

el-Geifil market - thirty-five year-old woman selling utensils

She is a farmer and lives in a village that is two and one-half hours away from el-Geifil by donkey and is a member of the area's dominant tribe, the Jawama'a. She is selling utensils and kitchen wares. About once a month she rides a lorry from her village to el-Obeid in order to restock her merchandise. The round-trip to el-Obeid for herself costs 3.000 and she also pays 1.000 for each large box of goods. When interviewed she had brought three large boxes of merchandise on a donkey and she had ridden a second donkey. One of the donkeys belonged to her. The other she was renting that day for 1.500. She buys goods from a wholesaler in el-Obeid and sells them at a mark-up which covers her expenses and earns some profit. For example, she is selling a coffee pot for 0.750 which was purchased in a lot of twenty for 13.000, a mark-up of 15%. Aluminum wash tubs she sells for 3.50 apiece having bought them by the dozen for 40.000, a mark-up of only 6%. Plastic pitchers are selling for 2.500 apiece. She paid 24.000 per dozen for these, a mark-up of 25%.<sup>69</sup> The woman says that she has been a periodic trader for the past ten years. She has been coming to el-Geifil market every week during the marketing season for the past three years (since the market was started). She also sells at three other village markets in the area.

Abu Haraz market - forty year-old man selling millet and sorghum

This man is from a village that is a one and one-half hour walk from Abu Haraz. He belongs to the Rizeigat (a nomadic tribe) but has been a settled cultivator in this area for many years. He is selling millet and zunaari (local sorghum) which he grows on his farm. He has brought for sale one sack of millet and six mids of zunaari. These goods were transported from his village by camel, for which he is paying the owner 1.000. Before setting his price at Abu Haraz market the man asks the prices at which the merchants are selling millet and zunaari. Then he sets his price 0.050/mid lower than the prevailing price. On this occasion (Nov. 1981) he is selling millet for 1.20/mid and zunaari for 1.00/mid. He has been coming to Abu Haraz market for more than twenty years. He comes throughout the year except when he is sick or busy. If he has no grain to sell, he may sell wood, charcoal or animals.

Abu Haraz market - seventeen year-old woman selling vegetables

This young woman is living in Abu Haraz with her parents since her husband left for Khartoum in search of a job. Her ethnic origins are Fellata (West African), although she was born in a village nearby Abu Haraz. She is selling tomatoes and turnips, which she has bought at wholesale in Abu Jahal market, el-Obeid. The tomatoes were bought for 3.000/box. Because some of the tomatoes were damaged, she only has thirteen good piles from the box. A pile contains five tomatoes. She is selling these at a competitive price of 0.200/pile. This means that she is losing 0.400 on the box of tomatoes. She really doesn't have much choice, however, since there

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<sup>69</sup>These items are only a small sample of her stock in trade. The selling prices indicated are only approximate since bargaining may occur.