful team, more so in a fast-paced environment where things can get lost in translation. Active listening and clear communication are not just buzzwords; they are essential skills. "In a fast-paced environment, the margin for error is slim. Effective communication can be the difference between success and failure," notes Ahmed Iftekhar, a journalist at a leading national daily. When you actively listen, you're not just waiting for your turn to speak; you're fully engaged in understanding what the other person is saying. This fosters teamwork and ensures that everyone is on the same page, reducing the likelihood of costly mistakes.

Task prioritisation: The art of doing what matters

In a high-speed work setting, tasks can

ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

come at you from all directions. The ability to prioritise these tasks is crucial. Utilising digital planners can help you organise your tasks into immediate, end-of-day, and end-of-week segments. This not only helps you manage your workload but also allows you to allocate resources more efficiently.

Time management: The unsung hero

Surprisingly, only 18% of people have dedicated time management systems, according to studies. Techniques like the Pomodoro Technique, where work is broken down into intervals (traditionally 25 minutes), separated by short breaks, can be particularly effective. This approach helps maintain focus and productivity without leading to burnout.

Burnout prevention: The key to longevity

Burnout is a very real concern in fast-paced work environments. The constant pressure to perform can take a toll on your mental and physical health. Taking regular breaks and using paid time off to recharge are not signs of weakness; they are essential for long-term success. A burnt-out employee is not only less productive but can also contribute to a toxic work environment.

Employee engagement: The X-factor

Speaking of work environment, employee engagement is not to be overlooked. Companies with high levels of engagement are not only more profitable but also have lower turnover rates. Striving for a positive culture where employees feel valued can make a significant difference in how well your organisation navigates the challenges of a fast-paced environment.

The myth of multi-tasking

While it might be tempting to juggle multiple

tasks at once, especially when the to-do list seems endless, multi-tasking is not the answer. Multi-tasking can lead to context-switching, which impedes focus and can actually decrease productivity. Prioritising single-tasking whenever possible can significantly improve your efficiency.

Leveraging technology: The digital advantage

Lastly, we live in a digital age where technology can be a boon for productivity, especially in fast-paced settings. Leveraging digital tools like project management software can streamline workflows and enhance efficiency, particularly in teamwork scenarios. These tools can help keep everyone on track and make it easier to adapt to changing schedules and tasks, which is crucial in a fast-paced environment.