

CHAPTER – 9

URBAN LIVELIHOODS

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

Most workers that we find at the labor chowk cannot afford permanent accommodation and so sleep on pavements near the chowk, or they pay Rs. 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 safekeeping, and pass on any extra money to them. The shopkeepers keep the money safely and also offer loans to laborers in need.

Answer:

At labor chowks, daily wage workers wait with their tools for people to come and take them for work. The labor has usually migrated from the rural areas in search of employment and since they are so poor they cannot afford to have permanent shelters in the urban areas. Therefore, they are forced to live on streets and pavements and keep their tools at nearby shops. They are not given basic health facilities and face difficulties every day. They work on their own. They are not employed by anyone and therefore, have to organize their own work. Often people who make a living in the city are forced to set up their homes on streets or stay in night shelters by paying money every time they go in there.

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		Rs. 100 day			
Harpreet, Vandana					Work on their own
Nirmala			No security		
Sudha	Company	Rs. 30,000 p.m.			

Answer:

Name	Place of work	Earnings	Security of work	Benefits Received	Work on their own or employed
Bachchu Manjhi	Cycle – Rickshaw Puller	Rs. 100 day	No job security	No benefits received	Work on his own
Harpreet, Vandana	Garments showroom	Good income	Yes, obtained license to do business	Growth in business is guaranteed	Work on their own
Nirmala	Garment Factory	Rs. 80 a day for eight hours and Rs. 40 extra for working late	No security	Gets Rs. 40 per hour for overtime	Employed
Sudha	Company	Rs. 30,000 p.m.	Fully secured job	Medical facilities for her family,	Employed

				Holiday, Savings for old age	
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The work of all the three persons are different on the basis of the following parameters: 1. Place of work 2. Earnings 3. Security of work 4. Benefits Received 5. Work on their own or employed.

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

Answer:

Regular and permanent job is completely secured and regular employees receives fixed income. Regular or permanent workers attend same office or factory regularly. Their work is clearly identified. They get a regular salary. Unlike casual workers they will not be asked to leave if the company or factory does not have much work. Their job-time is defined and they also get paid holidays and other benefits from their employers.

Casual job, on the other hand is totally unsecured and there is no fixed income. Casual workers' jobs aren't permanent. If they complain about their pay or working conditions, they are asked to leave. There is no job security or protection is there is ill treatment. They are also expected to work for longer hours. Forget the additional benefits, they have not been provided even the basic amenities.

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

Answer:

Sudha works as a marketing manager in a company which manufactures biscuits. She gets a regular salary and is a permanent worker with the

company. She can expect her job to continue for a long time. Being a permanent worker, she also gets other benefits such as the following:

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 and she can live on that.

Holidays: She gets off on Sundays and national holidays. She also gets some days as annual leave.

Medical facilities for her family: Her company pays the 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 the markets which you visit frequently.

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

Answer:

Name of the shop or office	Nature of the service provided
SAI Electrical	Provides electronic Items
Asian Net café	Provides internet connectivity at the shop
RS Services Pvt. Ltd	DTH and cable operator
Mother Dairy	Milk and other dairy products
ASJ Ration shop	Provides ration and other grocery items
Friends Gift Shop	Gift items