

Category: **upper poor** Initial wealth ranking: **none: selected at random** Code: **DKM03**

**IDPM FINANCIAL DIARIES: SUMMARIES**

**Bangladesh: Urban**

interview taken by: Saiful Islam and S K Sinha date: 21 November 2000

**Site:** Manushpur

**Principal respondent(s):** Mr HA and Mrs S

HA was our third choice: our first choice left the area just after we started and the second proved not available. So we start a month late, in late November 1999. HA is landless, from Jamalpur, and came to Dhaka seven years back. He visits home occasionally. He lives in a rented hut paying 200 a month. He's an old man and now can't often do his work as day labourer repairing houses in the slum, as he used to. When he does get this kind of work he gets 70 or 80 taka a day without food. He hires out his battered old rickshaw and gets 30 – 35 taka a day. But his wife S gets 900 taka a month from the garments factory. They try and live within this, and save enough to send cash back to the village. They even try to improve things, by saving up to buy a second used rickshaw (a dream that comes true in August 2000) or to buy a bit of land in the village. Their two sons, a carpenter and a rickshaw driver, are married and live separately, though in the same building. At least one son sometimes helps them with small cash gifts, such as 50 taka in December when HA is ill and 200 taka to help them buy a fan. There's a married daughter, too. Family relationships are good. The old couple don't use financial services very much at all. They have no MFI memberships and take no interest-bearing and only two small interest-free loans during the research year. They save at home (in S's petticoat and in a mud bank), send money back to the village, and take a little credit from a shopkeeper. They manage well enough. At the end of the research year things look good – they have increased their income by means of the second rickshaw. The only problem is increasingly frequent illness, for both of them.

**1. Initial household profile:**

Name	Relationship to household head	Sex	Age	Highest school grade	Main livelihood activity/ies (or schooling)	Other economic activities
HA	self	m	65	none	hires out a rickshaw	day labour
S	wife	f	55	one	garments factory job	

there are two married sons in the same building, and a married daughter elsewhere

**2. Significant changes to household profile during research year:** none

**3. Residence:** from Jamalpur, came to Dhaka c 1993, straight to Manushpur to this house

**4. Tenure:** rents in privately ( 200 taka pm)

**5. Other identities:** Muslim

**6. Public entitlements:** none

**7. Food habits:** 3 rice meals a day; fish often, meat occasionally

**8. Significant assets:**

Asset type	Description	Value (if known or estimated)
Homestead Land	(0.07 acres)	(20,000 taka in village and actually possessed by an older brother)
Farm land (state if irrigated)	none	
Home (equipment, furnishings etc)	timber bed	400 taka
Machinery	used rickshaw	3,000 taka
Livestock	none	
Jewellery etc	none	
Other (state)	-	

**9. Significant changes to assets during research year:** they buy a fan (550 taka) in May, partly paid for by their son. In August they buy a second used rickshaw (2,500 taka, financed from mud bank, petticoat bank, a howlat, and current income).

**10. Income pattern:**

Household member	Income source	Frequency	Scale	Comments
HA	hiring out a rickshaw	daily	30 – 35 taka a day: e.g. 525 taka in 15 days in February. 1,050 taka (from 2 rickshaws) in 15 days in September.	70 a day after he buys a second rickshaw in August 2000
HA	repairing buildings	daily but now only occasionally	60 - 75 taka a day: e.g. 490 taka in 15 days in February, 560 in 8 days in April	this used to be his main profession
S	waged job in a garments factory	monthly	900 – 1,050 taka pm	

**11. Expenditure pattern:**

Expenditure item	Scale	Comments
food and fuel	40 – 50 taka food + 10 – 12 taka fuel a day	they cook with kerosene
housing	225 taka repairs in the year	despite the fact that he rents
clothing	4 saris, 4 lungis etc: 1,580 taka in the year	some from a mud bank, at Eid
education	500 taka for grandson in the year	fees, books (no tuition fees)
health	770 taka in the year: e.g. 75 and 200 taka, and 300	for HA, March and June, and S in Oct
other / occasional	1,000 taka gifts and entertainment in the year	

**12. Financial services/devices used during research year:**

Type	Number of instances	Value(s)	Comments
Saving on the person	1	800 taka max balance reported	petticoat pocket
Mud bank	1	700 taka when opened	
Remittance to home village	1	800 taka	
Interest free loans taken	1	500 taka	
Goods bought on credit	1	small, occasional	
<b>Musti chal</b>	1	1 kg per week	
In-kind loans taken interest-free	occasional	small	
In-kind loans given interest free	occasional	small	

**13. Cheating:** they lost 1,200 taka in the research year when a paying guest left without paying after eating for a month. They lost about 800 taka in a failed ROSCA in 1997-8.

**14. Comments on financial services and devices:** HA prefers to avoid financial services if possible, in favour of saving devices. He would rather save up for another rickshaw than take an MFI loan, since MFI loans are troublesome to manage and MFI staff 'become angry' if you don't pay on time. He says 'I have my self respect, so I won't go to an MFI'. As for private schemes, he says he was cheated in a ROSCA so he won't join another of them either. He says he avoids

giving howlats (interest free loans) because it's hard to get the money back when you need it (he is discussing it as a form of saving). S was in Grameen Bank back in the village in 1990-91 but we have no details.

**15. Recording financial service transactions:** 'not much of an issue since I do so little': he stores in his memory his household accounts.

**16. This year compared to previous years:** better, because he was in better health and able to work more often, and because he now has a second rickshaw to hire out

**17. Notable events, opinions, behaviour:**

**18. Transaction summary for HA OF MANUSHPUR (03)**

**Private savings:**

**Saving on the person**

A: As well as a mud bank S normally keeps cash on her person. In early Dec she has 200 taka in the pocket of her petticoat. HA never keeps cash on him – that's S's job. In early Feb she has 300 on her, in early Jun 500 (from her wages) plus another 300 in late Jun. The balance is 800 in late Jul, we are told. All used in Aug to buy another rickshaw. Then fresh income from the two rickshaws comes in and they start saving again: an undisclosed amount in late Aug and early Sep.

**Mud bank:**

A: Wife S starts using a mud bank from early Dec and saves 20 taka from shopping money. (We may have unintentionally influenced the date of this particular mud bank, but she had the habit from before). HA decides to contribute and puts in 70 taka from his rickshaw hire income. Their idea is to buy a second rickshaw for hire. So another 100 goes in during late Dec, 150 early Jan; 100 late Jan; 200 early Feb (so they are serious); 70 in late Feb: 200 in early Mar; 90 in early Apr (from a good spell of day labouring by HA); 35 in late Apr; 60 early May; 15 late May; 50 in early Jun from good rickshaw hiring income; 30 late Jun; 40 early Jul; 40 late Jul then in early Aug they break it and find 700 taka, used in part to pay the rent and to buy another rickshaw. Then fresh income from the two rickshaws comes in and they start saving again: 20 taka in early Sep; 30 in late Sep; 25 in early Oct.

**Remittance to the home village:**

A: After Eid, in early Feb, HA sends 800 taka to his brother-in-law in his home village via a neighbour. The money is part of a plan to buy land back in the village.

**Reciprocal transactions:**

**Interest free loans (howlats) taken:**

A: Not until early Aug 2000 do we find them taking a howlat, a small one of 500 from a friendly shopkeeper, to help finance another old rickshaw. Repaid almost immediately from rickshaw rent income.

B: In late Sep he takes 50 taka from a neighbour and repays quickly. Used for daily needs.

**Goods and services on credit:**

**Goods bought on credit:**

A: HA took basic supplies on credit from a shop in late Nov 99.

**In kind transactions:**

***musti chal:***

A: S saves about 1 kg of rice a week, value 14 taka: they give some of this to the mosque and keep the rest for visitors

**In-kind loans taken interest-free:**

A: they do this in small amounts quite often but we didn't get any details

**In-kind loans given interest-free:**

A: they do this in small amounts quite often but we didn't get any details