

## E-Content for MSW – IIIrd Semester

### Perspective on Rural Community Development

#### Rural Development: Concept, Definition and Objectives

Rural development was normally known as the development of agricultural areas and pointed out on the high agricultural production in the previous year or you can say before 1970. But in recent scenario it is used as a wide term that includes the development of rural areas as whole that have all the aspects of life including availability of basic amenities to quality healthcare service, education facility, well developed infrastructure, availability of market areas, better production, better job opportunities in local areas etc. Now the concept of rural development has started to be used in a wider sense as the paradigm shifted in development of economy from “growth” to wider term “development”.

Recently, the concept of rural development concerns another aspect of economic growth which is its environmental aspect. Environmental aspects of economic growth have also influenced the changes; as we all know Agriculture is the main occupation of Rural Areas on to which its economy is based.

The concept of RD now totally changed which ‘concerns that go well beyond improvements in growth, income and output’. It includes an assessment of changes that takes place in the quality of life, also defined to include improvement in health, nutrition, education, environment friendly technology usage and safe living conditions, decrease in gender as well as in Income inequalities.

#### **Reference:**

1. Article by Janhavi on ‘Rural Development in India’ available on: <https://www.sociologydiscussion.com/india/rural-development/rural-development-in-india-sociology/13519>
2. Article by Neha Mishra on ‘Rural Development in India: Meaning, Objectives and Strategies’ available on: <https://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/india-2/rural-development/rural-development-in-india-meaning-objectives-and-strategies/66726>
3. <https://www.scribd.com/document/427430595/Constraint-in-rural-development>
4. <http://ecoursesonline.iasri.res.in/mod/page/view.php?id=65787>

Normally, rural development aims to improve the quality of life of the rural people through technological development and its intervention, forming, modifying or strengthening new and old institutions or organizations for building their capacities, providing better health, education and communication facilities and also implementing government policies and programs from top to the ground level.

First of all we need to understand both the terms Rural and Development.

**The term Rural and Development both are used in different ways:**

- i. As a concept** – It includes the development of rural areas
- ii. As a phenomenon** – It includes Interaction between institutional factors
- iii. As a Strategy** – This one includes the approaches to bring positive change in rural life or area.

**Rural:**

As per the International Encyclopedia of Social Sciences, the word 'Rural' refers emphatically to the population living in the area of low density and to small settlements.

In India, any area having less than 5000 population is termed as rural area. Main occupational structure of rural areas is based on Agriculture. As per the Census 2011 statistics, about 69 percent of the total population belongs to rural areas. It was 89 percent in the census of 1901 and 83 percent in the census of 1951 and 72 percent in the census of 2001.

**Development:**

According to **Lale (1975)** – "Development is a process of improving standards of the masses of the low income population residing in rural areas making the process of rural development self-sustaining".

**Reference:**

1. Article by Janhavi on 'Rural Development in India' available on: <https://www.sociologydiscussion.com/india/rural-development/rural-development-in-india-sociology/13519>
2. Article by Neha Mishra on 'Rural Development in India: Meaning, Objectives and Strategies' available on: <https://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/india-2/rural-development/rural-development-in-india-meaning-objectives-and-strategies/66726>
3. <https://www.scribd.com/document/427430595/Constraint-in-rural-development>
4. <http://ecoursesonline.iasri.res.in/mod/page/view.php?id=65787>

### **Definitions of Rural Development:**

Some definitions of rural development is as follows:

According to **World Bank-**

**‘Rural development is a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of a specific group of people by extending the benefits of development to the poorest among those who seek livelihood in the rural areas’.**

According to **Agarwal (1989)-**

**‘Rural Development is a strategy to improve the economic and social life of a specific group of people- the rural poor, including small and marginal farmers, tenants and landless.’**

According to **National Commission on Agriculture-**

**‘Rural development means development of an area and the people through optimum development and utilization of local resources by bringing about necessary institutions, structures and attitudinal changes and by delivering a package of services to improve all fields of the rural poor and rural weak’.**

**Robert Chambers (1983)** defined that

**“Rural development is a strategy to enable a specific group of people, poor rural women and men, to gain for themselves and their children more of what they want and need. It involves helping the poorest among those who seek a livelihood in the rural areas to demand and control more of the benefits of rural development. The group includes small-scale farmers, tenants and landless”.**

#### **Reference:**

1. Article by Janhavi on ‘Rural Development in India’ available on: <https://www.sociologydiscussion.com/india/rural-development/rural-development-in-india-sociology/13519>
2. Article by Neha Mishra on ‘Rural Development in India: Meaning, Objectives and Strategies’ available on: <https://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/india-2/rural-development/rural-development-in-india-meaning-objectives-and-strategies/66726>
3. <https://www.scribd.com/document/427430595/Constraint-in-rural-development>
4. <http://ecoursesonline.iasri.res.in/mod/page/view.php?id=65787>

Now we can say that, Rural Development is a process of developing and utilizing natural as well as human resources, technologies, infrastructural facilities, institutions and organizations, governmental policies and programs to encourage and foster/speed up economic growth in rural areas, in a way to create jobs and to improve the quality of rural life towards self-sustenance and self-reliability.

**Main objective of rural development is to improve the quality of life of rural people especially poor people and of the rural vulnerable sections.**

- i. It is a process of enhancing and building capacities of rural people. That includes all aspects of life like- social, economical, environmental, cultural, educational and political, etc.
- ii. It ensures the increased ability of the poor rural mass, BPL groups, vulnerable sections to have control over their environment and resources rather than being passive objects of external control and manipulations.
- iii. It ensures the people's participation in rural areas in all developmental activities. Especially the poor, the needy, the unprivileged, the weaker section of the society.

#### **Basic Elements of Rural Development:**

There are at least **three basic elements as given by Singh (1986)** which are considered to constitute the true meaning of development.

- i. Life-Sustenance:** People have certain basic needs for their survival. These basic necessities include food, shelter and clothing. Besides, health care delivery services, infrastructure and security are also important requirements which is a prerequisite for development.
- ii. Self-Respect:** Every person and every nation seeks some basic form of self-respect, dignity and honor. Absence/denial or low self-esteem indicates a lack of development initiatives.

#### **Reference:**

1. Article by Janhavi on 'Rural Development in India' available on: <https://www.sociologydiscussion.com/india/rural-development/rural-development-in-india-sociology/13519>
2. Article by Neha Mishra on 'Rural Development in India: Meaning, Objectives and Strategies' available on: <https://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/india-2/rural-development/rural-development-in-india-meaning-objectives-and-strategies/66726>
3. <https://www.scribd.com/document/427430595/Constraint-in-rural-development>
4. <http://ecoursesonline.iasri.res.in/mod/page/view.php?id=65787>

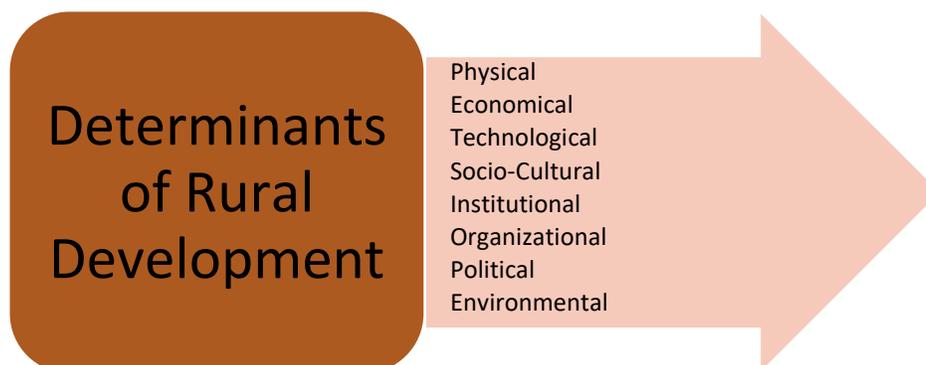
iii. **Freedom:** Freedom not only refers to political or ideological freedom, but also freedom from ignorance and superstitions.



### Determinants of Rural Development:

Determinants of Rural Development are those factors that affect the quality, level and phase of development of rural areas. These determinants can have both favorable and adverse effects on development. Some determinants are:

1. Physical
2. Economical
3. Technological
4. Socio-Cultural
5. Institutional
6. Organizational
7. Political



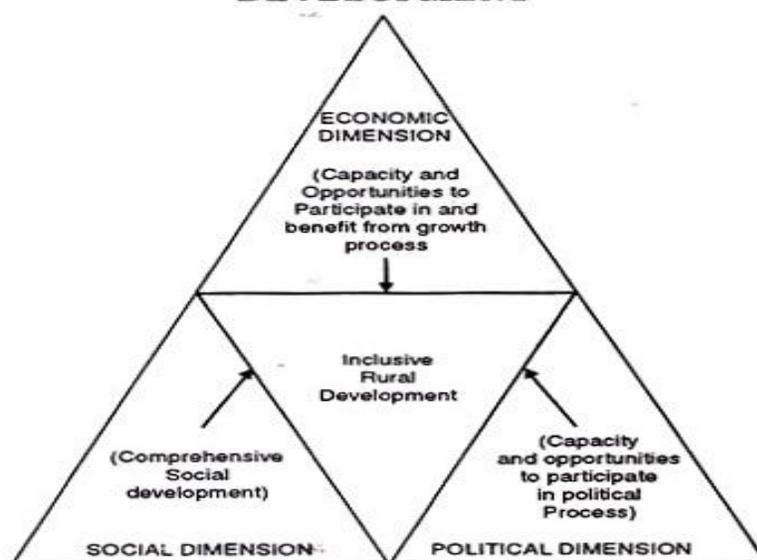
### Reference:

1. Article by Janhavi on 'Rural Development in India' available on: <https://www.sociologydiscussion.com/india/rural-development/rural-development-in-india-sociology/13519>
2. Article by Neha Mishra on 'Rural Development in India: Meaning, Objectives and Strategies' available on: <https://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/india-2/rural-development/rural-development-in-india-meaning-objectives-and-strategies/66726>
3. <https://www.scribd.com/document/427430595/Constraint-in-rural-development>
4. <http://ecoursesonline.iasri.res.in/mod/page/view.php?id=65787>

**Inclusive rural development** is a more specific concept than the concept of rural development. In other terms, inclusive rural development (IRD) is about improving the quality of life of all members of the rural society. Basically, inclusive rural development (IRD) covers following three different but interrelated dimensions.

1. Economic dimension
2. Social dimension
3. Political Dimension

### **THREE DIMENSIONS OF INCLUSIVE RURAL DEVELOPMENT**



### **Objectives of Rural Development:**

**The objectives are:**

- i. Providing goods and services in terms of social as well as economic infrastructure.
- ii. Increase the level of production as well as the income of rural families on a self-sustaining basis.

#### **Reference:**

1. Article by Janhavi on 'Rural Development in India' available on: <https://www.sociologydiscussion.com/india/rural-development/rural-development-in-india-sociology/13519>
2. Article by Neha Mishra on 'Rural Development in India: Meaning, Objectives and Strategies' available on: <https://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/india-2/rural-development/rural-development-in-india-meaning-objectives-and-strategies/66726>
3. <https://www.scribd.com/document/427430595/Constraint-in-rural-development>
4. <http://ecoursesonline.iasri.res.in/mod/page/view.php?id=65787>

- iii. Creation of additional employment opportunities, co-agricultural activities in rural areas.
- iv. To involve people's participation in planning and development through decision making and decentralization of administration.
- v. To ensure distributive Justice and equity in opportunities in the society.
- vi. Through mobilization and reorganization of the rural population in a way to enhance their ability and capacity to cope effectively with their daily tasks and with changes consequent upon it.
- vii. Improvement of health, education and communication services for rural masses in the process.
- viii. Improvement and development of Infrastructural facilities like communication and transportation methods, roads etc., ensure the availability of safe drinking water, irrigation methods, better sanitation, housing, agricultural improvement, development of both agricultural and non-agricultural aspects of rural areas.

**In the Views of Singh (1998), there are various objectives hidden behind rural development in all societies, irrespective of their economic, political and socio-cultural systems. That are:**

- i. To ensure availability, quality and the distribution of basic amenities/ goods, such as food, clothes, shelter, health, education and security.
- ii. To raise per capita purchasing power and also improve its distribution by providing quality education, productive as well as remunerative jobs and cultural amenities.
- iii. To expand the range of economic and social choices to individuals by freeing them from servitude and dependency.

**Reference:**

1. Article by Janhavi on 'Rural Development in India' available on: <https://www.sociologydiscussion.com/india/rural-development/rural-development-in-india-sociology/13519>
2. Article by Neha Mishra on 'Rural Development in India: Meaning, Objectives and Strategies' available on: <https://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/india-2/rural-development/rural-development-in-india-meaning-objectives-and-strategies/66726>
3. <https://www.scribd.com/document/427430595/Constraint-in-rural-development>
4. <http://ecoursesonline.iasri.res.in/mod/page/view.php?id=65787>

The objectives of rural development are manifold. It manifests through the different activities taken up by different societies. In all societies, following objectives are considered for overall development of rural people:

- i. To ensure the access and availability of the basic amenities of life, such as, food, shelter and clothing, health and education for rural people. Apart from that, there must be provision for quality health care facilities and also social security. In absence/lack of these, rural development can hardly be attained.
- ii. Improving the standard of living of people residing in rural areas as result of development initiatives must be reflected in increased purchasing power, better education to children, and greater attention to cultural and philanthropic activities. More job opportunities should be created for the rural people to live a better life in their own native area.
- iii. There must be a gradual reformation and reorganization of society from slavery and dependency to social and economic choice by the individual in the society and thereby empower themselves to determine their own future.

**Keep Asking.. Keep Learning..**

**Thank You..!**

**Reference:**

1. Article by Janhavi on 'Rural Development in India' available on: <https://www.sociologydiscussion.com/india/rural-development/rural-development-in-india-sociology/13519>
2. Article by Neha Mishra on 'Rural Development in India: Meaning, Objectives and Strategies' available on: <https://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/india-2/rural-development/rural-development-in-india-meaning-objectives-and-strategies/66726>
3. <https://www.scribd.com/document/427430595/Constraint-in-rural-development>
4. <http://ecoursesonline.iasri.res.in/mod/page/view.php?id=65787>