

Lesson at a Glance

- There are different ways in which people earn their living in villages.
- Village people are engaged in both farm activities and non-farm works, such as making utensils, baskets etc.
- There are **agricultural labourers** as well as **big farmers**.
- Working on farms involves operations such as preparing the land, sowing, weeding and harvesting of crops.
- In India nearly two out of every five rural families are agricultural labourer families.
- The members of these families usually work on other people's fields to earn a living.
- In India, 80 percent of farmers belong to this group. Only 20 percent of India's farmers are well-off.
- Many people in rural areas depend upon collection from the forest, animal husbandry, dairy produce, fishing etc.

■ IN-TEXT QUESTIONS SOLVED ■

9. 1. *Observe the given picture and answer the questions that follow:*



- (i) Describe the work that you see people doing in the above pictures.
- (ii) Identify the different types of work that are related to farming and those that are not. List these in a table.
- (iii) In your notebook draw some pictures of work that you have seen people do in rural areas and write a few sentences that describe the work.

(NCERT Textbook, page 67)

Ans. (i) People in the above pictures are engaged in different activities like fishing, spraying pesticides, selling fruits, ploughing the field, plucking fruits, etc.

(ii)

Farming activities	Non-farming activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ploughing • Spraying pesticides • Plucking fruits • Winnowing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishing • Fruit selling • Working in construction work • trade activity

(iii) Do yourself.

Q. 2. Describe the work that Thulasi does. How is it different from the work Raman does?(NCERT Textbook, page 69)

Ans. Thulasi works on Ramalingam's paddy field. She transplants the paddy, then she does weeding and finally harvesting. Apart from working on the land, she does household chores. She cooks food, cleans the house and washes clothes. She also collects firewood from the forest. She fetches water from far away.

Raman's work is different from Thulasi. He is also a labourer. He sprays pesticides during the season. When there is no work on the farm, he engages himself in some other activities doing either loading sand from the river, or stone from the quarry nearby.

Q. 3. Thulasi gets paid very little money for the work she does. What do you think agricultural labourers like her are forced to accept low wages?

(NCERT Textbook, page 69)

Ans. They are in a way forced to accept low wages. As they have no land of their own, they are usually exploited by the big farmers, who take undue advantage of the poverty of these landless labourers. Sometimes the big farmers also uses their influence and compel the labourers to work on their field.

Q. 4. In what ways would her way of earning a living have been different if Thulasi owned some farm land? Discuss.

Ans. If Thulasi had owned some farm land, her life would have been more comfortable. There would have been possibility of earning more. She would have been more satisfied doing own work rather than working in pressure in other's field under his supervision.

Q. 5. What are the crops grown in your region or nearby rural area? What kinds of work do agricultural labourers do?

(NCERT Textbook, page 69)

Ans. Paddy, wheat, pulses, millets, etc. are grown in my region. Agricultural labourers do a variety of works in the field, like preparing the land, sowing, weeding and harvesting of crops.

Q. 6. What work does Sekar's family do? Why do you think Sekar does not usually employ labourers for doing farming work?

(NCERT Textbook, page 71)

Ans. Sekar's family is engaged in farming activities. He and his family members manage to do all the work on their own. At times especially during the harvest, he takes the help of other small farmers and in turn help them harvest their field. Thus he avoids employing labourers for doing farming work in order to save money.

Q. 7. Why does Sekar not go to the town market to get a better price for his paddy?

(NCERT Textbook, page 71)

Ans. Sekar knows that if he sells his paddy in the town market, he will earn better. Still, he sells them to the trader at somewhat lower price because he (trader) gives him seeds and fertilizers as a loan. Sekar is bound to sell his produce to the trader.

Q. 8. Sekar's sister Mina had also taken a loan from the trader. She does not want to sell her paddy to him but she will pay back her loan. Write an imaginary conversation between Mina and the trader's agent and the arguments given by each person. (NCERT Textbook, page 71)

Ans. An imaginary conversation between Mina and the trader's agent.

Trader's agent : Mina, I have come to you to collect the produce in lieu of loan repayment.

Mina : OK. But this time I will pay money as instalments.

Agent : Why? Now your paddy is ready. You had been paying it in lieu of instalments.

Mina : But this time I shall sell it in the open market and get money.

Agent : Why do you do so? Our trader also pays you the price.

Mina : But your trader pays less price than the open market. So this time I'll not give you paddy.

Agent : Think wisely. It will make the trader angry. He helps you in time so you should do as he wants.

Mina : I am not his slave. I'm a free citizen and I'll do as I wish. Go and come next Sunday. I shall pay you the money.

Agent : But remember you may not get help from us in future.

Mina : OK, I'll manage it from Govt. bank if I need.

Q. 9. What are the similarities and differences between Sekar's and Thulasi's lives? Your answer could be based on the land that they have, their need to work on the land that belongs to others, or loans that they need and their earnings. (NCERT Textbook, page 71)

Ans. Similarities:

- Both Sekar and Thulasi are engaged in agriculture activities.
- Both grow the same crop i.e. paddy.

Differences:

- Sekar owns his own land while Thulasi works on other's land.
- Whenever Thulasi needs money, she borrows from her land owner, Ramalingam. But Sekar takes loans from the trader. This loan is not in the term of money but in kinds.
- Thulasi earns Rs 40 per day. Sekar gets 60 bags of paddy from his field. He sells some of the bags to settle the loan. The rest he uses at home. He also earns money by working in Ramalingam's rice mill.

Q. 10. Read again Sekar's and Thulasi's accounts. What do they say about Ramalingam, the large farmer? Together with what you have read fill in the details below:

- How much land does he have?
- What does Ramalingam do with the paddy grown on his land?
- Apart from farming how else does he earn?

(NCERT Textbook, page 71)

Ans. (i) He has twenty acres of land.

(ii) Ramalingam prepares rice from paddy and sells them to traders in nearby towns.

(iii) Apart from farming, Ramalingam is engaged in other activities too in order to earn extra money. He owns a rice mill and a shop selling seeds, pesticides etc. He buys paddy from within the village and from surrounding villages. The rice that is produced in the mill is sold to traders in nearby towns. This gives Ramalingam a substantial income.

Q. 11. Why do both Sekar's and Aruna's families have to borrow? What similarities and differences do you find?

(NCERT Textbook, page 74)

Ans. Sekar manages to get seeds and fertilizers as a loan from the trader.

Aruna's family has taken a loan from a bank to purchase an engine.

Both take loan. But one (Sekar) gets it from the trader while the other (Aruna) from a bank.

Q. 12. Have you heard of Tsunami? What is this and what damage do you think it might have done to the life of fishing families like Aruna's?

(NCERT Textbook, page 74)

Ans. Yes, I have heard of tsunami. It is a harbour wave that causes great destruction, especially in the coastal areas where fishing families usually live. It destroys fish and ruins the life of the fisher folk. It also destroys their habitats. During the recent tsunami the coastal region was completely devastated. The fishing families lost their habitat and livelihood.

■ TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED ■

Q. 1. You have probably noticed that people in Kalpattu are engaged in a variety of non-farm work. List five of these.

Ans. (i) Making baskets, utensils, pots, bricks bullock-carts etc.

(ii) Teaching

(iii) Washing clothes

(iv) Weaving

(v) Repairing cycle.

Q. 2. List the different types of people you read about in Kalpattu who depend on farming. Who is the poorest among them and why?

Ans. These people are Thulasi, Sekar and Ramalingam.

Thulasi is the poorest among them. It is because she has no land of her own. She works on Ramalingam's field and earns ₹ 40 per day. Although she is not satisfied with her wages, yet she continues her work in Ramalingam's field because of the fact that she can depend on him.

Q. 3. Imagine you are a member of a fishing family and you are discussing whether to take a loan from the bank for an engine. What would you say?

Ans. I would say that it is better to take a loan from bank for this purpose than to go to a moneylender. Money lenders usually charge high rate of interest which pushes the borrowers in great hardships.

Q. 4. Poor rural labourers like Thulasi often do not have access to good medical facilities, good schools, and other resources. You have read about inequality in the first unit of this text. The difference between her and Ramalingam is one of inequality. Do you think this is a fair situation? What do you think can be done? Discuss in class.

Ans. No, this is not a fair situation. There should be a ceiling of land. It will help everyone to have some land where one can earn one's livelihood. Opportunity should be equal for all. Primary education should be made compulsory. Efforts should be made to promote education among the poor. It will help them know their rights and other awareness.

Q. 5. What do you think the government can do to help farmers like Sekar when they get into debt? Discuss.

Ans. Government can provide assistance to farmers like Sekar. Interest-free loan or loan at the lowest rate can help him. Seeds, fertilizers and pesticides can also be provided to him on subsidised rate.

Q. 6. Compare the situation of Sekar and Ramalingam by filling out the following table:

	Sekar	Ramalingam
Land cultivated		
Labour required		
Loans required		
Selling of harvest		
Other work done by them		

Ans.

	Sekar	Ramalingam
Land cultivated	Two acres.	Twenty acres.
Labour required	No labour required.	He hires labour.
Loans required	He requires loan for seeds, fertilizers, He pesticides etc. takes loan from the trader.	He takes loans from govt. bank for establishing a rice mill.
Selling of harvest	He sells a few bags of paddy to pay back the loan.	
Other work done	He has a hybrid cow, whose by them milk he sells in the local smilk cooperatives.	He owns a rice mill and a hop selling seeds, pesti- cides etc.

