



The Story of Village Palampur

01. INTRODUCTION

Palampur → A hypothetical village

- Farming is the main activity
- Other activities → small scale manufacturing, dairy, transport, etc. → limited scale
- well-connected with neighbouring villages and towns → Raiganj, a big village (3 kms from Palampur)
- An all-weather road connects the village to Raiganj → nearest small town of Shahpur.
- About 450 families → 80 upper caste families → own the majority of land → large pucca houses
- 1/3rd SCs (Dalits) → live in the corner of the village → smaller houses → mud and straw
- 2 primary schools & 1 high school
- Primary Health care Centre

02. ORGANIZATION OF PRODUCTION

- ✓ Aim of production → to produce the goods and services that we want
- ✓ Factors for production
 - Land → other natural resources such as water, forests, minerals
 - Labour → Educated and Manual
 - Capital →
 - (i) Physical Capital →
 - Fixed → used for many years → Tools, Machines, Buildings
 - Working Capital → Raw material & Money → used up in process
 - (ii) Human Capital → Knowledge & Enterprise

03. FARMING IN PALAMPUR

- (i) **Land is fixed**
 - Farming is the main occupation → 75% in Farming
 - Since 1960 in Palampur → No expansion in land area under cultivation
- (ii) **Multi-cropping**
 - grow more than one crop on a piece of land during the year → due to well-developed Irrigation (Persian wheel, Tube wells) & Electricity
 - Rainy season (Kharif) → farmers grow Jowar & Bajra
 - Winter (Rabi) → Wheat
 - Oct-Dec → Potato
 - A part of the land → sugarcane production once a year

By mid-1970s → entire cultivated area of 200 hectares was irrigated

The yield of wheat from the traditional varieties was 1300 kg per hectare → With the HYV seeds → the yield went up to 3200kg per hectare

In India → Green Revolution started in the late 1960s → higher yields of wheat and rice using high yielding varieties (HYVs) of seeds.

Farmers of Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh → the first to try out the modern farming method in India

(iii) Will the Land Sustain?

Modern farming methods → have overused the natural resource base

Green Revolution → associated with the loss of soil fertility due to increased use of chemical fertilizers.

continuous use of groundwater for tube well irrigation → reduced the water table below the ground deplete water table

Chemical fertilizers harm fauna

Example: highest consumption of chemical fertilizer in Punjab

(iv) Land distribution in Palampur

About 1/3rd of the 450 (150) families landless → Most of them Dalits → have no land for cultivation.

240 families → cultivate land less than 2 hectares

(v) Labour

Labour → Wages → in cash or in kind e.g. crop or sometimes meals

(vi) The capital needed in farming

Small farmers → borrow money from large farmers/moneylenders/traders-High rate of Interest

Medium & Large Farmers → Have Savings

(vii) Sale of Surplus Farm Products

They retain a part of the wheat for the family's consumption and sell the surplus wheat.

A part of the earnings is saved and kept for buying capital for the next season

Some farmers might also use the savings to buy cattle, trucks, or to set up shops.

04. NON-FARM ACTIVITIES IN PALAMPUR

- ✓ Dairy → the other common activity → feed buffalo with grass, Jowar or bajra
- ✓ Small Scale Manufacturing → less than fifty people are engaged → carried out mostly at home or in the fields with the help of family labor.
- ✓ Less number of small traders → shopkeepers who buy various goods from wholesale markets in the cities and sell them in the village.
- ✓ Transport → a fast developing sector → vehicles like Rickshaw, Tonga jeep, tractor, truck, also traditional bullock cart and bogey → connecting Palampur to Raiganj
- ✓ People in the transport services → ferry people and goods from one place to another → in return get paid for it.
- ✓ The number of people involved in transport has grown over the last several years.