

NCERT Solutions for Class 6th Social Science Civics Chapter 5 Panchayati raj

1. What problem did the villagers in Hardas village face? What did they do to solve this problem?

Ans: The villagers in Hardas village faced the problem of drinking water shortage. They did the following tasks to solve this problem:

- They deepened the two hand pumps.
- They cleaned one well.
- They sought information about the scheme of watershed development from the Block Development Officer.

2. What in your opinion, is the importance of the Gram Sabha? Do you think all members should attend Gram Sabha meetings? Why?

Ans: The Gram Sabha is the most important body of the Panchayati Raj System. It is responsible for planning out the strategies for the development of the village, implementation of the ruling provisions. It also looks after the basic amenities of village people. It is also the custodian of the public property of the village.

Education, law, and order, primary health services are some of the other responsibilities of the Gram Sabha. It also checks the wrong decisions taken by the Gram Panchayat. It keeps an eye on the elected representative and in making them responsible to the persons who elected them.

It is important for all members to attend Gram Sabha meetings because it is the only way to participate in the proceedings of various plans discussed in the meetings. The members of Gram Sabha represent different areas. So, it is important for them to put their local problems and development programmes in the meetings. If they remain absent from the meetings, their interests may be overlooked.

3. What is the link between a Gram Sabha and a Gram Panchayat?

Ans:

- Gram Sabha works over several Gram Panchayats.
- Gram Panchayats are members of Gram Sabha.
- Gram Sabha controls and approves the spending of money received from the government.

4. Take an example of anyone task done by a Panchayat in your area/nearby rural area and find out the following :

1. Why it was taken up.

2. Where the money comes from.
3. Whether or not the work has been completed.

Ans:

1. Our Panchayat recently undertook the task of building a community hall. It was necessary because there was no such common place where people could gather at a time. It was difficult to hold a general meeting, organize a general function, etc.
2. The money was collected as a contribution from the villagers and some part of it was also diverted from the Panchayat welfare fund.
3. Yes, the work has been completed within the projected time and it is now in use.

5. What is the difference between a Gram Sabha and a Gram Panchayat?

Ans:

1. Gram Sabha consists of all the adults of a village while Gram Panchayat is elected by the members of the Gram Sabha for a period of five years.
2. The area of Gram Sabha is the entire village whereas Gram Panchayat is divided into wards represented by Ward Councillors.
3. Gram Sabha puts control over Gram Panchayat.

6. Read the following news item:

Nimone is a village on the Chauphula-Shirur Road. Like many others, this village has also been facing a severe water shortage for the last few months and villagers depend on tankers for all their needs. Bhagavan Mahadeo Lad (35) of this village was beaten with sticks, iron rods, and axes by a group of seven men. The incident came to light when some villagers brought a badly injured Lad to the hospital for treatment. In the FIR recorded by the police Lad said that he was attacked when he insisted that the water in the tanker must be emptied into the storage tanks constructed as part of the water supply scheme by Nimone Gram Panchayat so that there would be equal distribution of water. However, he alleged that the upper caste men were against this and told him that the tanker water was not meant for lower castes.

Adapted, from Indian Express, ' May 1, 2004

1. **Why was Bhagvan beaten?**
2. **Do you think that the above is a case of discrimination? Why?**

Ans:

1. There was acute water crisis in Nimone village and the villagers had to depend on tankers for their needs. So, when the tanker came in the village, Bhagvan insisted that the water in the tanker must be emptied into the storage tanks constructed as part of the water supply scheme by Nimone Gram Panchayat so that there would

be equal distribution of water. But the upper caste men were against this and therefore they beat Bhagvan to suppress his demand.

2. Yes, the above is a case of discrimination, because the upper caste men tries to suppress the genuine demand of the lower castes. They look them down upon and ignore their existence.

7. Find out more about watershed development and how it benefits an area?

Ans:

- Watershed development helps in conserving water and recharging the groundwater resources.
- Under the watershed development scheme the following tasks are performed:
 - Trees are planted,
 - Check dams and tanks are constructed to harvest rainwater.
- An ample quantity of water is available both for drinking and irrigation.
- Barren lands are turned into green meadows.
- Arable land is reclaimed.