

Footprint profile Khadija Akhter



My name is Khadija Akhter. I am 15 years old. I live in a remote village of Netrakona, a city in the north of Bangladesh. I am in the 7th class. The name of my school's is Chollish kahonia hafizuddin High School, Netrakona, Bangladesh. It is far away from my home and there is no good road and no transport on the way to school. There is no other high school near my village and as I want to study I have to walk 8 kilometres every day, 4 kilometres to the school and 4 kilometres back, but I love to walk along the village road.

We are not wealthy, but we are happy family. My father is a farmer and a businessman. He owns a boat that he uses to carry paddy to sell at a distant market. Beside my studies I help my mother in the kitchen and as I am my parents' eldest child I also look after my younger brother and sister. My grandfather and grandmother also live with us in the same compound.

Living

We live with 12 others in a self-built brick house with a tin roof. Our house has three big rooms with a total of 85 square meters. We already live very progressive compared to other families and our house is connected to electricity. We consume about 850-900 kWh of electricity per year. In the colder months we heat our small house with wooden logs. In the kitchen we have two clay stoves and outdoor living space is heated with wood. So we can heat two big pots with water at once if we want to take a warm bath in the cold months. We wash our clothes once a week. We do not yet have a washing machine and wash by hand and leave the clothes outside on a line to dry. We also wash our dishes by hand. We use cold water for washing and for brushing our teeth.

Mobility

We do not own a car or motorcycle. My father has a boat that he uses for his business. When I visit friends or have to do some shopping, I walk. I walk an average of 40-48 kilometers per week. I have never ridden in a train because we live in remote village and the train line is far away from our home.

Exercise 4: Ecological Footprint

Nutrition

At home we usually eat rice with fish and vegetables in different combinations. I drink at least 2-3 litres of water a day. We have our own cow and every day I also drink milk. We can also afford to eat meat twice a week.

There is no restaurant or cafe near us, but there is no need for us to go out for a meal or to have something delivered to us. When at school I sometimes buy street food in the afternoon near my school. This light meal we call "tiffin".

Leisure and consumption

Last year I visited my uncle's house. He is my mother's brother. It was an exciting and wonderful time for me. I stayed 3 nights. My uncle lives 40 km away from our village so I took the bus. Normally in my leisure time I play with my friends from our village in typical local games.

Transportation facilities, which are used in Bangladesh as a "taxi".



CNG (Compressed Natural Gas)
three-wheeler auto-rickshaw



bicycle-rickshaw



auto-rickshaw

Footprint profile Akhi Akhter



My name is Akhi Akhter. I am 15 years old and live in Netrakona, a city in the north of Bangladesh. Currently I am in the 10th grade of Netrakona Adarsha Girl's High School. Most of the time I walk to the school which is 2 kilometers away. Very seldom I go there by car rickshaw. To support my family financially I sew men's shirts. If I can work through, it takes two hours to sew a shirt. But very often I have to interrupt the sewing and then it takes a week to finish. For a shirt with long sleeves I get paid 300 Taka, that is about 3 Euro. From this wage I keep about 50 Taka for myself. The rest is for the family's household budget

Living

With 6 people we live in a self-built house which consists of tin walls with a tin roof. Our house has a large room with a total of 55 square meters and we are not connected to electricity. We have two clay-built stoves in the kitchen heated by wood, so we can heat our little house a bit in the colder months. On the stoves we can also heat water in two big pots at the same time, whether to wash our clothes or to heat water for a nice bath in the cold months. Once a week we wash our clothes by hand because we haven't got a washing machine. We leave the laundry to dry on a line outside. The dishes are also cleaned by hand. For our daily personal hygiene (including dental hygiene) we use cold water.

Nutrition

Our family cannot afford to eat meat very often. Sometimes we eat meat only once a month. Usually we have rice with vegetables in many variations for a meal and drink water with it. I drink at least 2-3 liters of water per day.

Eating out or having something delivered from a restaurant is impossible for our family.

Exercise 4: Ecological Footprint

Mobility

We neither own a car nor a motorcycle. My father owns a car rickshaw for driving passengers, he does that for living. I hardly use a rickshaw myself. I always walk even when I visit friends who live 3 - 5 kilometers away or when I have to go shopping. For some time now I do running three times a week for 3 kilometers. If you add this training to the walking, I have an average of nearly 8 kilometers per day. I never went by train so that would be exciting.

Leisure and consumption

Last year I visited my aunt's family who live 150 kilometers away and I went there by bus. It was an exciting and wonderful time and I was away on my own for three weeks for the first time. I was able to buy the presents from my saved money and I even bought new earrings and a bracelet for myself which cost 200 Taka (2 Euro). Sometimes I buy nail polish or make-up for 100 Taka (1 Euro). Two months ago I bought a pair of trainers for running from my own money.

(Informations from June 2020)

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bicycle-rickshaw



auto-rickshaw

Footprint profile Partho Paul



My name is Partho Paul. I am 13 years old and live in Mymensing, a town in the north of Bangladesh. Currently I am in the 8th grade of Premier Ideal High School Mymensing. On my way to school I have to cross a river called Bramhaputra, because my school is on the other side of the river. Every day I walk to the river, cross it by ferry and then drive another 2 kilometers to school by a rickshaw. Very rarely I use the bicycle for my way to school, because I never know if there is enough space for my bike on the ferry and I don't want to leave it on the riverbank. Most of my time I am at school, in private tutoring (1) or at home. If I have got enough time, I like to play the guitar. Once a week I go to a guitar class. Sometimes I help my father in his business, especially before bank holidays or celebrations.

Living

With 5 people (my parents, my aunt, my sister and I) we live in a self-built house made of bricks with a tin roof. Our house has got four rooms with a total of 107 square metres. We already live very progressively compared to other families and our house is connected to electricity. We consume about 800 kWh of conventional electricity per year. In the colder months we heat our small house with wood burners. Once a week somebody comes to help us by doing the laundry. She washes by hand and hangs the laundry outside on a line to dry it. Each time she gets 50 Taka (50 cent) for it. I have heard that rich people own a dishwasher but we haven't got one. My mother and my aunt wash the dishes by hand. We use cold water for our daily personal and dental hygiene.

Mobility

We neither own a car nor a motorcycle. When I want to visit friends, I walk or take our family bike. We agree on using it. For longer distances we take a bicycle- or a car rickshaw and let ourselves be driven.

Exercise 4: Ecological Footprint

Nutrition

Our family can afford to eat meat once a week. This is not self-evident for many Bengali families. Mostly we eat fish with vegetables and rice. We drink water with it. I bet I drink three litres of water a day. In the warm seasons it is very hot so it can happen that I even drink more water. I also like to drink milk but we don't have an own cow. Because of that we have to buy milk. My mother and my aunt cook for us every day. I take a snack to school, usually it consists of ruti (Bengali bread) and vegetables. Sometimes I spoil myself by buying fast food from a small restaurant or a snack from a street kitchen. I get some pocket money from my parents and with that I even pay for the bicycle rickshaw to school.

Leisure and consumption

I don't have much free time. School, after-school tutoring, homework and guitar lessons require a lot of my time. I don't have to help around the house or do some errands in my little free time because I am the youngest one in our family. I visit friends, ride my bike or play the guitar. I hardly know holidays at all. Last year, after a long time, I visited my aunt's family for two days to help them weeding the fields. My aunt lives 25 kilometers away from us and I went there by CNG. So because I haven't got a job I do not earn my own money to buy presents. My mother bought a little something for my aunt to say thank you.

Transportation facilities, which are used in Bangladesh as a "taxi".



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bicycle-rickshaw



auto-rickshaw

(Informations from June 2020)

Note (1)

Because the classes in public schools are very large, the subject matters are taught quickly and often not methodically differentiated, many students have additional tutoring lessons almost daily.

Exercise 4: Ecological Footprint

Work order for group work

- Find out the Ecological Footprint of **Akhi Akhter, Khadija Akhter oder Partho Paul**.
- Find out special features of their Ecological Footprints, if available.
- Compare your Ecological Footprint with the ones of Akhi Akhter, Khadija Akhter oder Partho Paul.
 - In which points do you find similarities?
 - In which points are there differences?

Source: Brot-für-die-Welt, Footprint portraits