



Q21. "She still has bangles on her wrist but no light in her eyes."

What exactly does the author want to convey through this?

Ans: 'She' is an elderly woman who became a bride long ago. Since her husband, an old man with a flowing beard is still alive, she still has bangles on her wrist. She has, however, not enjoyed even one full night in her entire lifetime. So, there is no light in her eyes. This is just a comment on the abject poverty and helplessness of the bangle-makers.

Q22. "The young men echo the lament of their elders." What do you think is the common complaint? How has it affected their lives?

Ans: The bangle-makers of Firozabad are quite poor. They do not have enough money to do anything except carry on the business of making bangles. Some even do not have enough to pacify their hunger. Building a house for the family is an achievement for them. Years of mind-numbing toil have killed all initiative and the ability to dream.

Q23. Why do the bangle-makers not organise themselves into a cooperative?

Ans: Most of the young bangle-makers have fallen into the traps of the middlemen. They are also afraid of the police. They know that the police will haul them up, beat them and drag to jail for doing something illegal. There is no leader among them to help them see things differently. Their fathers are equally tired. They can do nothing except carrying on their inherited business.

Q24. Which two distinct worlds does the author notice among the bangle-making industry?

Ans: The families of the bangle-makers belong to one of these worlds. These workers are caught in the web of poverty. They are also burdened by the stigma of the caste in which they are born. They know no other work. The other world is the vicious circle of the moneylenders, the middlemen, the policemen, the keepers of the law, the bureaucrats and the politicians.

Q25. How is Mukesh different from the other bangle makers of Firozabad? [Delhi 2014]

Ans: Mukesh is quite different from other bangle makers of Firozabad because he has the courage to take initiative and break from the traditional family occupation. He has strong will power also. He insists on being his own master by becoming a motor mechanic.

Q26. What do you think is the plight of the children born in the families of bangle-makers?

Ans: The vicious circle of the middlemen and their allies have entrapped the poor bangle-makers in their nets. The stronghold is suffocating. They have imposed a heavy burden on little children. They can't put it down. Before they are able to think, they accept the baggages as naturally as their fathers.

Q27. What do you think is the theme of 'Lost Spring, Stories of Stolen Childhood'?

Ans: The theme of the chapter is the grinding poverty and the

traditions which condemn poor children to a life of exploitation. The two stories taken together depict the plight of street children forced into labour early in life and denied the opportunity of schooling. The callousness of the society and the political class only adds to the sufferings of these poor people.

\*\*\*\*\* END \*\*\*\*\*