

## **CHAPTER- 20**

### **WHOSE FORESTS?**

#### **2 MARK QUESTIONS**

**1. What do you think is a forest?**

**ANSWER:**

A forest is a large area covered with varieties of trees. It provides shelter to animals, insects and birds.

**2. If someone grew lots of trees close to each other, would this become a forest?**

**ANSWER:**

No, this would not become a forest because it won't grow thicker like the forest.

**3. Other than trees, what are there in a forest?**

**ANSWER:**

Apart from trees, the forest consists of animals, birds and insects.

**4. Do all forests have similar types of trees? How many trees can you identify?**

**ANSWER:**

No, all forests do not have similar types of trees. We can identify trees like the banyan tree, neem tree, mango tree and sandal tree.

**5. Do you know anyone who loves the forest?**

**ANSWER:**

Yes, my parents and I love the forest.

**6. The contractor did not allow Suryamani's people to go into the forest. Why?**

**ANSWER:**

The contractor may have been in the forest to cut the trees to sell somewhere. He may not want local people to use forest resources and hence did not allow Suryamani's people to go into the forest.

**7. Is there any place around your area which you feel should be open to everyone, but where people are not allowed to go?**

**ANSWER:**

Yes, there is a pond near my place which should be open to everyone. However, for safety purposes, people are not allowed to go there.

**8. Who do you think the forest belongs to?**

**ANSWER:**

Forests belong to everyone.

**9. Bhudhiyamai said –“Forest is our ‘collective bank’ – not yours or mine alone.” Are there other things that are our collective wealth? So, if someone uses more, everyone would suffer?**

**ANSWER:**

Yes, there are some other things which are our collective wealth. They are groundwater, minerals, and fossils.

**10. Do you know of anyone who works to save forests?**

**ANSWER:**

Yes, I know someone who is famous for planting trees. Her name is Saalu Marada Thimmakka.

**11. What is your dream? What will you do to make your dream come true?**

**ANSWER:**

I want to become a doctor. I will study hard to make my dream come true.

**12. Is there any factory or construction work going on in and around your area? What type of work?**

**ANSWER:**

Yes, construction work is going on in my area. Metro construction is going on in my area.

**13. Due to the factory, is there any effect on the trees and land? Have the people in that area raised this issue?**

**ANSWER:**

Yes, trees are affected due to the pollution from the factory. Now, people in that particular area raised this issue.

**14. Which are the states around Mizoram?**

**ANSWER:**

The States around Mizoram are Tripura, Assam and Manipur.

**15. Chamui said they measure land using tin. Which are the other ways of measuring land?**

**ANSWER:**

Some of the other ways to measure land are in yards, square metres and in feet.

**16. Returning from school, children drank water in a bamboo cup. Who do you think would have made this cup and kept it in the forest? Why?**

**ANSWER:**

The Adivasis would have made these cups. They made these cups to help travellers.

## **5 MARK QUESTIONS**

**1. What could be done to save forests?**

**ANSWER:**

Some of the measures to save forests are as follows:

1. By planting more trees.
2. Control over the forest fire.
3. Regulated and planned cutting of trees.
4. Reforestation.

**2. Is there a sea close to Orissa?**

**Answer:** Yes, the Bay of Bengal is closer to Orissa.

**3. Which are the states which have the sea on one side?**

**Answer:** The following states have the sea on one side: Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Orissa and West Bengal.

**4. Where is Suryamani's state, Jharkhand, on the map?**

**Answer:** Jharkhand is situated in the south of Bihar.

**5. Where are forests on the map? How will you find these?**

**Answer:** Forests are in almost all states of India. They are marked in green colour.

**6. How can you find out which states have very thick forests and which have less thick forests?**

**Answer:** Thick forests are marked in dark green colour, and less thick forests are marked in parrot or light green colour.

**7. For someone in Madhya Pradesh, in which direction would the country's thickest forests be? Name those states.**

**Answer:** For someone in Madhya Pradesh, the country's thickest forests would be in the north and in the east. The states with thick forests are Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.



**8. Evaluate the role of the 'Girl Stars' project in showcasing the stories of girls like Suryamani. How does it contribute to changing societal perceptions about the capabilities of girls?**

**ANSWER:**

The 'Girl Stars' project aims to highlight the extraordinary achievements of ordinary girls like Suryamani, who have transformed their lives through education. By sharing these stories, the project challenges societal stereotypes about the capabilities of girls. It emphasizes the importance of education in empowering girls to create positive change in their communities.

**9. Explore the impact of urbanization and industrial projects on the lives of forest-dwellers, as mentioned in Suryamani's story. How do these developments affect the forest and its people?**

**ANSWER:**

Urbanization and industrial projects lead to the displacement of forest-dwellers, as seen in Suryamani's father moving to the town in search of work. These projects often result in deforestation, mining, and building dams, directly impacting the natural habitat of the forest and disrupting the lives of the people dependent on it. Suryamani's advocacy becomes crucial in addressing these challenges and protecting the rights of the forest-dwellers.

**10. Discuss the relevance and implications of the Right to Forest Act 2007 mentioned in the story. How does it address the concerns of forest-dwellers?**

**ANSWER:**

The Right to Forest Act 2007 recognizes the rights of people who have lived in forests for at least 25 years, granting them rights over the forest land and its resources. This legislation prevents their forced removal and ensures that the protection of the forest is done by their Gram Sabha. The act empowers forest-dwellers to actively participate in the sustainable management of forests, addressing their concerns and preserving their way of life.

**11. Analyze the role of Suryamani's friend, Bijoy, in her journey as an activist. How does their collaboration contribute to the success of their work?**

**ANSWER:**

Bijoy, Suryamani's childhood friend, supports her in her activism. Their collaboration strengthens their advocacy for forest rights and the well-being of their community. Together, they amplify their voices, gaining recognition and support from various quarters. Bijoy's partnership with Suryamani showcases the importance of collective efforts in bringing about positive change.

**12. Reflect on the theme of environmental conservation in the story. How does Suryamani's work connect with the broader global discourse on the importance of preserving natural ecosystems?**

**ANSWER:**

Suryamani's work aligns with the global discourse on environmental conservation by emphasizing the significance of forests in sustaining life and biodiversity. Her efforts to protect the forest echo the broader concern for sustainable development and the need to balance human activities with ecological preservation. The story serves as a microcosm reflecting the challenges faced by forest-dwellers globally and the importance of local initiatives in the global context of environmental conservation.

## **FILL IN THE BLANKS**

1. Suryamani's favorite day to take the children to the forest is \_\_\_\_\_. **(Sunday)**
2. Suryamani's organization, the 'Jharkhand Jungle Bachao Andolan,' works to save the forests in the state of \_\_\_\_\_. **(Jharkhand)**
3. The 'Torang' center, established by Suryamani, aims to preserve the cultural practices of the \_\_\_\_\_ community. **(Kuduk)**
4. According to Suryamani, learning to read the forest is as important as \_\_\_\_\_. **(reading books)**
5. The Right to Forest Act 2007 grants rights over forest land to people who have been living in the forests for at least \_\_\_\_\_ years. **(25)**
6. Suryamani's friend who stayed with her day and night and shared her thoughts and dreams was named \_\_\_\_\_. **(Mirchi)**
7. Suryamani's father moved to the town in search of work when he found it difficult to support the family on their small \_\_\_\_\_. **(land)**

8. Jhoom farming involves leaving the land uncultivated for several years, allowing \_\_\_\_\_ and weeds to grow. **(bamboo)**

9. Suryamani's childhood friend who helped her in her work as an activist was named \_\_\_\_\_. **(Bijoy)**

10. The Lottery for farming in Mizoram involves a special meeting of the Village Council (Panchayat) where families participate to decide how much \_\_\_\_\_ each family will get for farming. **(land)**

## **MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS**

**1. Where do the children in the story go with little bundles on their sticks?**

- A. School
- B. Playground
- C. Forest
- D. Market

**Answer:** C. Forest

**2. Which organization does Suryamani join to work for the forests of Jharkhand?**

- A. Greenpeace
- B. Torang Foundation
- C. Jharkhand Jungle Bachao Andolan
- D. Forest Guardians International

**Answer:** C. Jharkhand Jungle Bachao Andolan

**3. What is the meaning of 'Torang,' the center established by Suryamani?**

- A. Mountain
- B. Jungle
- C. River
- D. Sun

**Answer:** B. Jungle

**4. According to Suryamani, learning to read the forest is as important as reading what?**

- A. Magazines
- B. Novels
- C. Books
- D. Newspapers

**Answer:** C. Books

**5. How many years of residence in the forests grant people rights over forest land, according to the Right to Forest Act 2007?**

- A. 10 years
- B. 15 years
- C. 20 years
- D. 25 years

**Answer:** D. 25 years

**6. Who is Suryamani's friend who stays with her day and night?**

- A. Bijoy
- B. Mirchi
- C. Chacha
- D. Maniya

**Answer:** B. Mirchi

**7. Why did Suryamani's father move to the town?**

- A. To study



- B. For a job
- C. For better healthcare
- D. To join an organization

**Answer:** B. For a job

**8. What does Jhoom farming involve leaving uncultivated on the land?**

- A. Bamboo
- B. Flowers
- C. Weeds
- D. Fruits

**Answer:** C. Weeds

**9. What does Suryamani fight for in her activism?**

- A. Education rights
- B. Forest rights
- C. Water rights
- D. Agricultural rights

**Answer:** B. Forest rights

**10. What is decided through the lottery in Mizoram?**

- A. Educational opportunities
- B. Job placements
- C. Land for farming
- D. Forest preservation plans

**Answer:** C. Land for farming

## **SUMMARY**

In the narrative "Whose Forests?," the protagonist Suryamani, a 'Girl Star' associated with the Jharkhand Jungle Bachao Andolan, shares her inspiring journey. Raised in a forest-dwelling community, Suryamani's childhood was intertwined with the lush surroundings. However, the intrusion of a contractor, Shambhu, threatened their harmonious existence by exploiting the forest. Suryamani's family faced economic challenges, compelling her father to seek work in the town.

Encouraged by Maniya Chacha, Suryamani pursued education in Bishanpur. Reluctantly leaving her beloved forest, she excelled in her studies and joined the Jharkhand Jungle Bachao Andolan. Suryamani passionately worked to safeguard forest rights, educating others about their interconnectedness with the environment.

Establishing the 'Torang' center, Suryamani aimed to preserve the Kuduk community's cultural heritage. The narrative delves into the significance of forests, highlighting the Right to Forest Act 2007, granting forest-dwellers rights over forest land. Suryamani's activism extended beyond borders, advocating for the rights of forest communities. The story culminates with her marriage to Bijoy, as they collectively strive for a new forest law.

Suryamani's journey embodies the struggle to balance tradition and progress, emphasizing the vital role of forests in sustaining communities. The narrative prompts reflection on the ecological impact of developmental projects and the need for collective efforts to protect our shared environmental heritage.