

Sociology 339

Summer 2014

Class Exercise

Reference Material:

Portfolios of the Poor: <http://www.portfoliosofthepoor.com/portfolios.asp>

Public Spending on Education: <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.XPD.TOTL.GD.ZS>

Groups: For this assignment we will divide the class into various groups and each group will choose a country of your choice – India, South Africa or Bangladesh

Through this assignment you will develop insights into how the world's poor live under \$2 a day. To write this book, the researchers interviewed over 250 poor households (in Bangladesh, India and South Africa) every two weeks over the course of an entire year. Thus in these financial portfolios you get access to the most minute financial transactions in the lives of the poor. Hopefully this will enable us to develop insights on how the poor save, borrow and live.

Please follow the following steps to do this exercise:

1. Click on <http://www.portfoliosofthepoor.com/portfolios.asp>. This website has the 250 financial portfolios.
2. Choose one country from among the three : Bangladesh, India or South Africa
3. In the right side of the website, there is a choice to choose one country. Further it might ask you choose the particular category of poor that you are interested in.
4. When you choose a category a list of links will appear below the drop box.
5. If you click on those links, they will all open into pdf files. Each pdf file is a financial portfolio of a household in these countries.
6. For this assignment you have to choose any three portfolios **from one country**. The portfolios can be from any category but should be from one country.

Based on those three portfolios and a research on the particular country, answer the following questions:

1. What is the GDP per capita of the country you chose?
2. How does this average compare with the household incomes of the three families that you chose? For this please mention the three families, their annual household incomes (converted to dollars) and then compare it with the GDP per capita
3. What % of GDP is spent on education in the country that you chose in the year 2010? For this refer <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.XPD.TOTL.GD.ZS> Mention the top five countries and their GDP% education spending – countries that have highest public spending on education. (You can sort the countries in the website in descending order, so don't look for the top countries manually.)
4. How literate were the members of the three families that you chose. Please mention each family and provide an analysis.
5. Provide an analysis of the financial portfolios of the three families

- a. What is their income source? Is it a regular source of income?
- b. Do the poor save? How or Where?
- c. Did they face any crisis in the year which had an impact on their cash flow? What was the crisis and what impact did it have?