



The Price of a Samosa: A Story of Demand

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Rahul, Zeel, and Smriti sit on a modern, sunlit cafe patio on a Saturday morning, staring intensely at a newly updated digital menu on Rahul's smartphone. The prices of their favorite gourmet samosas have spiked significantly due to recent inflation, casting a somber mood over the three seventeen-year-olds.



Zeel counts her limited allowance money on the wooden table, realizing her purchasing power has dropped. Rahul explains that their desire for the snacks hasn't changed, but their ability to pay at this high price point means their individual demand has fallen.



Smriti, who just received a small bonus from her part-time tutoring job, smiles and offers to buy a larger portion, demonstrating how an increase in income can shift an individual's demand curve outward even when prices rise.



The friends walk over to a bustling local market square where several street vendors are competing for customers. They notice that the vendor with the highest prices has a completely empty stall, perfectly illustrating the law of demand where higher prices lead to lower quantity demanded.



Suddenly, a famous teenage influencer posts a video eating a cheaper, alternative street snack, causing a massive buzz online. Zeel points at her screen, noting how a shift in consumer tastes and preferences can instantly dry up the demand for the expensive cafe samosas.



They watch as the crowd shifts away from the cafe toward a nearby bakery selling hot puff pastries at half the price. Rahul notes that because pastries are an excellent substitute good, a rise in the price of samosas has naturally increased the demand for pastries.



Smriti decides to buy a sweet chutney to go with their snacks, but groans when she sees the chutney price has also gone up because it is a complementary good. She explains to Zeel that when the demand for a main product drops, the demand for its complement usually falls too.



The sky darkens slightly with rain clouds, and rumors circulate among the market shoppers that snack prices will rise even higher next week due to a supply shortage. Instantly, a long line forms at the stalls as people rush to buy now, driven by the expectation of future price increases.



Sitting on a park bench with a modest but delicious spread of affordable treats, the three teenagers sketch out a makeshift demand curve on Zeel's notebook. They marvel at how their simple weekend hangout is actually a living, breathing reflection of global economic theories.



As the sun sets over the vibrant city, Rahul, Zeel, and Smriti walk home feeling empowered by their new understanding of the market. They realize that while inflation is challenging, being smart consumers helps them navigate the economy with confidence and friendship.