

**Revision Notes**  
**Class 6 Social Science-Civics**  
**Chapter 09 – Urban livelihoods**

In India, there are 27 big cities and thousands of towns where millions of people reside. There are big cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai, and many tier-II cities like Chandigarh, Pune and Hyderabad. All these cities are bustling day and night. People here work in MNCs, small offices, and factories. Some people are self-employed, like small businessmen and shop owners, and street vendors. All of them have different kinds of employment and earning opportunities. Let's look at them one by one in Chapter 9 of CBSE Class 6 Social Science book.

**Working on the Streets**

1. Whenever we step out of the house, we see **the street buzzing with activities**. An account of which is given below—
  - a) Many people are seen **selling different items** such as vegetables, fruits, flowers, and newspapers in their respective stalls set along the roadside.
  - b) Some **vendors roam around the city with their carts** selling their items like hairpins, clips, plastic bottles, vegetables, etc.
  - c) Some work as **cobblers and barbers** settled on the roadside with their tools and materials waiting for customers.
  - d) There are also people serving as **rickshaw pullers**.

These above-mentioned activities make the streets seem very busy, full of activities. It can be elaborated as follows—

2. In a survey, it was found that **12 out of every 100 people in the city work on the street**.

3. These are the people who are **not employed by anyone** and therefore **have to plan and organise everything on their own**. They decide where to buy things, how much to buy, where to sell those and how to set up the shop.
4. Most **street shops/stalls are temporary structures** – some just put a few sheets on the poles to display their products, others spread a sheet on the road to keep the products, while some might have a cart.
5. As these are not proper selling spaces, **these sellers on the streets are often asked to remove their setups by the police**.
6. **Street hawkers have no security** and are not even allowed to enter some parts of the city.
7. Vendors, selling food on the street, **usually prepare food at home** with the help of their family members.
8. Till recently, street vending was seen as an obstruction to traffic on the road but **now it has been recognised as a rightful source of livelihood**.
9. The government had earlier banned street vendors but it is now reconsidering this law and trying to make it easier for vendors to sell without obstructing traffic.
10. Proper hawking zones are being defined and committees are being set up to include them in such decisions.

### **The Story of Bachchu Manjhi – A Cycle-Rickshaw Puller**

1. This is the story of a **mason who left his village** and **came to the city in search of work** as his income in the village was not enough to feed his family.
2. Many years ago, when he had just come to the city, **he bought an old cycle rickshaw** in installments.
3. Now his daily routine is as follows—
  - a) **He goes out in the morning, pulls the rickshaw, and transports customers** from place to place.
  - b) **He rides till 8:30 in the evening** in a range of about 6 kms.

- c) He gets **Rs. 5 to 10 for one trip** but on days when he is sick, he earns nothing.
  - d) He earns **Rs. 80–100 a day** and spends about around Rs. 50 – 60 on food and rent. Rest he sends to his family in the village.
4. His wife manages with this money, and also works on the field every once in a while.

### **In the Market**

1. In the urban market, **a lot of people in cities own shops** an account of which is given below—
  - a) These are **shops selling a variety of items** such as sweets, footwear, utensils, electronics, etc.
  - b) These are **owned by independent shop owners** who manage everything on their own and employ other people as helpers.
  - c) These shops are different from hawkers and vendors because **they are permanent** and are given licenses by municipal corporations to do business legally.
  - d) They **remain closed on days** decided by the municipal corporation of their area.
2. **There are also big showrooms** spread over more than one floor, where products are beautifully showcased for different categories of customers.

### **The Story of Harpreet and Vandana: Businesspersons**

1. **Harpreet is a dress designer** who opened a showroom with Vandana after completing college.
2. Vandana shares that as people now prefer to buy readymade garments, it is important to have an attractive display.
3. The duo does the following things to run their business—

- a) They **buy materials** from various parts of the country and even from foreign countries.
  - b) To bring in new customers, they often **advertise their showroom in newspapers, cinema theatres and radio channels.**
4. As of now, the showroom space is rented but they soon plan to buy it.
5. The showroom has picked up in recent times and the couple made some good profits, which they used to buy a car and an apartment nearby.

### **In the Factory-Workshop Area**

1. In India, there are several areas which are known as **labour chowks** where semi-skilled daily wage labourers gather every day in search of work. There are thousands of casual workers in every city who carry their tools to these chowks and wait for people to offer them some work for the day.
2. In factory areas, you can find many **workshops, where several people work as skilled workers.**
3. One such worker is **Nirmala** whose lifestyle can be elaborated as follows—
  - a) Nirmala **works as a tailor in a garment factory** that makes summer apparel for people living in the USA, Germany, and the Netherlands.
  - b) She **works long hours from December to April** and is paid **Rs 80 for 8 hours** each day.
  - c) If she works late, she is paid **an additional amount Rs.40.**
  - d) During other months, Nirmala is out of work and has to look for other ways to earn a living.
4. From Nirmala's story, the following facts are concluded about works in factories—
  - a) In factories, **people generally work for long hours**, especially during high demand or when the factory has a huge order to fulfill.

- b) The **day usually begins at around 9 am and ends at 10 pm**. If needed, they work over the weekend as well. Sometimes, their **shifts are as long as 12 hours**.
- c) People are **employed when there is more demand** and once it is fulfilled, the staff is reduced and the people become out of work or unemployed.
- d) Such workers have **no job security** and work at **low wages**, for long hours with little to no benefits.
- e) They are not even allowed to complain about their wages, working conditions or else they are **fired from the job**.

### **In the Office Area**

1. People who work in proper offices are mostly **regular, permanent employees**.
2. They have a steady **monthly salary**, which they can expect to continue for several months or years.
3. This kind of job comes with **job security** and **several work benefits** such as—
  - a) **Savings for old age:** A part of the salary is kept in a fund with the government. After employees retire, they get this money to spend their old age nicely.
  - b) **Holidays:** People working in offices get national and state holidays apart from some paid holidays as annual leave.
  - c) **Medical facilities for a family:** Companies often pay medical expenses of their employees up to a certain amount. They also get paid medical leave when they fall sick or enjoy maternity leave when they give birth to a baby.
4. One **such employee is Sudha** whose job and lifestyle can be elaborated as follows—

- a) She works as a **marketing manager in a biscuits factory** and manages 50 salespersons.
- b) She keeps **track of their progress, and discusses the issues faced by them.**
- c) She **gets a regular salary** and can expect **her job to last for a long time.** She also **gets several benefits**, like the ones mentioned above.

## **Important Questions and Answers**

### **1. Write a note on the living conditions of workers who come to the labour chowk.**

**Ans:** Labourers who come to labour chowk are low skilled workers and. They wait here every day in hope to find daily work.

- I. They usually live and sleep on the streets.
- II. Sometimes, they get a bed at a night shelter by the municipal corporation at a charge of Rs. 6 per night.
- III. Local tea and pan shops lend them money in times of need.
- IV. Also, they do not have enough space to keep their tools and materials and often keep those inside these roadside tea stalls and pan shops for safekeeping.

Overall, the living conditions of these workers are quite depressing.

### **2. Explain the condition of people working on the streets?**

**Ans:** It is easy to spot people selling a variety of things like vegetables, fruits, flowers, etc. or serving as a barber or cobbler on the street. The conditions of these people can be elaborated as follows—

- I. These are poor people who work very hard to make ends meet. They have to plan and organise everything on their own (from buying things to setting up their shop).

- II. They somehow manage to buy items or make something at home to sell and earn a living.
- III. Street hawkers have no job security and were considered a nuisance on the streets up till recently.

Some organisations worked hard to acknowledge their right to livelihood and made the government rethink the laws related to street hawkers. To uphold their rights and make their voice heard, some committees involve them in decision-making regarding hawkers and street vendors.

### 3. Why did Bachchu Manjhi come to the city?

**Ans:** Bachchu Manjhi who works in the city as a rickshaw puller came here because of the following reasons—

- I. He was in dire need of new work.
- II. He worked as a mason in the village but did not get masonry work regularly.
- III. When he did get work, the wages were not satisfactory.
- IV. Such low income made it difficult for him to survive and feed a family of four.

### 4. What are the key differences between a regular job and a casual job?

**Ans:** The differences between permanent and casual jobs are as follows—

Permanent jobs	Casual jobs
I. Job security is there.	I. Job security is not there.
II. Work is available all year round.	II. Work may not be available all year round.
III. A fixed amount of salary is received every month.	III. There may not be fixed payments.
IV. Work is done in regular fixed working hours.	IV. There are no fixed working hours and a worker may also have to work overtime.

V. Permanent job workers receive paid holidays and leaves.	V. Casual job workers are not given any payment if they take leaves or holidays.
VI. There are additional benefits like old age savings, medical facilities, etc.	VI. There are no such additional benefits.
Examples of permanent job workers include civil service employees, corporate sector employees, etc.	Examples of casual job workers include workers in a factory, masons, etc.

## 5. What are the benefits of a permanent job?

**Ans:** People in permanent jobs enjoy the following benefits—

- I. Regular salary: Unlike casual workers, they receive a fixed amount of salary at the end of every month.
- II. Old-age savings: In the form of a provident fund, a part of an individual's salary is kept with the government. These are the lifetime savings and it is obtained along with interests after retirement.
- III. Holidays: A permanent employee is also eligible to have off from work on Sundays as well as on national holidays. Apart from these declared holidays, he/she can also take leave on a certain number of days which are part of her annual leave.
- IV. Medical facilities: Government employees are also paid a certain amount of medical expenses of their own as well as their family members. Besides these, they also get paid leaves on account of ill health.
- V. Job security: Unlike casual workers, they are the permanent workers of the government. They have no chances of getting fired and hence enjoy job security.

## 6. How do the hawkers manage their work?

**Ans:** Hawkers on the street manage their work in the following manner—



- I. They manage everything on their own.
- II. They plan and organise their work, figure out how much to purchase and at what price, how to sell and make profits and
- III. They also arrange their own shop with great effort when they do not own any physical space. Their shops are usually temporary structures. The hawkers use boards or papers kept on discarded boxes or maybe hung-up canvas sheets hung up on two poles. Some of them simply spread a sheet on the road and put their products on display.
- IV. A few of the lucky hawkers can have their own carts.