

**SESSION AT
A GLANCE**

**Introductory
discussion**
Our needs

**Information/
Discussion**
*The postman
knocks !*

Story/Discussion
Ramu's roti

Home activity
Worksheet 26
*Have you ever
thought of this ?*

Preparing for the session

This session is significant because it presents some very important values - respecting and celebrating the diversity in people's lives; respecting people's work; understanding that the work of other human beings and the resources of the earth help us to fulfill our needs. These values are fundamental to the *Sangati* programme.

The session begins with a brief discussion to help children recall the needs identified in the previous session. In the next activity, ***The postman knocks !*** the fact that people in different places fulfill their needs differently is explained through a series of letters from children who describe the way they live. The letters in the form of posters will help the class to realise the variety that exists in food, clothing, shelter, geographical conditions and ways of life, even within our own country. The third activity uses a simple story to show how the labour of many people goes into making even a single *roti*.

Main ideas

- People all over the world have the same basic needs. But these needs are fulfilled in a variety of ways.
- This variety makes life richer and more interesting.
- We are able to fulfill our needs only because of the work done by different people and the resources provided by the earth.
- We must therefore respect these people and value our earth.

To conduct the session you will need

- Set of five posters : *The postman knocks !*
- Flipchart : *Ramu's roti*
- Copies of Worksheet 26 (one copy per child)

Activity 1 **Introductory** **discussion**

Our needs

Conducting the session

Ask the class to recall the main ideas discussed in the previous session. Get them to talk about the needs that are common to all human beings. The following points will help you to discuss how we fulfill these needs.

- Food (*What all do we eat ? From where do we get our food ?*)
- Clothing (*What kind of clothes do we wear ? From where do we get our clothes ?*)
- Shelter (*What kind of houses do we live in ? How do we make our houses ?*)
- Water (*From where do we bring or get water ?*)
- Air (*What kind of air do we need ?*)
- Education (*What and where do we study ? From where do we learn, apart from school ?*)
- Work (*Where do the grown ups in your family work ? What kind of work do they do ? Do children work also ?*)
- Rest and recreation (*What kind of rest and recreation do you enjoy ?*)

Activity 2 **Information/** **Discussion**

*The postman
knocks !*

Begin the activity by making the following point.

Do people from all over India fulfill their needs in exactly the same way as we do ? Children from different parts of the country have written letters that describe their own lives, their needs and how they are fulfilled. We will read these letters now.

Now hold up the posters, one by one, and read out the letter written on the reverse of each poster. Ask the class to listen carefully.

Poster 1

Hi friends !

I'm Motup Goba.
I live in Karu village
near Leh in Ladakh.
It is very windy here.
There are big, snowy
mountains all around.
There is a deep
valley near my home
with a beautiful
river. My family runs a lodge for nomads and tourists.



Our village has about fifty houses made of stone and wood. There is a schoolhouse but no teacher for many years. You see, the walk from Leh is long and difficult so no teacher is ready to come here. But I love school so I walk every day for two hours to reach St Paul's Academy in Leh. I leave home at 6.00 a.m. and return at 6.00 p.m. I finish my homework before I leave school as when I get home I feel sleepy and besides, there's no light in our village.

I hate winter when I cannot cross the pass for five months. Everyone just sits around the fire at home doing timepass. I don't get bored because I love reading. But I have to miss almost two months of school. Next year, when I am in the sixth standard, my mother says I can spend the winter with my grandmother who has a hotel in Leh so that I don't miss school.

On my walks to and from school, I meet many tourists who come to visit Khardung-La, the highest point in the world where cars can pass. Sometimes they give me a lift to school. I enjoy chatting with these different people because I learn so many new things about their countries. But I hate it when they try to give me money or gifts. When I grow up I will be a mountain guide. Then I will charge fees for my services, not baksheesh ! I will have my own company so that I can teach these city folks about my beautiful Himalaya mountains. They think that nothing grows or lives here. I will show them how our cold, barren mountains burst into colour and song when the summer comes !

I hope that someday I can show you too the flowers and fruits and birds of my valley.

Your loving friend,

Motup.

Poster 2

Friends,

I'm Jhimli, Village Saakarja, Jilla Alirajpur, Madhya Pradesh. I'm speaking from the jilla headquarters.

Today is Wednesday - market day.

I'm here with my Daadu (grandfather), Bava Muhriya.

It is wonderful. I have come here after long time. You see, our village is so far, far away in the jungle. It is a small village - only 30-40 houses. There is no school. To go to school we have to go to another village, 3 kilometres away. I studied there till class 4. I walked through the forest and crossed the river Narmada in a small boat to get there. It took one and half hours daily, but it was the best time in my life. You know why? Because my Daadu was with me as we walked along the shaded jungle paths.

My Daadu knows the jungle like the back of his hand - every plant, every tree, every insect, animal and bird that lives there. Once, as we were walking, we saw a line of brightly coloured insects. My Daadu followed them into a thick bush and came out carrying a large fruit. It was the sweetest, tastiest fruit I have ever eaten. My Daadu is fantastic! He is always alert in the jungle, always looking around, stopping to listen, always collecting plants, jadibuti, even mud from the jungle. Then he goes home and makes medicines that the whole village uses. If anyone falls ill in the village, at once they think of Bava Muhriya, my Daadu.



And what stories my Daadu tells ! Our stories - stories of the Adivasis, who were the first people on the Earth; the original inhabitants of any country. We are the kings and the protectors of the forests. We are the children of Narmada Maa. The river goddess gives us everything we need - food, water and mud for our homes. Fuel for our fires comes from her jungles, also our medicines, our fruits and flowers. The only things we need from outside are salt and cloth.

Which is why we are here at the market today - to buy some things, to sell some things and also to see the world outside ours. Later we will head back to Narmada Maa.

When I grow up I want to be a writer. I want to tell stories about my people, my forest and Narmada Maa.

You will read my stories, won't you ?

Jhimli.

Poster 3

Salaam !

I'm Dashid from Bihar now staying in Yamuna Basti on the banks of the Yamuna. Most people in the Basti are like me, from other parts of India, who have come here in search of work. Some have come from as far as Bangladesh and Nepal too !



I came to Dilli one year ago. My brother is Sajid, 18 years old. He earns 100 rupees a day, driving a cycle ricksha. My father and mother wash peoples' clothes down near the river. I go to night-school and in daytime I work in a chai shop at the bus stop. I like it there, because there is a small TV, which I can watch the whole day, while serving my customers. Recently I bought a new jeans

pant and T-shirt. In that I look like a TV hero - others say that, not me! I think that I look like Virat Kohli. Anyway, when we play cricket in the afternoon I make the most runs. Even in the village I was the Gulli-danda champion.

I love eating, specially all the different snacks from the fast food stall near my shop - Maggi noodles and Coke is the best! Most children are eating that only on TV. Once Sajid took me for to see a movie and made me eat dosas. I had medu wada also. Inshallah, I will start a fast food hotel for children like you and me one day.

Then when you come to Dilli, come to Rashid Ka Dhaba for great khana!

O.K. Tata.

Rashid

Poster 4

Kem Chho Mitro,
(That's 'Hello Friends'
in Gujarati.)

I am Jasma from Gujarat. I'm 14 years old. I belong to the Rabari tribe - we are shepherds. Our area is very dry because we get very little rain. So we have learnt to live with very little water. When it rains we collect water in tanks built under our homes and use it very carefully.



Some time ago, there was a big earthquake and all our houses broke. So we had to build them again. Everyone helped. We rebuilt the whole village - our homes, school, panchayat office, mandir, masjid, everything! There is a dry talao (pond) behind our village but if you dig a little, you will find wet mud. All the men and boys of the village brought this mud, mixed cowdung, and cow urine in it and

made large balls out of the sticky mixture. Then they stacked these balls on each other to build walls. They built rooms and made doors and windows.

Once the houses were ready, then the women and girls of the village took over. We all got together to do Tipni. Do you know what that is? To do the Tipni you need to have a long stick with a small flat disc at one end. With this we pounded the earth to smoothen and strengthen it. But the best part was that the village drummer came with his big drum and set up a wonderful beat; everyone sang songs as we women beat the earth with our Tipni sticks. So we did our job and had a great time doing it. Isn't that smart?

Our cowdung-coated, mud houses are very cool and also free of insects. My mother and I then decorated the wall with mirrors and chuna. At night in the light of the oil lamps, our house shone as if studded with diamonds.

Only one thing was missing – colour! Nature decided many years ago that rabaris would make their own colour so she did not give us any. We take colour from different trees like the jamun and the kesu. We get wool from our sheep, dye it in these colours and embroider our clothes, shawls, wall hangings so that everything around us is bright and cheerful. Do you know, we even paint the horns of our bullocks and cover their backs with embroidered cloth! Without colour our lives would be too dull.

So think of me when you see colourful things.

Nav jo! (good bye!)

Your friend,

Jasma

Poster 5

Hello, myself Vincent Babu.

My home is in Kozhikode, Kerala. We are fisher folk. Every morning at 4 a.m. my achan (father) and uncle take our kattamaram (small boat) into the inlets that lead to the big sea and throw the

net out. When they pull and lift it out of the water, it is full of many big and small fish. By afternoon there is enough to take back home to sell. My amma and chechi (elder sister) sort out the fish, keep one-two best ones for our home and take the rest to the market to sell. On Sunday, we have holiday so we go to church. The bright green paddy fields, the swaying coconut trees, the whitewashed church look so beautiful! I wish you could see it.



Actually in Kerala, everywhere you see green - all types of green. And everything grows here. So many different trees, plants, fruits, vegetables, spices, flowers, herbs for medicine - you name it we have it here in Kerala. That's why they call it "God's own country".

In the hot summer afternoons, we dry fish so that we have enough to eat when the monsoons come. That time the sea is too rough and we cannot take the boat out. What solid rain - for months together! But during those days too we have lots of work to do. We repair our boats; we weave nets for the next season. I also work on the new boat that I am making for myself.

In the school holidays I go fishing with my achan. I am now learning, no! How to work the boat, how to throw the net so that it spreads out over the water. Sometimes you get plenty of fish, sometimes none. Your luck! But it's fun. Tension all the time!

So, what do you say? Want to go fishing with me?

Your friend,

Vincent Babu

Initiate a discussion with the class at the end of the reading. You could ask children questions like the following.

- Did you enjoy hearing about these children's lives ?
- Are they different from your lives ? In what ways ?
- Are their lives similar to your lives in any way ?
- What did you learn about these children's needs from their letters ?
- Do you think they fulfilled these needs in similar ways ?

(The point of the discussion is to demonstrate to the class the fact that people in different parts of the world - and even in different parts of our country - have similar needs, although they fulfill them in different ways. Therefore, do try to ensure that children correctly identify the needs covered in the letters, for example, Motup walks for miles to go to school, while Rashid works all day and attends night school. Jhimli has stopped going to school, but her education continues with her grandfather's help. You could also ask the class to recall the different ways of eating, different kinds of shelter, and different kinds of occupations described in the letters, and list them on the blackboard.)

Sum up the discussion by making the following points.

We are all so similar, our needs are also similar and yet the way we fulfill them makes us different.

As the letters showed, even within our own country, people live in different kinds of homes, they cook different foods, they wear different clothes and all this depends on the climate, their culture, their work and what is available in their region. All around us we see this variety, which makes our life interesting and beautiful.

There is one more point to remember when we think about how we fulfill our needs. Let's listen to the next story and try to understand this.

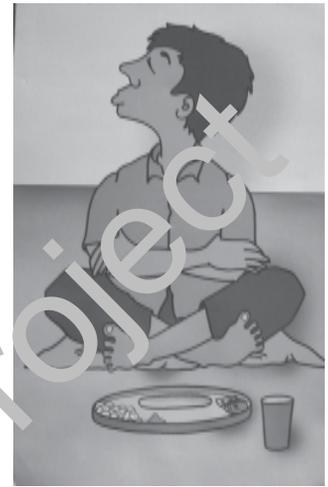
Activity 3 **Story/Discussion**

Ramu's roti

Use the flipchart to tell the story of Ramu, which will help children understand that making even a single *roti* requires the effort of many people.

Frame 1 : This is Ramu. He hates rotis.

Frame 2 : Does Ramu know how much trouble Mother has taken to make the rotis ? She has first kneaded the flour, rolled out the rotis and then roasted them on the tawa. But where did the flour come from ?

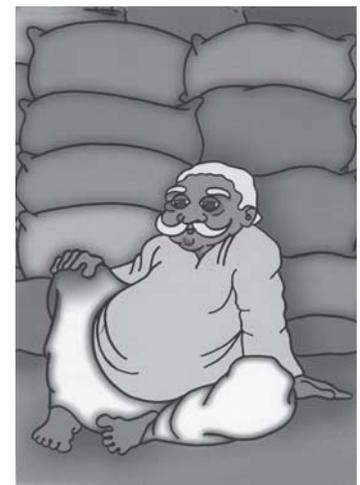


Frame 3 : In the mill, the miller had to grind wheat to make the flour. But how did the wheat get to the mill ?

Frame 4 : The wheat was brought from the grocer's shop. But how did the wheat reach the shop ?

Frame 5 : The truck driver delivered the wheat in his truck to the shop. But where did the driver get the wheat from ?

Frame 6 : The driver picked up the sacks from the godown where grains are stored by the workers there. But where did the grains of wheat come from ?



Frame 7 : A family of farmers ploughed the fields with their oxen, sowed the seeds, cared for the plants and harvested the grains of wheat. But what made the plants grow ?

Frame 8 : The fertile soil, the water from the rains and the bright rays of the sun helped the plants to grow.



Frame 9 : Ramu realises how much hard work is required to provide him with even a single roti. He also understands that it is the earth that makes it possible for us to grow our food. He decides that he will never again waste any food.



Ask the class to respond to the story. Using examples of other needs such as clothing and shelter, get them to talk about the processes and the labour chain involved in making them. For example, children could talk about the efforts of the farmer, the weaver, the factory worker,

the tailor in making clothes; or the work done by masons, carpenters, bricklayers, plumbers, electricians while building a house.

Sum up the discussion by pointing out that this is true of all our needs. The work of several different people and the resources of the earth are necessary to help us fulfill our needs.

Summing up

Conclude the session by making the following points.

We have seen that all human beings have certain common needs. In addition to food, clothing, shelter, water and air, all of us need health, education, work, rest and recreation, love and security.

Though everyone has these needs, they may be fulfilled in different ways. That is, different people eat different kinds of food, do different kinds of work, have different ways of learning, and so on. Though everyone needs love and security, people's families and friends are different. All this variety makes life richer and more interesting.

Another important thing about our needs is that we would not be able to fulfill them without the hard work of several different people and the resources that our earth provides us.

Home activity Worksheet 26

*Have you ever
thought of this?*

Conclude the session by distributing copies of Worksheet 26. Ask children to complete it at home and file it in their personal folder.



(1)
Have you ever thought...

... how many people have to work so that our needs are fulfilled ?



All the people in the picture above, help to fulfill our need for food.

Identify all of them and say how they help. You might need to think about some of the pictures for a bit.

Name :

Date :



(2)
Have you ever thought...

... how many people work so that we have clothes to wear?

You can write or draw them here.

... how many people work so that we can have a house to live in?

You can write or draw them here.

Wouldn't it be difficult if we had to do everything by ourselves to fulfill all our needs?

Next time someone does something for you, don't forget to say "Thank you!"