

Livelihood

Class 6 Social Science

Complete Study Notes

Learning Objectives

Students will understand the meaning of livelihood and explore how people earn their living in rural and urban areas. They will learn about farming, non-farming occupations, self-employment, formal employment, and the importance of different occupations in supporting society and the economy.

Introduction to Livelihood

A livelihood is the means through which people earn money to meet their daily needs such as food, clothing, education, healthcare, and shelter. Different people choose different occupations depending on their skills, education, resources, and the opportunities available where they live.

In India, livelihoods vary greatly between villages and cities. Rural areas mainly depend on agriculture, while urban areas offer a wider variety of jobs in industries, businesses, offices, and services.

Rural Livelihoods

Agriculture is the primary source of livelihood for most people living in villages. Farmers grow crops, raise livestock, and produce food for the country. Rural society includes small farmers, large landowners, and agricultural labourers, each playing an important role in agricultural production.

Many villagers also earn their income through non-farming activities such as pottery, weaving, carpentry, blacksmithing, basket making, dairy farming, animal husbandry, fishing, and small village industries. These occupations provide employment throughout the year and support the rural economy.

Urban Livelihoods

Cities provide many employment opportunities in trade, industries, transportation, construction, and services. Many people work as shopkeepers, factory workers, street vendors, drivers, mechanics, domestic workers, and daily wage labourers.

Urban livelihoods are diverse because cities have large populations and different economic activities. Some workers own their own businesses, while others work for employers in factories, offices, schools, hospitals, banks, and private companies.

Formal and Informal Employment

Employment can generally be divided into formal and informal sectors.

- **Formal employment** includes permanent jobs in government departments, schools, banks, offices, and private companies. Employees usually receive fixed salaries, paid leave, medical benefits, provident fund, and job security.

- **Informal employment** includes daily wage labourers, street vendors, construction workers, and many self-employed people. These workers often have irregular incomes, fewer benefits, and limited job security.

Importance of Livelihood

Value of Every Profession: Every occupation contributes to the development of society. Farmers produce food, teachers educate children, doctors protect health, engineers build infrastructure, and workers support industries and businesses. Respecting every profession is essential because each occupation plays a valuable role in improving the economy and the quality of life.

Challenges Faced by Workers

Many workers face challenges such as seasonal unemployment, low wages, financial insecurity, lack of social security, and limited access to education or healthcare. Governments introduce various welfare schemes and employment programs to improve the lives of workers and reduce poverty. Understanding these challenges helps students appreciate the importance of equal opportunities and decent working conditions for everyone.

Practice Questions

1. What is meant by livelihood?
2. Name three rural occupations.
3. Name three urban occupations.
4. What is the difference between formal and informal employment?
5. Why is every occupation important?

Answer Key

- **ANSWER 1:** A livelihood is the means through which people earn money to meet their daily needs and support their families.
- **ANSWER 2:** Three common rural occupations are farming, animal husbandry, and pottery.
- **ANSWER 3:** Three common urban occupations are shopkeeping, factory work, and street vending.
- **ANSWER 4:** Formal employment provides regular salaries, job security, and employee benefits, whereas informal employment usually offers irregular income and limited benefits.
- **ANSWER 5:** Every occupation contributes to society by providing goods or services that support people's daily lives and the country's economic development.