

# 9

## Our Villages and Cities

### Lesson Plan

#### Contents

- ▶ Life in Indian villages
- ▶ Gram Panchayat
- ▶ Life in Indian cities
- ▶ Municipal Committee
- ▶ Sources of Income

#### Objectives

- ▶ Understanding about life in Indian villages and cities.
- ▶ What was the life like earlier and how it is different today.
- ▶ Which government body runs the village affairs? How?
- ▶ Which body runs the affairs in the city? How?
- ▶ Where do the funds for the government bodies come from?

#### Teacher's Aids

- ▶ Charts, pictures and the internet
- ▶ TV programmes and advertisements

#### Tips for Teacher

- ▶ Share TV clips, advertisements, pictures from magazines and the internet with the students to show the work of government and its interaction with the public.
- ▶ Make charts for display in class of the work done by the Gram Panchayat and the Municipal Committee, etc.

#### Gear Up, Background and Reading

- ▶ Before doing the exercise, explain how lifestyles are now blurring the lines between villages and cities. For example, people in villages now own cars and scooters. Buses go through all villages, but not the low-floor city bus shown in the picture. However for

the purpose of the exercise some of the items can be shown under one or the other heading or in both.

- ▶ Villages: Pictures showing horse carriage or tonga, bullock cart, tractor and bicycle. Cities: Car, Scooter, Low-floor bus and metro. Car and bicycle can be shown in both.
- ▶ Ask if any of the students know anything about village life in any part of India. If they do, share it and discuss: The enjoyment of climbing trees, playing outside, fresh air, eating fresh vegetables, fruits, working in the fields, or fishing, swimming in ponds, etc. Then talk about the problems – availability of water, electricity, hospitals, schools, colleges, etc.
- ▶ Read the lesson and points to remember aloud and explain.

### /// Village Life

- ▶ India – land of villages – most people live in villages – earlier kutcha houses, no electricity, no drinking water, walk long distances to bring water, bicycles, bullock carts, etc. Now – pucca houses – electricity, water by handpumps, now available – schools and health centres and nyaya panchayats.
- ▶ Gram Panchayat – Every village – everyone over 18 can elect members – called Panch – at least one woman member – One is elected Pradhan or Sarpanch – work for welfare of villagers.
- ▶ Work of Gram Panchayat – (i) arrange safe drinking water and cleanliness; (ii) build and repair roads; (iii) run schools and adult education centres; (iv) set up and run primary health centres; (v) help farmers produce more; (vi) settle petty disputes; (vii) help cottage and small industries; (viii) help make life comfortable and happy.
- ▶ Funds from government – members meet regularly to discuss and settle problems.

### /// City Life

- ▶ Cities – much bigger than villages – people not farmers – main occupations : trade, industry, transport and social services – pucca houses and roads – public utility services like schools, colleges, hospitals, wholesale and retail markets, fresh and clean drinking water, regular supply of electricity, network of roadways, railways and communications.
- ▶ Municipal Committee – or Corporations – 18 year-olds- and above elect members – called Municipal Councillors – they elect Chairman or President.
- ▶ Work of the Municipal Committee – (i) keep town/city clean; regular disposal of waste; (ii) open and maintain health care centres and hospitals; (iii) build and maintain roads, overbridges, flyovers, parks, gardens, etc.; (iv) provide clean, fresh water; (v) set up fire brigades; (vi) arrange street lighting; (vii) run primary schools to provide free & compulsory education for children up to 14 years old; (viii) arrange adult literacy programmes; (ix) open well-organised markets and drainage systems; (ix) keep records of births and deaths.
- ▶ Funds from taxes on water, houses, markets, entertainment, vehicles, etc. Also grants from State Government.