

Revision Notes Class 9

Social Science - Economics

Chapter – 1 The Story of the Village Palampur

1. Overview of Palampur

- Palampur village is similar to one we saw in research study of Gilbert Etienne.
- Palampur has pucca road that can withstand winter, rain and summer. This road connects Palampur village to their neighbouring village, that is, Raiganj.
- Various types of vehicles ply on Palampur road, like bullock carts, tongas, tractors, jeeps, motorcycles, trucks etc.
- Availability of Electricity in Palampur. Many houses have electricity and tube-wells are powered by electricity.
- There are 2 primary schools and 1 high school for the students of Palampur.
- There is one government run primary health care and one private dispensary in Palampur village.

2. Factors of Production

There are 4 factors of production:

- a) Land
- b) Labour
- c) Physical Capital
- d) Human Capital

a) Land

- Without land, a production facility is not possible to exist. There would be no place for agriculture, without land. This also involves other natural resources like water, trees, minerals etc.

b) Labour

- People are required to work either in a factory to operate machines or to sow the seeds, using tractors to irrigate the land as far as agriculture is concerned. These people are labour.

c) Physical Capital

- Labour requires tools to do work, be it in a factory or field. Farmers need tractors, water pumps etc. Factory labours require specialised tools and machinery.



- Physical capital is divided in two categories: Fixed capital and Working capital.
- Fixed capital is, those which once brought, will serve you for a longer period of time – tractors and machinery.
- Working capitals are once that are not permanent – such as the raw materials or the money to run the business or farm.

d) Human Capital

- Labour all alone cannot keep the production unit and the company running. There is a need for creativity, can-do attitude. People who employ these things are called the Human Capital.

3. Farming in Palampur

- In Palampur village, 75% of the people earn a livelihood through farming.
- Some are farmers and others are farm labourers.
- The area in Palampur is used to its fullest for farming purpose. Hence, no possibility of expansion of land for agriculture.

4. The village of Palampur uses multiple cropping

- As land cannot be expanded in Palampur, farmers tend to use the same land to grow different plants and eatable things.
- In monsoon, jowar and bajra are cultivated. Crops were sown before the starting of rain called as Kharif crops.
- Farmers used to grow potatoes during the period of October to December.
- Farmers used to sow Rabi crops such as wheat during winter and harvest them in springtime.
- A part of the land was dedicated to growing sugarcane.
- Farmers used to keep wheat for their consumption and sell the surplus sugarcane and jaggery.
- Farmers could irrigate their farmland effectively since electricity came to Palampur earlier compared to other villages in India.
- Government installed the initial set of tube-wells.

5. Another Method of Increasing Production in Agriculture

- Apart from multi-crop methods, an increase in High Yielding Varieties of Seeds (HYV) was seen.
- Compared to traditional crops, High Yielding Varieties of seeds produce more grains.
- But, HYV seeds require more water compared to traditional seeds.
- Farmers needed to use chemical fertilizers and pesticides for HYV. Hence

cost of production increased.

- During the Green Revolution of 1960's the farmers of Haryana and Punjab started using HYV seeds.
- In Palampur village, the traditional seeds gave a yield of 1300 kg/ha while the HYV seeds gave a yield of 3200 kg/ha.

6. The sorry state of pulses production in India

- After the Green Revolution, India experienced an increase in wheat production, but production of pulses lagged behind.

7. The unintended consequences of the Green Revolution

- The Green Revolution people started using pesticides and fertilizers in extreme manners. Which resulted in loss of soil fertility.
- Improper crop rotation technique has also added to the worst condition.
- Too much drawing of groundwater has depleted the underground water.

8. Land distribution between farmers in Palampur

- Many of the Dalit families approx. 150 are landless.
- 240 families had less than 2 hectares of land for farming.
- 60 families consisting of large and medium farmers cultivate more than 2 hectares of land.
- Few families had more than 10 hectares of land.

9. Labour

- Small farmers cultivated their own land. They were helped by their family members.
- Medium and large farmers hired labourers for the farm. People who had small land also worked as farm labourers to earn extra money.
- The farm used to get exploited. So, wages were quite low.

10. Capital

- To buy seeds, fertilizers or any farming instruments the small farmers of Palampur had to borrow money from the lenders and large farmers. They had to pay high-interest rates, that is 24%.
- Large farmers buy physical capital with their own money. They produced lots of grains and hence can sell surplus. This lets them earn a huge amount of money.



11. Non-farm activities in Palampur

- Dairy: farmers grow bajra and feed them to their buffaloes. The buffaloes gave milk to the people of Palampur. This milk was sold in Raiganj where 2 traders from Shahpur town had established chilling centres. Milk was transported to other big cities as well.
- Manufacturing: Mishrilal, a farmer, used a mechanical sugarcane machine and crushed his and other farmers' sugarcane, so that they could make jaggery out of it. Jaggery was sold to traders in Shahpur.
- Kareem opened a computer centre and employed 2 women who teach there. They used to earn money by teaching computer lessons to the students.
- Rickshawallah, Tongawallah, truck and jeep drivers transported agricultural and other products to people from Palampur to other big cities and villages. They earned money through transportation.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Modern Farming Methods use various materials and things. These things are manufactured in the industry. Do you agree?

Ans: Yes, modern farming methods require more fertilizers, water, pesticides and tractors.

- To draw water from tube wells, pumps and electricity was needed.
- Pumps were made in factories.
- Fertilizers too were made in factories.
- Farmers needed tractors to irrigate their lands.
- These tractors were made in vehicle factories.

2. How did the easy availability of electricity help the Palampur farmers?

Ans: Electricity was available in Palampur for a long time. Farmers of Palampur could irrigate their lands efficiently with less amount of work.

- The wheel system of drawing water and irrigation was inefficient.
- The electric-run tube-wells in Palampur irrigate large tracts of land faster.
- Government installed a few tube-wells and then the people installed some more.

3. Why do farm labourers work for low wages?

Ans: The farm labourers in Palampur were landless. They had to work in the land of big farmers to earn some money.

- Dalit families were the most, who are landless farm labourers in Palampur.
- One-third of the population were Dalit families.
- So, there were many labourers in search of a job.



- Since, there was huge competition among them, they agreed to get paid less than standard pay.

4. How can the production of crops on the same land be increased?

Ans: The two ways are:

1. Using Multi-crop techniques: In the multi-crop technique, people grow more than one crop during an agricultural year. Farmers of Palampur use to grow Bajra and Jowar during the rainy season, potatoes during October to December and they grow wheat as a Rabi crop.
2. Using HYV: High Yield Variety seeds will provide farmers more yield from a single plant. HYV became more famous after the Green Revolution. Farmers need more water and fertilizers for this type of seed.

5. Why is it important to increase the amount of land that can be cultivated?

Ans: If the amount of arable land in a country remains same but population keeps on increasing, then it is not possible for that country to be self-sufficient in feeding the whole nation.

- Then it has to import food grains from other countries.
- In India, total cultivated land has remained same from the year 1990 to 2015 but the population in 1990 was 87.33 crores. In 2021, it increased to 131.02 crores.
- Cultivated area remained the same but the population has increased significantly.
- So, India imported 85,727 crores of food grains in the year 2013-14.