

engaged. Though villages have shown signs of prosperity with time, yet most of the villagers are still poor. Moreover, there are hardly any facilities by which the rural people can acquire skills in different occupations. These facilities are available in towns and cities. It is not possible for all villagers to go to towns and cities and acquire such skills due to various social and financial problems. As such they are forced to lead a substandard life in villages.



### Find Out

How does the government help people who have seasonal employment?

Rural livelihoods chiefly comprise of primary occupations, with some secondary and tertiary occupations. The chief source of primary occupations in villages is agriculture. Different types of cereals, pulses, spices, fruits and vegetables are grown by farmers. Farmers have to transport their produce to urban areas for marketing and processing. Since all markets and processing industries are also set up in urban areas, the secondary occupations have not developed in villages.

The secondary occupations that have developed in rural areas are on a very small scale, such as shopkeepers, weavers, carpenters, ironsmiths, carpet-makers etc. They chiefly meet the needs of the farmers. The tertiary occupations are still smaller in villages, such as doctors. Unfortunately, the doctors practising in villages are not well qualified and many of them are quacks.

### Farmers

The chief occupation in villages is agriculture. The people engaged in agriculture are called farmers. When we say the name of a farmer, the picture of a simple-looking and hard-working man comes before our eyes. Much has not changed in this

Imagination over the decades, though a change is perceptible in many villages because some villages have become very prosperous, though most others live a hard life. Modern scientific appliances, improved seeds and scientific methods of farming have helped farmers to grow more in limited time and on limited land. We can see tractors, water pumps, threshers etc. in all villages, while the age-old oxen-drawn ploughs are the things of the past. Of course, all farmers are not so lucky.

We can divide farmers into three categories—large farmers, middle farmers and landless farmers.

A large farmer is a prosperous man because he holds a lot of land in the village. Generally, he himself does not work on the field. He gets work done by labourers. Since his produce is large, traders from towns and cities come to buy his produce. He has resources and knows a lot of people, so it is not difficult for him to get a loan from a bank or other assistance from the government. Because his financial condition is strong, he often becomes the Pradhan in the village.

### Quiz Time

Fill in the blanks :

1. There are over \_\_\_\_\_ villages in India.
2. The earliest occupation of man was \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ food.
3. The chief occupation in villages is \_\_\_\_\_.
4. A large farmer is a \_\_\_\_\_ man.
5. The people engaged in \_\_\_\_\_ occupations include those who provide services of different kinds.

A middle farmer is a person whose landholding is not very large. He works on his farm with his family. The produce is hardly sufficient to meet his annual needs, so he has to work on a larger farmer's field to get some extra money. Sometimes, he also makes baskets, ropes etc. in order to make both ends meet. At present he is very worried because he will have to divide his field between his three sons and the size of each of these three fields will be so small that they

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