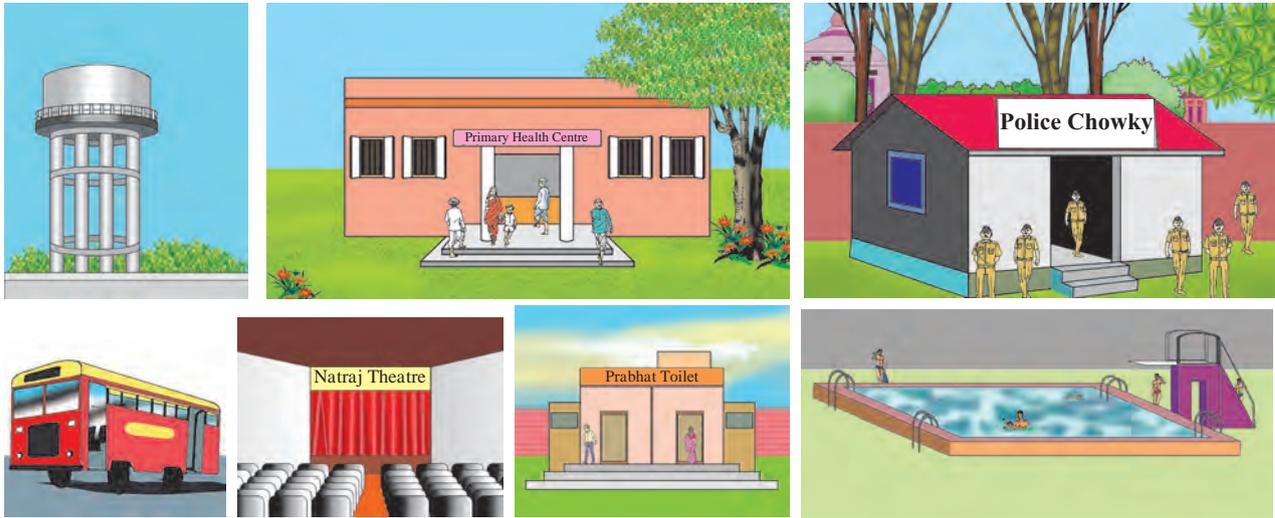


21. Public Services for Community Life



Public facilities and amenities



Can you tell ?

- With the help of the pictures above, make a list of public facilities and amenities. Mention the benefits of each.
- What difficulties would we face in the absence of these facilities?

In a home, we live with our family. Our life outside the home is our public life. Several services are required for public life to go on smoothly. Public facilities are those services which are available to all of us. We use several such services like transport, schools and hospitals. Public services are equally available to all and are meant for everybody. We must use them responsibly.

Local government and local services

We live in cities or villages. The population of cities is large whereas in villages, it is quite small. In cities there are factories, markets and greater chances for employment. Cities have public services on a large scale.

The administration of a place, be it a city or a village, is run by the government in that place. It is known as 'local government'.

A gram panchayat runs the administration of a village.

A municipality runs the administration of a town and for big cities, there is a municipal corporation. Which of these governing bodies operates in your city, town or village?



Do you know ?

Each village has a gram panchayat. Maharashtra State was formed on 1 May 1960. At that time, Maharashtra had 21,636 gram panchayats. That figure rose to 27,993 in 2010. To form a gram panchayat, the population of a village must be at least 500. If the population is less than that, 2-3 such villages may together form a group gram panchayat.



Try this.

Make a list of the services offered by your local government.



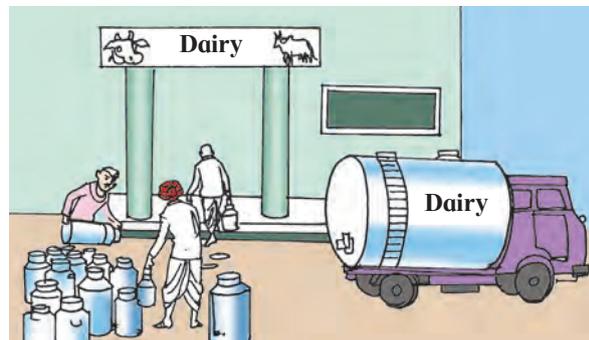
A girl visiting a bank with her father



Reading an inland letter



Co-operative spinning mill



Dairy



Can you tell ?

The pictures above show the services available in a village. Which other services are available in your place ?

Public services are provided to us out of the money collected from us as taxes. We must use them carefully. Sometimes, public services are overburdened but we can solve this crisis by working together.

The local government provides the services of water supply and public hygiene. But we need many more services. You must have seen a bank in your city or village. People put their money into a bank. The money is kept safe there. People can save this money. They can withdraw that money from the bank when they need it. Banks also offer loans to people in need.

The postal service is useful for keeping in touch with our friends and relatives. Letters can be sent to any part of the world.

The people in a locality sometimes come together and find out what the local needs are. Based on their findings, they decide to start an industry or service in co-operation with one other. They contribute some of their own money to start that industry or service. The profits are distributed among everyone. Institutions formed by people's co-operation are called co-operatives.



Do you know ?

Almost 400 years ago, a postal service was run in Golconda as follows :

There were small huts at intervals of every two or three miles. In the first hut, there was a harkara. Harkara means a man who carried the post. The first harkara took the postbag from the first hut and dropped it in the second hut. The second harkara stood ready to take the bag. He took the bag and ran to the third hut and dropped it in.

This is how, the post was carried to other places. This system was called the 'dak' system.



What's the solution ?

Water is wasted when taps do not have faucets.

A children's council in a school in Bahiratwadi in Akola district carried out a project. They started a discussion on the issue of how to save water. Some children pointed out that water in the village was wasted because the taps did not have faucets. The children found out whose responsibility it was to put faucets on the taps. Then, it was decided to urge the gram panchayat to fix faucets on the taps. They wrote a letter to the gram panchayat concerning this issue. A few days later, they also sent a reminder. A few days after that, faucets were fixed on taps. This is how the children solved the problem.

- **How will you solve water-related problems?**



What we have learnt –

- * Public facilities are services that are available for everybody.
- * The gram panchayat runs the administration of the village.
- * The municipality runs the administration of the town.

- * There are municipal corporations for big cities.
- * Public services should be used carefully.
- * Money is kept safe in the bank.
- * We can send letters anywhere in the world.
- * Institutions formed by the co-operation of the people are called co-operatives.



Exercises

A. Answer the following questions in one sentence.

- (1) What are public services?
- (2) What public services do we use in public life?
- (3) Which services does the local government provide?

B. Fill in the blanks.

- (1) give loans to people in need.
- (2) The is used to keep in touch with friends and relatives.
- (3) Institutions formed by the co-operation of the people are called

C. Complete the words.

- (1) It runs the administration of the village. G _____ P _____
- (2) It runs the administration of the town. M _____ y
- (3) It is present in big cities. M _____ l C _____ n

Activity

Open an account in a bank with the help of your parents/guardians.

