

MOHAN

The pastoralist

You are a 26 year-old man, married with four children. You had inherited land and livestock from your family but recurrent floods reduced your flock. You chose to remain a herder and sell milk for cash in the peri-urban area. Your wife works as a domestic help in the city and has little time at home. During a violent conflict over grazing land, you lost your left leg, and now you are physically impaired. If you're honest about it, you are very depressed because it is now such a struggle to provide for your family and make ends meet. You don't talk about your feelings because it's not what a man does.



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 didn't hear about it, and you couldn't have come anyway – you were so busy minding the animals at pasture and working at home.

How have the floods affected you and what would improve your situation? It is a worry that the cows are not getting enough fodder and water. You don't have good information in advance about the condition of the water and fodder, or the rain forecast for the season, so it feels as though every move you make is fraught with risk. Your customers want to be assured that you'll be able to provide milk: it's hard to assure them when you don't know if it will flood.

Round Two

This time, you manage to attend the neighbourhood meeting.



There is more information on the table, now, about the season's weather forecast, where and when the rains are likely to fall, where the shelters are etc. That could help boost the health of your flock. Meanwhile, there is also an idea for an organised initiative to grow vegetables and provide credit for women in the city. How could you respond to these new options? What else is on your mind?

Discuss with the group.

