Chapter 9: Family and Community

Questions — Questions, Activities and Projects

Q1 What are some of the rules you follow in your family and neighbourhood? Why are they important?

SOLUTION

Families and communities follow rules to ensure cooperation, fairness, and smooth daily life.

Common family rules include sharing household chores, respecting elders, helping siblings, and not wasting food or resources.

Neighbourhood rules may cover keeping common areas clean, not making unnecessary noise, and sharing resources responsibly.

These rules are important because they help members live together peacefully, practise values like sevā (service) and dāna (giving), and ensure every member fulfils their duty (dharma) towards others.

Answer: Rules in families and communities — such as sharing chores, respecting elders, and keeping common areas clean — are important because they promote cooperation, fairness, and the values of service and duty that hold families and communities together.

Q2 Do you think some rules are unfair to a few people in the family or community? Why?

SOLUTION

Yes, some rules can be unfair if they place more duties on some members than others without reason.

For example, if household chores are assigned only to girls and not to boys, that would be unfair.

The chapter shows that fairness matters — in Tenzing's family, his father shares household chores equally after his mother joined the handicraft cooperative, which reflects a fair sharing of responsibilities.

Rules become unfair when they benefit some people while placing an unequal burden on others, instead of reflecting mutual cooperation and shared duty.

Answer: Yes, rules can be unfair when they place unequal burdens on some members — for example, if only certain people in a family or community are expected to do hard work while others are not. Fair rules should reflect shared responsibility and cooperation among all members.

Q3 Describe several situations that you have observed where community support makes a difference. You can draw or write about these.

SOLUTION

The chapter gives three powerful examples of community support making a difference.

First, the Bhil community of Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh, faced a severe water crisis year after year. Following their halma tradition of helping one another in times of need, they came together to plant thousands of trees and dig trenches to conserve rainwater — without any payment — as their duty to their community and the environment.

Second, during the Chennai floods of 2015, roads were submerged and shops were closed. Many private groups, especially spiritual and religious organisations, cooked large quantities of food and distributed it to people who needed it.

Third, in Ahmedabad, Kamal Parmar noticed underprivileged children on the street who had dropped out of school or never attended. He gave them free tuition every evening after his own work hours, and also provided them a free dinner. Soon 150 children attended regularly. Local school teachers and older student volunteers also joined to help.

In each case, community support — people helping others without expecting anything in return — made a significant difference to the lives of those around them.

Answer: The chapter gives three examples: (1) The Bhil community of Jhabua planted trees and dug water-harvesting trenches to end their water crisis, following their halma tradition of collective help. (2) During the Chennai floods of 2015, community organisations cooked and distributed food to those in need. (3) In Ahmedabad, Kamal Parmar gave free evening tuition and dinner to 150 underprivileged children, joined by volunteer teachers and older students.