

## **CHAPTER- 6**

### **EVERY DROP COUNTS**

#### **2 MARK QUESTIONS**

**1. Have you ever faced a shortage of water in your area? If yes, then what was the reason for it? Talk to your grandmother or an elderly person. Find out, when they were your age**

**ANSWER:**

Yes, we do face a shortage of water in our area. My grandmother usually says during summer, there is a water shortage since it is too hot.

**2. What kind of water arrangements were made for travellers for example piau, mashak (leather bag) or any other? Now what do people do about water when they travel?**

**ANSWER:**

Now, people who travel carry their own water bottles or purchase water bottles that are neatly packed from nearby shops.

**3. What is Ghadsisar, and who got it made 650 years ago?**

**ANSWER:**

Ghadsisar is a lake in Jaisalmer. King Ghadsi of Jaisalmer got it made 650 years ago with the help of the people.

**4. How did rainwater collection work in the nine lakes around Ghadsisar?**

**ANSWER:**

When Ghadsisar Lake was full, the extra water flowed into another lake at a lower level. This process continued until all nine lakes were filled, allowing the rainwater to be used throughout the year.

**5. Why is Ghadsisar no longer in use today?**

**ANSWER:**

Many new buildings and colonies have been constructed between the nine lakes, preventing rainwater from collecting. As a result, the water now flows away and is wasted.

**6. Who was Al-Biruni, and where did he come from?**

**ANSWER:**

Al-Biruni was a traveler who came to India over a thousand years ago. He came from Uzbekistan.

**7. What did Al-Biruni observe and write about in his book?**

**ANSWER:**

Al-Biruni observed and wrote about various aspects of Indian life, including the skill of making ponds, the construction of chabutaras, and the use of long staircases around lakes.

**8. What were stepwells, and how were they used?**

**ANSWER:**

Stepwells were wells with steps leading down several storeys. People could descend the steps to reach the water instead of drawing it up. They were often used on long journeys to provide water to thirsty travelers.

**9. Why did people in Rajasthan build lakes and johads despite receiving very little rainfall?**

**ANSWER:**

Rajasthan receives very little rainfall, and its rivers do not have water throughout the year. Despite this, people built lakes and johads to collect and conserve water, ensuring a steady supply for their needs.

**10. What were some customs and festivals related to water in the past?**

**ANSWER:**

People celebrated around lakes when they were filled with rainwater. Newly married brides often bowed to springs or ponds. In cities, brides may worship the tap in their homes.

**11. How did people manage water in different ways in 1986 when there was no rain in Jodhpur?**

**ANSWER:**

People in Jodhpur cleaned a forgotten stepwell, removed garbage from it, and collected money. The stepwell provided water to the thirsty town. However, it was later forgotten when rainwater filled it again.

## **5 MARK QUESTIONS**

**1. There are two old wells in the area where Punita lives. Her grandmother says that about fifteen–twenty years ago there was water in these wells. The wells could have dried up because:**

**ANSWER:**

- Water is being pumped up from under the ground, with the help of electric motors.
- The lakes in which rain water used to collect are no longer there.
- The soil around trees and parks is now covered with cement.

**2. Is there some other reason for this? Explain.**

**ANSWER:**

Yes, the causes mentioned above are true. However, there are a few other reasons for the cause, which may be the destruction of more trees, no proper maintenance of the wells, and not cleaned regularly.

**3. Everyone has the right to live. Yet, is everybody getting enough water to live or even water to drink? Why is it that some people have to buy drinking water? Should it be like this? Water on this earth is for one and all. Some people draw out water from the ground by deep bore wells. How far is it correct? Have you ever seen this? Why do some people put a pump directly in the Jal Board pipeline? What problems would other people face due to this? Do you have any such experience?**

**ANSWER:**

It is very true that everybody is not getting enough water to drink. Yes, we have come to a situation where we have to purchase water to drink, which is mainly due to scarcity of water. This method has to change. I have seen some people draw water from the ground by deep bore wells, which is a wrong practice, as by doing so, it affects the environment. There are a few people who pump directly from the Jal Board pipeline so that the water reaches them sooner than the people waiting in queue and hence, water is scarce for a normal life. I too have faced some situations where we had to suffer from scarcity.

**4. Describe the significance of Ghadsisar and its historical background.**

**ANSWER:**

Ghadsisar is a lake in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, made 650 years ago by King Ghadsi with community support. The lake has ghats, verandahs, halls, and rooms. It served as a venue for festivals, music, dance, and education. Rainwater collected in Ghadsisar spread over nine interconnected lakes, ensuring water availability throughout the year. However, it is no longer in use due to urbanization and new constructions.

**5. Explain Al-Biruni's observations about Indian ponds and the construction of chabutaras.**

**ANSWER:**

Al-Biruni, a traveler from Uzbekistan, wrote about Indian ponds. He marveled at the skill of making ponds, where people piled up huge

rocks and joined them with iron rods to create chabutaras (raised platforms) around the lakes. Between these chabutaras, long staircases were built, separate for going up and coming down, reducing crowding. Al-Biruni documented these unique features in his writings about India.

**6. Discuss the water management practices in Rajasthan and the reasons behind building lakes and johads.**

**ANSWER:**

Rajasthan faces minimal rainfall, and its rivers do not have water throughout the year. Despite this, people built lakes and johads to collect rainwater. The community recognized the importance of every drop of water. Lakes and johads were constructed collaboratively, involving everyone, from businessmen to laborers. Rainwater would soak into the ground, reaching wells and step wells, making the soil fertile. This sustainable water management ensured water availability even in regions with scarce rainfall.

**7. Describe the customs and festivals related to water mentioned in the text.**

**ANSWER:**

Customs and festivals related to water include celebrations around lakes when filled with rainwater. Newly married brides bow to springs or ponds. In urban areas, brides may worship the tap in their homes. These customs reflect the cultural importance of water and highlight the rituals associated with its availability. Festivities around filled

lakes symbolize the community's gratitude and dependence on water sources.

**8. Explore the challenges faced by people during the water scarcity in Jodhpur in 1986 and the efforts made to address them.**

**ANSWER:**

In 1986, Jodhpur faced water scarcity due to no rainfall. People remembered a forgotten stepwell, cleaned it, and removed over two hundred trucks of garbage. The community collected money, and the stepwell provided water to the town. However, it was later forgotten when rainwater filled it again. This illustrates both the challenges of water scarcity and the community's resilience in finding solutions.

**9. Discuss the role of the Tarun Bharat Sangh in helping Darki Mai and the positive outcomes of their efforts.**

**ANSWER:**

Darki Mai, from a village in Alwar, sought help from the Tarun Bharat Sangh due to water scarcity. The group collaborated with the village to construct a lake, addressing the food and water needs of the community and increasing milk production. This initiative led to improved economic conditions and a better quality of life for the villagers. The positive outcomes highlight the impact of community-led efforts in addressing water-related challenges.



**10. Examine the issue of unequal water distribution and its impact on different households based on the information in the text.**

**ANSWER:**

The &quot; This is how we get water&quot; section reveals disparities in water access. Some households pump water from borewells, while others rely on taps, wells, handpumps, canals, or water tankers. Issues such as the unavailability of electricity for borewells fights over water at tankers, and caste restrictions on well usage contribute to unequal water distribution. This reflects broader challenges related to social, economic, and infrastructure factors affecting water availability.

**11. Explore the reasons behind the drying up of wells in Punita area and the potential factors contributing to this phenomenon.**

**ANSWER:**

Punita's grandmother mentioned that wells in the area dried up about fifteen to twenty years ago. Possible reasons for this could include increased extraction of groundwater using electric motors, the disappearance of lakes collecting rainwater, the covering of soil with cement in tree and park areas, and other environmental changes. Exploring these factors helps us understand the complex interplay of human activities and natural processes leading to water scarcity.

**12. Reflect on the importance of water bills and their role in managing water resources.**

**ANSWER:**

Water bills play a crucial role in managing water resources by documenting water usage, repair costs, and maintenance expenses. The bill from the Delhi Jal Board illustrates the financial aspects of the water supply, including the billing period, the amount to be paid, and details about repair and maintenance. The existence of water bills indicates a formalized system of water distribution, highlighting the need for accountability and efficient management of water resources to ensure fair and equitable access for all residents.

## **FILL IN THE BLANKS**

1. Ghadsisar is a lake in \_\_\_\_\_. (**Jaisalmer**)
2. Al-Biruni, a traveler from \_\_\_\_\_, observed and wrote about Indian ponds. (**Uzbekistan**)
3. Rainwater collected in Ghadsisar spread over \_\_\_\_\_ interconnected lakes. (**Nine**)
4. Stepwells were wells with steps leading down several \_\_\_\_\_. (**Storeys**)
5. Darki Mai sought help from the group called \_\_\_\_\_ to address water scarcity in her village. (**Tarun Bharat Sangh**)
6. In 1986, Jodhpur faced water scarcity due to no \_\_\_\_\_. (**Rainfall**)
7. The &quot; This is how we get water&quot; section outlines various methods of water acquisition, including pumping water from \_\_\_\_\_ using motors. (**Borewells**)
8. The text mentions the role of \_\_\_\_\_ in helping Darki Mai and addressing water-related challenges. (**Tarun Bharat Sangh**)

9. The &quot;This is Darki Mai. She lives in a village in the \_\_\_\_\_ district of Rajasthan&quot; referred to as Alwar.  
**(Alwar)**

10. People celebrated around lakes when filled with \_\_\_\_\_.  
**(Rainwater)**

## **MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS**

### **1. What is Ghadsisar?**

- a) Mountain
- b) Desert
- c) Lake
- d) Temple

**Answer:** c) Lake

### **2. Where did Al-Biruni come from?**

- a) India
- b) China
- c) Uzbekistan
- d) Persia

**Answer:** c) Uzbekistan

### **3. How many interconnected lakes did rainwater from Ghadsisar spread over?**

- a) Three
- b) Six

- c) Nine
- d) Twelve

**Answer:** c) Nine

**4. What are stepwells?**

- a) Wells with circular walls
- b) Wells with steps leading down
- c) Wells with decorative roofs
- d) Wells with underground channels

**Answer:** b) Wells with steps leading down

**5. Who helped Darki Mai address water scarcity in her village?**

- a) Tarun Bharat Sangh
- b) Greenpeace
- c) Red Cross
- d) UNICEF

**Answer:** a) Tarun Bharat Sangh

**6. In 1986, Jodhpur faced water scarcity due to lack of \_\_\_\_\_.**

- a) Electricity
- b) Rainfall
- c) Government support
- d) Educational resources

**Answer:** b) Rainfall

**7. What is the main method of water acquisition mentioned in &quot;This is how we get water&quot; section?**

- a) Borewells
- b) Handpumps
- c) Rainwater harvesting
- d) Water tankers

**Answer:** a) Borewells

**8. What role did Tarun Bharat Sangh play in the text?**

- a) Environmental conservation
- b) Addressing water scarcity
- c) Education reform
- d) Healthcare improvement

**Answer:** b) Addressing water scarcity

**9. Which district in Rajasthan is mentioned in connection with Darki Mai's village?**

- a) Jodhpur
- b) Alwar
- c) Jaipur
- d) Udaipur

**Answer:** b) Alwar



**10. What did people celebrate around when lakes were filled with rainwater?**

- a) Wedding ceremonies
- b) Religious festivals
- c) Music and dance events
- d) Lakes

**Answer:** d) Lakes

## **SUMMARY**

The text, "Every Drop Counts," explores the historical and contemporary significance of water conservation in India, focusing on examples from Rajasthan. It begins by introducing Ghadsisar, a lake in Jaisalmer built 650 years ago with community support. The interconnected lakes allowed rainwater to be used year-round, but urbanization has rendered them obsolete.

The narrative delves into the observations of Al-Biruni, a traveler from Uzbekistan, emphasizing his documentation of Indian pond construction and step-wells. Rajasthan's water management practices, including the construction of lakes and johads, are highlighted in the context of minimal rainfall.

The text portrays diverse customs and festivals related to water, underscoring its cultural importance. It discusses the unequal distribution of water in different households, exploring methods of water acquisition and associated challenges. Instances like the water scarcity in Jodhpur in 1986 and community efforts to revive A Forgotten Stepwell illustrate the ongoing struggle for water access.

The role of the Tarun Bharat Sangh in addressing water scarcity, as exemplified in Darki Mai village, showcases the potential for community-led solutions. The narrative concludes by prompting readers to reflect on water bills and the broader implications of water management. Overall, "Every Drop Counts; underscores the critical importance of water conservation, both historically and in the present context.