

**IDPM FINANCIAL DIARIES COVER SHEET FORMAT**  
**India: Urban**

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Category:                      Initial wealth ranking: Poor      Code: DGP06

**Site:** Gyaspur    **Principal respondent(s):** Mr. R      **Caste:** Mallah(fisherman) (OBC)

Mr. R comes from Bagalpur District, Bihar. He has been in Delhi all his adult life (13 years) and 7 years in Gyaspur. R came to Delhi after hearing stories of other villagers who had successfully found work and were making money in the capital. With a friend (without informing his parents) he borrowed Rs.200 and left, coming first to a relative staying in Kaka Nagar, then shifting to a cousin's place in Nand Nagri. After staying with him for few days he shifted to another relative in Nand Nagri (maternal Uncle's daughter). There he stayed for 1 month and again shifted to kaka nagar because of some differences with his cousin. He starved for 2 days, having bad times. He shifted again twice and went several days short of food before fixing a job as a cook, then longer-term work in a snack store for Rs.200/ month. He worked here for 5 years. He left because of low pay and became a construction worker at Le Meridian hotel site for the next 6 months.

After a year without work, he joined another construction site in Lodhi Institutional Area for 18 months, was promoted to skilled mason, then continued with the property owner as a gardener in his home for the next 5 years to 1994. During this period he brought his wife and children to Delhi for the first time and lived in an out-house of his boss's bungalow. He got into trouble when he borrowed Rs.8000 from his boss on behalf of his brother to start a cold drinks stall. When his brother returned to the village, R tried to take this up himself but he suffered a heavy loss and was unable to repay the loan.

He thus shifted to GP (in 1994) and stayed in the vacant hutment of a relative. Following a major flood in 1995, he – along with other residents – began constructing his own hutment in the space which had been vacant adjacent to his relative's, bribing the police Rs.200. Two years later he divided the hutment, making two small rooms. It was around this time he joined the Indraprastha Gas Agency as a helper through the contact of a relative. He started on Rs.800/ month.

In the village he has two brothers (one a truck driver and the other a farmer/ wage labourer), his father, mother, sister and his brothers' wives and children. He has another brother in GP who stays with him and works as a gardener.

His family is comfortably off and R's income – while it contributes towards releasing land from mortgage and his wife & children's costs while they stay there – doesn't appear to be required for family's everyday needs. R's job (now a fitter for the Indraprastha Gas Agency who distribute compressed natural gas (CNG) gas for autorickshaws and other vehicles under the new government regulation) is secure. His salary increased from Rs.2000 – Rs.3000 during the year. In addition he has several other small sources of income (rent, private CNG fix/ repairs). When we met him he was with his wife, who then went back to the village to deliver her fourth child, then returned and began earning as well. R has many helpful colleagues and can manage his financial needs through them as well as through wage advances with his employer, with whom he appears to have a close relation (employer sometimes asks him to distribute salary of other staff). He's also a frequent lender to neighbours and relatives. There is no expectation of reciprocity and he does it whenever he has extra money with him to people he trusts. He is interested in saving and twice attempted to keep money back with which to open a bank account, but faced with hassles at the bank, he gave up. By the research end he finally managed to open a bank account at Central Bank, Nizamuddin Branch for which he was required to produce a ration card and a guarantor (a colleague).

Immediate future plans include the marriage of his sister for which he estimates an expenditure of Rs.50,000 for the family as a whole, of which R is expected to contribute Rs.10-15,000.

**1. Initial household profile:**

Name	Relationship to HH	Age	Highest school grade	Main livelihood/ schooling	Other economic activities
R	self	30	9 <sup>th</sup> Std	Gas agency worker	CNG fixer
Sunita	wife	23	10 <sup>th</sup> Std	Tailoring from home	
Rakesh	son	8	1 <sup>st</sup> Std	Attends school	
Kajal	daughter	5	-	Attends nursery	
Payal	daughter	2	-	-	

**2. Significant changes to household profile during research year:**

Sunita and children leave Delhi in July 00, returning only in March 01. During this period, Sunita gives birth to a baby (son) in the village.

**3. Residence:**

In GP for last 8 years of which first one year stayed in hutment of relative and for the last 7 years in his own hutment.

**4. Tenure:** Owner-occupier of totally illegal hutment (bribed the police Rs.200 to build it in 1995).

**5. Support networks:**

R has many relatives in Delhi with which he has occasional small transactions (usually out to them rather than in from them). His most important network is among colleagues and his employer, as well as neighbours. His employer (a contractor) has promoted him several times.

**6. Public entitlements:** Ration Card holder

**7. Food habits:** 3 meals a day. Meat consumption of Rs.100 a month.

**8. Significant assets:**

Asset type	Description	Value (if known or estimated)
Homestead Land	0.2 bigha	
Farm land (state if irrigated)	(joint family) 3-4 bighas (2 of which are mortgaged out)	15-20 quintals of wheat from a bigha
Home (equipment, furnishings etc)	Hutment with brick walls & temp roof & floor; sewing machine, B&W television, ceiling fan, table fan, 2 cots	
Machinery	-	
Livestock	1 cow	
Jewelry etc	Gold & silver	Rs.1800

**9. Significant changes to assets during research year:**

Tin box for Rs.200 and nylon bed for Rs.400

**10. Income pattern: estimated annual income over research year: Rs.38,450**

Name	Income source	Frequency	Scale	Comments
R	Fitter, CNG agency (IGL)	Monthly	Rs.2000-4000	
R	Rent from hutment	Monthly less credit	Rs.350	R borrows from his tenant so does not receive much (see above)
R	Freelance fix & repairs of CNG rickshaws	Jan 01 – Mar01	Rs.10-100/ day	Earned total of around Rs.1200 in the period
R	Gambling	Once (Holi)	Rs.800	
Sunita	Private tailoring at home		Rs.10-30/ day	Didn't do after returning from the village
[from brother]	Contribution to HH expenses	Monthly	Rs.500	For 5 months, then goes home

**11. Expenditure pattern:**

Expenditure item	Scale	Comments
Food	Rs.1400-2500/ month	Increases to Rs.2500 when family returns
Housing	Rs.300	Of hutment during rains
Clothing	Rs.450 & 500	Diwali clothes & shoes.
Education	Rs.100/month	For fees of the eldest son (by end of research year the son has cleared the written test and interview for admission in DPS , Sunder Nagar)
Health	Rs.150-800	4 entries for children since their return
Trips home/ money home	(i) Rs.7000 (ii) Rs.4000 (iii) Rs.4000	(i)July 00 – 1 month's stay & depositing family (ii)Dec 00 – travel + money for Sunita (iii)Jun 01 – to release land from mortgage
Festivals & ceremonies	Rs.200-1000	5 entries, Diwali gambling & marriage
Basic services (rent, elec, water)		
Repairs	Rs.200-800	3 entries: TV, briefcase, bed
Parents in Delhi	(i)Rs.1000 (ii)Rs.980-1200	(i)Sunita's mother in Delhi (ii)R's father's costs

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

Type	Number of instances	Value(s)	Comments
Interest-free loans taken	6	Rs.100-1000	From his tenant (repaid in lieu of rent) and all others from work colleagues
Wage advance taken	3	Rs.200-1000	Aug-Oct 00: After return from village. Rs.1000 x2 before and after leaving for home
Groceries on credit	Monthly	Rs.1500	From single shop in GP. Jul 01 R pays of balance & quits, saying will find another shop since this guy hassles for payment at month start when he receives salary only around 20 <sup>th</sup> . With the new shop it's less hassle for him.
Interest-free loans given	9	Rs.100-2500	To relatives, colleagues, neighbours. Rs.2500 (Dec 00) exceptional – neighbour needed urgently so R took from salary. Now plans not to give any more interest free loans because of a bad experience with brother-in-law who is still repay around Rs.900 for the last one year.
Savings in the home		Rs.0-Rs.1000	Twice manages Rs.1000 (Sept 00 & Apr 01) as deposit to open bank a/c but spends/ fails. Otherwise says he can't save (see money home)
AsCA	Monthly	Rs.200	R was a member of AsCA of gardeners between 1996-1999 when it closed. After savings for a year @ Rs.200/ month he took a loan of Rs.5000 @ 2% from the ASCA in 1997. He paid nothing until end of cycle (1999) (since loan repayment was balanced against existing savings), leaving an o/s balance of Rs.3600. Then he repaid Rs.1600 in 6-7 months @ Rs.200-300 from July 00, and at this point has Rs.2000 left to pay.
Money home	3	Rs.2000-7000	3 entries (Rs.13000 total) when deposited family (Jun 00), when he visits her (Dec 00) & sent to brother for land release (Jun 00)

## 13. Cheating:

1997: ASCA member in India Gate, Rs.100 pm & loans @ 2%. Took loan to purchase soft drinks stall, paid money and salesman died

## 14. Comments on financial services and devices:

R shows interest in saving regularly with discipline. In the past he's experimented with Sahara chits and RoSCAs as follows:-

- Two years ago deposited Rs.10 daily for 2 months with Sahara India. He stopped when he could no longer manage payments & agent stopped coming. He first met the agent at India Gate. He still goes to Nagla Machi. R says "still haven't gone to take money" but Sahara rules say clients are not eligible for any return if they break savings within a year. Again went to them in early sept 01 and has been told to come in the next week. He is also not interested in depositing with the Sahara now since he has little faith he'll be able to keep it up
- More recently: lottery RoSCA also at India Gate: 25 mems @ Rs.1000 pm, used prize for soft drinks stall. The business failed and as a result R has lost confidence in RoSCAs (suggesting that it's risky to get his hands on lump sums too easily since he may not be able to invest it sensibly). He's become superstitious about them.

By the research end he opened a account with central bank of India in Nizamuddin and now plans to save with it. He's lost trust in any other mechanisms now. He faced no difficulty in opening a

account as he had ration card and a guarantor required to open a bank account. His colleague who had the account in the same bank became his guarantor.

Taking loan on interest will be last option for R as he has got a good network of colleagues and relatives in Delhi. Though his in-laws are better off than him, he won't take money from them unless there is a extreme need of it.

**15. Recording financial service transactions:**

He doesn't record the financial transaction in which he indulges in. Says that "if you have given and taken many loans, then there is a need to write, otherwise not".

**16. This year compared to previous years:**

This year was better than the last years in terms of employment as his salary got increased considerably. The quality of food has also gone up during the year. Most importantly this year he didn't take any loans on interest as he has done in previous years.

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