

Rickshaw Game

Objectives

- To have fun while learning about the difficulty that workers face in the transport industry in big cities in India and Bangladesh
- To help overcome the misunderstanding that “people are poor because they are lazy”

Resources & Preparation

- Photocopy destination cards and money. Destination cards can be stuck onto envelopes and allocated money placed inside.
- Enlarge or write destination signs & display in room.
- Place these signs as far apart as possible in a large hall or in outside playground area.
- Collect pictures of rickshaws and autorickshaws. Make sure you have a basic knowledge of transport and urban life in the large cities of India or Bangladesh.

How to play

Many people in the world live on less than \$2 a day. One of the ways people try to make a living in cities around the world is to drive rickshaws, auto-rickshaws and taxis. (Show photos of rickshaws and auto-rickshaws if you have them available.)

Talk about transport in crowded cities of India and Asia. Explain that today they are going to pretend that they are either passengers or drivers in one of these places.

1. Explain the Rules

- Passengers must visit all destinations on their list in the order they are written.
- All passengers must use the transport available (Rickshaw, Auto Rickshaw or Taxi) to visit each destination. This is still the case even if the destinations are next to each other. Players **may not** walk.
- Drivers/Vehicles are to choose a starting destination before passengers take their starting places.
- Once at a place the auto-rickshaws and taxis are **not** able to travel without a passenger (as the fuel costs too much). Rickshaws, however, may move freely about without passengers.

2. Divide players into four groups

- **Rickshaws:** One person acts as a rickshaw and piggy-backs people around.
- **Auto-rickshaws:** Two people per auto, link arms and passenger sits on arms in the middle.
- **Taxis:** Three people, link arms as above, third person leads, passenger hangs onto leader for extra support.
- **Passengers**

There need to be many more drivers/vehicles than passengers for the game to work.

A suggested breakdown for a group of 30:

7 passengers

7 rickshaws

10 for auto-rickshaws (making 5 – 2 per auto)

6 for taxis (making 2 taxis - 3 per taxi)

For groups of fewer than 30, cut out the taxis and just use rickshaws and auto-rickshaws.

3. Drivers/Vehicles choose a destination at which to start.

Explain the rules about moving and suggest they choose a place where there might be many passengers. Hint that some passengers may be tourists and will have more money than locals.

4. Hand passengers their destination cards and money.

Money – all passengers are to start with money, Indian Rupees. Provide the amount of rupees to each passenger as allocated on their destinations card.

Do not give those who receive 1000 rupees or more any of the smaller denomination rupee notes (as “no change” is a convenient way of raising the price).

Roughly 25 Rupees = 1 Australian dollar.

5. Passengers go to their starting point.

Explain the bargaining system and demonstrate it. Explain that the more comfortable and quick a vehicle is, the more you would expect to pay. For the purpose of this game there are no fixed prices; all trips should be agreed to before the trip begins. (There is a system of taxi and rickshaw meters in India but they are not always working or not always used).

Taxis would normally be more expensive to hire than auto-rickshaws and rickshaws because they are more comfortable and able to travel at greater speeds. Auto-rickshaws, too, would normally be more expensive than a pedal rickshaw.

Play

15 – 20 minutes is a good length of a time for a fast-paced game. Give players enough time to divide their money at the end and count how much money people made.

Debriefing

During the debriefing session, you might like to raise some or all of the following questions. Try to get a chance to hear at least once from everyone about their experience during the game.

- What were some of the experiences of the passengers?
- Was it easy to get a ride? How did the bartering go?
- Did you find it difficult to know who to choose?
- Were the prices fair?
- What were some of the experiences of the drivers/vehicles?
- How much money did different people make?

- Have a look at the price poster and see how much you could afford to buy with that money. How many days would you have to work to pay your rent? How long would you have to save up to buy clothes or a TV? What would life be like for you if this was all you had to live on? (The prices are close to 2003 Delhi prices.)
- Was it hard to find passengers?
- Who got a lot of work? Why?
- Who didn't get much work? Why?
- Was there enough work for everybody or is were too many people trying to make money from the same service?
- How do you think this experience might be similar to that of people who really work at these jobs in countries like India and Bangladesh?

Read the following quote: “ *We needed to be at New Delhi Railway station at 6.00am, it was winter so it would still be cold and dark. We had no Hindi and didn't know how to organise to get there at this time. Would there be taxis around this outlying suburb of Delhi at 5.00am in the morning? We were worried, so we went out in the evening beforehand to ask around. We found a Taxi driver and asked him. He said he could come back at 5.00 the next morning.*

So in the wee hours of the next morning we straggled out with our luggage. Our taxi was there, he had parked there all night and slept in his car on that cold winter's night, just to get some work.”

Destination Sheets *(each passenger needs one)*

<p>Start Hotel With 1 500 rupees You must visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Red Fort • India Gate • Main Bazaar • Lakshmi Narayan Temple • Old Delhi Post Office • Return to Hotel 	<p>Start Home With 300 rupees You must visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Vegetable Market • Home • Jami Masquid (Mosque) • Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital • Main Bazaar • Return Home 	<p>Start International Airport with 2000 rupees You must visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hotel • India Gate • Vegetable Markets • Red Fort • Main Bazaar • New Delhi Railway station • Return to Hotel
<p>Start New Delhi Railway Station With 1000 rupees You must visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lakshmi Narayan Temple • Main Bazaar • Old Delhi Post Office • India Gate • Red Fort • International Airport 	<p>Start New Delhi Railway Station With 700 rupees You must visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main Bazaar • Red Fort • India Gate • Jami Masquid (Mosque) • Old Delhi Post Office • Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital 	<p>Start Home With 250 rupees You must visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lakshmi Narayan Temple • India Gate • New Delhi Railway Station • Old Delhi Post Office • Vegetable Markets • Red Fort • Return Home
<p>Start International Airport With 1000 rupees You must visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India Gate • Lakshmi Narayan Temple • Red Fort • Main Bazaar • New Delhi Railway Station 	<p>Start Home With 200 rupees You must visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Delhi Post office • Red Fort • New Delhi Railway Station • Main Bazaar • Vegetable Markets • Return Home 	<p>Start Hotel With 1500 rupees You must visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Fort • Lakshmi Narayan Temple • Red Fort • Jami Masjid (Mosque) • Main Bazaar • Return to Hotel

Destination labels

Red Fort	Vegetable Markets
India Gate	New Delhi Railway station
Hotel	Indira Gandhi International Airport
Jami Masquid (Mosque)	Lakshmi Narayan Temple
Main Bazaar	Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital
Home	Old Delhi Post Office

Price Poster

Housing

Slum shack (mth)	1000 R
Small flat (mth)	4500 R

Fuel

Petrol (1L)	15 R
Kerosene (1L)	30 R

Medical

Hospital visit fee	20 R
Paracetamol	10 R
Nappies (6)	75 R

Clothes

Shirt	150 R
Trousers	300 R
Shoes	700 R

Food

Potatoes (1kg)	7 R
Rice (1kg)	15 R
Lentils (1kg)	35 R
Milk (1L)	20 R
Bananas (dozen)	15 R
Spinach (1kg)	15 R
Flour (1kg)	15 R
Whole chicken	70 R
Cooking oil (1L)	55 R

Education

School fees (mth)	45 R
Uniform	250 R
Textbooks	300 R

Entertainment

TV (30cm)	5000 R
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5 Rupees	5 Rupees	5 Rupees
5 Rupees	5 Rupees	5 Rupees
5 Rupees	5 Rupees	5 Rupees
10 Rupees	10 Rupees	10 Rupees
10 Rupees	10 Rupees	10 Rupees
10 Rupees	10 Rupees	10 Rupees
20 Rupees	20 Rupees	20 Rupees
20 Rupees	20 Rupees	20 Rupees
50 Rupees	50 Rupees	50 Rupees

100 Rupees	100 Rupees	100 Rupees
100 Rupees	100 Rupees	100 Rupees
200 Rupees	200 Rupees	200 Rupees
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