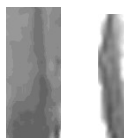


CIVICS



Urban Livelihood

People in cities are engaged in different occupations. While some people are industrialists, doctors, and engineers, others are domestic helpers, cleaners and landless labourers who migrate from villages in search of various job opportunities.

Street Vendors

- In India, there exists an inequality of income among various people belonging to different classes.
- In cities, a large number of people work on the streets. They either sell different commodities or offer their services to the people such as servicing of a cycle etc.
- It has been found out that in the city of Ahmedabad about 12% of the total workers work on streets.
- Generally, street vendors are not employed and run their own work.
- Some street vendors even set up their shops on roadsides, which are mostly temporary structures. At times, they spread plastic sheets over the side roads or pavements where they sell different things.
- Street vendors often sell those things which are prepared by their family members like snacks, pickles etc.
- Since their shops are not permanent, they can be dismantled anytime by the police. They have no security of any kind.
- About one crore people in India work as street vendors. Due to the efforts of many organisations, street vendors are looked upon as people who have the right to earn their livelihood and not just as people who obstruct the flow of people and traffic on roads.
- Many organisations have been demanded the setting up of Hawking zones and formation of hawking committees in towns and cities so that hawkers themselves can take decisions involving them.



About one crore people in India are working as street vendors.

People Working in the Markets

In big markets we find a number of shops. While some shops sell day to day items, some sell garments, electronic equipments, toys etc. Some people also offer their services to people such as doctors who open clinics in the markets. While some people own shops in the markets, some people work as salesmen. One person can have many shops in the city. These shops may be large or small. The owners of permanent shops employ other people as supervisors, salesmen and helpers. These permanent shops have a license which they receive from the municipal corporation. The municipal corporation decides the day when markets are supposed to be closed. Many markets may also have banks, courier services, medical shops and hospitals.



An electronic shop in the market

People Working in Factories

- A large numbers of people in the cities are employed in factories or workshops.
- Many skilled and unskilled labourers gather in the busiest places in the markets, in order to find a person to whom they can offer their services. Usually these are masons, plumbers and other casual workers.
- Many people work in factories or workshops. Many of them are employed on a casual basis. This means that such people get work only when required by the employers or when the employers get large orders.
- Workers in the garment industry and in several mills work on a casual basis. Neither is their job permanent nor are they paid well.
- Casual workers are generally employed for about seven to eight months in a factory. Their working hours are long and tiring. During the lean season, casual workers have to find some other work.



Often people working in factories are casual workers who work for long hours and low wages.

People Working in Offices

- Many people in the city work in offices, big factories, government departments etc.
- Most of the people who work in offices are permanent and regular employees of the company.
- The work of the people in offices is clearly defined and they are paid regular salaries.
- They get fixed paid holidays. They are also entitled to receive medical facilities and provident fund. The latter is used by them after their retirement.
- Many people in the city also work in call centres. A call centre is a centralised office which caters to the inquiries of customers pertaining to purchased goods and services offered by various companies.
- Call centres have work stations which include a computer, a telephone set and a supervisor's chamber.
- Apart from Indian companies, many foreign companies have set up their call centres in India as they easily get people who are proficient in English and ready to work for long hours at lower wages.



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