

Lesson at a Glance

- **Urban life** is different from rural life.
- People of urban areas are engaged in different activities. Some are rickshaw pullers, some are vendors, some are business persons, some are shopkeepers, etc.
- These people work on their own. They are not employed by anyone.
- There are almost one crore street vendors in the country working in urban areas.
- In the **urban market** one can find a **variety of shops**—shops selling sweets, toys, clothes, footwear, utensils, etc. There are garment showrooms too.
- There are several **business persons** in the market who manage their own shops or business. They are not employed by anyone. But they do employ a number of other workers as supervisors and helpers.
- The urban market has small **offices and shops** that provide services, such as banks, courier services and others.
- A number of **daily wage labourers** can be found in the city. They work as helpers to masons.
- Several urban people are engaged in factories, such as garment factories.
- In garment factories most workers are usually employed on a **casual basis**. They are required to come as and when the employer needs them.
- Jobs on casual basis are not permanent. There is **no job security**. Workers are expected to work very long hours. They do not get any facility.
- There are many workers in the city who work in offices, factories and government departments where they are employed as regular and permanent workers.
- Permanent and regular workers avail several benefits such as saving for old age, holidays, medical facilities etc.
- In big cities, working in call centres has become a new form of employment.

- Call centres are generally set up as large rooms with work stations that include a computer, a telephone set and supervisor's stations.
- India has become a major centre not only for Indian companies but also foreign companies.

■ IN-TEXT QUESTIONS SOLVED ■

9. 1. What do you see in this illustration?

(NCERT Textbook, page 76)



Ans. In the above illustration we see people engaged in a variety of works. Someone is selling something, someone

is running to catch the bus, someone is purchasing things, children are going to school.



9. 2. You have already read about the work that people do in rural areas. Now compare the work that people in this illustration are doing with the work that people do in rural areas.

(NCERT Textbook, page 76)

Ans. In the picture of rural area we saw people engaged in farming activities such as ploughing, winnowing, spraying pesticides in the field, construction work, fishing, etc. In the above illustration people are engaged in trade activities. There are transports like buses, cars, there are institutions like schools, offices, etc. There are shops selling things of daily use.

9. 3. Some parts of the city are different from others. What differences do you notice in this illustration?

(NCERT Textbook, page 79)

Ans. In one of the pictures there are users who avail the facilities while in the other picture there are the service providers providing different services. We see a barber, a sweeper, a milk vendor, a florist, etc. There is a hospital too. An auto-driver is also seen in the picture.

Services of these people are very essential. They are an important part of the society.

Q. 4. *Why did Bachchu Manjhi come to the city?*

(NCERT Textbook, page 79)

Ans. Bachchu Manjhi came to the city to earn a living.

Q. 5. *Why can't Bachchu Manjhi live with his family?*

(NCERT Textbook, page 79)

Ans. Bachchu Manjhi can't live with his family because the income that he earns is not enough to maintain his family.

Q. 6. *Talk to a vegetable vendor or hawker and find out how do they organise their work, their way of preparing, purchasing, selling, etc.* (NCERT Textbook, page 79)

Ans. Do yourself.

Q. 7. *Bachchu Manjhi has to think twice before taking a day off from work. Why?* (NCERT Textbook, page 79)

Ans. Because he would not earn anything on that day and therefore he will have to face difficulties.

Q. 8. *Why did Harpreet and Vandana start a showroom? What do they have to do to run the showroom?*

(NCERT Textbook, page 81)

Ans. These days people prefer to buy readymade clothes rather than have them stitched. The trend these days is for readymade garments. Therefore they started a showroom. For their showroom, they buy things from different places. They buy most of the materials from Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Ludhiana and Tripura. They get some materials from Noida and Gurgaon. They get some dress items from abroad, too.

Q. 9. *Talk to a shop owner in a market and find out how he plans his work. Have there been any changes in his business in the past twenty years?*

What are the differences between those who sell on the street and those in the market? (NCERT Textbook, page 81)

Ans. Yes, his business has been changed a lot with time. Previously, it was only he who owned a garment shop in the area. And therefore he did not have to face competition. But now, there are several garment shops which have made the market very competitive. The sale has been affected. People do bargain. If they are not satisfied with the price they move to another shop.

Those who sell things in the street buy their things from the local market. On the contrary, those who sell things in the market, purchase their things in bulk from the bigger towns or the manufacturing cities. The street vendors or sellers don't need any licence whereas those who have shops in the main market need licence and also pay taxes. One can't rely more on the street vendors where as shops in the market are permanent and hence reliable.

Q. 10. *Why do you think small workshops and factories employ casual workers?* (NCERT Textbook, page 83)

Ans. Small workshops and factories employ casual workers because they don't have regular work.

Q. 11. *Describe the working conditions of the people like Nirmala keeping in mind the following: working hours, conditions in the workplace, earnings and the days of work available?* (NCERT Textbook, page 83)

Ans. Nirmala works as a tailor in an export garment unit. The factory where she works makes summer clothes for people in foreign countries.

- *Working hours of Nirmala.* Nirmala has to work very long hours in the months from December to April. A normal working day begins at 9 a.m. and finishes by 10 p.m, sometimes even later. She works for six days a week. At times when the work needs to be done urgently, she works on Sundays, too.

- *Conditions of Workplace.* Jobs like that of Nirmala are not permanent. There is no job security or protection and there is also ill-treatment. Workers are expected to work long hours. For example, in the cloth mill units, the workers work on day and night shifts with each shift lasting 12 hours.

- *Earnings.* Nirmala is paid ₹ 80 a day for eight hours and ₹ 40 extra for working late.

- *Days of the work available.* Most workers, like Nirmala, are employed on casual basis, i.e. they are required to come as and when the employer needs them. They are employed when the employer gets large orders or during certain seasons. At other times of the year they have to go elsewhere to find a job. The factory in which Nirmala works, reduces its staff

by June. Nirmala will therefore be asked to leave. She will be without work for at least three or four months.

Q. 12. Would you say that domestic workers like housemaids are also casual workers? Why? Describe the workday of one such woman detailing the work she does in other peoples' houses. (Textbook, page 83)

Ans. Yes, domestic workers like housemaids, are also casual workers because they don't get the facilities of the permanent and regular job. They are at the will of their employer. So long they are physically fit they will continue their duty. As soon as their efficiency decreases. They are asked by their employer to leave.

I know one such woman who works as a domestic help in my neighbourhood. Her name is Sunita. She is middle-aged. She has been working in that house for two years. Her day usually starts at 5 O'clock in the morning. She does each and every household works. Her memsahib works in a office and is a very busy person. Sunita takes care of everything. She cooks food, washes clothes, cleans the house, buys household articles from the nearby shops, etc. She doesn't get any free moment. She goes to bed at 12 O'clock. She earns ₹ 2000 per month.

■ TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED ■

Q. 1. Read and discuss the following description of the living conditions of workers who come to the labour chowk.

Most workers that we find at the labour chowk cannot afford permanent accomodation and sleep on pavements near the chowk, or they pay ₹ 6 a night for a bed at a nearby night shelter run by the Municipal Corporation. To compensate for the lack of security, local tea and cigarette shops function as banks, moneylenders and safety lockers, all rolled into one. Most workers leave their tools at these shops for the night for safe keeping and pass on any extra money to them. The shopkeepers keep the money safety and also offer loans to labourers in need.

Source : Aman Sethi, Hindu on-line

Ans. Students are suggested to discuss on the above theme in the class in the presence of their teacher.

Q. 2. Complete the following table and discuss how their work is different:

| Name | Place of work | Earnings | Security of work | Benefits received | Work on their own or employed |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Bachchu Manjhi | | ₹ 100 a day | | | |
| Harpreet Vandana | | | | | Work on their own |
| Nirmala | | | No security | | |
| Sudha | Company | ₹ 30,000 p.m. | | | |

Ans.

| Name | Place of work | Earnings | Security of work | Benefits received | Work on their own or employed |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Bachchu Manjhi | Road | ₹ 100 a day | No security | No benefits | Work on his own |
| Harpreet Vandana | Showroom | Flexible | Their job is secured | They are planning to buy a flat and car. | Work on their own |
| Nirmala | Garment factory | ₹ 80 a day | No security | She can earn extra money by working late. | Employed |
| Sudha | Company office | She gets regular salary. | Her job is secured | Holidays, medical facilities | Employed |

Q. 3. In what ways is a permanent and regular job different from a casual job? Discuss.

Ans. In a permanent and regular job an employee gets a regular salary every month. Besides, a regular salary he gets other benefits such as savings for old age, holidays, medical facilities for his family, etc. Thus, his job is secured. But casual workers avail no job security. If

workers complain about their pay or working conditions, they are asked to leave. They are also expected to work very long hours. They don't get other benefits like permanent employees.

Q. 4. What benefits does Sudha get along with her salary?

Ans. Sudha is a permanent worker with a company. She gets several benefits along with her salary:

- *Savings for old age.* A part of her salary is kept in a fund with the government. She will earn interests on these savings. When she retires from this job she will get this money in the form of pension.
- *Holidays.* Sudha gets off on Sundays and national holidays. She also gets some days as annual leave.
- *Medical facilities for her family.* The company pays Sudha medical expenses up to a certain amount for her and her family members. She gets medical leave if she falls ill and her salary is not cut if she takes this leave.

Q. 5. Fill in the following table to show the services provided by people in markets which you visit frequently.

| Name of the shop or office | Nature of the service provided |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | |
| | |

Ans.

| Name of the shop or office | Nature of the service provided |
|---|---|
| Garment showroom | It provides clothes as per the requirement of the customer. |
| Shop selling utensils, footwear, electronic goods, etc. | They provide household things. |
| Banks | They provide security and growth to our money. |

Note: Students are suggested to add more.