

Urban Livelihoods

Q1. What benefits does Sudha get along with her salary?

Ans. Being a permanent worker she also gets other benefits such as the following:

Savings for old age: A part of her salary is kept in a fund with the government. She will earn interest on these savings. When she retires from this job she will get this money in the form of pension.

Holidays: She gets off on Sundays and national holidays. She also gets some days as annual leave.

Medical facilities for her family: Her company pays the medical expenses up to a certain amount for her and her family members. She gets medical leave if she falls ill and her salary is not cut if she takes this leave.

Q2. Would you say that domestic workers like housemaids are also casual workers? Why? Describe the workday of one such woman detailing the work she does in other peoples' houses?

Ans. Yes, domestic workers like housemaids are also casual workers because

1. They work for very long hours.
2. They don't have job security. They are at the will of their employer.
3. They are paid less.
4. They don't get other benefits such as provident funds, holidays, allowance etc.

I know such woman who works as domestic help in my neighbourhood. Her name is Anita. She has been there for past three years. Her day usually starts at 5 O'clock in the morning. She does each and every household works. She takes care of everything. She cooks food, washes clothes, cleans the house etc. She goes to bed at 11 O'clock. She earns Rupees 5000 per month.