























seems forced upon them. They may therefore want other work of their choice. Poor people cannot afford to sit idle. They tend to engage in any activity irrespective of its earning potential. Their earning keeps them on a bare subsistence level.



**Picture 2.6** Can you repair what you pay with? Can you mend your shoes?

Moreover, the economy is characterised by surplus labour in the primary sector. Agriculture contributes in the form of surplus labour, but everybody is really engaged in a disguised unemployment in the agriculture sector. Each family shares what has been produced. The concept of sharing of the produce raised in the rural sector. But this does not reduce the poverty of the family, gradually surplus labour from every household tends to migrate from the village in search of jobs.

Let us discuss about the employment scenario in the three sectors mentioned earlier. Agriculture, is the most labour absorbing sector of the economy. In recent years, there has been a decline in the dependence of population on agriculture partly because of disguised unemployment discussed earlier. Some of the surplus labour in agriculture has moved to either

the secondary or the tertiary sector. In the secondary sector, small scale manufacturing is the most labour-absorbing. In case of the tertiary sector, various new services are now appearing like biotechnology, information technology and so on.

Let us read a story to know how people could become an asset for the economy of a village.

### Story of a Village

There was a village inhabited by several families. Each family produced enough to feed its members. Each family met its needs by the members making their own clothes for their own children. One family decided to send one of its children to an agriculture college. The child secured admission in the nearby agriculture college. After some time the child returned, well qualified in agriculture and came back to the village. He proved to be so creative that he designed an improved method of farming, which increased the yield. Thus a new job of agriculture was created and filled in the village. One family in the village sold its produce to a nearby neighbouring town. He earned good profit, which he shared among his family. Inspired by this success

all the families after some time held a meeting in the village. They all wanted to have a better future for their children too. They requested the panchayat to open a school in the village. They assured the panchayat that they would all send their children to school. The panchayat, with the help of government, opened a school. A teacher was recruited from a nearby town. All the children of this village started going to school. After sometime one of the families gave training to his daughter in



tailoring. She started stitching clothes for all the families of the village for everyone now wanted to buy and wear well-tailored clothes. Thus another new job, that of a tailor was created. This had another positive effect. The time of the farmers in going far for buying clothes was saved. As the farmers spent more time in the field, the yield of the farms went up. This was the beginning of prosperity. The farmers had more than what they could

consume. Now they could sell what they produced to others who came to their village markets. Over time, this village, which formally had no job opportunities in the beginning, had many like teacher, tailor, agro-engineer and many more. This was the story of a simple village where the rising level of human capital enabled it to evolve into a place rich with complex and modern economic activities.



### Summary

You have seen how inputs like education and health helped in making people an asset for the economy. The chapter also discusses about the economic activities undertaken in the three sectors of the economy. We also study about the problem associated with unemployment. Finally the chapter ends with the story of a village which formally had no job but later had plenty.



### Exercises

1. What do you understand by 'people as a resource'?
2. How is human resource different from other resources like land and physical capital?
3. What is the role of education in human capital formation?
4. What is the role of health in human capital formation?
5. What part does health play in the individual's working life?
6. What are the various activities undertaken in the primary sector, secondary sector and tertiary sector?
7. What is the difference between economic activities and non-economic activities?
8. Why are women employed in low paid work?
9. How will you explain the term unemployment?
10. What is the difference between disguised unemployment and seasonal unemployment?
11. Why is educated unemployed, a peculiar problem of India?
12. In which field do you think India can build the maximum employment opportunity?
13. Can you suggest some measures in the education system to mitigate the problem of the educated unemployed?
14. Can you imagine some village which initially had no job opportunities but later came up with many?
15. Which capital would you consider the best — land, labour, physical capital and human capital? Why?





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