



**INDIAN SCHOOL DARSAIT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**



Subject : English Lesson : Indigo

Date of Worksheet : August 2019

Name of the Student : \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Class & Div : XII

Roll Number :

**Summary**

Raj Kumar Shukla- A poor sharecropper from Champaran wishing to meet Gandhiji.

Raj Kumar Shukla – illiterate but resolute, hence followed Gandhiji to Lucknow, Cawnpore, Ahmedabad, Calcutta, Patna, Muzzafarpur and then Champaran.

Servants at Rajendra Prasad’s residence thought Gandhiji to be an untouchable, because of simple living style, attire and due to the company of Raj Kumar Shukla.

Decided to go to Muzzafarpur first to get detailed information about Champaran sharecropper.

Sent telegram to J B Kripalani & stayed in Prof Malkani’s home –a government servant.

Indians afraid of showing sympathy to the supporters of home rule.

The news of Gandhiji’s arrival spread –sharecroppers gathered in large number to meet their champion. Gandhiji chided the Muzzafarpur lawyer for taking high fee.

Champaran district was divided into estate owned by English people, Indians only tenant farmers.

Landlords compelled tenants to plant 15% of their land with indigo and surrender their entire harvest as rent.

In the meantime Germany had developed synthetic indigo –British landlords freed the Indian farmers from the 15% arrangement but asked them to pay compensation.

Many signed, some resisted engaged lawyers and landlords hired thugs.

Gandhiji reached Champaran –visited the secretary of the British landlord association to get the facts but denied as he was an outsider.

Gandhiji went to the British Official Commissioner who asked him to leave Tirhut , Gandhiji disobeyed, went to Motihari the capital of Champaran where a vast multitude greeted him, continued his investigations.

Visited maltreated villagers, stopped by the police superintendent but disobeyed the order.

Motihari black with peasants spontaneous demonstrations, Gandhiji released without bail Civil Disobedience triumphed.

Gandhiji agreed to 25% refund by the landowners, it symbolised the surrender of the prestige.

Gandhiji worked hard towards social economic reforms, elevated their distress aided by his wife and others like Mahadev Desai and Narhari Parikh.

Gandhiji taught a lesson of self-reliance by not seeking help of an English man Mr. Andrews.

**I Answer the following questions in 30-40 words.**

1. Why was Gandhiji impressed with Rajkumar Shukla’s tenacity and determination? 2

Raj Kumar Shukla, a poor Sharecropper from Champaran requested Gandhi in Congress Session in Lucknow to fix a date to visit Champaran where the sharecroppers were subjected to injustice. Till Gandhi fixed a date, he did not leave him rather he accompanied him wherever he went. Gandhi was impressed by his tenacity and determination and finally agreed to go there from Calcutta.

2. What were the conditions of sharecroppers of Champaran?

The peasants of Champaran were tenants of British landlords. Under long term sharecropping

arrangement, they were growing Indigo on 15 percent of their holding and surrendering the harvest as rent to the British landlord. But when Indigo price fell due to synthetic Indigo developed in Germany, the landlords obtained agreement from the peasants to pay them compensation which some of the peasants resisted and fought their case in court.

3. Why did Gandhi agree to a settlement of 25 per cent refund to the farmers?

Gandhi agreed to a settlement of 25 per cent refund to the farmers just to break the deadlock. Gandhi felt that the amount was less important than the fact that the landlords had been obliged to surrender a part of the money and along with it a part of their pride which gave a moral victory to the farmers. Thus Gandhiji not only made the landlords accept their dishonesty but also made the farmers learn a lesson in defending their rights with courage.

## **II Answer the following questions in 120-150 words.**

1. How did Gandhiji win the battle of Champaran?

After his arrival at Motihari, Gandhiji used a house as the headquarters so that he can have complete investigation for the share-croppers. At that time there came a report about maltreating a peasant. Next morning Gandhiji went to see him but he was overtaken by the police superintendent's messenger with an order to come back. When he reached home, Gandhiji was asked to quit Champaran at once. Gandhiji signed the order but wrote to disobey the order. Next day Gandhi appeared in the court. That night Gandhiji telegraphed Rajendra Prasad to come with the influential friends. When the peasants knew that Gandhiji was in trouble with the authorities, the court ground of Motihari became black with peasants. The officials felt powerless and they had to seek his help. The trial was postponed but Gandhiji protested the delay. In between he was left at liberty. Now Gandhiji asked the prominent lawyers what they would do in case he was sent to jail. They told that they would follow Gandhiji and give the court arrest. Gandhiji exclaimed: "The battle of Champaran is won".

2. How did a visit to Champaran become a turning point in Gandhi's life? How does this show Gandhi's love and concern for the common people of India?

After having clues from Raj Kumar Shukla, Gandhi reached Champaran to understand the appalling conditions of share-croppers. He found that the large estates were owned by the Englishmen where Indians worked there as their tenant farmers and they paid 15% of their land yield. After great tussle, Gandhi and the lawyers made the Britishers agree to refund 25 percent of the money. Thus farmers became bold and got their rights. Within few years, the landlords left chains over the estates and the farmers became the owners. On finding backwardness of the people there, he appointed volunteers to teach the villagers. Kasturba taught the ashram rules and personal hygiene and community sanitation. A doctor helped the villagers in their health problems. The people realized the value of self-reliance. The countrymen embarked on the task of national freedom movement. It was a turning point in Gandhi's life. All his activities were expressing his love and concern for the Indians.

### **Practice Questions(Board)**

1. What did Gandhiji do about the social and cultural upliftment of the Champaran villages?
2. Why did Gandhiji not accept C.F Andrew's help during the Champaran movement?
3. Why is Champaran episode considered to be the beginning of the Indian struggle for Independence?

1. What was the attitude of the average Indian in smaller localities towards advocates of 'home rule'?

In the smaller localities, Indians were afraid to show sympathy with advocates of 'Home Rule'. Thus it was surprising for Gandhi that he received support from Professor J.B. Kripalani of the Arts College of Muzzafarpur. He met him at the station with a large group of students and also housed him for a couple of days.

2. How did Gandhi make the peasants fearless and self-reliant?

Gandhi made the peasants fearless by letting them know about their rights, fighting their case and by obtaining the refund of compensation made to the British landlords who were behaving as lords above the law.

3. Exploitation is a universal phenomenon. The poor indigo farmers were exploited by the British landlords to which Gandhiji objected. Even after our independence we find exploitation of unorganized labour. What values do we learn from Gandhi's campaign to counter the present day problems of exploitation?

Exploitation is a universal phenomenon. It exists since the origin of the society. The mighty rules the poor. It makes a strata of society slaves and the other one rule them. Since the British rule, this phenomenon is on. They exploited Indians in each and every possible way. Most noticeable was the exploitation of the poor Indigo farmers. They had been getting nothing for their hard work. Gandhiji taught them to speak against it using the power of truth, education, peace and non-violence. The condition is even same in today's scenario. Labourers are still being exploited in unorganized sectors. They Work for long hours but do not get paid according to labour laws. They need to remain united, come ahead and fight for their rights. Legal paths should be followed to get what they deserve. No one should be ready to work in unhygienic and improper working conditions. Togetherness, strength and self-determination will definitely bring fruitful results to the labourers in every field.

**4. The Champaran episode was a turning point in Gandhiji's life. Elucidate.**

**Answer.** Gandhiji himself accepted the proposition that the Champaran episode was a turning point in his life.

It was then that he decided to urge the departure of the British from India. In fact the Champaran episode was the first experiment of civil disobedience in India. When Gandhiji was on his way to Champaran, he stayed in Muzaffarpur, where he met the lawyers who were fighting cases for the sharecroppers. The peasants were so crushed and fear-stricken that Gandhiji concluded that law courts were useless. The real relief for them was to be free from fear. The spontaneous demonstration by the peasants showed that they were instilled with a new strength and spirit. Gandhiji showed the poor peasants how to fight the British with 'satyagraha'. He made them aware of their power and the power of ahimsa. All this laid the foundation of his future movements and served as a great source of strength and motivation for all Indians.