

MODEL QUESTION 22

Unit: 12, lesson: 2

Bangladesh is blessed with huge inland open water resources. It has numerous river canals, beels, lakes, and vast areas of floodplains. Hakaluki haor is one of the major wetlands of Bangladesh.

With a land area of 18,386 hectares, it supports a rich biodiversity and provides direct and indirect livelihood benefits to nearly 190,000 people. This haor was declared an Ecologically Critical Area in April 1999 by the government of Bangladesh. Hakaluki is a complex ecosystem, containing more than 238 interconnecting *beels* and *jalmahals*. The most important beels are Chatla, Pinlarkona, Dulla, Sakua, Barajalla, Balijhuri, Lamba, Tekonia, Haorkhal, Tural, Baghalkuri and Chinaura. Hakaluki Haor is bounded by the Kushiara river as well as a part of the Sonai-Bardal river to the north, by the Fenchuganj-Kulaura railway to the west and to the south, and by the Kulaura-Beanibazar road to the east. The haor falls under two administrative districts, Maulvibazar and Sylhet. Some 190,000 people live in the area surrounding the haor. Hakaluki Haor is an important source of fisheries resources for Bangladesh. Kalibaus, Boal, Rui, Ghagot, Pabda and Chapila are the main fish species found here. From the Kushiara there are frequent upstream movement of fish towards the beels and tributaries of Hakaluki. The beels in Hakaluki haor provide winter shelter for the mother fisheries. In early monsoon these mother fisheries produce millions of fries for the entire downstream fishing communities. Floodplains are also an important source of fisheries resources within the area. However, many of the beels have lost their capacity to provide shelter for mother fisheries because of sand deposits from upstream rivers and canals, use of complete dewatering technique for fishing and lack of aquatic plants to provide feed and shelter for parent fish. The haor is a very important resting place for migratory waterfowls flying in from the north. The most interesting species is the Barheaded Goose, which is now hardly seen in fresh water wetlands. Many other important species of waterfowls make the Haor their temporary home. Unfortunately, illegal poaching has been a threat to the waterfowl population in this vast wetland.

1. Choose the right word which is the closest meaning in the context that has been used in the text.

- a) The word **aquatic** refers to text _____
i) Water-born ii) small iii) terrestrial iv) fertile
- b) The word **temporary** refers to text _____
i) stable ii) outspread iii) transient iv) permanent
- c) "Swamp forest" refers to text _____
i) Marsh forest ii) dense forest iii) forest in desert iv) moribund forest
- d) When do the mother fisheries produce fries?
i) In winter season ii) in spring iii) in summer season iv) in rainy season
- e) What have many of the beels lost?
i) Many of their fishes. ii) their capacity to provide shelter for mother fisheries



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iii) navigation

iv) water plants

f) 'Bangladesh is blessed with' refers to _____

i) Bangladesh is blessing

ii) Bangladesh is best with

iii) Bangladesh is lucky to have

iv) Bangladesh is a beauty

g) '..... many of the beels have lost their capacity' refers to _____

i) The beels are not capable of providing shelter for mother fisheries now

ii) The beels are totally useless

iii) the beels have turned into a mangrove forest

iv) the beels are now dead completely

h) The word **tributaries** refers to _____

i) tribute

ii) branches

iii) water

iv) flood

i) What have many of the beels lost?

i) navigation

ii) many of their fishes

iii) water plants

iv) their capacity to provide shelter for mother fisheries

j) The word **ecosystem** refers to _____

i) atmosphere

ii) complex web

iii) ecological community

iv) ecological balance

k) The word 'numerous' stands for _____

(i) numberless

(ii) namely

(iii) many

(iv) numbered

l) The word "surrounding" could be best replaced by _____

(i) in the middle of

(ii) in one side

(iii) all around

(iv) at far

m) What is Bangladesh blessed with?

(i) Fertile land

(ii) Biggest mangrove garden

(iii) Huge inland water resources

(iv) Natural beauty

n) What does Hakaluki Haor provide to nearly 190,000 people?

(i) A good communication benefit

(ii) Irrigation facility

(iii) Livelihood benefits

(iv) Safe water

o) Which two districts does Hakaluki Haor fall under?

- (i) Mymensingh and Netrakona (ii) Sunamganj and Sylhet
(iii) Sylhet and Kishoreganj (iv) Sylhet and Moulvibazar

p) Pinlarkona is _____

- (i) a union parishad under Kulaura upazilla (ii) a municipal corporation under Maulvibazar district
(iii) a river in Hakaluki Haor (iv) an aquatic animal found in Hakaluki Haor

2. Write the answer of the following question.

- a. Why is Hakaluki Haor an important source of fisheries?
b. What are 'mother fisheries'? What do they do?
c. What bird species are seen in Hakaluki Haor in winter?
d. What economic benefits does the Haor provide to locals?
e. Describe the natural beauty of Hakaluki Haor.

Hakaluki haor is known as a good grazing land in winter. People from villages around the Haor and also from distant areas send their herds for grazing. During this time, herders make temporary shelters near the beels and graze their animals for a period of 4-5 months. The Haor had very dense swamp forests in the past, but deforestation and a lack of conservation practices have virtually destroyed this unique forest in the last two decades. Two small patches of swamp forests still exist in the area of which one is in Chatla beel and the other near the village of Kalikrishnapur. With the exception of these two swamp forest patches, the vegetation surrounding Hakaluki haor is unique. It includes both swamp forest as well as mixed evergreen rain forest. Thatching material is the most useful natural wetland product of the area. The haor system provides a wide range of economic and non-economic benefits to the local people as well as to the people of Bangladesh. These include fish production, rice production, cattle and buffalo rearing, duck rearing, collection of reeds and grasses, and collection of aquatic and other plants. The haor system also protects the lower floodplains from flash floods occurring in the months of April-May, maintains the supply of fish in other lower water bodies and provides habitat for migratory and local waterfowls. The unique haor system contributes to the beauty of the landscape both during the monsoon and the dry season. In monsoon, its unique scenic beauty makes it a huge natural bowl of water and in the dry season it becomes a vast green grassland with pockets of beels serving as resting places for migratory birds. This unique natural system can be a major attraction for tourists.

3. Based on your reading of the passage, make short notes in each of the boxes of the flow chart showing the benefits of Hakaluki Haor (No. 1 has been done for you)



My name is Amerigo. I am 13 years old and I live on the street, alone. My mother, who is separated from my father, doesn't want me. She told me to go away Now she is married to another man. My father lives very far away. I want to go to him, but he won't take me either. I begged him to send me some money so that I could buy a bus ticket. I am still waiting. He hasn't answered. The streets are now my home. Sometimes I find work. I used to collect trash and sell it to a vendor. I stopped doing that after I had a serious infection and a doctor told me to stay away from the trash dump. Once I worked for an ice cream shop owner and sold ice cream on the beach. But I got no money in return. The owner of the shop gave me something to eat, and let me sleep in his hut at night. The work was difficult and painful. The ice cream box is quite heavy when it is full. I had to walk for hours, offering my ice cream to whoever wanted to buy. There were days when I could not even sell one ice cream. In a way, I am lucky because I am alive. My friends who work sorting rubbish in dumps often suffer from serious diseases. One of them was recently killed after he fell into a hole that opened up in the pile of trash. Many of us work for 10 to 12 hours, and get so little in return that we can't even buy food. Shoe-shining is very popular among the street kids. A few of my friends also work in factories and workshops. A boy I know lost one of his eyes after a piece of hot glass flew into his eye at the glass factory where he



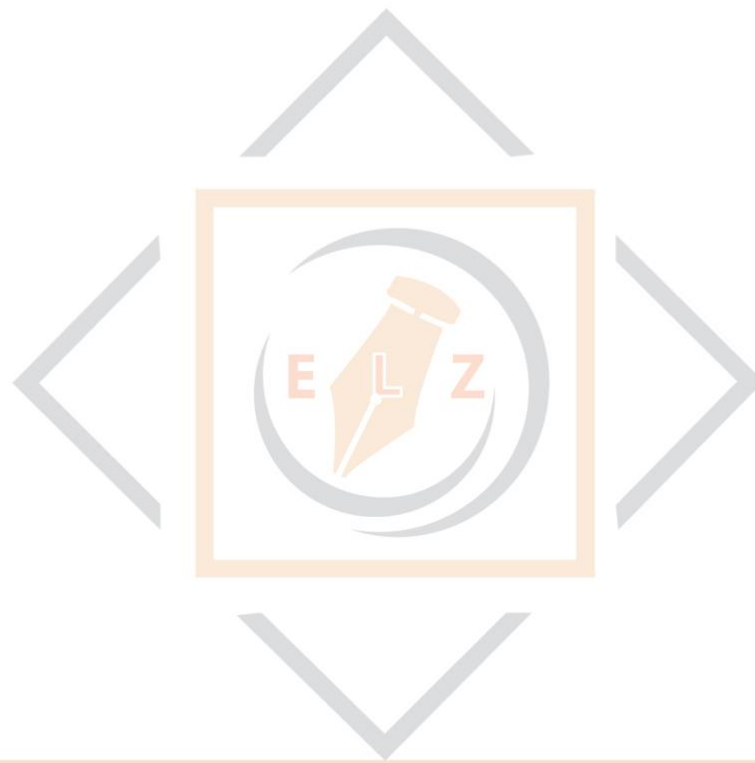
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worked. The owner refused to pay for medical help and fired him. For me, like all other children on the street, it is very hard. I am always hungry, and I don't know where I will sleep the next night. I would like to live in my own home and sleep there in peace. The nights are very cold in the winter. You can die of cold in the street.

4. Make a summary of the text (not more than 100 words)



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