

Village well in Ashok Nagar

Questions

What can you see in this picture?

What is the woman doing? How is this the same and how is it different from what happens where you live?

Can you see the temple? What religion is practised there? How can you tell?

Background

This is a typical village scene with a woman doing laundry at the public well. You can also see a water pump immediately behind her. As there is no piped water in the village homes,



people will also come here to collect water for drinking, cooking and washing. Children getting ready for school in the morning will come and wash under the village pump before running home to get dressed!

Tamil Nadu has been suffering for several years from low rainfall and pumps and wells such as these may run dry. Villagers have to build wells deeper and deeper to reach the water.

The colourful temple is a small Hindu shrine. The bulls on the roof suggest that this is a shrine to Shiva. Nando the bull is associated with Shiva. The pictures on the front of the shrine are of Ganesh, Shiva's son, and Parvati, his wife. Shiva is the most popular god in South India and many local village temples are dedicated to him.

The gate of the shrine is locked, as worship will only take place at the beginning and end of the day. In towns and cities the temples will be open all day for worshippers.

