

# NCERT SOLUTIONS

CLASS - 12th



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Class : 12th

Subject : Sociology

Chapter : 4

Chapter Name : Change and Development in Rural Society

Q1 Read the passage given and answer the questions :

The harsh working conditions suffered by labourers in Agha Bigha were an outcome of the combined effect of the economic power of the maliks as a class and their overwhelming power as members of a dominant caste. A significant aspect of the social power of the maliks was their ability to secure the intervention of various arms of the state to advance their interests. Thus, political factors decisively contributed to widening the gulf between the dominant class and the underclass.

- i. Why do you think the maliks were able to use the power of the state to advance their own interests?
- ii. Why did labourers have harsh working conditions?

Answer.

- (a) The maliks were able to use the power of the state to advance their own interests as they had the economic power and they belonged to the upper class.
- (b) The labourers had harsh working conditions because they belonged to the lower class and were exploited by upper castes or dominant sections of the society.

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Q2 What measures do you think the government has taken, or should take, to protect the rights of landless agricultural labourers and migrant workers ?

Answer. The measures that government has taken or should take are :

- (a) The government has already abolished the zamindari system, which was quite exploitative for the underprivileged sections of farmers and workers.
- (b) The government has introduced land ceiling policies to limit the ownership of people regarding the land assets.
- (c) The government has brought many land reforms and should introduce some more to favour the labourers and migrant workers.
- (d) The government should introduce laws to safeguard the occupational rights of migrant workers regarding the eviction scenarios.
- (e) The government should introduce more laws to preserve the working conditions of the labourers to a suitable condition.
- (f) It should also implement the laws regarding the women workers for equal pay for equal work.
- (g) It should work for the introduction of maternity and paternity leaves within the ambit of the respective sector.

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Q3 There are direct linkages between the situation of agricultural workers and their lack of upward socio-economic mobility. Name some of them.

Answer. The major linkages between the agricultural workers and their lack of upward socio-economic mobility are:

- (a) The aspect of land, as the land decides the economical and social position of the individual in society.
- (b) The poor working conditions and poor wages leading to low economic standards and low status in terms of economic power dynamics.
- (c) The exploitative nature and decreasing level of women participation , leading to decrease in their social position and more exploitation.

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Q4 What are the different factors that have enabled certain groups to transform themselves into new wealthy, entrepreneurial, dominant classes?  
Can you think of an example of this transformation in your state?

Answer. The different factors that have enabled certain groups to transform themselves into new wealthy, entrepreneurial , dominant classes include:

- (a) The caste position and status in the power dynamic structure which leads to no social exploitation in educational and working avenues.
  - (b) The class positions , which leads to better opportunities as the subject person has more economic capital.
  - (c) The solidarity within the ethnic groups which often leads to more business corporation.
  - (d) The gendered privilege as women face many inequalities to get out into corporate sectors.
- The major aspect or example that transformed in our society included the Muslim Molvis, who because of their religious status gained huge amount of economic and social capital.

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Q5 Hindi and regional language films were often set in rural areas. Think of a film set in rural India and describe the agrarian society and culture that is shown in it. How realistic do you think the portrayal is? Have you seen any recent film set in rural areas? If not how would you explain it ?

Answer. The media has the power to develop the narratives in society. The portrayal of villages is often done to increase the scenic beauty within the movie pieces. We can conclude that the portrayal of villages is not realistic. The recent film based upon the rural areas included the aspects mainly concentrated towards the scenic beauty of villages but the aspects of social stratification and the lack of facilities was not highlighted. The scenarios of organic solidarity and local governance was neglected and nullified.

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Q6 Visit a construction site in your neighbourhood, a brickyard, or other such place where you are likely to find migrant workers. Find out where the workers come from. How are they recruited from their home villages, who is the 'mukadam'? If they are from rural areas, find out about their lives in their villages and why they have to migrate to find work.

Answer. I live in Delhi. The most of the workers came from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. They are recruited by the people, belonging to the official employment organisation. These people are known by different names according to their respective job or territory and in some areas they are known as 'mukadams' or 'muqadams'. They have to migrate mainly because of poor economic and social conditions in their native villages. The migration mainly happens for better employment and educational opportunities.

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Q7 Visit your local fruit-seller, and ask her/him about the fruits she/he sells, where they come from, and their prices. Find out what has happened to the prices of local products after fruits began to be imported from outside of India (such as apples from Australia). Are there any imported fruits that are cheaper than Indian fruits.

Answer. The fruits that they sell mainly include apples, mangoes, cherries, guavas etc. The apples are mainly the delicacies of Kashmir. Mango and its different types are brought from Maharashtra. Cherries and Guavas are mainly brought from the Northern and Central India. The prices of the imported apples like American apples are very low , which has resulted in the decline of the native fruit industries.

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