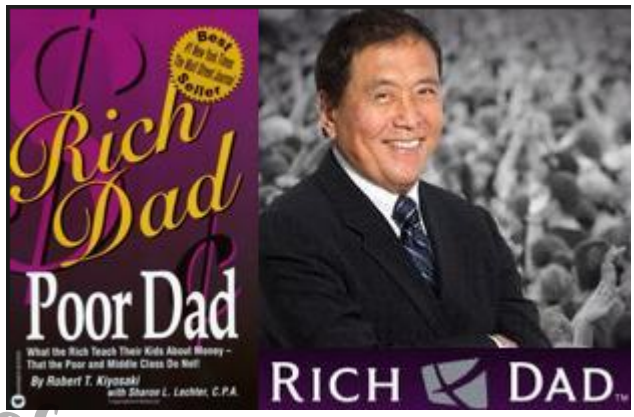
The Biggest Truths I Learnt From Rich Dad Poor Dad

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Iâ??m not the biggest fan of ***Rich Dad, Poor Dad*** when it comes to application of his bookâ??s lessons in Singapore (such as how he defines a house as a liability when many Singaporeans have made money from their houses), but one can hardly argue against the value, not to mention popularity, of the book and how it has changed the landscape of financial education.

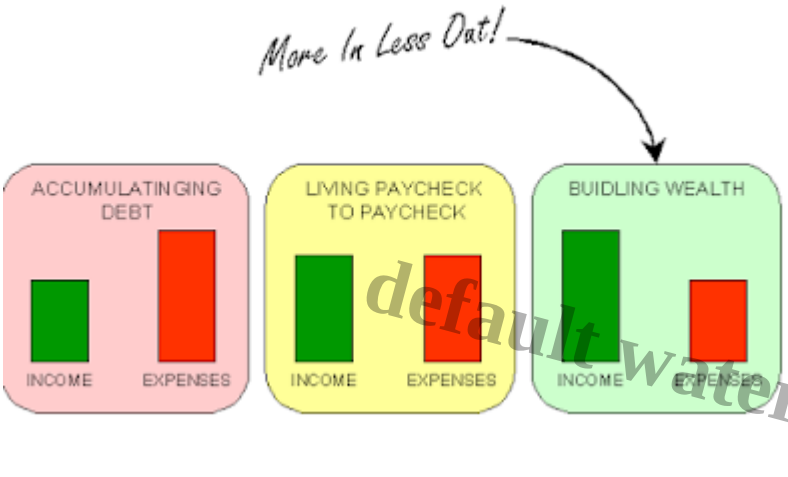
There are also a few fundamental truths in his book that I will always look back on as a reminder to myself in my journey towards financial freedom. Iâ??m sharing my key takeaways from the book here for those who havenâ??t yet read it.

Truth #1: It is not about how much money you make, it is about how much money you keep.



If we all had our ways, Iâ??m sure most wouldnâ??t say no to a job that pays more money. Investment banking has always been a lucrative, and therefore extremely attractive, field of work that many elites seek after â?? considering one can easily earn 5 digits a month in the job, who would turn that down?

The problem is, most of us are limited by the economic forces of supply and demand. As much as we would love to have a high-paying job, the prospects of landing one isnâ??t always in our control. In certain jobs where the money is fantastic, there may often be a couple of trade-offs that we may be unwilling to make. While we should definitely keep improving ourselves and seek better employment prospects, the easiest and most actionable task we can do now is to take control of the money we keep.



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Spending less than what we earn is a key mantra for financial success, and we will do well to remember that.

Truth #2: You need to become financially educated.

All the scam stories we hear about should be enough to show us that it isnâ??t always wise to put our finances and wealth in the hands of someone elseâ?¦but yet even the most intelligent of people keep on making the same mistakes all over and over again.

Why so? Thereâ??s a simple answer for it â?? laziness! Many people want to become rich, but few are willing to do the (time-consuming) work it requires to get there.



If you think that professional financial advisors are more knowledgable than you, youâ??re only 50% right. The truth is, many financial advisors are in little control of their own money, much less be in a good position to advise you on yours. The tests that financial advisors are required to go through are not rocket science; I have friends who passed all the insurance exams just to prove that they could do it easily (while educating themselves about the industry at the same time).

The Internet has levelled the playing field for normal folks like us to equip ourselves with financial information to make better decisions towards growing our wealth. You cannot always rely on other people to help you become financially wealthy â?? because ultimately, the best financial advisor is yourself.

Aside from organizations like the Institute of Financial Literacy, financial bloggers like myself also share our key takeaways in this blog to help people pick up financial skills easily. So there is really no excuse for your lack of financial literacy.

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Truth #3: â??You must learn the difference between an asset and a liability, and buy assetsâ?•

Most people are too focused on making money. What they should really be focused on is educating themselves on financial literacy. This is because while earning more money is great, you can never become truly wealthy without a sound financial foundationâ??and you certainly canâ??t keep your money without it.

One of the fundamental rules in Robert Kiyosakiâ??s books is: **â??You must learn the difference between an asset and a liability, and buy assets.â?•**



His simple definition of an asset is one which makes you money, while a liability is one that drains money from you.

In his view, a house is a liability, but this does not entirely apply in Singaporeâ??s context, where many who have purchased a BTO flat have actually earned money from it. A savvy young family earned $440,000 in profits after selling the 4-room HDB flat they had bought from HDB in 2009 at BTO prices. In this case, their purchase was clearly an asset and it made them a ton of money.

A car can either be an asset or liability, depending on how you use it and the type of car you choose to purchase. In a previous post, Iâ??ve elaborated about why I view a car as a financial liability, but there are people where a car is an asset as it can help them earn more money (such as drivers registered with GrabCar who are actually using their personal vehicle to earn extra cash). For those whose car is an asset, the biggest value is that it saves time and convenience, but before you jump to buying one, first ask yourself if you can actually afford the costs of such convenience.

With rising tuition costs, is an education an asset or a liability? It could be either, depending on whether your education can help you earn a higher salary upon graduation. More on this in a future post.

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The spectrum of financial knowledge. You donâ??t have to know everything here, but how much do you really know? How much do you NOT know?

With Robert Kiyosaki coming to Singapore at the end of this month to preach about financial literacy and the impending stock market crash, a few friends have asked if Iâ??ll be attending. I wonâ??t be going this time, but what about you?

With love,

Budget Babe

Category

1. Family

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