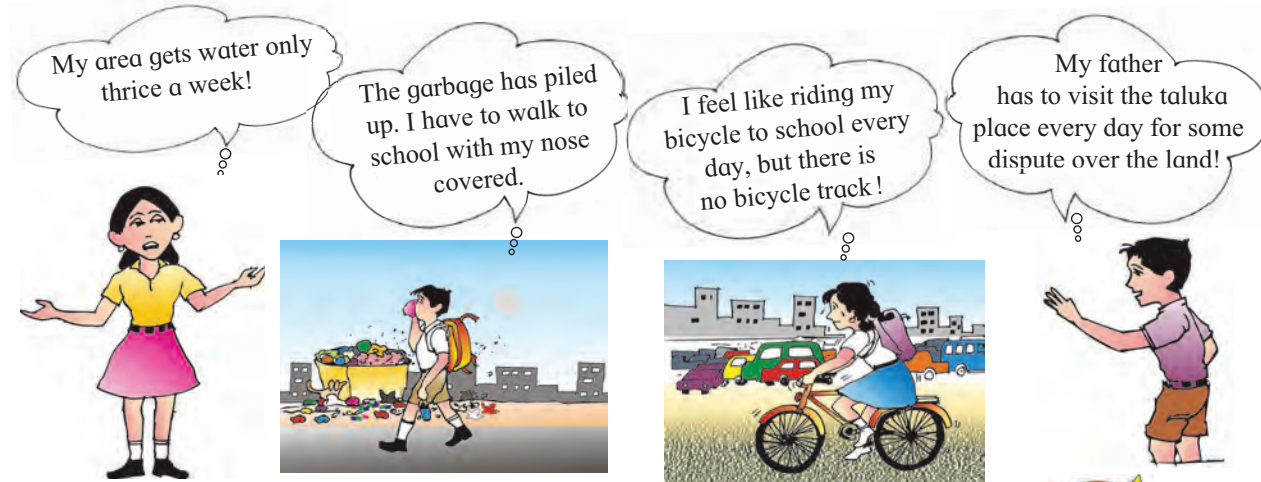


## 7. Let us Solve our own Problems

Can you tell ?



What problems can you identify from the following picture ?



### Issues in civic life

We encounter many problems in our civic life. These problems cause us inconvenience. Sometimes our life is thrown into disorder. If we turn a blind eye towards problems, they become worse. So it is best to solve them in time. The problems faced by people in cities and villages can be called problems or issues in civic life. It is important to be able to identify such issues. One person alone cannot solve such problems. They can be solved through everyone's efforts and co-operation.

### Solving disputes

Disputes arising over various issues in our towns and villages can also be a problem. The well-being of a village is affected by constant disputes. It leads to loss of unity and obstructs the progress of the village. If the disputes are not serious, they can be solved locally by speaking to the parties involved. However, if the dispute is not solved in this way, it has to be taken to the appropriate bodies or the courts.

Do you know ?



Since 2007, the 'Mahatma Gandhi Dispute-Free Village Mission' is being implemented in our State. The aim of this scheme is that villages should be able to solve their own disputes through peaceful discussions. This method of solving disputes increases harmony in the village. Villages which have solved their disputes by using this method also get a peace award. In cities, Mohalla committees help to solve disputes.

### Problem solving

Have you heard about these attempts at solving problems ?

**Hiware Bazaar :** In the village of Hiware Bazaar in Ahmadnagar district, water shortage was a big problem. This problem was solved with the help and participation of the villagers. The problem of animal feed was also solved. Now, Hiware Bazaar has lush green surroundings.

- Many villages face water shortage. Find the reasons for this and suggest solutions.

**Cleaning a village through ‘shramdaan’:** The people of Khudawadi village in Osmanabad district cleaned their village through ‘shramdaan’ or voluntary contribution of labour. They decided that everyone should help in cleaning the village. First, the waste water was dealt with. The garbage was used to make manure using vermiculture. A toilet was built in each house.

Sant Gadgebaba used kirtans to stress the importance of keeping the village clean. He told the people that we cannot make progress without cleanliness, education and self-reliance. He showed people how to clean the village through his own actions.

Rashtrasant Tukdoji Maharaj explained the importance of cleanliness through his ‘Gram Geeta’.

‘मिळोनी करावी ग्रामसफाई । नाली, मोरी ठायींठायी ।  
हस्ते परहस्ते साफ सर्वहि । चहूकडे मार्ग ।’



Sant Gadgebaba



Rashtrasant  
Tukdoji Maharaj

- Newspapers carry several articles about ‘shramdaan’. Collect these articles. Discuss the things that can be achieved through it.

**Can you tell ?**



- (1) Do you think that there should be a group of peacekeepers in your school?

- (2) What criteria will you use to select these peacekeepers?
- (3) Which rules will you include in the rulebook for these peacekeepers?
- (4) What methods should peacekeepers use to solve your disputes?
- (5) How did you understand that disputes can be solved peacefully?

For a society to be peaceful, the basic needs of all of its sections need to be met. Each person must get the necessary security. The exploitation in society must stop. Inequality must decrease. Everyone must have the right to participate in public life. By learning the importance of peace and by using peaceful methods, we can create a peaceful environment in our family, school and community.

**Do you know ?**



In order for peace to spread worldwide, and for nations to be able to strive for the development of their people, 21 September has been designated by the UN as ‘International Peace Day’. On this day, in New York, where the United Nations have their headquarters, a bell is rung at 10 o’clock in the morning. This is followed by a few moments of silence. This bell has been made from coins given by people from around 60 nations.

If you would like to know more about this, visit the following website :

<http://www.internationaldayofpeace.org>

### Always remember –



If there is peace in the family, school and society, everyone will benefit. Peace contributes significantly to progress. It creates scope for advances in various fields like business, industry, education, art, literature, entertainment, science and technology. In this way, peace becomes a social value rather than a personal need.

### What we have learnt –



- Everyone has a responsibility to solve problems in civic life.
- Problems can be solved if everyone co-operates.
- Dialogue and discussion can help solve disputes.
- Disputes can be solved peacefully.
- If there is peace in the family, school and society, everyone benefits.
- Peace is a social value.

### Exercises

#### 1. Fill in the blanks.

- Turning a blind eye towards problems makes them..... .
- It is important to be able to identify ..... .

#### 2. Answer in one sentence.

- What is meant by issues in civic life?
- How can problems in civic life be solved?
- Name the great personalities that stressed the importance of cleanliness.

#### 3. Answer in short.

- Explain the concept of cleaning the village through 'shramdaan'.
- How can a suitable environment for peace be created?

#### 4. What will you do in the following situations?

- The class leader wishes to maintain quiet in the classroom.

- For some unavoidable reason, the maths teacher is unable to attend class today.
- During a match, a dispute has arisen between the two teams on the playground.

#### Activities

- Write a letter to your local representatives about the garbage problem in your area and discuss the problem with them in person.
- Find out who you should contact if stray dogs are a problem in your locality. Find information about solutions for the stray dog problem.

\* \* \*

