

India Problems : The Village

The Situation

Eighty percent of India's people live in villages. Most live in villages with fewer than a thousand people. Most of these people are very poor, having less than \$ 7 a month to spend. Most of the villages do not have electricity or telephones. The transportation system is poor. There are few roads and vehicles. Most transportation is by Railway. Because the villages are small, they lack schools and health care. People depend on farming for a living. The holdings are very small. They are farmed by the owners. Sometimes the holdings are separated. Machinery is not used to plow the fields. Buffalo and hand plows are used.

Ecological Factors

1. India depends on the monsoon rains. Much of the year is dry. The monsoon rains fall with great ferocity often causing floods.
2. Sometimes less rain falls and the crops are damaged.
3. The monsoon rains sometimes carry away the topsoil of newly plowed fields or places where trees have been cut down. The topsoil is the most fertile soil.
4. Water used for drinking is often of poor quality. It contains parasites and bacteria that cause disease.
5. Trees are used for fuel. They are not replaced.

Cultural Factor

1. Cattle are sacred. They are not killed. They use up food. The cow dung is used for fuel. It is also used for fertilizer. The milk is drunk and provides protein.
2. Families have always been large. It is important to have enough children to guarantee a son who will inherit the family farm. If there is more than one son, the family land is divided among them. The farms, therefore, become smaller and smaller.
3. Most of the people of the village speak a language different from the two official national languages, Hindi and English.

Name _____

Pd.# _____

Date _____

India Problems : The Village

Directions

Below is a description of the situation that many people face in India. There are many things that influence their lives. We have divided them into ecological and cultural factors. Ecological factors have to do with people's relationship with nature. Cultural factors have to do with the customs that people follow.

Your Job

The people in the village of Jaremo are poor. You have to do something to help improve their lives. Read the factors below. Then you have to figure out a solution or solutions to the problems. The country is poor. You do not have any money to spend. Follow these steps.

Identify the problem

1. Make a list of the problems you see.
2. Identify the problems that can be solved. Put a check mark next to these.
3. Rank the problems in terms of importance. Put a 1 next to what you think is the most important problem, 2 next to the second most important, etc.

Solution to the problem(s)

1. Think of as many solutions as you can to each problem that you can solve. Make a list of solutions for each problem.
2. Identify those solutions that cost money. Put a \$ sign next to those solutions.
3. List the good points and bad points of each solution that does not cost money. Label the solutions good and bad.

Problems

Solutions
