

Rural Development- Meaning, Definition, Objectives and Importance

Rural

According to United States census rural include all persons living outside urban area and who live on farms. It refers the population who live in the municipalities, which has a population of less than 2,500 inhabitants. This is an arbitrary distinction. A society or community can be classified as rural based on the criteria of lower population density, less social differentiation, less social and spatial mobility, slow rate of social change, etc. Agriculture would be the major occupation of rural area.

Development

It refers to growth, evolution, stage of inducement or progress. This progress or growth is gradual and has sequential phases. Always there is increasing differentiation. It also refers to the overall movement towards greater efficiency and complex situations.

Rural Development is a process which aims at improving the well being and self – realization of people living outside the urbanized areas through collective process.

Objectives of Rural Development

The major objectives of rural development are:

- To achieve enhanced production and productivity in rural areas,
- To bring about a greater socio – economic equity.
- To bring about a spatial balance in social and economic development
- To bring about improvement in the ecological environment so that it may be conducive to growth and happiness, and
- To develop broad based community participation in the process of development

Importance of Rural Development

Rural development is a national necessity and has considerable importance in India because of the following reasons.

- About three – fourth of India's population live in rural areas.
- Nearly half of the country's national income is derived from agriculture.
- Around seventy per cent of Indian population gets employment through agriculture.
- Bulk of raw materials for industries comes from agriculture and rural sector.
- Increase in industrial population can be justified only in rural population's motivation and increasing the purchasing power to buy industrial goods, and
- Growing disparity between the urban elite and the rural poor can lead to political Instability

Issues in Rural Development

Indian rural development has the following issues at present.

Population : to be reduced progressively

Agriculture : productivity in both food and non – food crops should be increased.

Land holding : to be consolidated into viable units or cooperatives farming.

Education : educate all rural people, both men and women; and adult and youth

Employment : increasing the employment opportunities

Casteism : to be abolished.

Leadership : rural leadership to be developed through motivation.

Exploitation : to be minimized.