

Name & Surname: **Nizam Chowdhury**

Country: Surrey, UK

Title: Elderly Independence Specialist, Entrepreneur and Global Public Speake

Interview

CHALLENGE YOUR MIND TO MAKE THE SHIFT AND REALIZE YOUR TRUE POTENTIAL!

Background:

I have studied at the University of Chittagong and achieved a BA (Honor's) followed by an MA, both in History. I have also studied at South Bank University, London and other leading institutions. Qualifications in management, leadership, charity management and business administration are just a few of my academic accolades.

My extensive career in leadership, strategic planning, corporate organization and funding has **benefited many health and social care organizations** as well as several others outside these fields.

My input to longer-term assignments with outcomes regularly exceed the original brief that much is obvious.

For more than three decades, I have worked with: Princess Royal Trust; Age UK; Care Quality Commission; Care UK; Financial Services Authority (FSA); UK Police Service; London Boroughs Authorities; National Health Service (NHS); Royal London Hospital/Barts Health NHS Trust, Croydon Health Services NHS Trust, North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust, and St George's Healthcare NHS Trust.

As an international speaker, coach and a mentor, I have spoken at global events sharing the stage with Hugh Hilton, Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, current USA President Donald Trump's most trusted ex-advisor George Ross, Hollywood Actors John Travolta, Charlie Sheen, Mel Gibson, Mark Wahlberg, Rock Stars Gene Simmons and Vanilla Ice at Los Angeles, USA.

From corporate executives to workers 'on the shop floor', I effortlessly direct my skills to streamline processes and to unify an organization's purpose. I accomplish all of this with judicious workforce empathy balanced with a driving force to unite and carry people with me.

A powerful force for good, **my mission is to show by example** that everyone can create a legacy, not

just at work but by **carrying these principles** into peoples' homes and families.

The Cost and Management: What are the key factors that brings you in today's position?

Nizam Chowdhury: Integrity; Positive Mindset; Sheer Focus; Desire; Confidence; Power of Communication; Patience; Adeptness; Compassion; Adaptability; Quick Learning; Relentless Hard Work; Will-to-Win Attitude; Reliability and Loyalty, Investing Time, Energy and Money for Self-Development.

The Cost and Management: What is the key thing you want people to know about you?

Nizam Chowdhury: I am a results based Doer and Mr. Dependable due to my commitment, efficiency, reliability, and my hardworking nature.

The Cost and Management: What motivated you to choose an entrepreneurial career?

Nizam Chowdhury: In my last job I was devastated to learn that I would be made redundant. My despair was not at the inevitable loss of income and dramatic change in lifestyle that I would have to overcome, rather a genuine disappointment at losing the job that I loved doing for years.

However, I had no time to feel sorry for myself or procrastinate over what to do next. I was faced with two very different realities: either re-enter an already oversaturated and highly competitive job market; or, embark on the daunting journey of entrepreneurship. I quickly decided that I wanted to pursue the challenges of the latter. Even though it was something completely foreign to me I was prepared to embrace the learning process and looked forward to the self-discovery this path had to offer. Indeed, I found out that in the world of business and self-employment you must also learn to live by your decisions, be it good or bad.

It is through all of these of successes and failures, together with the wealth of over 25 years' experience

in UK based health and social care, I am more determined than ever to ensure that my true potential is realised.

The Cost and Management: What has been some of your great achievements?

Nizam Chowdhury:

- ❖ Have reached the Peak of Ben Nevis, standing at 1,345 meters above sea level (Highest Mountain in the British Isles), in aid of a **Charity for People with Learning Disabilities**
- ❖ Trekked for 43 kilometers to reach the heights of Machu Picchu, Peru, standing at 2430 meters in aid of a **Children Hospital**
- ❖ Completed the British 10K run for five consecutive years to help raise valuable funds for various charities, which in return **improved the quality of lives** of many people around the world
- ❖ Appeared in Mega Success, at LA
- ❖ Spoken at Global Success for All Event in London
- ❖ Spoken at International Women's Day Event
- ❖ Spoken at International Debating Society Event
- ❖ AWARDS: Nationwide National Charity Award; Age Concern Charter Mark; Investor in People; Investor in Volunteers; National Lottery Funding.
- ❖ Transformation of a Businesswoman (Personal and Business) in the early hours of a freezing morning in London
- ❖ In just 2 and half minutes, I have transformed the life of a Businessman (Personal and Business) in Bangladesh, who is now my business partner and I am his Life and Business Coach.

The Cost and Management: What business principles you admire the most?

Nizam Chowdhury:

1. Respect 2. Trust 3. Transparency 4. Understanding 5. Consistency

The Cost and Management: What has been the most challenging part of being an entrepreneur?

Nizam Chowdhury:

Not doing the due diligence; Making some poor choices and wrong decisions.

The Cost and Management: What are the three things about entrepreneurship that you learned from your own experience?

Nizam Chowdhury:

- You do not always need Capital to start a business;
- Effective Communication is the Key
- Building a Solid Relationship based on Transparency, Compassion, Understanding, Support and Sacrifices

The Cost and Management: What three core advice(s) you would like to share with wannabe entrepreneurs?

Nizam Chowdhury:

- ❖ "Stay focused, stay strong and fight for your WHY!"
- ❖ "Don't hold onto your limiting beliefs; take care of your health and well-being, and create the mindset to 'Who You'll Become!'"
- ❖ "Never ever think about quitting on your dreams! There are people out there to guide and support you, if you are focused, a good listener, honest and a reliable person.

The Cost and Management: What factors make you confident and inspire you to keep going?

Nizam Chowdhury: I have My Reasons, my "WHY" which keeps me focused and motivated. And they are:

- ❖ My 4 beautiful children and their happiness.
- ❖ I am driven by results. Therefore I like to visualise my goals, share that and the plans and strategies with the team, taking responsibilities, and leading by example.
- ❖ In making sure that my Customers are getting the WOW Experience - be it for Coaching and Mentoring or Business.
- ❖ I work with and support people of Old Age, so they can enjoy an Independent, Dignified, Comfortable, Happier and Healthier, Fulfilling life.
- ❖ Opportunity in sharing my knowledge, skills and experiences with individuals and groups to unleash their True Potential through proper coaching and mentoring.
- ❖ Facing up with and then overcoming life challenges whilst coming up with innovative ideas to improve lives.
- ❖ I want to play my part, contribute and influence positively in making this World a safe, comfortable and a happier place for all of us.



World CMA Students

This section focuses on reflections from young students of ICMAB and how they have been pursuing their CMA career path and facing challenges in CMA study at the beginning of their career.

Mr. Syed Tozammal Alam is a strategic level student of The Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB). He has completed 1800 marks from ICMAB. He has completed BBA & MBA from Rajshahi University with a major in Accounting & Information Systems. He also studied business in school and completed both S.S.C and H.S.C in Business Studies. Currently he is working in the Accounts & Finance Department of Beximco Pharmaceutical LTD.

Why do you pursue CMA education from ICMAB? Explain in detail?

Well, nothing can happen without any reason and I definitely have some reasons for choosing CMA from ICMAB. From the very beginning of my academic journey, I was a student of business school which always motivated me to get some higher education in business studies and that was the main reason behind my decision for enrolling into professional course. Another reason for enrolling into professional course was that I was not so curious about the traditional jobs that are available in the market and always dreamt to be a corporate leader. So, when I was at the final level student of my graduation, I started to gather information about the professional institutes that provide professional degrees in our country. At that time, I came to know about this renowned institute. Moreover, one of our varsity teachers used to motivate us to get professional degrees. On several occasions, he told us about ICMAB and the increasing demand of CMAs for a diversified market. I also came to know about CMA profession from the elder brothers of my department and made up my mind to admit into ICMAB. You know, there is operation of ICMAB in Rajshahi. So, immediately after completing BBA in 2016, I got admitted in ICMAB Rajshahi Branch and continued my MBA and CMA course together. After completing my MBA in 2017, I moved to Dhaka Branch and since then I continue here.

How do you make a comparison between CMA education and other academic qualifications?

Well, its gonna tough for me to make a comparison between a professional education and the academic qualification. Here I think the aspect of these two learning systems is different. CMA education is a profession-oriented education system while the academic courses are quite in general. For some argument if we put CMA education for a moment with the other academic degrees in a basket considering them as theoretical in nature, this will not be a fair mix as the depth of CMA education is much deeper than the academic qualification. So, I like to conclude by saying that by learning the theories of different authors in academic books is not enough to make oneself competent for the market. He/she needs a professional degree for the changing demand.

What are the main challenges you faced in studying for CMA education?

As I already mentioned, I started my CMA journey in Rajshahi Branch where I faced a number of difficulties. At that time study materials were not readily available in Rajshahi. We had to collect books from Dhaka by Courier. Supportive materials were totally unavailable. In Rajshahi there are only few fellow and associate members. So, they used to assign

course teachers from different professions. Resource persons have vast knowledge in their disciplines but they are not certified members. As a result, we have faced difficulties in sorting out some technical issues at that time.

After completing MBA, I decided to continue CMA study solely for two years without starting any job. I felt maintaining job life and regular study would be quite difficult. That was a hard time indeed. All of my batch mates started their career while I was a full-time student like the undergrade boys. But Alhamdulillah I have nothing to regret now as I have passed a number of subjects in that time.

To talk a bit more about the difficulty, at the beginning there was no class arrangement for strategic level that created problem for us.

Do you think that CMA qualification will help you to get added advantage in the job market?

I do really believe it. I have completed academic qualifications and now studying professional qualification. As I am in a job, I have the opportunity to know what the employers want. Academic qualifications teach us the theories not the application in detail but in real world one needs to know the applications. The CMA qualification teaches us not only the theories but also the real world applications. While pursuing CMA, our learning is updated with the requirement of the market. So, I strongly believe when I would CMA degree and being up to date, definitely it will add value in my career.

What are the strategies you are following to complete the CMA education on schedule?

Well, to complete CMA education, I am following the strategy of the Tortoise. We all have very much well known about that popular story where a first running rabbit was defeated by a steady tortoise. From the beginning I have never been in a hurry for my study. I would like to take a bit more time to complete a course. When I get stuck or feel the urge of quick completion, I cheer up myself that I am in a professional learning not in an academic constraint. I am slow yet I am steady in winning this race. This would also help me in learning things broadly and to relate learning with the reality.

What do you expect to get from ICMAB as a student?

In our academic life, we all have gone through a number of steps. But ICMAB is something special. Students of this beautiful institute can only understand this feeling. To me ICMAB is a name of Love. So, whom you love you definitely have some expectation from them. As a student my first expectation is to see this lovely institute as a global institute. Although it has a wide reputation of producing quality members, we are falling behind of the other international professional bodies. In international professional exams, there are reading time and examiner comments, both of which would be very effective to overcome the hurdles. I expect ICMAB would consider these things to introduce in our exam to make our institute more global standard. Another point that I would like to raise is about curriculum changes. Since the business world is increasingly technology oriented, our curriculum needs a revision to adapt with these changes.

Could you remember any memorable event during your study at ICMAB?

This journey with ICMAB have produced countless memories in my life. This campus at Nilkhet is a hub of memories. I would like to share a memory of 2018. It was early 2018. I was quite new at the Dhaka campus and used to go to library every day. That evening there was member reception program in the auditorium. I was very excited as I was going to experience it first time, watching the newly qualified member in such an occasion. So far, I remember 8 persons qualified that time and the way they were greeted was really amazing. I actually realized that time how much prestigious it was for them to become a gemstone from a mere viewer. Since then, I am dreaming for my day, to be there, right on the stage.

To fulfill your future dream comes true; do you think the CMA qualification will be able to fulfill your Aspirations?

Yes, I do believe it. As I already said I am here with the dream to be a corporate leader. ICMAB is such an organization that produces leaders. It has now 1500+ members who are serving in different prominent roles both in and out of the country. The success of our distinguish members in their particular fields easily proved the ability of our institute. So if other things remain time oriented and I become a qualified member In-Sha -Allah my dream will come true through the help of this prestigious CMA degree.

[Interviewed by: Sazedul Hoq FCMA]