

# JEEPNEYS, TRICYCLES AND PADYAKS

*Based on the Rickshaw Game by Tear Australia.*



## OBJECTIVES

To have fun while learning about the difficulties that low paid workers face in big cities in the Philippines.  
To help overcome the misunderstanding that “people are poor because they are lazy”.

## RESOURCES AND PREPARATION

Photocopy destination cards and money. Destination cards can be stuck onto envelopes and allocated money placed inside.

Enlarge or write destination signs & display in room.

Place these signs as far apart as possible in a large hall or in an outside playground area.

## HOW TO PLAY

Many people in the Philippines live below the poverty line. One of the ways people try to make a living in cities in the Philippines is to drive jeepneys, tricycles, and padyaks.

Explain that today they are going to pretend that they are either passengers or drivers in Manila.

### 1. EXPLAIN THE RULES

- Passengers must visit all destinations on their list in the order they are written.
- All passengers must use the transport available to visit each destination. This is still the case even if the destinations are next to each other. Players may not walk.
- Drivers/Vehicles are to choose a starting destination before passengers take their starting places.
- Once at a place the jeepneys and tricycles are not able to travel without a passenger (as fuel costs too much). Padyaks, however, may move freely about without passengers.

### 2. DIVIDE PLAYERS INTO FOUR GROUPS

- Padyaks: One person acts as a padyak and piggy-backs people around.
- Tricycles: Two people per tricycle, link arms and passenger sits on arms in the middle.
- Jeepneys: Three people, link arms as above, third person leads, passenger hangs onto leader for extra support.
- There need to be many more drivers/vehicles than passengers for the game to work.
- A suggested breakdown for a group of 25:
  - 5 passengers
  - 5 padyaks
  - 6 for tricycles (making 3 – 2 per tricycle)
  - 9 for jeepneys (making 3 jeepneys – 3 per jeepney)
- For groups of fewer than 25, cut out the jeepneys and just use padyaks and tricycles.

### **3. DRIVERS/VEHICLES CHOOSE A DESTINATION AT WHICH TO START**

Explain the rules about moving and suggest they choose a place where there might be many passengers. Hint that some passengers may be tourists and will have more money than locals.

### **4. HAND PASSENGERS THEIR DESTINATION CARDS AND MONEY**

Money – all passengers are to start with money, Filipino pesos. Provide the amount of pesos to each passenger as allocated on their destination card.

Roughly 40 pesos = 1 NZ dollar.

### **5. PASSENGERS GO TO THEIR STARTING POINT**

Explain the bargaining system and demonstrate it. Explain that the more comfortable and quick a vehicle is, the more you would expect to pay. For the purpose of this game there are no fixed prices; all trips should be agreed to before the trip begins.

Jeepneys would normally be more expensive to hire than padyaks and tricycles because they are more comfortable and able to travel at greater speeds. Tricycles, too, would normally be more expensive than a padyak. 15-20 minutes is a good length of time for a fast-paced game.

### **6. DEBRIEFING**

During the debriefing session, you might like to raise some or all of the following questions. Try to get a chance to hear at least once from everyone about their experience during the game.

- What were some of the experiences of the passengers?
- Was it easy to get a ride? How did the bartering go?
- Did you find it difficult to know who to choose?
- Were the prices fair?
- What were some of the experiences of the drivers/vehicles?
- How much money did different people make?

Have a look at the price poster and see how much you could afford to buy with that money. How many days would you have to work to pay your rent? How long would you have to save up to buy clothes or a TV?

What would life be like for you if this was all you had to live on?

- Was it hard to find passengers?
- Who got a lot of work? Why?
- Who didn't get much work? Why?
- Was there enough work for everybody?

Read the interview with the tricycle driver on the web;

[www.vagabondjourney.com/meet-the-men-who-drive-tricycles-an-inside-look-at-the-philippines-three-wheeled-motorcycle-taxis/](http://www.vagabondjourney.com/meet-the-men-who-drive-tricycles-an-inside-look-at-the-philippines-three-wheeled-motorcycle-taxis/)

Are there health risks associated with driving tricycles?



The Catholic Agency for Justice,  
Peace & Development