

Category: **upper poor** Initial wealth ranking: **none: selected at random** Code: **DBB02**

IDPM FINANCIAL DIARIES: SUMMARIES

Bangladesh: Urban

interview taken by: Saiful Islam and S K Sinha date: 29 November 2000

Site: Beri Bad

Principal respondent(s): Mrs R

R's husband married for the second time and went back to his village home in 1989. R has a small business selling firewood and other goods, but she also owns five rooms on the embankment in one of which she lives. There's a fan, a timber cupboard, a TV and a bed in her room, though the TV actually belongs to a son-in-law. She gets about 1,000 taka monthly renting out the other four rooms. She has three children and her mother living with her. One son, Mukhles, unmarried, pulls a rickshaw. A daughter, Jasmine, has a job in a garments factory and the younger son Akkas is in school. R and Jasmine are capable women and they show this in their astute use of MFIs – taking many memberships and on-lending the money to relatives at interest. They also give and take interest-free loans. R sometimes stores surplus money with female relatives to keep it safe. They come through the eviction from the embankment well, getting two lots of compensation, each of 2,500 taka, for the two names (R and Jasmine) and rebuilding nearby.

1. Initial household profile:

Name	Relationship to household head	Sex	Age	Highest school grade	Main livelihood activity/ies (or schooling)	Other economic activities
R	self	f	52	none	sells firewood	rents out rooms; home housework
Moyful	mother	f	80	none	none	
Mukhles	son	m	18	none	rickshaw driving	later, gets a garments factory job
Jasmine	daughter	f	17	none	garments factory job	
Akkas	son	m	10	in class 2	in school	later, sells groundnuts

Note: R is the mother-in-law of H (BDD04)

2. Significant changes to household profile during research year: a paying guest is there for part of the research year

3. Residence: from Madaripur but in Dhaka since before 1971 and on embankment since 1989

4. Tenure: own house on government owned embankment, pays no ground rent: house of bamboo sides and tin roof, in poor condition

5. Other identities: Muslim

6. Public entitlements: none

7. Food habits: eat rice three times a day; with fish twice a week and chicken once every two months or so

8. Significant assets:

Asset type	Description	Value (if known or estimated)
Homestead Land	effectively none	0.12 acres in the village belong to husband
Farm land (state if irrigated)	none	

Home (equipment, furnishings etc)	electric fan; wooden bed	total 1,100 taka (also a TV that belongs to the eldest son)
Machinery	none	
Livestock	6 chickens	150 taka
Jewellery etc	gold chain	2,500 taka, belongs to Jasmine
Other (state)	-	

9. Significant changes to assets during research year: bought wooden cupboard worth 300 taka. Jasmine bought earrings worth 2,800 taka from her savings from work income. Akkas bought a used bicycle for 400 taka from his savings.

10. Income pattern:

Household member	Income source	Frequency	Scale	Comments
R	renting out rooms	monthly	750 to 1,000 pm for main tenants, plus 800 taka pm for a woman who eats as well as sleeps with the family	five rooms at 200 each
R	selling firewood	occasionally	e.g. 60 taka in 15 days in December; 250 in 15 days in January; 1,300 in 29 days in February	business improved in the winter when she opens a small stall and sells other items as well
Mukhles	driving rickshaw	daily but not always	e.g. only 100 taka in 15 days in December	often helps his mother in the shop instead
Mukhles	garments factory wage	monthly	unknown	starts in last fortnight of research year
Jasmine	garments factory wage	monthly	1,500 taka pm plus overtime (e.g. 200 taka in January, 633 in June)	
Akkas	selling groundnuts	occasionally	750 taka in one month	starts in last month of research year

11. Expenditure pattern:

Expenditure item	Scale	Comments
food	70 to 80 taka a day including fuel	includes for the woman paying guest
housing	10,000 taka to build a new house	because of embankment rebuilding
clothing	2,000 taka in the year	
education	total 300 taka in the year: e.g.30 taka February	books, fees for Akkas
health	total 1,200 taka in the year: e.g. 52 taka for medicine February	mainly for Jasmine
other / occasional	-	

12. Financial services/devices used during research year:

Type	Number of instances	Value(s)	Comments
MFI savings	5	500 to 1,200 taka balances	Action Aid (2); Proshika (2), ASD
MFI loan	3	2,000 to 6,000 taka disbursed	Action Aid (2); Proshika
Saving at home	1	200 taka	under the mattress
Saving on the person	1	620 taka	in her petticoat
Mud bank	1	10 to 20 taka pm deposited	
Interest free loans taken	4	100 to 700 taka	
Interest free loan given	11	5 to 1,000 taka	
Saving with money-guard	10	up to 3,000 taka	
Private loan given on interest	2	1,000 and 5,000 taka	5,000 sourced from MFI loan
In-kind loans given interest free	3	1 to 5 kg rice	

13. Cheating: in August a visitor from her village took a *howlat* of 100 taka from her but then went back home without repaying

14. Comments on financial services and devices: doesn't like banks because withdrawing savings is difficult and they won't transact sums of less than 200 taka. She likes Proshika MFI because their loan size is big and they don't complain much if you delay repayments a little. Howlats are OK.

15. Recording financial service transactions: she memorises them, not a problem: the daughter helps her

16. This year compared to previous years: very good, because the daughter got a garments job; and she got extra income (800 taka a month) from the young woman who lives and eats with them; and she started the firewood business.

17. Notable events, opinions, behaviour:

Events: opens a stall to sell her firewood, February; having to shift the house and getting a total of 5,000 taka in compensation in her and in Jasmine's name, April-May;

Behaviour: R hides money under the mattress mainly to keep it out of the hands of her eldest son who would otherwise take it;

18. Transaction summary for R OF BERI BAD EAST INSIDE (02)

MFI services:

MFI savings:

A: Action Aid. R is an Action Aid member, having joined in 1999, and when we meet her she has 1,200 deposited. She saves 40 taka in late Oct 99; 20 in early Nov; zero in late Nov; then she saves 40 per period more or less regularly, though we don't have exact reports, up until early Apr at least; unknown late Apr; 40 early May; nothing in late May due to house shifting costs, then 40 in early Jun; 40 in late Jun; 40 in early Jul; 40 late Jul; 40 in early Aug; 40 late Aug; 40 early Sep; 40 late Sep; 20 early Oct.

B: Action Aid: Daughter Jasmine is also an Action Aid member: she also joined in 1999 and in late Dec we hear the balance in her name is 600 taka. In late Nov she deposits 40 taka; early Dec nothing; late Dec 40 taka; nothing saved early Jan 00 and late Jan 20 only (one week no savings due because of Eid); 40 in early Feb, probably; 20 in late Feb; nothing early Mar; 20 late Mar; 40 probably in early Apr; unknown late Apr; 40 probably early May; nothing in late May due to house shifting costs. 40 early Jun; 40 late Jun; 40 early Jul; 40 late Jul; 40 early Aug; 40 late Aug; 40 early Sep; 40 late Sep; 40 early Oct.

C: Proshika: R is a Proshika member when we meet her and she has a savings balance of 500 taka. She joined in 1999. They save monthly once. She saves 50 taka for the month in late Oct 99; 50 early Nov for Nov; nothing in Dec; nothing in Jan; nothing Feb; 50 in Mar; nothing in early Apr, maybe she paid late Apr; 50 paid for May; 50 early Jun; 200 in early Jul to make up for arrears (sourced from Jasmine's salary). Nothing due late Jul; nothing paid early Aug; nothing paid in Sep because she doesn't like the way the Proshika staff enter the amount in her passbook.

D: Proshika. Jasmine is also in Proshika, though R attends the meetings on her behalf (something Proshika doesn't seem to mind). She joined 1999 and has a balance of 800 taka. She deposits 50 taka early Nov for the month of Nov; 50 in Dec; 50 in Jan; 50 in Feb; 50 in Mar; 50 in Apr; nothing in May (maybe for house shifting costs) and nothing early Jun nor in early Jul (the actual user of her Proshika loan hasn't paid Jasmine). 50 in late Jul; 50 in early Aug; nothing paid in Sep because her mother doesn't like the way the Proshika staff enter the amount in her passbook.

E: ASD: R and daughter Jasmine were ASD members 1994-99 but left after a quarrel over the repayment of an emergency flood loan during which R says she was confined in a room for 3 hours

MFI loans:

A: Action Aid: R is an Action Aid member when we meet her and has a 6,000 taka loan issued sometime in 1999 (as reported in late Jan), taken to register land back in her village and to take care of her son's accident. She repays 200 taka in late Oct 99; 150 in early Nov; she repays nothing in late Nov; unknown amount early Dec (savings + repayment total 100); 100 early Jan; 100 in late Jan; 100 in early Feb; 100 in late Feb; 100 in early Mar; 100 in late Mar; 100 in early Apr; unknown late Apr (maybe it was paid); 100 early May; nothing in late May due to house shifting costs; 200 in early Jun; 200 in late Jun; 200 in early Jul; 200 late Jul from Jasmine's wage; 200 early Aug from Jasmine's wage; 200 late Aug; 200 early Sep; 200 late Sep; 100 early Oct.

B: Action Aid: Jasmine has no Action Aid loan when we first meet her. She takes one of 2,000 taka in late Nov, using 1,000 taka to repair their house and 1,000 she lends out at interest (see private loan out below A) in late Nov she repays 100 taka; early Dec nothing; late Dec 100 taka; nothing in early Jan; 100 in late Jan; 100 in early Feb; 100 in late Feb; nothing in early Mar; 100 in late Mar; 100 in early Apr; unknown late Apr; 100 early May; nothing in late May due to house shifting costs. 100 early Jun, 100 late Jun; 100 early Jul; 100 late Jul; 100 early Aug; 100 late Aug; 100 early Sep; 100 late Sep; unclear early Oct.

C: Proshika: Jasmine takes a 5,000 taka loan from Proshika in late Nov 99 and gives it to son in law who will buy land in his village: he will make the repayments and will make savings on her behalf; she repays monthly: 500 for Dec; 500 for Jan; 500 for Feb; no payments for Mar as brother-in-law has gone to his village; 500 for Apr; nothing for May (maybe because of house shifting costs); nothing in Jun nor in early Jul (the actual user of the loan hasn't paid Jasmine). Then her sub-borrower starts paying again so 500 in late Jul and 500 early Aug; 500 late Aug from brother-in-law but he fails her again through Sep and in early Oct.

Private savings:

<p>Saving in the home: A: R reports when we meet her she saves on her person but not in the house because it isn't secure; but in early Nov she saves 200 taka under the mattress where the children won't think to look; 450 there in early Feb.</p>
<p>Saving on the person: A: In early Dec R has 620 taka in her petticoat; she keeps 250 taka for son Akkas in early Oct 2000.</p>
<p>Mud bank: A: Akkas, young son, saves 8 taka in a mud bank late Feb 00; 10 taka in late Mar, from his mother; 10 in early Apr from same source; 10 same again late Apr; zero in late May; 4 in early Jun; 4 late Jun; zero early Jul; 4 late Jul (these numbers are all approximate); 4 early Aug; 6 late Aug; 200 early Sep from groundnut selling; unknown late Sep but in early Oct he breaks his bank and gets 250 taka which he deposits with his mother.</p>
<p>Reciprocal transactions: Interest free loans (howlats) taken: A: R takes 100 taka from her eldest daughter-in-law in late Oct 99; repaid, date unknown</p>
<p>B: R takes 500 taka from her brother late May 00 to help pay for house shifting costs after slum demolition: repaid (from Jasmine's wage) in early Jun.</p>
<p>C: R takes 500 taka from her daughter late May for same housing related need: repaid late Jul from firewood sales</p>
<p>D: a howlat of 700 from her son to buy rice is given in early Jul and quickly forgiven.</p>
<p>Interest free loans (howlats) given: A: R gives 1,000 taka to daughter-in-law, reported early Dec; repaid mid-2000</p>
<p>B: R gives 5 taka and 0.5kg rice to a tenant early Dec; this is lost (along with rent) when tenant absconds without paying in early Feb</p>
<p>C: R gives 100 taka to oldest son in law late Dec; by early Feb she's not certain she'll get it back but she 'can't say anything'. But in early Mar it is repaid</p>
<p>D: R gives 50 taka to second son in law late Dec, repaid late Jan</p>
<p>E: R gives 17 taka to her fourth son in early Jan (R doesn't expect to get repaid and in early Mar says it doesn't matter)</p>
<p>F: R gives 10 taka to her second son in law in early Jan (R doesn't expect to get repaid)</p>
<p>G: in early Jan R lent 100 taka to the husband of her eldest daughter, repaid late Jan</p>
<p>H: R gives 200 taka to youngest son in law early Apr, repaid late Apr</p>
<p>I: In early Apr the oldest son in law repays a howlat of 500 taka taken the month before (but not recorded at that time)</p>
<p>J: in early Jul a howlat of a little rice to a tenant is repaid in cash (15 taka).</p>
<p>K: in Aug she lent 100 taka short term to a visitor from her village but he left again without repaying.</p>
<p>Private savings and loan services: Saving with a money guards: A - H: R reported when we first met her that she stores money very safely with her second</p>

daughter-in-law who is 'good'. From the start of the research year to mid-2000 she deposited sums of between 50 and 2,000 taka about 8 or 9 times. She was always able to get the money back on demand. This arrangement ended in mid 2000 when both households had to move because of embankment rebuilding, and there was a quarrel between the two women.

I - J: Later, R used another daughter-in-law as a money guard (her third daughter-in-law). For example in Oct 2000, she stores 750 taka (cash earned by Akkas selling groundnuts who first gave it his mother) with her. She says that she stores sums ranging from 100 to 3,000 taka in this way. In the new (post-embankment rebuilding) period, the daughter-in-law lives immediately next door, and there is a connecting door, but the daughter-in-law has a lockable cupboard which R lacks – hence the value of the arrangement.

K: Early May 2,500 taka compensation cheque from Water Board 'deposited' by R to her sister's daughter. This money was later used for building her new house.

Private loan given on interest:

A: Jasmine, using half of her Action Aid loan, lends 1,000 taka in late Oct 99 to her brother-in-law (R's other son in law). The arrangement is that the borrower will pay 10 taka a day until a total of 1,500 is repaid. 150 is (re)paid in early Dec; late Dec 150 taka (re)paid; early Jan only 100 (re)paid so 50 overdue. Then the payments get confused with those for loan out B below. Nevertheless, we hear at the end of the research year that the brother-in-law did pay in full, but not always strictly to the 10 taka a day formula.

B: Jasmine takes a Proshika loan of 5,000 taka in late Nov 1999 and lends it on to her brother-in-law (R's other son in law) – see above private loan A and MFI Proshika loan C. He will make the repayments and pay the savings on her behalf. See the MFI Proshika record for his payment record.

In-kind transactions:

In-kind loans given interest free:

A: R gives 1kg rice to her tenant early Nov because he was ill and couldn't drive his rickshaw: later, she abandons any idea of getting repaid.

B: R gives 5kg rice to eldest daughter-in-law in early Jan; R doesn't expect to get repaid but in fact it is repaid in late Jan

C: R gives 1.5kg rice to a tenant early Feb: not repaid and not repayable – the tenant leaves the area.