

Public Facilities

Q1. Why do you think there are so few cases of private water supply in the world?

Answer: There are very few cases of private water supply in the world as water is a necessary apology. Water supply is a public facility that every government should provide to all citizens of a state. In cases where the supply of water was kept in the hands of private companies, water prices increased, making it ineffective for the public. This resulted in riots, protests and violent demonstrations in countries such as Bolivia. Therefore, it is best understood that the government should handle water supply services.

Q2. Do you think water in Chennai is available to and affordable by all? Discuss.

Answer: Water in Chennai is not available and cheap for all. The availability of a good, regular water supply is proportional to the level of income in the city. Municipal supplies meet, on average, about half the needs of the city's people. In areas like Anna Nagar, senior government officials can arrange for a complete water tanker for themselves, most areas such as Malaypur get water once in two days. In Madipakkam, people buy bottled water for drinking purposes but the situation is worst in slums. In slums, a tap runs a water supply for barely an hour every day, serving more than thirty families for all their water needs. In addition to water availability, access to "safe" drinking water is only for privileged people who can afford bottled water and water purifiers. The poor are denied "adequate and safe" drinking water. It is essential that the government ensure that "adequate and safe" drinking water is made available to the residents of the city for the opportunity to lead a decent life.

Q3. How is the sale of water by farmers to water dealers in Chennai affecting the local people? Do you think local people can object to such exploitation of groundwater? Can the government do anything in this regard?

Answer: The sale of water by farmers to water dealers in Chennai is affecting the locals in various ways:

1. The water they are taking is for agricultural irrigation. Therefore, lack of water for irrigation affects agriculture.
2. This water is also for the general supply of the villagers and for drinking purposes.
3. As a result of heavy exploitation of water, the ground water level in these areas fell drastically.

Yes, local people can object to such heavy exploitation of ground water as it is a public facility or a gift of nature over which everyone has equal rights and hence no one can sell or take away exclusively. The use of groundwater affects poor farmers the most, so they can object to such heavy exploitation. The government needs to play an important role to find a suitable alternative in this regard. Our constitution recognizes many public facilities including access to safe drinking water as a part of the right to life. Therefore, the government has to see that these rights are protected so that everyone can lead a decent life. The government can stop private companies from selling water and adopt efficient ways to sell water to the general public at a low price. It can also use methods such as "rainwater harvesting" to conserve water for future use.

Q4. Why are most of the private hospitals and private schools located in major cities and not in towns or rural areas?

Answer Most private schools and hospitals are located in cities rather than towns or cities villages because their sole purpose is maximum profit, the services they provide are expensive and only affordable by the city's affluent residents.

Q5. Do you think the distribution of public facilities in our country is adequate and fair? Give an example of your own to explain.

Answer While there is no doubt that public facilities should be available to all, in reality, we see that there is a huge shortage of such facilities. The distribution of public facilities in our country is neither adequate nor appropriate. The distribution of public facilities in our country is neither adequate nor appropriate. For example, Delhiites take advantage of all public facilities such as healthcare and sanitation, water, electricity, schools and colleges, public transport. But if we go to some places like Mathura or Aligarh face severe crises for these facilities. Water scarcity and power outages are a normal routine of life. Public transport is also not well developed. Larger cities, towns and villages are offered than metros. Compared to the rich, the poorer areas are less frequent. Handing these facilities over to private companies is no answer. The important fact is that every citizen of the country has the right to these facilities which should be provided equally to all.

Q6. Take some of the public facilities in your area, such as water, electricity, etc. Is there scope to improve these? What in your opinion should be done? Complete the table.

| | Is it available? | How can it be improved? |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Water | | |
| Electricity | | |
| Road | | |
| Public Transport | | |

Answer

| | Is it available? | How can it be improved? |
|------------------|------------------|--|
| Water | Yes | Construction of separate water tanks and providing water supply 24 hours. |
| Electricity | Yes | Providing 24-hour power supply on check Electricity theft and its protection. |
| Road | Yes | No improvement is needed but if there are no proper roads then construction will happen. New roads, more flyovers, and highways will help. |
| Public Transport | Yes | Public transport is good, but better connectivity with some other areas. New buses can be introduced and extended to the city frequency of running buses. |

Q7. Are the above public facilities shared equally by all the people in your area? Elaborate.

Answer No, the above facilities are not shared equally across regions. No water supply Equally shared by all people. Slum dwellers have to manage with a single water tap, where each house in the middle-class area has a separate connection for water. When people from middle-class homes buy water from tankers to meet their needs, people living in slums cannot afford it. However, other facilities, Like electricity, road and public transport are shared equally by all.

Q8. Data on some of the public facilities are collected as part of the Census. Discuss with your teacher when and how the Census is conducted.

Answer Students have to do this under the guidance of their teacher.

Q9. Private educational institutions – schools, colleges, universities, technical and vocational training institutes are coming up in our country in a big way. On the other hand, educational institutes run by the government are becoming relatively less important. What do you think would be the impact of this? Discuss.

Answer Education is a basic need and there should be universal access to education. But, as the main objective of private educational institutions is making profits, they charge high fees which are affordable only by the affluent section of the society, thus the right to quality education is only right for the rich class. Similarly, if government education institutions are not up to the mark, the weaker sections are again deprived of quality education. This results in inequality of quality education between rich and poor.