Chapter 13: The Value of Work

Questions — Questions, Activities and Projects

Q1 How are economic activities different from non-economic activities?

SOLUTION

Economic activities involve money or are performed in exchange for money or money's worth.
Examples include a farmer selling produce, a lawyer earning a fee, or a factory worker receiving a salary.

Non-economic activities do not generate income. They are done out of feelings like love, care, gratitude and respect.
Examples include parents cooking for the family, youth caring for grandparents, or volunteers teaching for free.

Answer: Economic activities involve earning money; non-economic activities are done out of love or care, not for payment.

Q2 What kind of economic activities do people engage in? Illustrate with examples.

SOLUTION

People engage in many kinds of economic activities that involve earning money or money's worth.

Business: A business person selling school bags in the market earns money from customers.
Agriculture: Farmers sell their harvest in the market and receive payment.
Professional services: A lawyer argues a case and earns a fee; a doctor charges patients.
Transport: A truck driver transports goods from place to place and is paid for the service.
Manufacturing: Workers in a car factory produce goods and receive wages.
Skilled work: A carpenter like Rajesh buys wood, makes furniture and sells it — adding value at each stage.
Technical work: A bulldozer operator works at a construction site and earns a monthly salary.

Answer: People engage in business, farming, professional services, transport, manufacturing, and skilled/technical work — all involving payment.

Q3 There is great value attached to people who are engaged in community service activities. Comment on this statement.

SOLUTION

Community service activities are non-economic — people do them without expecting money in return.
Yet they create great value for society.

Sevā (selfless service) at temples and gurudwaras, such as the langar at the Golden Temple, feeds everyone for free and builds a spirit of gratitude and sharing.
The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan brings citizens together to keep streets, parks and public places clean — benefiting the whole community.
Van Mahotsav gathers people for tree plantation drives, helping conserve forests.

These activities strengthen communities, improve quality of life, and show that value is not only measured in money.

Answer: Community service creates social value — it builds solidarity, improves shared spaces, and helps others — even without any monetary reward.

Q4 What are the various ways in which people are compensated for various economic activities? Give some examples.

SOLUTION

People are compensated for economic activities in the following ways:

Salary: A fixed, regular monthly payment from an employer. For example, Geeta Aunty (Air Force pilot), Kavya's uncle (bulldozer technician) and Kavya's aunt (post office employee) all receive monthly salaries.

Fee: A payment for professional advice or services. For example, a lawyer charges a fee per case, a doctor charges patients, and Kavya's aunt charges a weekly fee for her online tutoring classes.

Wage: Payment for a specific period of work, often daily. For example, Sahil the farm labourer earns a daily wage for tilling the farmer's land.

Payment in kind: A non-cash payment — receiving goods instead of money. For

example, part of Sahil's wages is paid in mangoes of equal value.

Answer: People are compensated through salary (monthly, e.g. pilot), fee (per service, e.g. lawyer), wage (daily, e.g. farm labourer), and payment in kind (goods, e.g. mangoes to Sahil).