

IDPM FINANCIAL DIARIES COVER SHEET FORMAT
India: Urban

interview taken by: Nilesh Arya & Orlanda Ruthven date: 14th July 2001

Category: Poor (down) Initial wealth ranking: Poor Code: DKB05

Site: Kalibasti **Principal respondent(s):** Mr M & Mrs. BK **Caste:** Muslim

Mr. M is from Siwan District, Bihar and came to Delhi about 18 years ago. At first he stayed in Govindpuri. After losing his job in a RMG factory he shifted to Kalibasti 6 years ago. His family joined from the village 8-10 years ago.

M used to work as a tailor in Govindpuri but – forced to retire from this work due to poor eyesight – he is now doing casual labour with a tent house in Uttam Nagar. He had regular work at the beginning of the research year but this dried up and he was reduced to a few days of work a month (other than Diwali season – Oct 00 – when work picked up again). His wife is increasingly the breadwinner of the family, working as a peon in a school and as a housemaid for several houses in the locality. As the year progressed, M drank more and appeared increasingly shifty and depressive.

M borrows regularly from professional moneylenders to bridge income shortfalls for regular expenses. Paying an average interest rate of 100%/ year, he takes from several sources, often dragging his repayments. During the year it becomes more difficult for him to raise money. In spite of his many years in Delhi, M lacks contacts/ credibility with which to raise money at cheaper rates. His wife is better positioned, calling on support from her two brothers and a KB-based grocer who comes from her paternal village. She can also raise advances from her employers.

The family is not saving regularly, finding it impossible to keep money back from demands of everyday expenses. Theirs is all “ saving down” and not “up”.

1. Initial household profile:

Name	Relationship to HH	Age	Highest school grade	Main livelihood/ schooling	Other economic activities
M	Self	35	5 th Standard	Tent house worker/ casual labourer	Vegetable vendor
BK	Wife	31	Illiterate	Cleaner in school	
Nazma	Daughter	10	3 rd Std	Attend local school	
Shahzad	Son	7	2 nd Std	“	
Guddi	Daughter	5	Illiterate	-	

2. Significant changes to household profile during research year:

- BK left school employment soon after research began and started working as a housemaid in several households, briefly working in the school in-between.
- Other than July & Nov 00 M hardly worked at all during the research year.
- Eldest son (Azad, 15 years) returns from village to Delhi in June 01 and starts working as a cleaner in 1 house in a nearby colony.

3. Residence:

M is in Delhi for the last 18 years. He came first to Lajpat Nagar doing a tailoring job where he stayed for 6 years, then shifted to Govindpuri because he joined another factory there. He stayed here for another 5-6 years, then Sitapuri for 1 year since the factory where he worked shifted there. When the factory shifted again to Vikaspuri he came to Kalibasti (about 7 years ago), purchasing a plot on which to build a house for Rs.3000. This was around 7 years back.. His family joined him 8-10 years ago in Govindpuri.

4. Tenure:

Owner-occupier of hutment

5. Support networks:

In Delhi M has a very poor network, resulting partly perhaps from his unreliability in the past. BK has two brothers & a grocer friend from her village whom she relies on. Neither has positive relations with employers whom they can draw on for support. M's mother and a widowed sister are in the village and until 1-2 years ago he says he was able to support them regularly by sending money home. He has brothers living elsewhere in India (one in Assam) but he does not have financial relations with them.

6. Public entitlements:

Ration card holder (will benefit from rights to resettlement if colony is pulled down, but will need to raise Rs.7000 for a serviced plot). Acquisition of Ration Cards by those arriving in KB after 1991 (like M) has been facilitated by local Congress MLA.

7. Food habits:

Family eats 3 meals a day but there are times every month (usually in the middle) when they can't manage this. M says during those times he and his wife hold back and feed what they can to the children. The consumption of meat is 1-2 times a month, usually beef (cheapest).

8. Significant assets:

Asset type	Description	Value (if known or estimated)
Homestead Land	-	
Farm land (state if irrigated)	3 bighas between M & brothers	
Home (equipment, furnishings etc)	Spacious, fully temporary hutment. TV, ceiling fan, gas stove & small cylinder, cycle	
Machinery	-	
Livestock	-	
Jewelry etc	-	
Other (state)	-	

9. Significant changes to assets during research year:

Gas cylinder, water cooler (second hand) purchased for Rs.500 during winter season when it was cheap

10. Income pattern: estimated annual income over research year: Rs.11,350

Name	Income source	Frequency	Scale	Comments
M	Tent house help/ casual labour	Ave 2-3 days/ month with flush of work in Dec 00	Rs.70/ day	Increasingly depressed at lack of work, gives up trying in 2 nd half of year
BK Khatim	Housemaid	Mostly full-time for 3-4 houses	Rs.700-900/ month with dip when loses work in Feb 01	Quits all households (Mar 01) when they refuse to increase her wages. Starts with fresh houses
BK Khatim	Peon, school	Rs.800/ month but works only 10 days (Aug 00) & 1 month (Mar 01)	Rs.150 for Aug 00; not paid at all for Mar 01	Mar 01: BK is turned out & not able to collect her wages for month's work
Azaad	Servant, 1 local household	Rs.500/ month		Started after coming back from village at the end of the research year

11. Expenditure pattern:

Expenditure item	Scale	Comments
Food	Rs.700/ month; Rs.1000 with guests	
Housing	-	
Clothing	Rs.100-800	High expenditure at Eid
Education	Rs.500/ yr	
Health		Negligible
Trips home/ money home		Few years ago used to send regularly to widowed sister in the village. Can no longer afford
Festivals & ceremonies		Negligible
Basic services (rent, electricity, water)	Rs.100/ month Rs.30/ month	2-phase electrical connection Use of Sulabh toilet block
Liquor	Rs.10/ day	

12. Financial services/devices used during research year:

Type	Number of instances	Value(s)	Comments
Loans taken from professional moneylenders	5	Rs.300-2000	From various professional moneylenders operating in the colony (3 Tamils from Uttam Nagar & 1 Lucknowi from Hastal village) at average of 11%/ month. All paid over 6-12 months with irregular monthly installments
Interest free loans taken	4	Rs.200-2000	From 2 of BK's brothers (both o/s at research end) and small loan from BK's school employer
Goods bought on credit	2	Rs.400 & Rs.400	Fan & clothes (former on installments at interest) repaid within 2 weeks
Groceries bought on credit	monthly	Rs.800-1000	Family takes groceries regularly on credit from same shop (owner from BK's paternal village). O/s rises to Rs.2250 peak (Jan 01)
Wage advance taken	3	Rs.400-900	With previous employers accumulated advance of Rs.1600 when left of which Rs.600 still owed. With new employers (since Mar 01) has taken Rs.400
Saving with a moneyguard	Monthly	<Rs.200	BK sometimes keeps money with her employers but she is not able to keep more than Rs. 100-200 which is withdrawn for expenses in the next month.
Savings at home	None.		Says can't save at all these days. [Used to save regularly – accumulated Rs.35,000 from factory wages spent on parents' funerals & sister's wedding] BK tries to save but M takes for his habit
SHG Savings	Monthly until late 2000	Rs.30/ month	Saved in NGO-promoted SHG with pledge to give back savings after 2-3 years with interest. Then NGO left with c. Rs.360 of her savings

13. Cheating:

- M says 12 years ago he was part of an ASCA of 20 members depositing Rs.100/ month. It was run by a govt. employee staying near the factory in Lajpat Nagar where he was working. M made regular deposits for 15-16 months before the manager vanished with the money. He lost Rs.1500-1600.
- M was cheated around the same time in another ASCA of 30 members based in the factory in Lajpat Nagar. He deposited Rs.300/ month and after 28 months the manager vanished and no one could track him down. M lost Rs.300 x 28 = Rs.8400.
- BK tells of her sister's husband (cook with Delhi Police) who got her to contribute Rs.200 [then says Rs.300] for 15 months, claiming would receive Rs.4500 [then says Rs.6000] at end. Then he told them he gave it to the RoSCA manager who escaped with the money. 3 years ago.
- In late 2000 BK was also cheated of Rs.360 of her savings with an NGO-promoted SHG working in Kalibasti when it closed without notice and without distributing the savings to members (we have met 1-2 other women staying in Transit Camp who also say they lost their savings in the same group).

14. Comments on financial services and devices:

M is suspicious of insurance agents putting them in the same category as the NGO (IndCare) who cheated his wife recently. He would like to have a bank account but is unable to save or raise the Rs.500 required to open it. He feels that the advantage of such an account would be that he would be prevented from withdrawing money unless really necessary because it is generally such a hassle for people like him to transact with the bank at all.

When in need of a lump sum, M goes first to one or other of the professional Tamil moneylenders. Then to relatives (though he tries to avoid this – mostly on his wife’s side and relations are not that good). It is likely that M has jeopardized relations with special contacts and/or relatives over the years and left no choice but to go to professional money lenders and towards the research end he is struggling even to borrow money from these sources as he “misuses” one source after another, borrowing for general expenses and failing to demonstrate repayment capacity. As a last resort he would sell or pawn something [but we have no record of goods he could pawn].

15. Recording financial service transactions:

M doesn’t keep any written record of his financial transactions and relies on the Tamil ML for this.

16. This year compared to previous years:

This year has been significantly worse than previous years in Delhi for M and his family. M says it is only over the last year that he’s had to take loans on interest from the Tamil moneylenders – he has never done this before. He has also never been in such high debt in the past as he has been recently. Both M and his wife BK have faced problems getting work. M was unable to find adequate casual labour (prevented from doing tailoring by poor eyesight) and BK lost her work in the school and had difficult times finding/ keeping enough work in households as a maid.

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