

Urban Livelihoods

Q1. Why did Harpreet and Vandana start a showroom? What do they have to do to run the showroom?

Ans. These days people prefer to buy readymade clothes, rather than have them stitched. The trend these days is for readymade garments.

Therefore Harpreet and Vandana started a showroom.

For their showroom, they buy things from different places. They buy most of the materials from Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Ludhiana and Tripura. Some materials also come from Noida and Gurgaon, towns near Delhi. They get some dress items from foreign countries, too. There are several things they need to do to run this showroom properly. They advertise in various newspapers, cinema theatres, television and radio channels.

Q2. Write a note on the living conditions of workers who come to the labour Chowk.

Ans. Most workers that we find at the labour chowk cannot afford permanent accommodation and so sleep on pavements near the chowk, or they pay Rs 6 a night for a bed at a nearby night shelter run by the Municipal Corporation. To compensate for the lack of security, local tea and cigarette shops function as banks, moneylenders and safety lockers, all rolled into one. Most workers leave their tools at these shops for the night for safekeeping, and pass on any extra money to them. The shopkeepers keep the money safely and also offer loans to labourers in need. Thus, the living conditions of the workers are very poor and depressing.