

CHAPTER – 25

COMMUNITY



We learn about the following in this chapter,

- The meaning of Community
- City - meaning and the features of urban communities
- The relationship of industrialisation and urbanisation
- The features of rural and tribal communities

The meaning of Community - A group of people living in a specific geographical area with common rules and regulations, values and common identity is called community. It is a Social Unit.

Community

Man cannot live alone. He is a social animal. He establishes various relations with the members of the group he lives in. Not only does he settle down to live with the members of a specific area, but he also develops gregariousness and social concern. Due to this, a sense of togetherness develops. This type of living in a specific area and leading a simple social life is called a community. A community has the following features :

1. Group of people
2. Limited specific area
3. Feelings of togetherness
4. Common vision of life
5. Not established by law

What is the meaning of city ?

A city is the permanent settlement of people having high population density and variety of social strata. The census of India 2011 prescribed the following norms to identify a place as a city:

1. minimum population of 50,000
2. population density of 1000 per sq.miles
3. majority of the people occupied in non-agricultural activities
4. availability of civic amenities
5. People identify community as town, city and metropolitan city.



City

Do this yourself :

Make List of the differences between the city and village near your place (population, area, civic amenities)

Features of cities:

1. Variety of social strata
2. Anonymity
3. Increased social movement
4. Greater emphasis on individualism, materialistic comfort and privacy
5. Development of associations and unions
6. Families of small size
7. Fast pace of social reforms

Industrialisation and Urbanisation :

Industrialisation means the change in technology used in production of materials and service. To be specific, this term is used to indicate the development of the manufacturing industry.

Because of the monopolistic attitude of the British Government, till I World War, they did not establish any industry in India. Subsequently, establishment of industries resulted in destruction of old cottage industries. Villagers were brought to cities and industrial centers. Not only did the villagers desert their villages and take shelter in cities, but they also accepted the available opportunities to work. Geographical and industrial movement brought people closer. Railways and surface transport like buses brought people together. More than anything else, industrialisation changed our social environment and created cities.

Do this yourself :

List the names of huge industries in your district and note down the products they manufacture.



Industry

Rural community and its features

Rural community is the cornerstone of Indian society. Location of this community is the village. Villages occupy a very important place in the development of Indian culture and history. Organised groups leading a social life in a specific area is called a community. A group of people leading a simple life in a limited land area is called a village. The village is a small group of people who not only engage in agriculture for their livelihood but also follow it as a way of life.

Activity :

What do you know about your neighborhood relationship? Meet elders and collect information.



Rural community

Features of a rural community

Each village differs from the other in terms of population, area and way of life. The village in the plains is different from the village in the coastal area. There may be differences in the lifestyle found in villages in deserts or mountains and hills. In spite of variations, there are some characteristics which are common to all villages. They are :

Do you know this :

Based on the fairs conducted in your area, observe the features of rural community and prepare a report.

1. Small community
2. Harmonious relationships
3. Social unity
4. Informal system of control
5. Prominence of undivided families
6. Prominence of agriculture
7. Influence of nature
8. Influence of the neighbourhood
9. Simplicity
10. Increased religious involvement
11. Traditional opinions
12. Wide-spread caste system
13. Illiteracy, poverty etc.

Problems of rural community :

1. Agricultural problems
2. Problems related to cottage industries
3. Illiteracy, poverty and unemployment
4. Lack of proper health facilities
5. Lack of civic amenities

Tribal community and its features :

The group of people who live far away from urban communities in forests, valleys and hills is called tribal community. They are the same throughout the world and are in a significant number in some countries. After Africa, India has the largest number of tribal people. Anthropology defines a tribe thus: 'a group usually restricted to a specific geographical area, having its own language, cultural harmony and social organization'. The Indian tribes can be classified under three groups: Negrito, Mongolian and Mediterranean.

Features of tribal community:

1. Common geographical area
2. Group of family/cluster of families
3. Inter-relatedness

4. Common language
5. Simplicity and self-contained nature
6. Common religion
7. Common culture
8. Common name
9. Sense of unity
10. Illiteracy



Tribal Community

Indian tribes have been geographically classified into three groups:

Tribals of the North East region: These people who belong to the Mongolian race can be seen in Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Tripura and Manipur. They speak languages that belong to the China-Tibet family of languages. The different sects among them are Gurung, Limbi, Leppa, Aka, Mishi, Garo, Khasi, Chakma, Naga, Sema and Kachari.

Tribals of the Central region : These people can be seen in the mountains and valleys to the south of river Ganga and to the north of river Krishna. Tribals like Santhals, Munda, Bhil, Gonda, Oran, Baiga, Khariya, Khonda, Kola, Bhumi, Savar etc. are settled in these areas. They are more developed when compared to other tribes in the country.

The Southern tribes: The southern region comprises the area to the south of river Krishna and to the north of Kanyakumari. Tribes are found in some parts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. These tribes are Soliga, Yerava, Todava, Kota, Chenchu, Paniya, Kadar, Siddhi, Jenukuruba etc.

In addition to the above, the tribes living in Andaman and Nicobar islands can be considered the fourth group. The important tribes of this region are: Jwara, Onge, Senthineli, Andaman and Nicobaris.

EXERCISES

I. Fill in the blanks with suitable words.

1. _____ means a group of people living in a specific area and leading a common, social life.
2. The cornerstone of Indian society is _____ community.
3. The tribes of the eastern region belong to the _____ race.

II. Answer the following questions.

1. What is meant by a 'city'?
2. What does industrialisation suggest?
3. Explain the term 'village'.
4. How does anthropology define 'tribe'?
5. Explain the features of a city.
6. List out the features of a rural community.
7. What are the problems of rural communities?
8. Identify the unique features of tribal communities.
9. How are the Indian tribes classified?

III. Activities :

1. Have a debate on the advantages and disadvantages of city and village life.
2. Collect information about the life style of a tribal community near your place.

IV. Project :

Collect information from members of a tribe about the steps taken by the Gram Panchayat/Town Council to provide civic amenities in the tribal village.

