

Table S1: Livelihoods questionnaire carried out with participants working in the brick kilns, Ahmedabad, India. The questionnaire formed part of a more comprehensive questionnaire for a wider research piece; only those relevant to the current research piece have been presented.

Question	Response options
Name of the location	<i>Open text</i>
Assessor name	<i>Open text</i>
Participant ID	<i>Numeric</i>
Do you consent to participating in this survey?	Yes; no
Demographic information	
How old are you?	Under 18 (stop survey); Eighteen to Thirty; Thirty to Fifty; Over 50; Over 18, prefer not to give specific age
Gender	Male; Female
What is your job role in the kiln?	Brick loader (using a donkey); Brick loader (using a vehicle); Brick loader (using a hand cart); Brick moulder; Fireman; Brick stacker; Brick counter; Arranger; Unloader; Thekedar; Kiln manager; Kiln owner; Other (please specify)
Who is the head of your household?	Me; Spouse; Other (male); Other (female); Unsure
How many adults (18 and over) are in your immediate household?	<i>Numeric</i>
Do you own your home, rent or stay with extended family in your home village?	Own; Rent; Live with family or friends; Other (please specify)
Do you own or rent any land in your home village?	Own; Rent; Use land owned by family or friends; Do not own or rent; Other (please specify)
Do you have any of the following in your household?	Radio; TV; Mobile phone; Computer/laptop; Motorbike; Tractor
What is your education level?	None; Read and write; primary; secondary; University/college; Other (please specify)
Income	
How much does your household earn in the brick kiln per week (in rupees)?	<i>Numeric</i>
How much does your household earn in the off season per week (in rupees)?	<i>Numeric</i>
Were you paid an advance for your work in the kiln before the start of the season?	Yes; No; Unsure
What is your main source of income?	<i>Open text</i>
Is your household's primary source of income for the year dependent on your donkeys? (donkey owners only)	Yes; No; Unsure
If not, what is your main source of income? (donkey owners only)	<i>Open text</i>
Donkey ownership and care	
How many donkeys does your household own?	<i>Numeric</i>
Who in your household owns the donkeys?	Me; Spouse; Other male family member; Other female family member; Other (please specify)
Do you own the same number, more or fewer donkeys than last season?	More; The same; Fewer
- Why is that?	<i>Open text</i>
What happens to your donkeys in the off-season?	Used for other work (please specify); Sold; Released; Rented out ; Rested; Other (please specify)
On average, how many seasons do you keep the same donkeys for?	<i>Numeric</i>
Where did your donkeys come from?	Bought from other owners; Bought from nomads; Bought from donkey fair; Born at home; Rescued; Adopted; Rented; Borrowed/Belongs to someone else; Other (please specify)
How did you acquire the donkeys you are using for this season?	Used my advance from the Thekedar; Borrowed money (alternative money lender); Used my savings; Other (please specify)
What happens to your donkeys at the end of their working life?	Sold; Released; Euthanised; Kept; Other (please specify)
On average, how old are your donkeys (in years)?	<i>Numeric</i>

Table S2: A sample of the semi-structured interview questions carried out with participant working in the brick kilns, Ahmedabad, India. As interviews were semi-structured, specific questions differed between interviews, not all of the listed questions were asked during all interviews and follow-up questions were based on the interests of the participant.

Theme	Participant	Question
Background	All	Can you tell me a bit about yourself and your family?
	All	How long have you worked in brick kilns?
	All	Do all of the family members that came here with you work in the kiln too? What do they do?
	Owners	How long have you worked with donkeys?
	All	What was the process for you to be recruited to work in the brick kiln this season?
Financial dependence on equids and kiln work	All	How / when are you paid for your work in the kilns?
	All	Do you do any other types of work? Could you tell me more about those?
	All	How does this work compare to the brick kilns?
	Owners	Are your donkeys involved in the work you do when not in the kilns?
Equid ownership as a route out of debt	Owners	Why did you start working with donkeys?
	All	Why did you starting working in the brick kilns originally?
	All	Could you tell us about the work you did before starting at the brick kilns?
	All	Do you save any money from your work in the brick kilns?
Financial aspirations	Owners	What do you think is the future for donkeys in brick kilns?
	All	Do you think you will continue to work in the kilns in the future?
	Non-owners	Is owning a donkey something you have an interest in or not? Why is that?
	Non-owners	Would it have an impact on yours and your family's life if you owned a donkey? In what way?
Equid welfare and income poverty	Owners	What happens if one of your donkeys dies or gets very sick and couldn't work anymore?
	Owners	Do all your donkeys work every day?
		Who takes care of the donkeys daily needs?

Table S4: The percentage of owner responses to each of the questions included in the analysis of comparing poverty indicators to equid welfare (health and behaviour). Percentages are given for the number of responses taken from raw data (before imputation), and the percentage of answers after the imputation of missing data (after imputation).

Question	Response	Before imputation (%)	After imputation (%)
Number of assets	0	8	8
	1	11	11
	2	27	27
	3	30	30
	4	24	24
Own home	Own	89	89
	Rent	11	11
Borrowed money for equids	No	57	57
	Yes	43	43
Seasons kept	One season	3	3
	Two to four seasons	24	24
	Five or more seasons	14	14
	The rest of the donkeys life	54	54
	Unsure	5	5
Number equines owned	4	3	3
	5	5	5
	6	3	3
	7	8	8
	8	19	19
	9	11	11
Earnings per family	10	51	51
	<1000	43	43
	>1000-<2000	24	27
	>2000	27	30
Equine cost	Missing	5	0
	<1000	3	3
	>4000-<5000	19	19
	>5000-<6000	43	43
Health WAG score	>6000-<7000	35	35
	80 - 89	46	57
	70 - 79	19	22
	60 - 69	14	14
	50 - 59	3	5
	40 - 49	3	3
Behaviour WAG score	Missing	16	0
	70 - 79	30	43
	60 - 69	27	27
	50 - 59	24	24
	40 - 49	3	3
	30 - 39	3	3
	Missing	14	0