



Choices: Food or Safe Delivery?

Sweety Ara, a 21 year old housewife, and her husband Anichur Rahman (26), a day labourer, paid 3000 taka (~GBP 25) for the home delivery of their first child. This left inadequate income to feed their family for a time. Anticipating the same situation for the delivery of a second child, Sweety and Bahar considered the need for another loan. But this time things were going to be different.

I am **Sweety Ara**, age 21 yrs, a housewife living in the village of Uttor Salondar of Dinajpur Dt. in NW Bangladesh. My husband is a day laborer on neighbor's land, when work is available. We have no land and my house is on the land of other people.

My first baby was delivered at home during a time my husband had no work. The 3000 taka (~GBP 25) expense was raised from my father, father-in-law and other relatives. At the time, it was difficult to manage food for our family.

My feelings, ideas and plans before getting Lamb Hospital Poor Fund Card (known as PI-1 for 'Poverty Index category 1, or lowest 1%')

Without financial assistance, I thought I would receive a few ANC checkups at the local community clinic and deliver the baby at home. LAMB Hospital services cost a lot of money for card fees, tests, medicines, as well as Tk 200 for transport. I could borrow money from my relatives and repay in installments. No money is saved after spending for our family. During corona pandemic, we were in great hardship. I pray to Almighty God that I will not go to hospital. Because we have no ability on this.

My feelings, ideas and plans after getting Lamb Hospital P1 Card-

Manzila Apa ('big sister', an Advanced Volunteer) came to my house and gave me the PI-1 card and said, "If you take this card to Lamb Hospital, you will be provided free prenatal, postnatal checkups, delivery and all medical services up to two years from the birth of baby. The next day after receiving the card, I managed some money and went to Lamb Hospital for ANC check up. I had talked to some mothers from our village who got PI-1 card and got 1-2 services without money. After this I worked up the courage. On arrival, I showed the card to LAMB authority and received an ANC check-up, ultrasound, blood and urine tests. I received some medicine without cost.

I was happy for getting free medical service and find peace in mind. There was no tension regarding my health. It seems to me that creator God sent LAMB as a blessing to us, when as a poor family we got help financially. Then we decided that from now we will go to LAMB Hospital for delivery of baby.

I am very happy and delighted to get Lamb's PI-1 card. It is impossible for us to meet the expenses of a hospital delivery. LAMB is really a friend to poor people. We as a family are grateful to LAMB. We hope LAMB extends a helping hand to the poor in all aspects. I pray that Lamb will work for the poor in future.



I am Momtaj Begum (37), a housewife living with my family of 6 in Munshi Para, Belaichondi Union in Dinajpur District. My husband **Bahar Pramanik** (40), is sick and not able to work much. I do not have land except my house area. To maintain my family, I have to borrow money from neighbors.

Our first baby delivered at home and I had no ANC check-up due to lack of money. By the grace of almighty Allah there was no difficulty in the pregnancy. My previous 3 children also were delivered at home, with the help of neighbors. I never went to the hospital because of the transport fare, and fees for the check-up and delivery. It was not possible for us to manage the money.

My feelings, ideas and plans before getting Lamb Hospital P1 Card-

With my most recent pregnancy, I thought I would give birth at home again like previous children. Then, on request of Lamb staff, I did two ANC checkups at Benir Hat clinic. I had to borrow money for travel and card fee. We had no income for 4 months during corona, and I could not eat nutritious food during pregnancy, nor think of paying for hospital services. At the same time, we had a loan of Tk 40,000. I planned to sell 1 cow and use the family's resource.

My feelings, ideas and plans after getting Lamb Hospital P1 Card-

Lipi Didi ('Big Sister,' Advanced Volunteer) came to my house and gave me the PI-1 card and said, "If you take this card to Lamb Hospital you will be receive free of cost prenatal checkups, delivery, postpartum checkups and all medical services from birth to two years." At first I couldn't believe it, then I thought, if it is free, I will do ANC check-up and will go to the hospital for delivery. I went to LAMB Hospital within 1 week after getting the card and was able to show the card to LAMB authority. I had 3 ANC check-ups, ultrasound, blood test, urine test and received medicines. On 28th November 2020 the baby was delivered by caesarean section and was hospitalized for 7 days. The total bill was Tk.14,735, but I owed nothing. We had to pay only for the travel. We are benefited greatly from this. We found financial and emotional peace in family. Now we tell our neighbors that Lamb is helping the real poor and our family is an example of that.

We are pleased and recognize the benefit of getting PI-1 card. And we believe the treatment at Lamb Hospital is much better than other hospitals. Thanks to Lamb for supporting our family financially. We will be grateful always to Lamb Hospital for providing free medical treatment. Many poor mothers in our area will be benefited if such projects last for a long time.



I am Kabita Rani (25), my husband is Amal Das (30), and we live in Kshatriya Para, in Manmathpur Union of Parbatipur Subdistrict. My husband is a day laborer; and we have 6 members in our family. Except for a house, we have no savings or land, and we are in debt.

Our first baby was delivered by caesarean section at Lamb Hospital, costing Tk.15000.00 (~GBP130). It was impossible to pay so much money: we could not pay the bill. It took 5 days to raise the remainder of the bill, though Tk 10,000 was waived by LAMB from Poor Fund support. We paid the remaining Tk 5000 by selling a chicken and borrowing money from neighbors, causing much difficulty for my family.

My feelings, ideas and plans before getting Lamb Hospital P1 Card-

Our decision was not to do ANC checkup before getting PI-1 card from LAMB Hospital. Delivery will be done at home because we do not have enough money saved or resources which I can sell to pay the hospital bills. We were worried about this situation. If I have any complications, I will go to the government hospital and later try to pay the bill after collecting money from people.

My feelings, ideas and plans after getting Lamb Hospital P1 Card-

One day Lucky (Advanced Volunteer) Didi came to my house and gave me the PI-1 card and said, "If you take this card to Lamb Hospital, you will be provided with prenatal checkups, delivery, postpartum checkups and all medical services up to two years from birth of baby." It was unbelievable to me. I received PI-1 card and after 2 days I went to Lamb for ANC check up, though I did not have any money. At that moment, *I was overwhelmed with joy* and realized Lamb is actually working for the real poor. I don't have to spend extra money for the family. I used to think and felt lonely because of extra cost for me and it had become difficult to maintain our family. It seems to me that a big burden went away from my chest. We do not have to borrow money from people. A destitute family seemed to get a lot of support from Lamb. There was no earning during Corona, so we depended on relief and loans from people.

After receiving the PI-1 card, I went to Lamb for ANC check-up and the baby was delivered by caesarean section on 08-10-2020. Total bill was Tk.19000 (~GBP165), borne by LAMB. I was given medicines, doctors and nurses had friendly behavior with me and visited me occasionally.

The benefits I got from getting the PI-1 card should be given to other poor mothers as well. We are very grateful to LAMB. I give thanks to LAMB for getting this card. Lamb is working as a true friend among the poor in this area. I hope that Lamb will continue this kind of work.



I am Farida Yasmin Shiuli (36), my husband is Khalid Hossain (33) is a mason, and we live with a joint family totally 8 members. My husband is the only earning member but without regular work, and we are in debt.

Our previous child was delivered at home in Dhaka. During that time, I had no checkup due to lack of money, as my husband had no regular income. Almost Tk.3000 was spent for the delivery of baby. We borrowed money to pay for the delivery charge, which was very difficult to repay later.

My feelings, ideas and plans before getting Lamb Hospital P1 Card-

For my next pregnancy, I felt I would get a ½ checkup at the Union Health Center at a low cost, before I got the PI-1 card from Lamb Hospital. Our family decision was that the baby would be delivered at home. My husband had no job for about 4 months during Corona. We had to run the family by borrowing money from people, now we are repaying the loan. We do not have savings for ourselves. If I would have a problem, I would go to Lamb Hospital and get help from people.

My feelings, ideas and plans after getting Lamb Hospital P1 Card-

Nazira (Advanced Volunteer) apa (addressing older sister) came to my house and gave me the PI-1 card and said, "If you take this card to Lamb Hospital, you will get free medical services until the child is 2 years old." After receiving the PI-1 card, I wondered if Lamb would really provide all medical services completely free of cost? The day after receiving the card, I went to Lamb Hospital for ANC checkup. After showing the card, the Lamb doctors gave me tests and gave medications free of charge. I realized I am a lucky one, despite being poor, because I got this PI-1 card. I became very happy and found peace in mind, which I cannot express in words. It seemed like I didn't have to borrow anything, at least not for the cost of delivery. Somehow my family received some financial support. Then we decided in our family that must go to Lamb Hospital delivery of our baby in future.

Many thanks to Lamb on behalf of me and my family for finding out me gave me this PI-1 card. We are very happy and grateful that Lamb stood by us in times of problem. No one has to pay for this card. I pray that Lamb will work for the poor in future.