

CHAPTER-18

NO PLACE FOR US?

2 MARK QUESTIONS

1. Jatra felt alone, even in a crowd of people. Have you ever felt like this?

ANSWER:

Yes, there were times I felt alone, even in a crowd of people. When I joined the school, even though many people surrounded me, I felt alone.

2. Imagine how it feels to leave one's own place and go far away to live in a new place.

ANSWER:

It is very difficult to leave one's own place and go far away to live in a new place. The people, place, everything looks strange.

3. Why do you think families like that of Jatra's are coming to big cities?

ANSWER:

Because small cities and villages do not have much opportunities. Big cities have many opportunities for education as well as for jobs.

4. Have you seen any children (in your school or neighbourhood) who also go to work?

ANSWER:

Yes, I have seen many children go to work.

5. What kind of work do they do? Why do they have to work?

ANSWER:

They used to sell something, clean the vehicles and serve food in hotels. They work to support their family, as their parent do not earn enough to meet their day-to-day needs.

6. In Khedi village, what all did children learn?

ANSWER:

Children in Khedi village learnt dancing, playing flute and dhol, making vessels and other things from bamboo and clay and recognizing birds and imitating their sounds.

7. What do you learn from your elders?

ANSWER:

I learnt to maintain love and affection towards people and animals, respect the elders, help others in their difficult times and many more.

8. Jatrya learnt so many things in Khedi. How many of those would be useful for him in Mumbai?

ANSWER:

Jatrya learnt so many things in Khedi, which will be helpful for him in Mumbai. Some of them are playing the flutes, dhol and selling goods, which will help in earning money in Mumbai.

9. Do you hear the sounds of birds every day? Which ones?

ANSWER:

Yes, I hear the sounds of some birds, like crows, pigeons and sparrows.

10. What are some of the sounds that you hear every day that the people of Khedi may not be hearing?

ANSWER:

I used to hear the horns of vehicles, the sound of ambulances and police vehicle sirens.

11. Have you experienced silence? When and where?

ANSWER:

Yes, I experienced silence in the library and while sleeping.

12. Who all comes to your mind when you think about your family?

ANSWER:

When I think about my family, my parents, grandparents, and cousins all come to my mind.

13. Have you heard of people who don't want to be moved from their old place? Talk about them.

ANSWER:

Yes, my grandparents don't want to be moved from their old place because they won't feel comfortable in cities and they love to enjoy the fresh air and the open space of the village.

14. Do you know some people who have never been to school? Do you also know of any place where there is no school?

ANSWER:

yes, my grandparents have never been to school. I heard there is no school in some villages of Meghalaya.

15. Was Sinduri like the village of Jatrya's dreams?

ANSWER:

Sinduri village is not like the village of Jatrya's dreams.

16. Have you ever been to anyone's house as an 'unwanted guest'? How did you feel?

ANSWER:

No, I have never been to anyone's house as an 'unwanted guest'. Unwanted guests would not be treated properly, and they will feel lonely.

17. What all does your family do when you have guests at home for a few days?

ANSWER:

When guests come to our home for a few days, we will treat them in a special way by preparing nice dishes; we provide all facilities which they need for their comfortable stay, along with love and care.

5 MARK QUESTIONS

1. Many people in Jatrya's village did not agree to move away from their land and forest. Why? They had to leave even though they didn't want to. Why?

ANSWER:

The land and forest were associated with fond memories of many generations of people. Their forefathers had been living on the land for a long period. They were forced to leave the place by government officials and the police. Moreover, they were also promised to be sent to a better place. They were promised that the new place would have better facilities in terms of electricity and water.

2. In Khedi, how many people were there in Jatrya's family? When did he think about his family, who all came to his mind?

ANSWER:

There were three people in Jatrya's family in Khedi. But for Jatrya, the whole village is like his family. When he thought about his family, his future wife and his future children came to his mind.

3. Think of the kinds of difficulties people have to face when a dam is being built.

ANSWER:

People face many difficulties when a dam is being built. They are people who are forced to leave their place along with family; houses, farms and agricultural fields get destroyed, and they have to relocate to new places and have to struggle for work, education and medical facilities.

4. What difference did he find between Sinduri and his dream village?

ANSWER:

The houses in Sinduri village were made up of tin sheets and were very weak; there was no electricity in Sinduri village, there was no open space, and schools and hospitals were there in Sinduri, along with a bad smell coming from the burning of tires. Thus Sinduri village is totally different from Jatrya's dream village.

5. What had Jatryabhai thought while moving to Mumbai? Did he find Mumbai as he had imagined?

ANSWER:

The problems of Sinduri village made Jatrya think as if he was an unwanted guest in the village. So, he wanted to leave Sinduri. As he

could not go back to Khedi, he thought of moving to Mumbai. He did not find Mumbai as he had imagined; it was difficult for him to live in Mumbai.

6. Have you ever read or heard of a city slum being removed? How do you feel about this?

ANSWER:

Yes, I heard in the news the slum is being removed from an area of Yamuna River, which is located in Delhi. I felt very bad for these people who used to stay in slums without shelter and food.

7. People also shift from one place to another when they get transferred to their jobs. How do they feel then?

ANSWER:

Transfer is an integral part of jobs, so people should shift from one place to another. In this situation, they feel very bad about leaving their friends, colleagues, and their house. In a new place again, they have to search for schools and workplaces and have to adjust to new people and new environments.

FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. Jatryabhai and his family moved to Mumbai from _____ village. **(Sinduri)**
2. Sidya worked in a fish factory from 4 a.m. to 7 a.m., cleaning and sorting _____. **(Fish)**
3. Jatryabhai hoped to send his children to _____ in Mumbai for a better future. **(School)**
4. The dam construction led to the submerging of Khedi village, forcing its residents to _____. **(Leave)**
5. In Sinduri, Jatryabhai got a small piece of land, but it was not suitable for _____. **(Farming)**
6. Jatryabhai's ultimate dream in Mumbai was to provide his family with stability and a better life through _____ for his children. **(Education)**
7. Jatryabhai felt unwelcome in Sinduri, where he and his community were referred to as _____ guests. **(Unwanted)**

8. The construction of a dam on the river led to the creation of a big _____ in Khedi. **(Lake)**

9. The villagers in Khedi were told they would be given land on the other side of the river with amenities like _____, electricity, and hospitals. **(School)**

10. Jatryabhai's family faced challenges in Mumbai, including housing difficulties, financial constraints, and the fear of further _____. **(Displacement)**

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. Where did Jatryabhai and his family move from to Mumbai?

- A. Khedi
- B. Sinduri
- C. Mumbai
- D. Sidya

Answer: B. Sinduri

2. What was Sidya's job in the fish factory?

- A. Cooking fish
- B. Sorting fish
- C. Selling fish
- D. Fishing

Answer: B. Sorting fish

3. What was Jatryabhai's dream for his children in Mumbai?

- A. Owning a fish factory
- B. Going to school
- C. Working in a market
- D. Becoming fishermen

Answer: B. Going to school

4. Why did the villagers in Khedi have to leave their homes?

- A. Natural disaster
- B. Construction of a dam
- C. Lack of resources
- D. Village conflict

Answer: B. Construction of a dam

5. What was the problem with the land Jatryabhai got in Sinduri for farming?

- A. Too fertile
- B. Rocky and unsuitable
- C. Perfect for crops
- D. Covered in water

Answer: B. Rocky and unsuitable

6. Jatryabhai's ultimate dream in Mumbai was to provide his family with:

- A. Luxurious lifestyle
- B. Stable housing
- C. Advanced technology
- D. A better fishing spot

Answer: B. Stable housing

7. How were Jatryabhai and his community referred to in Sinduri?

- A. Welcome guests
- B. Beloved guests
- C. Unwanted guests
- D. Honored guests

Answer: C. Unwanted guests

8. What did the dam construction lead to in Khedi?

- A. Forest
- B. Desert
- C. Lake
- D. Valley

Answer: C. Lake

9. What amenities were promised to the villagers on the other side of the river?

- A. Shopping malls
- B. Electricity, hospitals, and schools
- C. Fish markets
- D. Farms

Answer: B. Electricity, hospitals, and schools

10. What challenges did Jatryabhai's family face in Mumbai?

- A. Lack of education
- B. Housing difficulties, financial constraints, and fear of displacement
- C. Abundance of resources
- D. Unemployment

Answer: B. Housing difficulties, financial constraints, and fear of displacement

SUMMARY

The story of Jatryabhai revolves around his journey from Khedi village to Mumbai, depicting the challenges faced by many families migrating from rural to urban settings. Jatryabhai, along with his daughter Jhimli, had left Sinduri village due to financial struggles. In Mumbai, they faced hardships, trying to make ends meet by repairing fishing nets. Sidya, Jatryabhai's son, worked in a fish factory to contribute to the family's income. Their life in Mumbai was marked by financial constraints, insufficient earnings, and the constant fear of displacement.

The narrative also delves into Jatryabhai's past in Khedi, a village brimming with natural beauty and a close-knit community. The construction of a dam, however, forced the villagers to leave their ancestral homes. Promises of a better life in a new village, Sinduri, turned out to be disappointing, with inadequate amenities and social integration challenges.

Jatryabhai's dream of providing his children with education and a stable life persisted in Mumbai, yet the reality was far from ideal. The family faced housing difficulties, financial struggles, and the looming threat of being displaced again. The narrative serves as a poignant exploration of the struggles and dreams of families migrating to urban areas in search of a better life, shedding light on the complex dynamics of adaptation and survival in unfamiliar environments.