

Vidya Bhawan Balika Vidyapeeth

Class-6<sup>th</sup>, Sub. -Social Science(Civics)

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Study the topic carefully & Write the hard word.

Ch9 Urban Livelihood- Occupation & Profession in Urban Areas

Along with more than 6 lakh villages, India has as many as five thousand towns and nearly twenty seven big cities known as 'Metros'. Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata are some of the big cities or metros. Each of them has a population of more than 10 million people. Therefore, 'urban livelihood' greatly differs from the 'rural livelihood' as the urban surroundings are different. Moreover, the urban society is 'heterogeneous' because its population comprises of people from different parts of India. People are either self-employed or employed in government offices, companies, banks, hospitals, educational institutions or corporates. A large number of people also work on the streets as hawkers, vendors, etc. So, the cities are not just about a huge crowd of people, but it also help us to know about a wide variety of jobs done by the people for their livelihood. The people in the 'metros' come from different parts of the country bringing their own culture, customs, tradition, dresses and varied language. Such a wide variation cannot be seen in any

rural area. In the urban areas, people follow different occupations to earn their livelihood. So, the scope of the means of livelihood in the urban areas is far more wider than in the rural areas. Let's study about the means of livelihood in the urban areas.

### URBAN LIVELIHOOD

The occupations adopted by people in the cities and towns are known as urban livelihood.

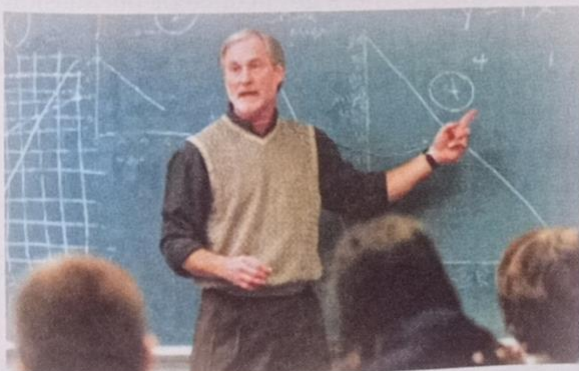
#### Insight

Mumbai is also known as the Financial Capital of India.

Since a large number of people live in towns and cities, they require greater number of facilities. These facilities involve the hospitals, banks, schools, colleges, courts, police stations, factories, industries and shopping malls, etc.

The different professionals include:

- Teachers and lecturers who teach in schools and colleges.
- Inspectors, sub-inspectors and constables posted at police stations for maintaining the law and order.
- Judges and lawyers engaged in different cases at civil or criminal courts.
- Doctors and nurses engaged in the hospitals, dispensaries and medical clinics.
- Employees of the different banks.
- Employees working in State and Central Government offices. They are appointed at the Central and State level by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and the State Public Service Commission (PSC) respectively. They are also entitled to the permanent job with all benefits like government accommodation, earned leaves, medical facilities and pension.
- Public sector employees are employed in a number of enterprises run by the government for the development of the country. Some of these organisations are: The Indian Railways, Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd., Bharat Petroleum, etc. The number of employees working in these organisations is quite large.



A teacher teaching in a class

- Skilled employees working in different factories and industries as workers,

supervisors and officers. Their services cannot be terminated easily, for instance people employed in export houses fabricating garments.

- Skillful cooks and managers in different hotels and restaurants.



A surgeon performing an operation in an operation theatre

The majority of the people in urban areas are the workers engaged either on the **regular employment** or **on daily wages**. These include the workers doing manual work in different industries such as textile industries, pharmaceutical industries, factories, construction industry, etc.

There are garment export units which fabricate garment of different types to other countries. Such units employ garment workers. Since these export orders have to be met within the deadline, the workers have to put in more than the required effort, sometimes even in two shifts. They get more money for extra work. However, when the work is completed many workers are left without work. The conditions of work are not good but the workers have no choice. If they leave, there are many others ready to work on lesser wages.



## Insight

Regular employment is generally offered by organised sector where terms of employment are regular and people have assured work. Such enterprises are registered with government. They have to abide by the rules and regulations laid down by the government.

Wage employment is largely offered by the unorganised sector. It consists of all those enterprises which are not required to be registered with the government. These are small units. The government lays down some rules and regulations to be followed by them, but these are rarely observed. Wage employment is contractual in nature. There is no security of job. A person can be asked to leave his job any time.

A large part of the urban population is **self employed** or working in the shopping malls. The self employed people do work of their own choice. They make sure that all the requirements of the people are met easily. The other workers of urban areas are shoemakers, cobblers, barbers, goldsmiths, blacksmiths, taxi drivers, etc. There are some people with a creative bent of mind. They open boutiques, parlors, interior decoration outlets. Some people open a florist's shop and supply flowers to people.

## Key Question 1

Who are self-employed people?

In urban areas, where some people are relatively prosperous, they engage domestic help who work as 'maids' while there are others who supply milk, vegetables and fruits, etc., at the doorstep. Street vendors or hawkers are an important part of urban economy as they have been providing different

services and goods to the middle and lower middle-class urban population for decades. Tea hawkers on small intersections offer a social gathering place where poor and middle class population, after a tiring day at work, assemble and share their thoughts over a cup of tea. Thus, they act as a social and cultural outlet for the people. But the **hawkers and vendors** have no job security.



There are certain areas in the city in which they are not allowed to enter because they may obstruct roads, creating trouble for vehicles to pass resulting in the traffic jam. A suggestion has been made to confine them to a marked area under the sign board "Hawking Zones". The government is planning to modify laws to legalise street-vending and allow vendors to move around freely in their fixed areas.

Many **businessmen** manage their own shops selling utensils, crockery, furniture, electronic goods such as TVs, refrigerators, DVDs, VCRs, music systems, readymade clothes, toys, bangles, etc. These are permanent shops. Their owners get licence or permission from the government to do business. There are others who run a travel agency, render courier services or run the chemist's shop. Also there are restaurants, fast-food joints, jewellery shops and book shops in the local market. There are many people employed as workers in these concerns.



A chef at work