

CHAPTER- VII

PUBLIC FACILITIES

2 MARKS Answer Questions

1. Why do the residents of Subramanian's Apartments in Mylapore use borewell water in their toilets for washing?

Answer: It is because borewell water is brackish.

2. How do they manage water for other uses?

Answer: For other uses, they purchase water from tankers.

3. How do they manage water for drinking?

Answer: For drinking water, they have installed water purification systems in their homes.

4. What is the position of water availability in the slum area where Padma lives?

Answer: For 30 hutments there is a common tap at one corner, in which water comes from a borewell for 20 minutes twice daily.

5. How can deaths due to diarrhoea and dysentery be prevented? [Imp.]

Answer: By making safe drinking water accessible to all.

6. What does Right to Water mean? [V.Imp.]

Answer: It 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.

7. What are known as public facilities? [V. Imp.]

Answer: Facilities like water, electricity, public transport, schools and colleges, healthcare, and sanitation are known as public facilities.

8. Write the important characteristic of a public facility.

Answer: Once it is provided, its benefits can be shared by many people.

9. Whose responsibility is this to ensure public facilities to everyone? [V.Imp.]

Answer: This is the responsibility of the government to ensure public facilities to everyone.

10. What are the sources of water in rural areas?

Answer: In rural areas the sources of water are—wells, handpumps, ponds and sometimes overhead tanks.

4 MARKS Answer Type Questions

1: What are public facilities? What are its important characteristics?

Answer: Primary requirements like food, water, shelter, sanitation, healthcare, education etc which are necessary for survival are referred to as public facilities. The important characteristic of public facilities is that the benefits provided by public facilities can be shared by many people.

For e.g- A school in a village will enable many children to get education.

2: Why do you think that there are so few cases of private water supply in water?

Answer: There are so few cases of private water supply in world as

It is more expensive and private companies only think of their profits so people cannot afford it.

3: Why most of the private hospitals & private schools are located in major cities and not in towns or rural areas?

Answer: Most private schools and hospitals are located in major cities because in small towns and rural areas there is not a constant supply of electricity and hospitals and schools need constant supply. Hence rural areas hospital & schools are not available.

4: Write a short note on “Water a part of fundamental Right to Life”.

Answer: 1. The constitution of India recognized the right to water as being right to life as a part under article 21.

2. This means that it is the right of every person, whether rich or poor to have sufficient amount of water to fulfill daily needs at a price they can afford.

3. There should be “Universal access” to water.

5. How can you say that there are great inequalities in water use? [V. Imp.]

Answer: It is a fact that there are great inequalities in water use. The supply of water per person in an urban area in India should be about 135 litres (about seven buckets) per day. It is a standard set by the Urban Water Commission. But people living in slum areas have to do with less than 20 litres (one bucket) a day per person. At the same time people living in luxury hotels may consume as much as 1,600 litres (80 buckets) of water per day.

6. Some people are of the opinion that private companies should be allowed to take over the task of water supply. Why do they opine so?

Answer: Some people opine that since the government is unable to supply the amount of water that is needed and many of the municipal water departments are running at a loss, they should allow private companies to take over the task of water supply. According to them, private companies can perform better.

**7. What do you know about the Right to Education?
What have activists and scholars working on education found out?**

Answer: Our Constitution guarantees the Right to Education for all children between the ages of 6 to 14 years. The important aspect of this Right is to make available equal schooling facilities to all children. However, activists and scholars working on education are of different opinion. They have documented the fact that schooling in India continued to be highly unequal.

8. In some parts of the country water supply has been improved. Explain giving examples of Mumbai, Hyderabad and Chennai.

Answer: Mumbai. The water supply department in Mumbai raises enough money through water charges to cover its expenses on supplying water. In Hyderabad, a recent report shows that the department has increased coverage and improved performance in revenue collection.

In Chennai, the department has taken several initiatives for harvesting rainwater to increase the level of ground water. It has also used the services of private companies for transporting and distributing water.

9. Write a short note on 'Sulabh'.

Answer: Sulabh is a non-government organisation (NGO). It has been working for three decades to address the problems of sanitation which the low-caste and low-income group of people are facing. It has constructed more than 7,500 public toilet blocks and 1.2 million private toilets. Now 10 million people have got access to sanitation. Usually the poor working class people use sulabh facilities.

Sulabh enters into contracts with municipalities or other local authorities to construct toilet blocks with government funds. Local authorities provide land and fund, for setting up the services. So far maintenance costs are related, they are financed through user charges.

10. Why should the government bear the responsibility to provide public facilities to everyone? [V. Imp.]

Answer: If private companies are given the responsibility to provide public facilities such as water, they will charge more. In such a situation only some people can afford to buy water. Thus, even though private companies are providing the facility of water, but this facility is not available to all at an affordable rate. If we go by the rule that people will get as much as they can pay for them many people who cannot afford to pay for such facilities will be deprived of the opportunity to live a decent life. Obviously, this is not a desirable option. Public facilities relate to our basic needs. The Right to Life that the Constitution guarantees is for all person living in this country. Therefore, it should be the government's responsibility to provide public facilities to all.

7MARKS Answer Type Questions

1. Discuss the role of the government in regard to public facilities.

Answer: Public facilities are associated with our basic needs. Our Constitution recognises many of the public facilities as being a part of the Right to Life. Therefore, the government must see that these rights are protected so that everyone can lead a decent life. But its efforts are not successful to some extent. There is a shortage in supply and there are inequalities in distribution. Metros and large cities are not in very bad condition but towns and villages are underprovided. In comparison to wealthy localities, the poorer localities are underserved. The government is expected to take steps in order to make all the public facilities accessible to everyone. So far we are concerned, we must cooperate with the government.

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

Answer:

- 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 more water regularly than others. Those areas that are close to the storage points get more water whereas colonies further away receive less water.
- Apart from the availability of water access to 'safe' drinking water is also available to some and this depends on what one can afford.
- 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 bore wells, buying water from tankers and using bottled water for drinking.

3: How is 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?

Answer: Many private companies are providing water to cities by burying it from the farmers living in nearby villages. This affects the local people in the following ways:

- Ground water levels have dropped drastically.
- Water is taken away for agriculture.
- Drinking water supplies of the village is also affected.
- It will result in hike of water rate.

Local people can object to such exploitation of ground water since it takes away their fundamental rights – right to life which includes right to water. Yes, the govt. can take certain steps to prevent such situation

4: Do you think the distribution of public facilities in our country is adequate and fair?

Answer: While there is a no doubt that public facilities should be made available to all, in reality we see that there is a great shortage of such facilities.

- The burden of shortfalls of facilities falls most on the poor.
- The middle class when faced with such shortages are able to cope through variety of private means.
- IT is quite true that people who can't afford to pay such facilities will be deprived of the opportunity to live a discus life.

For Example-

In Anna Nagar, Chennai lives Mr. Ramagopal who is a rich man. This area looks lush & green with lawns maintained by a generous spraying of water. Bungalows here have tap water for major part of the day.

On days, when water supply is inadequate, Mr. Aanagopal calls to a senior official whom he known is the municipal water board and a water tanker is easily arranged for his house

5: What do you think can be done to conserve water and improve its supply?

Answer: 1. Wise and judicious use of water is the most important step to conserve water.

2. Several initiatives for rainwater harvesting to improve ground water level needs to be taken.

3. It also requires the use of services of private companies for transporting and distributing water to ensure regular supply.

4. Every citizen of the country has the right to all the facility provided by the government in an equitable manner.

6: Why do you think that government must assume the overall responsibility for public facilities even if it gets private companies to do a part of it?

Answer: 1. Private companies operate for profit in the market.

2. In most of the public facilities there is no profit to be made.

Thus private companies will probably not interested in undertaking such work.

3. Private companies provide public facilities at prices that only some people can afford. Hence not available to all at affordable rate.

4. Public facilities relate to people's basic needs. The constitution guarantees the Right to life for all Indians.

5. Therefore the responsibility to provide public facilities must be that of government only.

7. Compare the availability of water in different regions of Chennai. [V. Imp.]

Answer: Anna Nagar in Chennai is a posh area. It looks lush green and green with lawns maintained by a enough spraying of water. Bungalows here have tap water for major part of the day.

The Subramanian's Apartments in Mylapore faces water crisis. Like most areas of the city this area too gets municipal water once in two days. A private borewell to meets the water needs of some of the residents.

Although borewell water is brackish, the residents are thankful to it because they use it in their toilets and for washing. For other uses, they purchase water from tankers. For drinking water, they have installed water purification system in their homes. The houses in Madipakkam are under acute water crisis. People get water once in four days. For drinking they purchase bottled water. The slum area near Sadapet is a cluster of hutments without a tap connection. For 30 hutments there is a common tap at one corner, in which water comes from a borewell for 20 minutes twice daily. A family gets to fill a maximum of three buckets within this time. The same water is used for washing and drinking. In summer, water flows in trickle. As a result, one family gets water only at the cost of another. People have to wait long hours to get water from tankers

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Question 1.

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

- (a) Sanitation
- (b) Transport
- (c) Road
- (d) All of these

Answer: (a) Sanitation

Question 2.

Where from the government gets funds for providing Public facility?

- (a) Income Tax collected from the people
- (b) Fines collected from the people
- (c) Other taxes collected from the people
- (d) All of these

Answer: (d) All of these

Question 3.

Which of the following is most important public transport?

- (a) Aeroplane
- (b) Boat
- (c) Buses
- (d) Cars

Answer: (c) Buses

Question 4.

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

- (a) Right to school
- (b) Right to safety
- (c) Right to education
- (d) Right to life

Answer: (c) Right to education

Question 5.

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

- (a) Government
- (b) Public
- (c) Private organisation
- (d) None of these

Answer: (a) Government

Question 6.

Which areas in Chennai faces severe water shortages?

- (a) Madipakkam
- (b) Mtylapore
- (c) Slums near Saidapet
- (d) All these areas

Answer: (d) All these areas

Question 7.

The burden of shortfalls in water supply falls mostly on the

- (a) Poor
- (b) Rich
- (c) Politician
- (d) Lawyers

Answer: (a) Poor

Question 8.

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

- (a) Government
- (b) Court
- (c) Politicians
- (d) Judge

Answer: (a) Government

Question 9.

Which of the following is a water related disease?

- (a) Plague
- (b) Eye flu
- (c) Cholera
- (d) All of these

Answer: (c) Cholera

Question 10.

What are Public facilities?

- (a) Essential facilities
- (b) Non Essential facilities
- (c) Both (a) and (b)
- (d) None of these

Answer: (a) Essential facilities

Question 11.

Right to _____ is a Fundamental Right.

- (a) unhygienic drinking water
- (b) safe drinking water
- (c) contaminated drinking water
- (d) drinking water

Answer: (b) safe drinking water

Question 12.

What is the main sources of water?

- (a) Municipal water
- (b) Borewell
- (c) River water
- (d) All of these

Answer: (d) All of these

Question 13.

How can we prevent water related diseases?

- (a) By using pond water
- (b) By using clean and safe water
- (c) By using boring water
- (d) All of these

Answer: (b) By using clean and safe water

Question 14.

Which of the following is not the essential goods

- (a) Sugar
- (b) Car
- (c) Kerosene
- (d) Food grains

Answer: (b) Car

Question 15.

_____ has one of the largest number of cases of diseases such as diarrhoea, dysentery, cholera

- (a) Japan
- (b) India
- (c) China
- (d) Pakistan

Answer: (b) India

Fill in the Blanks:

1. _____ are essential for the well-being and convenience of the public.
2. Public transportation includes buses, trains, and _____.
3. _____ provide medical care and treatment for various health conditions.
4. Parks and playgrounds are recreational _____ for the community.
5. Public restrooms are facilities that offer access to clean and hygienic _____.

Answers:

1. Public facilities
2. Subways
3. Hospitals
4. Spaces
5. Restroom facilities

PUBLIC FACILITIES SUMMARY

In the context of 8th-grade understanding, public facilities refer to amenities and services provided by the government or community for the benefit of the general public. Here's a summary:

1. Definition of Public Facilities:

- Public facilities are resources, spaces, and services that are made available by the government or community to serve the needs of the public. These can include infrastructure, utilities, and spaces for recreational and civic purposes.

2. Examples of Public Facilities:

- Educational Facilities: Public schools and libraries that offer education and resources to the community.
- Healthcare Facilities: Public hospitals, clinics, and health centers that provide medical services to the public.
- Transportation: Public transportation systems such as buses and trains that facilitate the movement of people within a community.
- Recreational Spaces: Public parks, playgrounds, and sports facilities for leisure and physical activities.
- Utilities: Public utilities like water supply, sanitation, and waste disposal services.

- Civic Spaces: Government buildings, community centers, and public meeting spaces that support civic engagement and activities.

3. Accessibility and Equality:

- Public facilities are designed to be accessible to all members of the community, ensuring equality and inclusivity. This includes making accommodations for individuals with disabilities.

4. Government Responsibility:

- Governments at various levels (local, regional, and national) are typically responsible for providing and maintaining public facilities. This is part of their role in ensuring the well-being and quality of life for citizens.

5. Funding and Maintenance:

- Public facilities are funded through taxes and government budgets. Maintenance and upgrades are essential to ensure the longevity and functionality of these facilities.

6. Community Benefits:

- Public facilities contribute to the overall well-being of the community by enhancing the quality of life. They provide spaces for education, healthcare, recreation, and social interaction.

7. Infrastructure Development:

- Public facilities are a key component of infrastructure development, supporting economic activities, public health, and the overall growth of communities.

8. Emergency Services:

- Public facilities may include emergency services such as fire stations, police stations, and emergency medical services, ensuring the safety and security of the public.

9. Community Engagement:

- The planning and development of public facilities often involve community engagement and input. This ensures that the facilities meet the specific needs and preferences of the local population.

10. Environmental Considerations:

- Sustainable practices and environmental considerations are increasingly important in the development and maintenance of public facilities to minimize negative impacts on the environment.

Understanding public facilities is vital for 8th-grade students as it provides insight into the role of government in meeting the basic needs of the community and fostering a sense of shared responsibility for the common good.