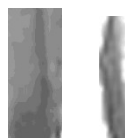
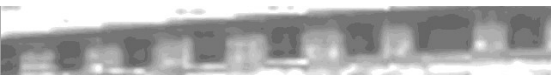


CIVICS



Rural Livelihoods

People in Villages

Agriculture is the main occupation of the people living in villages. Apart from agriculture, many people are also engaged in **non-agricultural activities** such as:

- Makers of baskets, utensils, potsetc.
- Washer men, barbers, tailors, spinners, blacksmith andweavers.
- Cycle repairmechanics
- Construction workers and lorrydrivers
- Shopkeepers selling groceries, snacks and fresh eatables such as upma, pohaetc.
- Traders



People of a village making baskets

Agricultural Activities

Most people in villages are engaged in agricultural activities.

- Poor people in rural areas collect firewood, fetch drinking water from long distances and graze their animals. People mostly do these activities to fulfill their householdneeds.
- In our country, more than two fifth of all the rural families are agriculturallabourers.
- Some agricultural labourersown small plots of land while some are landlesslabourers.
- The landless labourers work on farms of the big land owners on dailywages.
- Working on farms includes activities such as preparing the land, sowing, weeding andharvesting.
- Since landless labourers are not able to find work the whole year round, they travel or migrate to other places in search of work during the leanperiod.
- In India, about two out of every five rural families are agricultural labourerswho work on the farms of big landowners.
- Only 20% of farmers in the country own large lands. These farmers also run small businesses such as small factories, monylending, trading etcsimultaneously.



In India, more than two fifth of all the rural families are agricultural labourers.

When do Farmers Face the Burden of Debt?

- Many farmers do not always have enough cash to purchase seeds orfertilisers.
- Hence they take loans from moneylender to buy seeds or fertilisers. In case of drought or attack by pests and insects, the crop mayfail.
- Under such circumstances, the farmers are not able to repay their loans. In order to survive and feed their families, they again borrow moremoney.
- The small loan borrowed by them, due to the huge amount of interest, becomes so large, that they become unable to pay the loans and get caught in a debttrap.

- In recent years, the debt trap has become an acute problem due to which many farmers have committed suicide.

Big Farmers and Landowners

In villages there are big land owners. They employ several landless labourers in their fields. At times they may also own a mill which adds to their income. According to the example given in the text, Ramalingam and his family owns a rice mill and a shop which sells seeds and pesticides to the farmers. He usually borrows money from the cooperative bank. The rice produced in the mill is sold to the traders, which earns Ramalingam a good income.

Some Other Activities of People in the Villages

Apart from farming, some other activities of village people are:

- Collection of wood and other forest products like mahua flower, tendu leaves
- Fishing
- Animal husbandry and dairy produce
- Selling of milk to the village cooperative society or in nearby towns.



Fishing is one of the main activities of people in villages apart from cultivation.