

## KEY ELEMENTS OF THE RURAL LIVELIHOOD

**Class: VI**

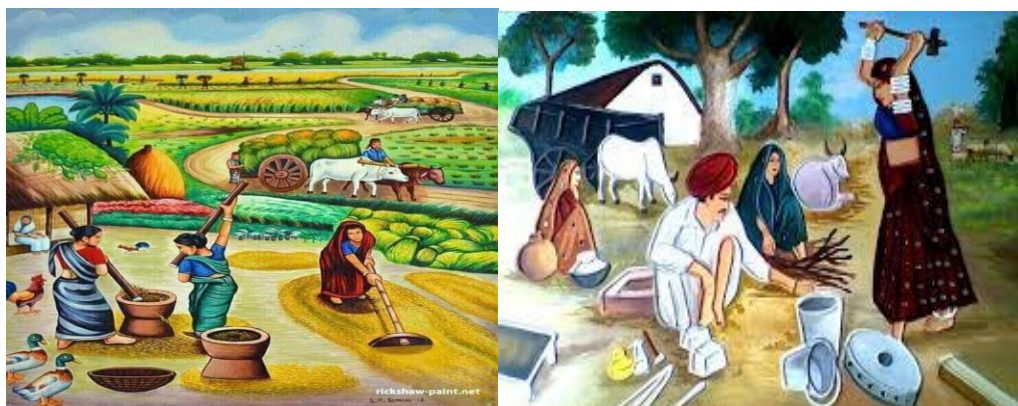
**Handout**

**Subject: SST**

**Objective:**

Enables children to,

- Understand and examine whether people have equal opportunities to earn a living.
- To understand the problems faced by the rural people.
- To understand how non repayment of laons leads to committing suicide.



**Content:**

- a. The story of Kalapattu village in India (its location, crops grown there) and Peoples occupation (based on – Non farm activity/ Service providers/ small shops)
- b. The rich landlord and his wife. Their assests in the village. (Ramalingam and Karuthamma his wife)
- c. Different situations and the problems faced by village people (Thulasi and her husband Raman /Sekar)
- d. How loans leads to deaths in villages (specially poor farmers)?

**1. Story of Kalapattu Village and peoples occupation**

- Kalapattu is a village that’s close to the sea coast in Tamil Nadu.
- The village is surrounded by low hills. Paddy is the main crop. Majorly people earn a living through agriculture.
- There are many people who reside here and earn their livelihood .
- The different occupations practised here are as follows,

Non Farm	Service providers	Small shops	Others
Making baskets Utensils Pots Bricks bullock carts	Blacksmiths Nurses Teachers Washerman Weavers Barbers Cycle mechanics	Tea Cloth Grocery Tailor Fertilizer Seeds 4 tea shops (they sell tiffins)	Some people who go to the nearby towns to work as construction workers Lorry drivers

## 2. Rich Landlord and his wife (the assets they owned)

- Ramalingam and his wife Karuthamma are landlords in this village.
- He owns twenty acres of paddy fields, rice mills and a shop (selling seeds and pesticides)
- His wife helps him by supervising the work of the farmers.

## 3. Thulasi and sekar (Story time.....)

<u>Thulasi and Raman</u>	<u>Sekar</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thulasi started working in Ramalingam's farms even before she got married.</li><li>• She does the following work, (Transplanting the paddy, weeding them, and harvest them)</li><li>• She has mentioned about how she is turning old and her efficiency in work has reduced due to her growing age.</li><li>• She gets paid Rs. 40 per day which is less but still she prefers to work here as she knows Ramalingam will call her always and not hire cheap labour from other villages.</li><li>• Her husband Raman also works as a labour, they don't have their own land.</li><li>• Apart from working on field and earning money Thulasi also does (cooking, cleaning the house, collect firewood, walk a long distance to collect water)</li><li>• She has two loving daughters who go to school for a better future, one of them fell ill and was hospitalised so they had borrowed loan from their landlord and to repay that loan she had to sell her cow.</li></ul> <p>Story of Thulasi and Raman tells us about the difficulties they face in their day to day life and how difficult it is to earn a two square meal for them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• He owns 2 acres land</li><li>• During harvest he takes help of the other farmers and in turn helps them to harvest their field.</li><li>• He gets seeds and fertilizers from traders as loan, he sells his paddy at a lower rate to the trader as a pay back token.</li><li>• He has a hybrid cow, he sells the milk in the local milk cooperative to earn extra money for his everyday needs.</li><li>• He works in Ramalingam's rice mill and helps him collect paddy from other farmers in the neighboring villages.</li></ul>

#### 4. On being in debt.....

- Farmers borrow money from the landlords to buy seeds, fertilizers and pesticides.
- Many times there are uncertain problems which occur and increase problems for them, Too much rainfall, too less rainfall, seeds are not of good quality, pest attack on crops etc..
- In such helpless situations they are not able to repay the loans and to pay the existing loan they borrow more money from the market and fall into a trap.
- It is called a debt trap. Many farmers or labourers commit suicide as because of their poor financial conditions they have no option left.
- Unfortunately many lives in India end up because of heavy debts.



