

Interviews with children:

Shabena – Jahangir Puri

She is 10 years old and has never gone to school. She has now completed her first year in the transitional class. She has not gone to school because she has followed her mother to work since her mother did not feel it safe to leave her at home alone during the day. She is now attending school while her mother is working.



Her mother is about 30 years old and is working with rag picking. She has one big brother that lives in the city with their grandmother. He is in 6th grade. The family has lived in the area of 10-12 years. Her parents have gone to school and her mother reached 5th grade, her father reached 2nd grade.

For breakfast, Shabena had Dal and she usually has the same for lunch. For dinner they usually eat rice and fish. They have water at home and she is able to take a bath every night. If she gets a headache or stomach pains, there is a local doctor near by. The family lives in a rental apartment for 800 Rs per month. The apartment is located close to the school. She goes to bed at 10 or 11 pm.

The girl seems happy and alert, full of energy. She looks clean. Her mother did not feel safe leaving her home alone – shows that her mother really cares about her. She is aware of the local doctor so she has probably been there – another sign of a caring mother.

Rahul – Jahangir Puri

Rahul is 7 years old. His father works with fish selling and his mother do domestic work. He also has an older brother that works with wire manufacturing. Rahul himself works with rag picking and he earns 5 – 10 INR per day.



Rahul has been going to school before but he went sick and afterwards he didn't come back.

Rahul didn't have any breakfast, only some tea and he says that he didn't was hungry. He is alone all day and his mother comes home late at night. Rice is prepared at home to eat when he feels hungry. The money Rahul earns in rag picking is often spent on cookies

We did find Rahul sad and very reserved. He is left home alone all day. He must be pretty bored just hanging around all day, he gets no stimulation, no encouragement. He did not have much for breakfast and he had some rice at home to eat during the day.

Mooni – Jahangir Puri

Mooni is 8 years old. Her mother told her to go to school but she didn't. Instead, she came with her mother and father for work, rag picking.



She has 4 sisters and one brother. She is number 5. She does not know that much about her brother because his is 19 years old and has probably left the house. She knows that he is also working with rag picking. Her four sisters are doing domestic work. Her father has been in school, but not her mother.

For breakfast she eats cookies and Roti. Her mother prepares lunch which usually consists of rice and potato. They usually have the same for dinner. They have access to public water. There is no water in the apartment but they can go and get it for free. The family lives in a 1 room rental apartment. She took a bath yesterday.

She has pretty serious stomach problems, but it gets better when she goes to bed. She is usually in bed around 11-12 pm and she gets up at 9 am. School starts at 10 am. In the evenings, she is watching TV and cleaning at home.

She seems pretty happy and content, but not as much as Shabena.

Heena – the Bhalaswa dairy

Heena is 7 years old and lives with her mother and one brother of 8 years old. An older brother and her father have moved back to the village. The mother is working with rag picking and Heena do a lot of the household work at home.



Today was a celebration at home which explains why she had Chapati and Halooa for breakfast. The family doesn't have a routine for eating three times a day, you eat when you feel hungry.

Heena goes to bed around 9 – 10 pm, and she look at TV before she sleeps. Her mother wakes up at 6 am and she wakes Heena around 8 am.

Heena was admitted to school but got sick, than she didn't continue. Heena doesn't know if her parents have gone to school.

She is a bit reserved. She has a lot of duties at home since it is only her, her mother and one brother taking care of the household. She doesn't know if her mother has attended to school, which may show that they are not talking about school and how important it is at home.

Raju – the Bhalaswa dairy

Raju is 12 years old and lives in a big family with three sisters, two brothers and his parents. Raju is the youngest. His father works as a rickshaw driver and his mother peel fruit at home. Raju helps his mother with peeling the fruit. The family comes from Uttar Pradesh and has been living in the area for about 11 years. There is a public stand post where they can get water.



Raju don't know if his father has gone to school, his mother has not attended any school. Raju has not attended any school before because he didn't feel ready to go. Now he says he is prepared.

Raju had some chapatti for breakfast. The family doesn't always eat three times a day. If there is food for example rice and dhal left from lunch they have it for dinner.

Raju goes to bed 10-11 pm and get up at 6 am. His sister who is in class 12 does all the household work. One of his brothers has attended school until class 7. Raju get headache if he sit in the sun.

Raju felt shy. One can find it strange that the family did not encourage Raju to go to school earlier as he has sisters and brothers that have attended school. One reason can be that his mother lack education and he doesn't know if his father attended school – this may show a lack of interest from the parents.

Shaderi – South Shahadra

Shaderi is 12 years and is now in 4th class. (She has been to school but left it?) She has three brothers and one sister. Two of the brothers, 16 and 18 years old, are both working. The father is a teacher (?? Eller var han tex vaktmästare?) in a MCD school and has attended school until 7th class. Her mother is a housewife and has not attended school. The family comes from South India.



Shaderi had breakfast with Pratha and sauce. She eats regularly? The family has a supply for water in the community which they have to pay for. Shaderi has headache and stomachache sometimes. The stomachache may depend on the water.

The family has their own house and two other families rent a place in the house. Shaderi goes to bed around 9 pm and gets up at 6 am.

A comment from Suman is that this family is probably doing well since the father is working and the also have rental income. We found the girl pretty happy. She is clean and looks well taken care of. She is a little bit shy.

Aman – block 27, South Shahadra

Aman is 7 years old. He is the youngest among 5 brothers and sisters. His father is working (don't know the kind of work) and his mother is a housemaid. His father has finished 2nd class, his mother has not been to school at all. From talking to Aman, it seems like most of the brothers and sisters have attended school, from 6th to 3rd class. Aman is in class 1 since he is only 7 years old.



Aman had some chapati and vegetables for breakfast. The family has water in the community. They live in a small house together with their grandparents.

Aman seems very shy and is a bit afraid of Suman and us. He is trying to keep the distance and do not want to stand too close. He answers all our questions, he stands still and is very calm during the interview. He seems relieved when the interview is over.

Pucha - Rohini

This girl is taking the survey and is today not involved with any activity supported by Pratham. Pratham does not have any activity in this area this year, but this might change for next year, it depends on the outcome of the survey.

Pucha is 10 years old and is in 4th grade. Her mother is 50 years old and works in the factory in the area. Pucha has a brother that is 22 years old and he did finish 11th grade in an MCD school. The family is from Bengal.



During the day, Pucha is at home with the landlord. She eats breakfast, lunch and, most of the times, dinner. They have water from the community that they also drink. She goes to bed at 10 pm and gets up at 6.30 am. Her MCD school is close by.

She likes going to school. Her favorite subject is Hindi. She wants to be a pilot.

She feels very well behaved and is answering all the questions in the survey the best she can, even if there are a lot of people around her, including us, watching her.

Lakhan – Boy in Survey – good in English

Lakhan is 13 years old. He is in 8th grade. He has three sisters and two brothers, and they have all gone to school. His father is 45 years old and is working in the factory. He did finish 10th grade. His mother is 35 years old and a housewife. She has not gone to school.



He eats breakfast, lunch and dinner most days. They have water from the community. He goes to bed at 9 pm and gets up at 6 am. He is not aware of any headache or stomach pains.

In his free time, he watches TV and plays cricket. He really likes Cricket!

He likes school and his favorite subject is English (and he is very good). He wants to be an engineer.

Lakhan is more forward than the other children. He knows English pretty well and we can ask our questions directly to him. Sometimes he needs help with the answer, but he is trying hard and is doing very well. We have not met anyone else this good in English in any of the areas that we have visited. English is his favorite subject, and he must be pretty good in school!

Matema – Learning center, Mustafabad

Matema is 12 years old and is out of school. She did start school once, but since her family moves around a lot, she stopped going. She has now gone to Pratham's learning center for 2 months.



She has two brothers and two sisters. They are for the same reason as Matema, visiting the learning center. Her mother is a housewife and her father is a tailor. Her parents have not gone to school. They live in a rental apartment with community water. It is very common that a family signs a lease for 11 months, and then they move.

She eats breakfast, lunch and dinner everyday and is not aware of any sever pain in her stomach or in her head.

Matema feels a little bit shy. For Matema and her brothers and sisters, it has definitely been a problem with the family moving around a lot. The have all drop out of school. It is difficult for the children to go to a new school and I guess it is not always that they understand that they need a certificate from the school to be able to start in the right class in a new school. She is from a family that does not prioritize school. Her parents might not see the need, since they manage to get a job with no education.

Sharpur – Learning center, Mustafabad

Sharpur is 12 years old and he dropped out of school after 3rd class. He is now visiting the learning center and has done so for 10 days. He likes visiting the center and he feels that he is learning a lot.



He has 5 brothers and 2 sisters. His brothers and sisters have also gone to school for some time. His mother is a sewer and she has finished 10th class. His father is a riksha driver and finished 11th class.

They live in a rental apartment with community water. He eats breakfast, lunch and dinner most days.

In his free time he likes to play cricket!

Sharpur comes from a family that prioritizes education. All his brothers and sisters are in school and his parents have also attended school. He was not able to explain why he dropped out after 3rd class, but he is now visiting the learning center and will start the MCD school.

Overall comments:

The children go to bed pretty late compare to Swedish children.

- Most Swedish children have to get up earlier to get ready for daycare/school since they have to leave with their parents. It is very common in Sweden to start work at around 8 am.
- In Sweden, children often have their own room, or share with a brother/sister, which means that they can go to bed while the parents are still awake. It would be more difficult to go to bed if you only have one room and the rest of the family is still awake.

It seems like children that got ill, drops out of school and that it is difficult to make them go back when they are well again.

- If it takes a long time to recover from the illness it may take some more effort to make them go back to school because they have been away for a long time and the normal behavior has been interrupted.

In their leisure time do the children spend time together playing around and having fun with other children from the neighborhood? So if one child starts school, will that affect the other children in the group?

- In Sweden parents often make sure that there are other children in the same area for their child to play with. It also common that if one child attends for example a football club, all children in the area wants to play football.

Several children do not know if their parents have attended school or not, which shows that they are not talking about it at home and how important it is.

The children we met in the dairy area did not have parents that were working with the dairy products. Does the area have a mixed population?

Conclusions

We can see that how active the children are in school is not related to if the parents have gone to school or not. Some active children have parents that have attended school, some don't.

We can not see a correlation between an active child and the fact that the mother is at home and taking care of the child during the day, that the mother is present. Some active children have working mothers that are away all day and the child is at home, sometimes alone.

At first, we thought that food and how many meals the child eat per day, would affect the child in school as being more active or not. We can not see the correlation between food and level of activity of the child.