

ECON 3018 Economics of Developing Countries

Homework Assignment 2

Due date: Sunday, Sept 16th at 11:00 pm on Blackboard

Pather Panchali, a critically acclaimed film, tells the story, set in 1950s India, of a Bengali family that has fallen on hard times. After watching the film, write a mini-essay (about 2 pages long—double spaced) containing *your observations about economic life* of the family. The following are questions to guide you in making observation. Your essay must include answers to at least 10 of these.

1. What is their physical environment like?
2. What are their sources of income?
3. What do their household chores consist of?
4. How do they tide over financially in bad times? What are some of their sources of financial security in old age?
5. What are their plans for their long-term economic future?
6. What kind of capital equipment do they use?
7. What form do their savings take?
8. What kind of investments do they make?
9. What are their diets like? What health hazards do they face?
10. What kind of healthcare do they use?
11. What are their sources of entertainment/recreation/amusement?
12. What is the source of their social status?
13. What kind of gender or age-related roles do you observe?
14. Are male and female children differently? How so?
15. What role, if any, does the government play in their lives?
16. What do they worry about?
17. What are some of the degradations (i.e. humiliations) they experience?