

# Unit 8 THE STORY OF MY VILLAGE

## A. READING

### Before you read

*Work in pairs.* Look at the picture. Discuss the questions.

1. What are the people in the picture doing?
2. How are they working?
3. What do you think of the crop?
4. What helps produce good crops?





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## While you read

Read the passage, and then do the tasks that follow.

Many years ago, my village was very poor. The villagers had to work hard in the fields all day and could hardly make ends meet. Their lives were simple and they were in need of many things. Many people had to live in houses made of straw and mud, and few families had a radio or a TV set. However, in spite of the shortages, the villagers managed to send their children to school and college. They hoped that with an education of science and technology, their children could find a way of bettering their lives.

The children have met their parents' wishes. When they came back from college or technical high school, they introduced new farming methods, which resulted in bumper crops. They also helped the villagers grow cash crops for export. Soon, the lifestyle of my village changed. Today, people live in brick houses. In the evening, they can listen to the news on the radio or watch TV for entertainment. Sometimes they go to town on their motorbikes to do some shopping or to visit their friends.

"Our lives have changed a lot thanks to the knowledge our children brought home," said an old farmer, "and I always tell my grandchildren to study harder so that they can do even more for the village than their parents did."

☞ **Task 1.** The words in **A** appear in the reading passage. Match them with their definitions in **B**.

| A | B |
|---|---|
| 1. make ends meet | a. making one's life better |
| 2. in need of many things | b. have just enough money to pay for the things that you need |
| 3. bettering one's life | c. crops to be sold, not for use by the people who grow it |
| 4. bumper crops | d. having to have many things that you do not have |
| 5. cash crops | e. good crops |



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☞ **Task 2.** The reading passage tells us about many changes in the village. Complete the following table.

| Areas of change | Before | Now |
|---|---|---|
| houses | *made of straw and mud* | |
| radio and TV | | |
| farming methods | | |
| crops | | |
| travel | | *motorbike* |

☞ **Task 3.** Answer the following questions.

1. What was life like in the author's village many years ago?
2. Why did the villagers want to send their children to school and college in spite of their shortages?
3. How did the children help improve the lifestyle in the village when they finished college or technical high school?
4. What did an old farmer say about the effect of the knowledge the young people brought home?
5. What exactly did he tell his grandchildren?

## After you read

*Work in pairs/groups.* Discuss the following question.

How can people with an education help make the life of their community better?



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