

Very Short Answer Questions

Q.1. Write a note on location of Kalpattu village. Why is agriculture not prominent?

Ans. Kalpattu is a small village near the seacoast of Tamil Nadu. The village is surrounded by low hills. The hills form a kind of a boundary of this village. This makes it possible to grow paddy in the region.

Q.2. What difficulties do farm workers face?

Ans. Farm workers work as casual labourers. They are paid low. Further they perform all their domestic chores. They have to borrow money at times which makes their life harsh.

Q.3. What is terrace farming?

Ans. The word terrace itself means atop of something. This type of farming is done in a mountainous region. The hills are cleared and small step ladder types of fields are made on the hills.

Short Answer Questions

Q.1. How is life in rural areas a tough task?

Ans. In rural areas, very few and only big farmers are able to survive and lead a quality life. Most of the marginal farmers and landless farmers lie in abject poverty. Only 20 per cent farmers are rich and sell their produce in the market at a time when they can get a better price. This activity is called hoarding. Life for poor people is tough in rural areas.

Q.2. How are rural livelihoods a battle for survival?

Ans. There are various ways of earning livelihood in rural areas. Some earn their living by farming while others do it by indulging in non-farming activities. However, daily wage earners, casual labourers and landless farmers have to wage a long battle of survival. Very often they even have to migrate to cities. Borrowing is frequent and indebtedness is a social malice.

Long Answer Questions

Q.1. How do people lead life in Kalpattu?

Ans. Due to non-existence of farmland, people mostly make a living by nonfarming activities like making pots, weaving baskets and making bricks in kilns. People are involved in activities like barbers, weavers, mechanics, blacksmiths, nursing, construction activity, washermen and so on.

Q.2. Write a note of Mangamma's life as a casual labour. How does she lead a tough life?

Ans. Mangamma is a farm worker who works in a paddy field of Ramalingam. Mangamma used to work as a labourer even before marriage and after marriage also she had continued to work from 8:30 in the morning till 4:30 in the evening like all casual labourers. The tale of Mangamma is full of surrendering to circumstances. When they do not have work they go to town as construction labourers. In addition to working outside, Mangamma also does cooking, washing, and fetching water at home.

Q.3. How does Mangamma face economic problems?

Ans. Mangamma is happy that her daughters go to school. However, she recalls the trouble she had to go through a year back when her daughter had fallen sick and she had no money for her treatment. She had to borrow money from Ramalingam on a heavy interest to take her to the town for treatment. Since she could not repay the loan on time she had to sell her bullock. This reflects the reality of rural livelihoods in India who are unable to meet even their basic needs.

Q.4. How do villagers lead a tough life?

Ans. With the meagre resources that they have, they have to face the various odds of life. They are unable to save money for other things or to meet emergencies. They have little resources to educate their children and find it hard to survive. Many of the male villagers are forced to leave their houses to find work in towns or cities for even their basic necessities.

HOTS (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

Q.1. How do small farmers lead a life of indebtedness in India?

Ans. Two-third of India's marginal farmers and landless labourers have to borrow money from traders, mahajans or moneylenders at a hefty rate of interest. Crop failure, flood, drought can incur them heavy losses at times leading them into a longer period of accumulated loan on interest. This is called being caught in a debt trap. Rural indebtedness is a big problem faced by farmers of India in spite of several reforms.

Q.2. Examine the type of farming in Nagaland.

Ans. There is a village called 'Chizami' which is in 'Phek' district of Nagaland. They are experts in terrace cultivation. It is also the main occupation of the people. In this type of farming, the land on the hill slopes is made flat and steps are made on it. The sides of each plot or field are raised in order to retain water. This allows water to stand in the field, which is very good for rice cultivation. On many hill tops another type of cultivation called jhum, is also practised. In jhum, which means 'shifting cultivation', millets, maize and French beans are also raised.