

Chapter 9 Urban Livelihoods

1. Read and discuss the following description of the living conditions of workers who come to the labour chowk. Most workers that we find at the labour 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 labourers in need.

Source: Aman Sethi, Hindu On-line

Solution 1:

1. Their living conditions are very poor without any access to basic facilities like sanitation, drinking water.
2. Due to lack of basic facilities, they will be prone to many diseases
3. As they live in poverty they cannot access medical facilities.
4. They do not have permanent jobs
5. They don't have access to education and they will continue living in poverty.

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

Solution 2:

Name	Place of work	Earnings	Security of work	Benefits received	Work on their own or

					employed
Bachchu Manjhi	Rickshaw puller	Rs 100 a day	No security	No benefits	Work on their own
Harpreet, Vandana	Garment showroom	Good earnings	Yes license to do business	Growth in the business	Work on their own
Nirmala	Garment factory	Rs 80 per day for 8 hours	No security	Rs 40 for extra	Employed
Sudha	Company	Rs 30,000 p.m.	Secured	Paid leave, medical facilities, PF etc	Employed

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

Solution 3:

	Permanent job	Casual job
Working hours	fixed	variable
Job Security	Secured	Not secured
Payments	Fixed	Not fixed
Paid holidays and leaves	Yes	No
Extra benefits	Yes	No

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

Solution 4:

She will get the following benefits.

1. Access to medical facilities for her and her family.
2. Access to facilities like Provident Fund
3. Her job is permanent and secured
4. She will get off on Government holidays and Sundays.