

SEEMA

The hard-working mother

You are a 32-year-old woman, married with three children. You are not the head of the family (in the sense that you do not always make the final decisions), but the household income depends on the informal cleaning work that you do in several homes. Your husband has been unemployed for almost two years, so he has a lot of free time – but still he does not support the children's upbringing. You suffer from domestic violence.



GAME PLAY INSTRUCTIONS

Please elaborate your answers as you get into character! Share your character's thoughts and feelings with the group.

Round One

A Disaster Management Officer from the City Government comes knocking. She asks:

Why didn't you come to the neighbourhood meeting about the floods? You explain that you have no time and no childcare cover. You must work extra hours and you can't take time off.



How have the floods affected you and what would improve your situation? You fear for your and your family's safety. Due to water-logging in and around your house, it's difficult to go to work and this directly affects your household income. The nearby drains overflow into your house and your children fall sick. You need help, and your husband doesn't provide much. It also takes a lot of time to access flood relief from government or NGOs.



Round Two

This time, you manage to attend the neighbourhood meeting.

You are very interested in the idea of being trained on waste management, local crops for urban farming methods and using biogas technologies. These could help you to reduce your household costs. You already have a mobile phone; information on flood levels and evacuation route maps will help you. Your husband can also help in cleanliness drives and in a volunteer group. The information on safety net schemes is also very useful for you. But you are concerned about the procedures to access these safety nets as you are not educated.

What else is on your mind?

Discuss with the group.

