

THE NEW HEROES

STUDENT VIDEO HANDOUT

Grameen Bank in Bangladesh featuring Mohammad Yunus.

“So you ask yourself what is this arrogance about the knowledge that you have if it is not of some use to a dying person?”

--Mohammad Yunus

SUMMARY:

Muhammad Yunus, formerly an economics professor, founded Grameen Bank, which gives no-collateral loans to the poor and has launched the microeconomics movement. Muhammad Yunus believes that credit is a basic human right. The company he founded, Grameen Bank may be the single most important financial institution the world has seen in decades.

1. Yunus started with a loans totaling \$27 US Dollars to a group of villagers during a time of great famine. They repaid the loan, inspiring him to make more loans. Today, Grameen Bank loans \$1 million a day. How does it work?
2. What is micro-credit and microlending?
3. Yunus says, “The whole principle of conventional banking is: the more you have, the more you get. I said the logical thing would be the less you have, the more attention you should get. If you have nothing you are the one that should get the highest priority.” Why doesn’t typical banking work that way?
4. Why does Yunus say he put banking back on its feet?
5. Now, 95 percent of borrowers are women. Why loan money to women in particular?
6. What does Yunus mean when he says he “brings the genie out of the bottle?”
7. The numbers they share are impressive: \$1 million/day in loans; 95 percent payback rate. Now, giving \$20 to each beggar. What do you think he might do next?