

Chapter 7

Rural Livelihoods

2MARKS

Q1: Explain the role of a Municipal Councillor.

Answer: A Municipal Councillor is an elected representative responsible for addressing local issues within a specific ward. They participate in decision-making, advocate for their constituents, and work to improve the quality of life in their area.

Q2: How does the Municipal Corporation generate funds for its operations?

Answer: The Municipal Corporation generates funds primarily through taxes. This includes property taxes, taxes for services like water, education, amenities, and additional taxes for businesses, movies, etc.

Q3: Describe the significance of community involvement in addressing civic issues.

Answer: Community involvement is crucial as citizens have the power to address issues collectively. The story highlights a community protest led by Gangabai, emphasizing the importance of citizens working together to bring about positive change.

Q4: What are the various tasks performed by different departments within the Municipal Corporation?

Answer: Different departments within the Municipal Corporation handle specific tasks such as water supply, garbage collection, maintenance of gardens, roads, and sanitation. Each department focuses on a particular aspect of urban administration.

Q5: Why did the Municipal Corporation hire private contractors for garbage collection in some areas?

Answer: Municipalities hired private contractors to save money. This practice, known as sub-contracting, involves outsourcing tasks such as garbage collection to private companies, which may result in lower wages and temporary employment for workers.

Q6: How did the community resolve the issue of irregular garbage collection in the story?

Answer: The community, led by Gangabai, protested against irregular garbage collection. They approached the Ward Councillor, gathered a petition, and met with the Commissioner to address the issue. The protest resulted in improved sanitation services.

Q7: Explain the sources of revenue for the Municipal Corporation.

Answer: The Municipal Corporation collects revenue through various sources. Apart from property taxes, it levies taxes on water services, education, amenities, businesses, and entertainment like movies. The diverse tax collection helps fund the municipality's operations.

4MARKS

1. Why did the children go to Yasmin Khala's house?

Solution 1:

The children wanted to replace the street light, which was broken by them. Hence, Rehana suggested that the children visit Yasmin Kala's house to understand the procedures for getting it replaced. Yasmin Kala lived in the same lane and had just retired from Municipal Corporation.

2. List four ways in which the work of the Municipal Corporation affects the life of a city-dweller.

Solution 2:

1. Construction of roads, street lights, parks, etc.
2. Disposal of garbage
3. Maintenance of drainage system
4. Supply of drinking water and electricity

3. Who is a Municipal Councillor?

Solution 3:

He is an elected member of the committee of a municipal corporation.

4. What did Gangabai do and why?

Solution 4:

She was protesting against the Ward councillor due to the lack of maintenance of streets. The garbage was not being disposed of, and this was creating a menace in the locality due to dogs, rats, flies and mosquitoes.

5. How does the Municipal Corporation earn the money to do its work?

Solution 5:

They usually earn their money by imposing the following taxes.

1. Education tax
2. Tax on hotels and shops
3. Movie tax
4. House tax

Photo 1



Photo 2



6. Discuss

In the two photographs, you see different ways of collecting and disposing of garbage.

i) Which way do you think provides safety to the person disposing of garbage?

Solution i:

The 2nd photo shows the right and safer way of disposing of garbage.

ii) What are the dangers of collecting garbage in the manner shown in the first photograph?

Solution ii:

The person collecting garbage will fall sick due to various diseases.

iii) Why do you think that proper ways of disposing of garbage are not available to those who work in municipalities?

Solution iii:

One reason could be due to the apathy of the concerned officials. The other reason could be a lack of funds.

7. Several poor people in the city work as domestic servants as well as work for the Corporation, keeping the city clean. Yet the slums in which they live are quite filthy. This is because these slums seldom have any water and sanitation facilities. The reason often given by the Municipal Corporation is that the land in which the poor have set up their homes does not belong to them and that slum-dwellers do not pay taxes. However, people living in middle-class neighbourhoods pay very little in taxes compared to the amount of money the corporation spends on them in setting up parks, street lighting facilities, regular garbage collection etc. Also, as you read in this chapter, the property taxes collected by the Municipality makes up only 25-30 per cent of its money. Why do you think it is important that the Corporation should spend more money on slum localities? Why is it important that the Municipal Corporation provide the poor in the city with the same facilities that the rich get?

Solution 7:

The lack of basic facilities leads to various health issues. It leads to the rapid spread of diseases, which can be dangerous for the well-being of the entire society. It leads to

excess expenditure on healthcare, which can be a burden on the Government. The constitution guarantees a life of dignity for all its citizens. Not providing basic facilities is equal to stealing their basic rights to a decent livelihood.

8. Look at the image below.



The Government of India launched the Swachh Bharat Mission on 2 October 2014 to promote cleanliness in both rural and urban areas all over the nation. Under the “Swachh Bharat, Swachh Vidyalaya” campaign, many activities are also being carried out in schools to generate awareness on sanitation and hygiene amongst students. Observe the ways in which “Swachh Bharat Abhiyan” is being implemented by municipality/panchayat in your locality. Prepare a poster and display it in your school.

Solution8:

This is an activity that students need to carry out at their school.

7MARKS

1. Explain the role of Municipal Councillors in urban administration. Use examples from the text to support your answer.

Municipal Councillors play a pivotal role in urban administration, serving as the elected representatives of specific wards within a city. These individuals act as a bridge between the community they represent and the larger administrative framework of the Municipal Corporation. In the text, Yasmin Khala emphasizes the significance of Ward Councillors in decision-making processes related to the city's development. These elected officials participate in crucial discussions, form committees, and influence policies that impact the residents of their respective wards.

For instance, when the children faced a problem with a broken street light, Yasmin Khala redirects them to the Municipal Corporation but highlights the role of Ward Councillors. This example illustrates that Councillors are the primary point of contact for residents, and they are instrumental in addressing localized issues. By representing the concerns of their constituents, Municipal Councillors ensure that the diverse needs and challenges of different wards are considered in the overall governance of the city.

2. Discuss the challenges faced by the Municipal Corporation in maintaining cleanliness in a city. Provide examples from the text to illustrate these challenges. (

Maintaining cleanliness in a city is a complex task for the Municipal Corporation, involving multifaceted challenges that range from logistical issues to systemic problems. One primary challenge is the efficient collection and disposal of garbage. As seen in the text, the story of Gangabai's protest sheds light on the irregular garbage collection in localities, showcasing how logistical problems, such as insufficient trucks, contribute to uncollected waste.

Additionally, the engagement of private contractors, as mentioned in the text, introduces new challenges. These include temporary and underpaid workforces, often without proper safety measures, leading to compromised working conditions for those responsible for waste collection. The incident exemplifies the struggles

faced by the Corporation in ensuring a clean environment, highlighting both logistical and systemic hurdles.

3. Explain the decision-making process within the Municipal Corporation. How do Ward Councillors, committees, and administrative staff contribute to the governance of the city?

The decision-making process within the Municipal Corporation is a collaborative effort involving multiple stakeholders, each with distinct roles and responsibilities. Ward Councillors, as elected representatives of specific wards, play a crucial role in representing the concerns of their constituents. They participate in decision-making by forming committees that focus on specific issues such as water supply, garbage collection, and street lighting.

These committees, as described in the text, deliberate on and decide issues that impact the entire city. For example, decisions regarding the improvement of bus stands, garbage clearance in crowded marketplaces, and cleaning drains are all handled by these committees. Administrative staff, led by the Commissioner, are responsible for implementing these decisions. This collaborative approach ensures a comprehensive governance structure, considering both localized and city-wide issues.

4. Evaluate the impact of citizen participation in local governance, as exemplified by Gangabai's protest. Discuss the significance of such activism in addressing civic issues.

Gangabai's protest serves as a powerful example of citizen participation in local governance and its consequential impact on addressing civic issues. Citizen activism is a crucial aspect of a vibrant democracy, as it empowers individuals to voice their concerns, hold elected representatives accountable, and actively contribute to shaping local policies. In the context of Gangabai's protest, several key points highlight the significance of such activism.

Firstly, citizen participation brings attention to overlooked issues. Gangabai mobilized a group of women, drawing attention to the irregular garbage collection problem, an issue that might have been neglected without citizen intervention. Secondly, it holds elected representatives accountable. By approaching the Ward Councillor, Gangabai ensured that the concerns of her community were heard, emphasizing the accountability of elected officials to the people they represent.

Furthermore, citizen activism accelerates the decision-making process. Gangabai's protest prompted quick action from the Municipal Corporation, showcasing the responsiveness of local authorities to citizen concerns. Lastly, such activism fosters a sense of community engagement, demonstrating that individuals can actively contribute to shaping the development and well-being of their neighborhoods. In conclusion, citizen participation is integral to a healthy democracy and plays a pivotal role in addressing civic issues at the local level.

5. Discuss the financial aspects of urban administration. Explain how the Municipal Corporation generates revenue and the challenges it may face in funding its various responsibilities. (7 marks)

Urban administration entails significant financial responsibilities, and the Municipal Corporation employs various means to generate revenue for the effective functioning of the city. One primary source of revenue is taxes, which include property tax, water tax, and taxes on services such as entertainment. As mentioned in the text, taxes collected from both affluent and wider populations contribute to the Corporation's earnings. However, it's crucial to note that property taxes, while significant, only constitute a portion (25-30%) of the total revenue.

Challenges arise in funding various responsibilities due to the increasing demands for urban development coupled with limited financial resources. The Municipal Corporation must prioritize budget allocations to address diverse needs, leading to potential challenges in balancing financial resources. Moreover, the economic disparity within different neighborhoods poses challenges. Affluent areas might

generate more revenue but still require substantial services, while impoverished areas struggle to contribute significantly to the revenue pool.

In recent times, municipal authorities have faced challenges related to sub-contracting and hiring private contractors for services such as garbage collection. While this might seem like a cost-cutting measure, it often leads to the exploitation of contract workers who are paid less and work in precarious conditions. Striking a balance between funding essential services and ensuring fair labor practices becomes a challenge for the Municipal Corporation. In conclusion, the financial aspects of urban administration involve navigating challenges related to revenue generation, equitable distribution, and addressing the diverse needs of a growing city.

6. Analyze the importance of providing equal facilities and services to both affluent and impoverished areas within a city. Support your analysis with examples from the text. (7 marks)

Ensuring equal facilities and services for both affluent and impoverished areas within a city is essential for fostering inclusive urban development and social equity. The text provides examples that highlight the importance of this principle. One key instance is Gangabai's protest against irregular garbage collection in her locality.

Providing equal facilities ensures that basic amenities such as sanitation and cleanliness are accessible to all residents, regardless of their economic status. In Gangabai's case, the protest drew attention to the disparity in garbage collection services between different localities. The incident emphasized the need for the Municipal Corporation to address the concerns of marginalized communities and ensure that basic services are uniformly distributed.

Equal facilities contribute to social justice by reducing inequality. The Municipal Corporation, in its role as a governing body, plays a crucial role in balancing the distribution of resources and services. The incident involving Gangabai

exemplifies how unequal distribution can lead to community dissatisfaction and the need for citizen activism to rectify such imbalances.

Furthermore, providing equal facilities promotes a sense of belonging and shared responsibility among residents. When communities have access to the same level of services, it fosters a sense of unity and community pride. In Gangabai's story, the collective action taken by a group of women not only rectified a local issue but also strengthened community bonds.

In conclusion, the equal distribution of facilities and services is vital for creating an inclusive and just urban environment. It addresses social disparities, enhances the overall quality of life for residents, and contributes to the holistic development of the city. The text serves as a narrative example, emphasizing the significance of providing equitable services to both affluent and impoverished areas.

Choose the correct answer

1. Why did the children go to Yasmin Khala's house?

- A. To play cricket
- B. To ask about the broken street light
- C. To discuss the upcoming election
- D. To get some snacks

Answer B. To ask about the broken street light

2. Who is a Municipal Councillor?

- A. An employee of the Municipal Corporation
- B. A person who pays taxes to the municipality
- C. An elected member of the Municipal Corporation
- D. A government official

Answer C. An elected member of the Municipal Corporation

3. What did Gangabai do and why?

- A. Protested against the construction of a park
- B. Protested against irregular garbage collection
- C. Organized a cricket match in the street
- D. Collected signatures for a birthday card

B. Protested against irregular garbage collection

4. How does the Municipal Corporation earn the money to do its work?

- A. By selling products in the market
- B. By collecting taxes from the residents
- C. By participating in business ventures
- D. By receiving donations from citizens

Answer B. By collecting taxes from the residents

5. Discuss the importance of the Municipal Corporation spending more money on slum localities.

- A. It is not important to allocate funds for slum areas
- B. Slum areas are self-sufficient and do not require additional funds
- C. Municipal Corporation funds should only benefit the rich
- D. Slum areas need equal facilities and services for a better living environment
- D. Slum areas need equal facilities and services for a better living environment

Fill in the blanks

1. **Gangabai's protest** serves as a powerful example of citizen participation in local governance and its consequential impact on addressing civic issues
2. The community, led by **Gangabai**, protested against irregular garbage collection.
3. Maintaining cleanliness in a city is a complex task for the **Municipal Corporation**, involving multifaceted challenges that range from logistical issues to systemic problems.
4. **By collecting taxes from the residents** does the Municipal Corporation earn the money to do its work.
- 5 An elected member of the **Municipal Corporation**. is a Municipal Councillor?

Summary

The chapter "Rural Livelihoods" explores the various ways people in villages earn their living. It delves into the diversity of rural life, focusing on specific case studies like Kalpattu village in Tamil Nadu and Chizami village in Nagaland. The narratives of individuals like Thulasi, an agricultural laborer, Sekar, a small farmer, and Aruna, a fisherwoman, highlight the challenges and complexities of rural livelihoods.

Thulasi describes the physically demanding work of transplanting paddy and the seasonal nature of employment. Sekar discusses the challenges faced by small farmers, including the need to borrow money, crop uncertainties, and debt-related issues. The story of Aruna and Paarivelan sheds light on the fishing community's struggles, such as dependence on loans during lean months.

The chapter also introduces Ramalingam, a large farmer with diverse income sources, illustrating the varying economic conditions in rural areas. The text emphasizes the prevalence of agricultural laborers and small farmers in India, with a majority facing difficulties in sustaining themselves throughout the year.

In addition to discussing farming, the chapter touches on other rural livelihoods like terrace farming in Nagaland. It prompts readers to consider the inequalities present in rural areas and suggests questions for reflection, encouraging a deeper understanding of the issues faced by different communities.

Overall, the chapter provides a nuanced exploration of rural life, addressing the challenges, inequalities, and diversity in livelihoods across various regions in India