



## Chapter 12

### Changing Times

My name is Nilabhai. This is an old story. I was a young child at that time. My father used to work as a land labour in the field. Now I am spending retired life. I would like to share my experiences of those days with you.

#### A Big Move !

That was about seventy years ago. I remember the time when I was ten years old. That time we lived in *Tando* village of *Alyar* (Now in Pakistan). At that time we suffered a lot. There was lot of hustle-bustle. I could not understand what was happening. One day father told us that we had to leave our village and move to another place.



**For the teacher :** Before starting this lesson, you can talk to the children about how India got freedom from the British rule, and also about partition. Show them India and Pakistan on the map.



I was sad to leave my village and my house. That was where I had all my friends. We all moved with family members in bullock-cart, that too snatched at the border. Lastly we reached near Dholavira at Kutchh. Many

people from our area also moved. People were saying that our country was being divided into two - India and Pakistan. Many people from India went to Pakistan just like we moved to India. For some time we all stayed in a camp in big tents that were put up in a huge ground of Dholavira.

### A New Home

One day father told us that we had been given some land in Kharchariya village (Jayramnagar). He said that we could build our house there. I was very happy. Father and mother worked hard to make the house. We children also helped. Father dug the soil, and we quickly filled the pans and passed on to mother. Sister and mother mixed husk in it. Father constructed the walls.

We brought cow dung from nearby houses. Mother mixed it with the mud and coated the floor. She used to say coating floor by this mixture would keep the insects away.



Now, it was the turn for the roof to be made. Father made a frame by



joining the branches of neem trees and bamboos. We put old gunny bags on that and covered them with mud.

Most of the houses around our house were made like ours. It was just like our old house. I liked it the most.



### Find out and Write :

- Talk to any one of the elderly persons of village. Visit him/her and find out when he/she was eight or nine years old. What were his/her experiences and write them.
- Where did she or he live ? Name that place.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- From what material was her or his house made ?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Did they have a toilet in their house ? If no, where was it ?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- In which part of the house food was cooked ?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- A lot of mud was used when Nilabhai's house was made. Why ?  
\_\_\_\_\_



**For the teacher :** Jayramnagar is in Sami taluka of Patan district. Ask the children to locate Patan and Sami on the map. Point out that when Nilabhai's parents built their house, most of the material they used were locally available. Discuss about locally available material and their uses.



## Changes in the house

Time passed quickly. We worked hard and settled. Mother and father wanted me to get married now. I thought that before I got married we should repair our house and build one more room. In those days, people in cities were using cement. They said that this made the houses stronger. We also thought that we would use cement. We used iron and cement for making the roof of the new room.

In those days unbaked bricks ('Bela') were also available in the market. We made the walls with them.



The use of bricks was beneficial. Now we did not need to coat the wall. Once in a year we would whitewash the walls. We also built a small kitchen in the courtyard. The kitchen had a mud *Chulha* and place to keep the vessels.

Then I got married and my wife came to our new house. To cook, she used to sit on the floor in the kitchen. We all used to sit on mats in the kitchen and eat together. It was a happy time !

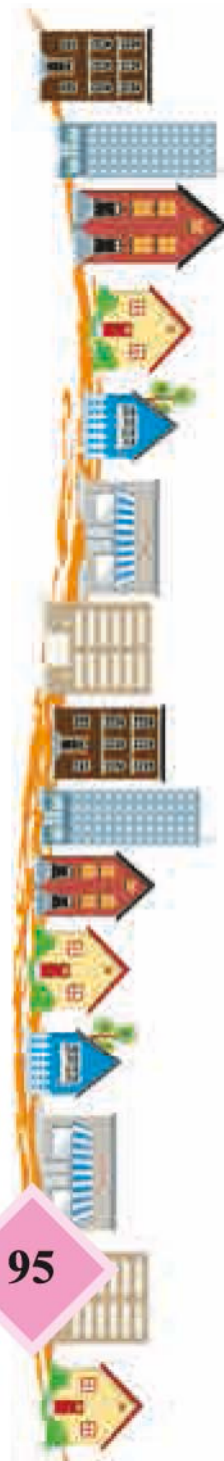
Some people used to go out to field for toilet in those days. Some of the houses had a separate place for this. We also made a small toilet with unbaked bricks behind the house.

## More Changes

My seven sons and a daughter were born in that house. Time passed. The children completed their studies. Twenty years ago our daughter Zami got married and moved to Rafu village. When my son Lakha got married, we felt that we should get the house ready for the new bride.



**For the teacher :** 'Bela' is a one kind of stone which found from the mines at sea coast. Which is used as bricks.





By then, everyone was using baked bricks. We also used them for the walls and instead of bamboo and roof tiles we used Iron, Grit Gravel and Cement for a strong roof. In the toilets we put pipes to take away the waste.

The kitchen was made bigger. Now, Lakha's wife is using mud *chulha* rarely. Because she is cooking on gas-stove.

### Seeing New Things

My grandson is now living separately and built his new house. He has to go for shopping in the city. There the buildings are very huge. Many kind of facilities are found there. He is the



son of a new generation. He built house with the facilities like toilets, kitchen etc. which we find difficult to build up.

Few years ago Lakha renovated the toilet and bathroom. He used coloured tiles in his bathroom. Imagine, spending so much money for a place to have a bath !

I am now eighty years old. In all these years, I have seen so many changes, even in my own house. I don't know where my grandchildren will want to live and how their house will be ! What are the houses like in Alyar's Tando village today ? And I also think that, where would my all friends be now ?

- Which materials have been used in making your house ?

## Changing Times

- Find out the materials from which your friend's house is made ? Is there any difference ? Write about it.

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- What kind of house do you think Nilabhai's grandchildren will live in?

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- Where would you like to live when you grow up ? What kind of house would you like ?

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- You have written about the materials that your grandparent's house was made of. Has some of those material been used in your house ? Name them.

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- People are given names according to the work they do. For example, a person who works with wood is called a carpenter.

- In your place, what do you call a person who works with wood ?

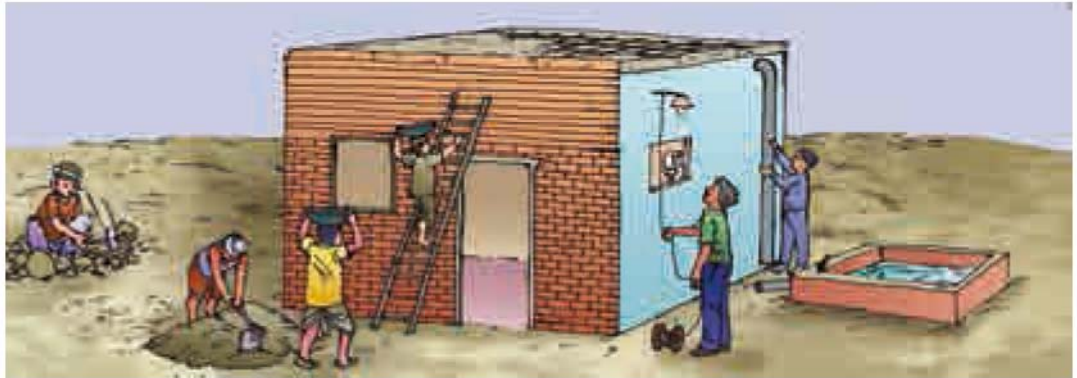
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Now, look at the picture and fill in the table.



What kind of work is being done by different people here ?

Which tools are people using in the picture ? Write them in the given table.

Work	Tool	What is the person called ?
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____

Do you know people who do these type of work ? Visit them and get information about their work. Discuss it with your friends.



**With your teacher or guardian, go to a place where a building is being constructed and give answer to these questions.**

- What is being built ?

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- How many people are working there ?

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## Changing Times

- What kind of work are they doing ?

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- How many men and women are there ?

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- How much money do these people get daily ? Ask any one or two of them.

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- What are the materials being used for making the building ?

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- Try and guess how many trucks of bricks and bags of cement will be used for making the building.

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- How do the material reach the building site ? (By truck, handcart, any other vehicle) list them.

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- Find out the price of

One bag of cement 

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One brick 

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One truck / tractor of sand 

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- Ask a few other questions and write their answers.

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**For the teacher :** If there is a construction site near by, you should take the children to visit it. Encourage them to interact with the people working there.







- Over the eighty years, different materials were used at different times in Nilabhai's house. List these in the correct order.

1.



2.



3.



4.



### Let us make house :

- Divide the children in the class into 3-4 groups. Let each group make a model of a different house. For this you can use mud, wood, paper, pieces of cloth, shoe boxes, match boxes and colours.
- Place all the houses so as to construct a neighbourhood colony.



**For the teacher :** Invite some of the people from the construction site to your school to talk to the students about their work and tools.