

PUBLIC FACILITIES

1. Why do you think there are so few cases of private water supply in the world?

Answer:

Water is a basic necessity of life. So, everyone should get access to safe drinking water either free or at affordable rates.

- It is the government's responsibility to provide water to everyone. However, in case the government fails to execute its responsibility, it is handed over to the private sector.
- But there are few cases of private water supply in the world because private companies work towards the singular goal of maximizing profits.
- If the responsibility of water supply is handed over to private companies, there would be a steep rise in the price of water, making it unaffordable for many.

2. Do you think water in Chennai is available to and affordable by all? Discuss.

Answer:

No, Water in Chennai is not available to and affordable by all.

- There is an unequal distribution of water in different parts of the city.
- Certain areas like Anna Nagar receive abundant water while areas like Mylapore get very little water.
- Municipal supply fails to meet the 100% demand of water in the city.
- People from the middle class and upper class buy packaged drinking water or water from tankers. But the situation is worst for

the poor people as they cannot afford the expense of tankers or packaged water.

- In the slum areas, water supply runs for barely an hour every day and that too from a single tap that serves over thirty families for all their water needs.

3. How is the sale of water by farmers to water dealers in Chennai affecting the local people? Do you think local people can object to such exploitation of groundwater? Can the government do anything in this regard?

Answer:

Due to the shortage of water in Chennai, many private companies have taken it as an opportunity to earn enormous profits by selling water in the city. They buy water from places around the city.

- The water is taken from nearby towns and from villages to the north of the city using a fleet of over 13,000 water tankers.
- Every month the water dealers pay farmers an advance for the rights to exploit water sources on their land. Due to this trade, the water levels have dropped drastically in all these towns and villages.
- The water that is taken away from the farms is creating a deficit not only for irrigation but also for drinking water for the villagers.

Yes, the local people can object to such exploitation of ground water because water is an essential amenity and everyone has equal right to access it. No one can take away their basic necessity.

The government should take a strict action against such foul activities and disallow private companies from buying and supplying water.

4. Why are most of the private hospitals and private schools located in major cities and not in towns or rural areas?

Answer:

Most of the private hospitals and private schools located in major cities and not in towns or rural areas because they offer their services at high prices to earn profits and these services are affordable only by the affluent dwellers in the city.

5. Do you think the distribution of public facilities in our country is adequate and fair? Give an example of your own to explain.

Answer:

No, the distribution of public facilities in our country is neither adequate nor fair. For example, the people in metro cities like Delhi avail all public facilities like healthcare and sanitation, water, electricity, schools, colleges and public transport. But in the smaller towns and rural areas, people have to face grave crises for these facilities. People in such areas have to suffer from severe water shortages and electricity cut-offs. They do not have a well developed public transport system.

6. Are the above public facilities shared equally by all the people in your area? Elaborate.

Answer:

No, all of the above-mentioned facilities are not shared equally in our areas. For example, in the slum areas, people have to manage with a single water tap to meet all their water needs. On the other hand, in a middle-class locality, each house has a separate connection for water. Actually, due to the huge population, people are not able to avail the public facilities provided by the government.

7. Private educational institutions – schools, colleges, universities, technical and vocational training institutes are coming up in our country in a big way. On the other hand, educational institutes run by the government are becoming relatively less important. What do you think would be the impact of this? Discuss.

Answer:

This would lead the government to invest less in the infrastructure of their educational institutions that would result in decline of the level of education in these institutions.

- In such a situation, the weaker sections of the society will be deprived of quality education and the end result of this disparity will be that only the rich will get good education from the private educational institutions while the poor would not be able to afford the same.
- Education is a basic need and there should be universal access to education. But, as the main motive of private education institutes is earning profits, they charge high fees which are affordable only by the affluent section of the society.
- Thus, the right to quality education is only fulfilled for the rich class.
- Similarly, if government education institutes are not up to the mark, then weaker sections are again deprived of quality education.
- This, in turn, results in the disparity of quality education between the rich and the poor.

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Q1. The census 2001 put rural household electrification at.

- (i) 44%**
- (ii) 78%
- (iii) 49%
- (iv) 52%

Q2. Where from the government gets funds for providing Public facility?

- (i) Income Tax collected from the people
- (ii) Fines collected from the people
- (iii) Other taxes collected from the people
- (iv) All of these**

Q3. Which areas in Chennai faces severe water shortages?

- (i) Madipakkam
- (ii) Mtylapore
- (iii) Slums near Saidapet
- (iv) All these areas**

Q4. The burden of shortfalls in water supply falls mostly on the

- (i) Poor**
- (ii) Rich
- (iii) Politician
- (iv) Lawyers

Q5. France passed a law banning students from wearing any conspicuous religious signs or symbols in year

- (i) Feb 2004**
- (ii) Jan 2007
- (iii) Dec 2006
- (iv) Dec 2007

Q6. Which companies provide public facilities but at price that only some people can afford.

(i) Private companies

(ii) Public companies

(iii) Semi-government companies

(iv) None of the above

Q7. Equity in the schooling facilities available to all children is an important aspect of

(i) Right to school

(ii) Right to safety

(iii) Right to education

(iv) Right to life

Q8. How can we prevent water related diseases?

(i) By using pond water

(ii) By using clean and safe water

(iii) By using boring water

(iv) All of these

Q9. How can we prevent water related diseases?

(i) By using pond water

(ii) By using clean and safe water

(iii) By using boring water

(iv) All of these

Q10. What is special about Porto Alegre?

(i) Highest infant death rate

(ii) Lowest adult death rate

(iii) Lowest infant death rate

(iv) None of these

Q11. For what purpose bore well water is not used?

(i) Toilets

(ii) Washing

(iii) Gardening

(iv) Cooking and drinking purposes

Q12. Public facilities are so important, someone must carry the responsibility of providing these to the people. This “someone” is the

(i) Government

(ii) Court

(iii) Politicians

(iv) Judge

Q13. Who carries the responsibility of providing public facility to the people?

(i) Government

(ii) Public

(iii) Private organisation

(iv) None of these

Q14. Which of the following is most important public transport?

(i) Aeroplane

(ii) Boat

(iii) Buses

(iv) Cars

Q15. Public Facilities are better if provided by Government.

(i) True

(ii) False

(iii) Cannot be determined

(iv) Private sector must provide

Q16. What are the main source of water for the poor people?

(i) Bottled water

(ii) Municipal water

(iii) Water tanker

(iv) Private bore well

Q17. What is the main sources of water?

(i) Municipal water

(ii) Borewell

(iii) River water

(iv) All of these

Q18. Which facility, besides safe drinking water, is necessary to prevent water-borne disease?

(i) Sanitation

(ii) Transport

- (iii) Road
- (iv) All of these

Q19. Which of the following is a water related disease?

- (i) Plague
- (ii) Eye flu
- (iii) Cholera**
- (iv) All of these

Q20. Where are Anu and Kumar travelling through?

- (i) Delhi
- (ii) Chennai**
- (iii) Mumbai
- (iv) China

Q21. Which is the world's densest railway route?

- (i) Mumbai**
- (ii) Delhi
- (iii) Patna
- (iv) Mathura

Q22. Which of the following is not the essential goods

- (i) Sugar
- (ii) Car**
- (iii) Kerosene
- (iv) Food grains

Q23. Which of the following is a water related disease?

- (i) Plague
- (ii) Eye flu
- (iii) Cholera**
- (iv) All of these

Q24. What do you mean by right to life?

- (i) Provide public facilities by government to people**
- (ii) Provide tax free facilities
- (iii) Provide job facilities
- (iv) None of these

Q1. Fill in the blanks.

- i. A **company** is a form of business set up by people or by the government.
- ii. Universal access is achieved when everyone has **physical** access to a good and can also afford it.
- iii. Primary requirements of **food, water, shelter, sanitation, healthcare** and **education** necessary for survival.

Q2. Mention few public facilities that are also provided by private companies.

Ans. school, colleges, healthcare and transportation

Q3. State the reason for the maximum death among children in India.

Ans. Maximum death among children in India is caused by water-related diseases.

Q4. Which article in the Indian Constitution recognises the right to water?

Ans. The Constitution of India recognises the right to water as being a part of the Right to Life under Article 21.

Q5. Mention some public facilities that are provided by the government.

Or

Give some examples of public facilities that are provided by the government.

Ans. Public facilities that are provided by the government are healthcare, sanitation, electricity, public transport, roads, schools and colleges.

Q6. Besides water, what are the other public facilities which come under Right to Life?

Ans. The Indian Constitution recognises the right to water, health, education etc. as being a part of the Right to Life.

Q7. Which age set of children should get compulsory education according to RTE?

Ans. The Indian Constitution guarantees the Right to Education for all children between the ages of 6-14 years.

Q8. Is right to safe drinking water a fundamental right?

Ans. Yes. Right to water entitles everyone to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use.

Q9. State the role of government in public facilities.

Ans. One of the most important functions of the government is to ensure that these public facilities are made available to everyone.

Q10. Why should government be responsible for providing public facilities?

Ans. Government should be responsible for providing public facilities in order to ensure that these public facilities are made available to everyone.

Q11. Mention some public facilities that only the government can provide and maintain.

Ans. Some public facilities that only the government can provide and maintain are roads, railways, sanitation, electricity and water supply.

Q12. What is a government budget?

Ans. This is an account of the expenses the government has made on its programmes in the past year and how much it plans to spend in the coming year.

Q13. What do you mean by universal access to water?

Ans. Universal access to water means that it is the right of every person, whether rich or poor, to have sufficient amounts of water to fulfil his/her daily needs at a price that he/she can afford.

Q14. Why do you think there are so few cases of private water supply in the world?

Ans. Water is a basic necessity for all. Hence, a private company cannot be in a position to supply water at a rate which is affordable to all people. Due to this, there are very few cases of private water supply in the world.

Q15. What is sanitation?

Ans. Sanitation refers to the provision of facilities for the safe disposal of human urine and faeces. This is done by construction of toilets and pipes to carry the sewerage and treatment of waste water. This is necessary so as to avoid contamination.

Q16. Describe Right to water.

Ans. The Constitution of India recognises the right to water as being a part of the Right to Life under Article 21. This means that it is the right of every person, whether rich or poor, to have sufficient amounts of water to fulfil his/her daily needs at a price that he/she can afford.

Q17. Why does a lack of proper sanitation affect women and girls more acutely?

Ans. Lack of proper sanitation affects women and girls more acutely because they often have to wait until dark to go to the toilet. To avoid the need for such frequent toilet use, women often drink less, causing severe health impacts.

Q18. What is company?

Ans. A company is a form of business set up by people or by the government. Those that are promoted and owned by individuals or groups are called private companies. For example, Tata Steel is a private company whereas Indian Oil is a company run by the government.

Q19. What do you think would happen if the government withdraws from the task of supplying water?

Ans. If the government withdraws from the task of supplying water it would lead to an increase in the price of water because the private enterprises would not be willing to do it at a lower cost. It would lead to great unrest in the country.

Q20. Do you think that lack of access to proper sanitation facilities affects peoples' lives? How?

Ans. Yes, lack of access to proper sanitation facilities indeed affects the lives of the people adversely. Lack of such facilities leads to Cholera, typhoid and also respiratory and skin problems. Lack of proper sanitation facility can also leads to death of adults and infants.

Q21. Why is water considered as a part of the fundamental right to life?

Ans. Water is essential for life and for good health. Not only is it necessary for us to be able to meet our daily needs but safe drinking water can prevent many water-related diseases. Thus, water is considered as a part of the fundamental right to life.

Q22. Do you think the distribution of public facilities in our country is adequate and fair? Give an example of your own to explain.

Ans. Distribution of public facilities in our country is not adequate and fair. Compared to the metros and large cities, towns and villages are under-provided. Compared to wealthy localities, the poorer localities are under-serviced.

Q23. Write a short note on 'sulabh'.

Ans. Sulabh, a non-government organisation, has been working for three decades to address the problems of sanitation facing low-caste, low-income people in India. It has constructed more than 7,500 public toilet blocks and 1.2 million private toilets, giving access to sanitation to 10 million people. The majority of the users of Sulabh facilities are from the poor working class.

Q24. Why are most of the private hospitals and private schools located in major cities and not in towns or rural areas?

Ans. The private hospitals and private schools are opened with the sole motive of earning profit. They charge high amount of money from their customers. The hefty amount of money; charged by such hospitals and schools; can only be affordable for people in major cities. Thus, most of

the private hospitals and private schools located in major cities and not in towns or rural areas.

Q25. What are the characteristics of Public Facilities?

Or

What is the importance of public facilities?

Ans. The important characteristic of a public facility is that once it is provided, its benefits can be shared by many people. For instance, a school in the village will enable many children to get educated.

Similarly, the supply of electricity to an area can be useful for many people: farmers can run pumpsets to irrigate their fields, people can open small workshops that run on electricity, students will find it easier to study and most people in the village will benefit in some way or the other.

Q26. Do you think water in Chennai is available and affordable by all? Discuss.

Ans. Water supply in Chennai is marked by shortages. Municipal supply meets only about half the needs of the people of the city, on an average. There are areas which get water more regularly than others. Those areas that are close to the storage points get more water whereas colonies further away receive less water. The burden of shortfalls in water supply falls mostly on the poor. The middle class, when faced with water shortages, are able to cope through a variety of private means such as digging borewells, buying water from tankers and using bottled water for drinking. Apart from the availability of water, access to 'safe' drinking water is also available to some and this depends on what one can afford.

Q27. How does the government raise funds to provide public facilities?

Or

Where does the government get money for the public facilities?

Ans. The main source of revenue for the government is the taxes collected from the people, and the government is empowered to collect

these taxes and use them for such programmes. For instance, to supply water, the government has to incur costs in pumping water, carrying it over long distances, laying down pipes for distribution, treating the water for impurities, and finally, collecting and treating waste water. It meets these expenses partly from the various taxes that it collects and partly by charging a price for water. This price is set so that most people can afford a certain minimum amount of water for daily use.

Q28. How is the sale of water by farmers to water dealers in Chennai affecting the local people? Do you think local people can object to such exploitation of ground water? Can the government do anything in this regard?

Ans. The shortage of water has opened up opportunities for private companies in a big way. Many private companies are providing water to cities by buying it from places around the city. In Chennai, water is taken from nearby towns like Mamandur, Palur, Karungizhi and from villages to the north of the city using a fleet of over 13,000 water tankers. Every month the water dealers pay farmers an advance for the rights to exploit water sources on their land. This is water taken away not just from agriculture but also from the drinking water supplies of the villagers. Ground water levels have dropped drastically in all these towns and villages as a result. Hence, the local people can object to this trade of water.

Yes, it is the government who can sort out this problem. The government needs to help the people of the city by providing them adequate water.

Q29. Private educational institutions – schools, colleges, universities, technical and vocational training institutes are coming up in our country in a big way. On the other hand, educational institutes run by the government are becoming relatively less important. What do you think would be the impact of this? Discuss.

Ans. Private educational institutions- schools, colleges, universities, technical and vocational training institutes are coming up in our country in a big way. On the other hand, educational institutes run by the government are becoming relatively less important. This will have a multifarious impact on India, in the long run. Private institutions levy very high fees, which only affluent people can afford. So the quality education can be availed by only rich people. If educational institutions run by government are not up to the mark, the weaker sections of the society are deprived of quality education.

If people stop using educational facilities provided by the government, the latter will soon become redundant. Poor people cannot afford to educate their children in private institutions; consequently, this trend will only serve to heighten the gap between the rich and the poor.