

Semester VIII
ECODSC – 451
Rural Development
(For Honours Students only)
Total Credit: 4
Teaching Hours: 45 hours

Course Description:

This paper is developed to build a conceptual framework on rural development among the learners. This course highlights the relevant issues concerning rural development. The paper also incorporates studies of government schemes and initiatives for rural development in India.

Course Outcome:

On completion of this course, the students will be able to understand the different concepts of rural development and this course will develop their ability to think about the problems and prospects on rural developmental issues. Also, the analytical skills of students thus developed would enable policy evaluation in the rural sector.

Unit 1: Introduction to Rural Development

Rural Development: Basic concepts, Principles and Approaches, Causes of rural backwardness and its indicators; Key issues in rural development - human resource development and its importance, education, health and skill formation, Sustainable rural development, poverty and rural unemployment, rural development and environmental protection, participatory rural development

Unit 2: Issues in Farm and non-farm sector

Role of agriculture and allied activities in rural development; Unequal distribution of land and wealth and implications for rural inequality, role of land reforms; Occupational patterns in farm and non-farm sectors, impact of employment generation schemes on rural employment, employment diversification, and an assessment of the efficacy of the employment generation schemes (MGNREGA) in rural development.

Unit 3: Role of Basic Public Services and amenities in the Rural Development

Access to safe drinking water and sanitation and impacts on rural health—government schemes and effectiveness; Rural health services and role of rural health centres – importance of outreach-ASHA workers and their roles; Rural roads and connectivity, rural electrification – access to green energy, rural telecommunications and internet services – importance of each.

Unit 4: Financial Institutions for Rural Development

Micro-finance, micro-credit and their importance in rural development, definitions, functions and mode of operation, the concept of collective responsibility; Key activities of micro-finance institutions in India, micro-finance and SHGs, role of SHGs in rural development; Rural banking, rural credit and its features, problems of rural informal money lending and remedies, NABARD and Gramin Vikash Banks, and co-operative banking,

Unit 5: Role of Democratic Institutions in Rural Development

Role of democracy – grass-root institutions and the role of Panchayati Raj, Planning for rural development – Key objectives of planning, problems in policy implementations, ongoing rural development schemes and their implementation; Functions of government and non-government organizations (NGOs) for rural development.

Suggested Readings:

1. Bishnu Mohan Dash (2010): Rural development in India. New Delhi Publisher, New Delhi.
2. Geetika P. Ghosh and P. Choudhury (2008): Managerial Economics; Tata McGraw Hill; New Delhi.
3. Katar Singh (2009): Rural Development–Principles, Policies and Management, Sage Publications. New Delhi.
4. Paul Hebinck, Sergio Schneider, et al (2014): Rural Development and the Construction of New Markets (Routledge ISS Studies in Rural Livelihoods)
5. Pearce D.W. and R. Turner (1991): Economics of Natural Resource Use and Environment; John Hopkins University Press; Baltimore.
6. Ruddar Datt and K.P.M. Sundharam (2004): Indian Economy -S.Chand & Co. Ltd.
7. Tahir Hussain, Mary Tahir and Riya Tahir (2020): Fundamentals of Rural Development| ePaperback.

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