

Chapter 8 Rural Livelihoods

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

Solution 1:

The various farm activities are listed below.

1. Trading
2. Teaching
3. Blacksmith
4. Making baskets and utensils.

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

Solution 2:

Different types of people who depend on farming are given below.

1. Landless farmers
2. Small landowners
3. Big landowners

Landless farmers are the poorest among them because their daily wage is very less and they have to depend on landowners for the farming job. Moreover farming is a seasonal job, hence during the non-farming season, they have to go in search of other low-income jobs. Whenever someone in the family falls ill, all their savings and earnings are lost.

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?

Solution 3:

The bank is a reliable source of the loan, may not fall into the debt trap.

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.

Solution 4:

All are equal in the eyes of the constitution. It is the duty of the government to provide basic facilities.

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

Solution 5:

1. Provide subsidies for fertilizers and pesticides.
2. Provide low-interest loans.
3. Provide Minimum Support Price for crops.

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

	Sekar	Ramalingam
Land cultivated		
Land Required		
Loans Required		
Shelling of Harvest		
Other work done by them		

Solution 6:

	Sekar	Ramalingam
Land cultivated	Around 2 acres	Around 20 acres
Land Required	Not required	Required in large numbers
Loans Required	Yes for seeds and fertilisers	Yes for setting up for rice mills
Shelling of Harvest	Sell at low cost to lenders	Sell at a high cost to traders
Other work done by them	Work as labourers in Ramalingam rice mills	Own rice mills and several shops