UNIT 10 : EDUCATION FOR RURAL DEVELOPEMNT

UNIT STRUCTURE

10.1 Learning Objectives

10.2 Introduction

10.3 Concept of Rural Development

- 10.3.1 Objectives of Rural Development
- 10.3.2 Scope of Rural Development
- 10.3.3 Significance of Rural Development

10.4 Problems and Prospects of Rural Development

10.5 Education for Rural Development

- 10.5.1 Need of Education for Rural Development
- 10.5.2 Difference between education for Rural and Urban areas
- 10.5.3 Education for Rural Development

10.6 Let Us Sum Up

10.7 Further Reading

10.8 Answer to Check Your Progress

10.9 Possible Questions

10.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to

- define the concept of rural development;
- describe the objectives of rural development;
- explain the significance of rural development;
- identify the scope of rural development;
- explain the problems related to rural development;
- explore the prospects of rural development;
- discuss the need of education for rural development;
- distinguish between educational requirements of urban and rural communities; and
- determine what kind of education is required for rural development.

10.2 INTRODUCTION

Rural development is a comprehensive term which essentially focuses on adequate actions for the development of areas that are lagging behind in the overall development of the village economy. It is a process whereby the standard of living of the rural people, especially the poor people, rises continuously. Education, economic development, physical and social infrastructure plays an important role in rural development. It is also characterized by its emphasis on locally produced economic development strategies. The context of our discussion would be Indian rural life. This unit thus introduces you to the concept of rural development, its significance and scope. Besides, the unit will also help you to learn the significance of rural development, the problems and prospects of rural development. Finally you will be able to discuss how education plays an important role in rural development.

10.3 CONCEPT OF RURAL DEVLEOPMENT

In which category does your locality fall— rural or urban? You must have heard such conversations. Have you ever tried to differentiate the features of rural and urban areas? 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 is the major engagements of the people in rural areas. A rural area is one, where the people are engaged in primary industry in the sense that they produce things directly for the first time in cooperation with nature.

Rural development is a process which aims at improving the well-being and self-realization of the people living outside the urbanized areas through collective processes. According to Agarwal (1989), rural development is a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of the rural poor. As a concept, it connotes the overall development of rural areas with a view to improving the quality of life of the rural people. In short, rural development is a process that aims at improving rural people's standard

of living. Rural development can be discussed as helping the rural people to set priorities in their own communities through effective and democratic bodies, to improving their capacity through investments in basic infrastructure and social services; to ensure justice, equity and security, to deal with the injustices of the past and ensure safety and security of the rural population, especially that of women. Rural development of a country means development in various fields so as to give a boost to the national development. Rural development is basically influenced by economic development of a country which involves the development of education, social development, cultural development, environmental development, agricultural development, industrial development, etc.

The World Bank defines rural development as "a strategy to improve economic and social life of a specific group of people, the rural poor including small and marginal farmer, tenants and the landless." This definition looks at the concept as a strategy and targets development of specific groups.

H. Crops defines it as "a process of collective efforts aimed at improving the well-being and self-realization of people living outside the urbanized areas. The feather contents the ultimate target of rural development is people not infrastructure." We can see that Crops' definition explains it as a process.

According to B. L. Mathur, "rural development means all round development of rural areas with a view of betterment of life style of rural people." Thus, we can see that rural development implies development in all the aspects of life of the people in rural areas.

The concept of rural development has gained much popularity in the present times. Before independence, Gandhiji viewed the importance of rural India by saying that "India lives in village". As the majority of India's population live in the villages, so without studying and solving the problems of the rural areas, we cannot really think of family and the society as a whole. Education can provide them with adequate knowledge, self-confidence and self-attainment. Therefore, education for rural development is an important topic to discuss. Rural areas in India are lagging far behind

even today, in comparison to the urban areas. If development of the rural areas is not given prime importance, then the gap between the development of urban and rural areas will continue to widen further. Thus, it becomes an issue of great concern, to upgrade the condition of the rural people living below the poverty line. Some effective programmes are needed to be taken for developing the condition of the rural people.

10.3.1 Objectives of Rural Development

The main objective of the rural development is improving the living standards of the rural people by utilizing the easily available natural and human resources. The objectives of rural development are enumerated as—

- To achieve enhanced production and productivity in the 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.
- To develop broad based community participation in the process of development.

These objectives may be achieved by bringing development in agriculture and allied activities, village and cottage industries and handicrafts, development of socio-economic infrastructure which includes setting up of rural banks, co-operatives, schools etc., development of community services and facilities i.e. drinking water, electricity, rural roads, health services etc., development in human resource mobilization.

10.3.2 Scope of Rural Development

The scope of rural development is very broad as it includes all the aspects of development including the socio-economic

development in the rural areas. The scope has more widened along with passing of the 73rd Amendment to the Constitution of India. Now, the Panchayats are empowered with 29 subjects of the state list and their functions have multiplied. At present, the Panchayats cover almost all the important areas of rural life. Generally, the following aspects come under the scope of rural development—

- Execution of various plans and programmes through the overall development and welfare of the rural areas.
- Poverty alleviation programmes in the rural areas.
- Improvement of agricultural productivity programme.
- Rural Development schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Indira Awaas Yojana, Food for Work Programme (FWP), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Scheme (RLEGP), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), TRYSEM, DWCRA, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY), Antyodaya Yojana, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA) also provide employment opportunity to the rural population.
- The programmes of housing, irrigation, sanitation, water supply and other services etc.
- Rural development scheme also includes health care facilities. The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) is working effectively in the present rural areas.
- Rural Development also includes women empowerment and child development schemes.

The above discussion makes it clear that rural development signifies the overall development of the rural areas. So, rural development occupies a central position in the socio-economic and political re-structuring of a developing nation like India.

10.3.3 Significance of Rural Development

Improvement in the quality of life of the rural people is the important agenda of rural development programmes. In India—a country where a large number of people live in rural areas, rural development programmes are very necessary. Rural development implies both the economic betterment of the people as well as their social transformations. It is a fact that accelerated and meaningful development can be achieved only if people of the grass-root level are involved. Rural development is necessary to provide the rural people with better prospects for economic development. In this regard, rural development in the real sense hits at the following:

- To develop the rural areas as a whole in terms of culture, society, economy, technology and health.
- To develop the living standard of the rural mass and also to create consciousness among them regarding different developmental programmes.
- To empower the rural youths, children and women.
- To develop rural institutions like the Panchayats, Cooperatives, Post Offices, Banks, Schools etc.
- To utilise all the resources of the rural areas.
- To minimize the gap between the living standard of urban and rural.
- To popularise education among the rural masses.
- To implement some schemes for developing transport and communication facilities in the rural areas as most of these areas are in remote places and lack of proper transport and communication facilities.

Development of a nation always depends on development of both the urban and rural areas of the nation. Rural development plays a significant role in the development of incentives like education, health care, water supply, rural electrification and other promotional programmes. So, it is very important to empower the rural people with development plans and programmes.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q. 1: What is Rural Development?

.....

.....

Q. 2: Write any two significant points about rural development.

.....

.....

10.4 PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Problems and Challenges:

The individuals belonging to rural communities often lead a simple life. They are less aware of the modern and innovative methods and approaches and are less communicative in nature, as compared to individuals belonging to the urban communities. The rural community, normally lead their lives in accordance with the traditions, customs, values and norms. To bring about rural development, it is important to focus on and understand the problems that are experienced by the rural communities. The challenges which obstruct the development of the rural areas and the community therein are as the following:

Poverty: One of the major problems faced by the rural people is poverty which is a burning problem of India since Independence. Poverty is mostly caused by the increasing rate of population. However, lack of appropriate strategy to alleviate rural poverty and its proper implementation is also one of the reasons.

Lack of Infrastructure: In the rural areas, there is lack of infrastructure and other facilities. There is shortage of electricity, lack of good and adequate transportation and communication and lack of quality health care facilities, lack of facilities for clean drinking water and many such problems. Poor communication infrastructure causes slow rural development and poses challenges in improving the living conditions and overall quality of life of the rural people.

Lack of Education: Among the rural communities, the education system is not in a well-developed state as compared to the urban areas. There is prevalence of illiteracy among the rural communities. Illiteracy is considered to be one of the major problems of a developing country like India. The problem of illiteracy has been mostly found in the rural parts of India. Though some rural people recognize the significance of education, but due to a number of factors, they are unable to get enrolled in schools and receive education on time. The factors that lead to the prevalence of illiteracy among the individuals are distance of schools from homes, lack of transportation facilities, lack of financial resources, shortage of teachers in schools, inappropriate teaching-learning methods, lack of school infrastructure, lack of facilities within homes, discriminatory treatment—particularly against the girls and inadequate development of extra-curricular activities.

Lack of Employment Opportunities: In the rural areas, people get less employment opportunities. The rural individuals are, in most cases, engaged in the agricultural sector which does not generate sufficient income for which they cannot sustain their living. Apart from the agricultural sector, they get engaged in the production of handicraft items, handloom and textile, food items, animal husbandry, etc. But, due to the decline of traditional handicrafts and village industries, their living conditions cannot improve. Also, they don't have many alternatives to employment to choose from in the rural areas. Unemployment is also an important cause-and-effect of poverty and lower rate of economic development.

Conservative Attitude: The rural community is resistant to embrace change—be it social, scientific or technological. They are hesitant to come out of their comfort zone and embrace new things, ideas and outlooks. Observance of some rituals, lack of rational decisions in economic matters, spending huge amounts of money on marriages, birth or death ceremonies, prevalence of the caste systems and the joint family systems in the rural areas, illiteracy etc. are some of the factors which arrest the rural development in India.

***Lack of Technical Knowledge*:** In the present day context,

technology has gained prominence. Among the rural individuals, there is lack of technical knowledge. They do not possess adequate knowledge and information in terms of using technology. Lack of technical knowledge has proven to be a major impediment in the course of implementation of various developmental activities.

Unawareness: Many people living in rural areas often put into practice the traditional values and methods in doing their various tasks and activities. The main reasons being, they are unaware of the modern and innovative methods, strategies and approaches. Research has indicated that individuals in rural and tribal communities are dependent upon the natural environmental conditions to a great extent. Unawareness is regarded as the major cause of their backwardness. In many cases, the rural community does not get satisfactory help as they are provided with untrained, unskilled, inexperienced staff.

Problem in Implementation of Plans and Programmes: The financial, manpower and managerial resources devoted to the implementation of rural development programmes are utterly inadequate. Policy makers prepare policies and programmes for the betterment of the rural people but, if these programmes are not implemented properly, then they become a matter of wastage. The reason behind this may be that those responsible for the actual implementation are not paid reasonably well, not appropriately trained and sufficiently motivated.

Prospects of Rural Development

Rural areas are very resourceful and there are lot of prospects for development in those areas. But, it requires elimination of the problems discussed above. In the last few years, a large amount of efforts and resources have been spent upon projects and programmes that are put into operation for rural development. The role of governmental and non-governmental organizations in this regard is, indeed, commendable. Yet, much remains to be done.

- Agricultural infrastructure has the potential to bring about changes in the traditional agriculture or subsistence farming into advance, innovative and dynamic farming system.

- Establishment of training centres for providing knowledge and skills and creating awareness and develop positive attitude towards technology equip the rural community for technological handling. Modern methods and technology can be used in the agricultural sector, farming practices and other fields also.
- The resources of the rural areas—both human resource and material resource are to be identified, augmented and utilized appropriately for rural development.
- Proper plan and appropriate and sustainable strategies for sound economic growth would help in eradication of poverty.
- The family planning programmes should be initiated for controlling of population growth.
- Educational programme—formal and non-formal, should be implemented in the rural areas for the eradication of illiteracy among the rural mass.
- Development of industrial facilities in the rural areas would help in solving the problem of unemployment to a great extent.



ACTIVITY 10.1

Identify the major problems faced by a rural area of your district and make a survey how effectively the ongoing government's rural development programmes are able to address these problems.

10.5 EDUCATION FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

You must be aware that education plays a crucial role in the development of a nation. As such, education is also a determining factor in the process of rural development. Education means acquisition of knowledge and experience, development of skills, feelings, attitude, personality and modification of human behaviour. It helps an individual to adjust to different situations in the society which in turn would help to lead a healthy life. Education includes all the experiences received by an individual at home, in the school and in the society. It is the main way of developing human

resources. It leads the human being from social backwardness to social progress and leads a nation from underdeveloped to a developed one. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act provides for free and compulsory education for children between 6 and 14 years under Article 21A of the Indian Constitution. It means that children in the rural areas should compulsorily get quality education without any discrimination based on their locality. Though RTE Act came in to effect only in April, 2010, and it contributed a lot towards the goal of universal education, still the education of rural India is lagging behind.

10.5.1 Need of Education for Rural development

The socio-economic condition and educational development play an important role in the development of the rural areas. As already discussed, there is a great need of development of the rural areas. Education is the process of developing human resources. Without education, no nation can progress. In this regard, the following points may be considered—

- **Education is a component in rural development:** Rural development implies development in the fields of social, political, economic, religious, educational, cultural and physical environments. Any change that comes under these components affects all other components and aspects of the rural areas. So, development in the field of education itself signifies rural development. Also, its effects are found in other fields as well.
- **Education as a means of productivity:** Education is both the product of the society as well as an important tool for bringing about changes in the rural areas. It helps to develop human resources. Therefore, skill development programmes, vocational education, technical education etc. plays a significant role in producing manpower which increases productivity.
- **Education makes rural people conscious:** Though the

Government has provided many schemes for the welfare of the rural people, still they are lagging behind. Due to lack of their knowledge about the opportunities provided by the Government, they are not able to take the benefit of the same. Education is the main way of awakening the rural people about the available welfare programmes. When people become conscious about their environment, they will be encouraged to participate in the rural development programmes. The participation of rural people in the developmental activities of the society is an important tool for rural development.

- **Education can bridge the gap between rural and urban sectors:** Education helps rural people to modify their physical and social environment and adapt themselves to the progressive society. Education can bridge the gap between the rural and urban population through changes in attitudes, behaviour and skills of the rural people.
- **Education helps in employability:** Education plays a significant role in providing employment and income sources for the rural people. Rural development simply means to improve people's condition of living by increasing income earning opportunities in the rural areas. Education also helps in making people employable through capacity-building, training and skill development.
- **Education creates Leadership quality:** Education can be regarded as both investment and consumption which increase an individual's capacity for production and also help to develop personality and leadership quality in the individuals which are essential for creating rural leaders to develop the community.

10.5.2 Difference Between Education for Rural and Urban Areas

By now, you must be clear about the contrast between rural and urban life styles. The obvious and natural differences between

urban and rural life also indicates the difference between education for rural and urban areas. The following are some points of difference:

- Rural societies are relatively economically backward compared to the urban societies. So, the pattern and status of schools are better in urban areas than in rural areas.
- Physical resources like school building, classroom, playground, library facilities, electricity, desk-bench and also toilet facilities in the schools of urban areas are comparatively better than those in rural areas.
- Rural students face problems in communication and transportation as compared to the students of urban areas.
- Sufficient human resources are found in the urban areas as compared to the rural areas. It may be because of the lack of facilities in the rural areas.
- Apart from the course curriculum, rural schools are not able to involve children in other activities like sports, co-curricular activities and competitions. Such events and activities tend to help in the overall development of the children.
- It is said that urban students often secure better grades than rural students. The factors that affect the performance among the rural students are lack of resources and limited opportunities available to them. On the other hand, the outstanding performance of the urban students can be associated with better academic infrastructure and access to a wider range of information available across various digital platforms.
- The rural parts of India are struggling a lot when it comes to local transportation. This problem poses a massive threat to education in rural India due to limited schools in the vicinity.
- The residents of rural India usually come with low-income sources which are generally required for the basic survival, making education out of their reach.
- The system of education is different in the urban schools. While

in terms of the teaching methodology—the rural schools are still practice traditional methods. Whereas, the urban schools impart modern ways of teaching and focus on the development of each student.

10.5.3 Education for Rural Development

It is necessary for us to identify and understand what kind of education would actually lead to rural development. Education has to be more and more relevant to rural contexts if it has to lead to rural development. However, the following points may be considered in this regard:

- **Agricultural Education:** No one can deny the fact that agriculture is the backbone of the rural areas. But, the training of human resources in agriculture is often not a priority in the development plans. As a result, the education system is not particularly relevant to the production needs and employment demands of the agricultural sector. Therefore, agriculture education plays an important role in preparing the farmers, researchers, educators, extension staff and members of agri-businesses and others to make productive contributions. Moreover, the education system of rural areas should focus more on agriculture at all stages right from primary to higher education. This way, it will also bring positivity in attitude towards the professions in the field of Agriculture.
- **Merge Technology and Education**: Introducing modern and better techniques to our education system can help in making it more suitable and productive. Rural schools need to place significance on technology like basic computer knowledge, so that they are not left behind. Also, in the digitally growing world, every child needs to be aware of the essential technologies and their usage.
- **Vocational Education:** Vocational Education is considered to

be one of the significant means to accelerate the supply of a quality workforce, enhance productivity and help individuals to attain gainful employability and improve their earnings. This would make education more relevant for the rural population and make them contributors to the developmental process. Therefore, a more formal and structured vocational education and training system would be helpful in rural development.

- **Adult Education**: Adult education plays a significant role in rural development. It helps in developing their knowledge, skills and attitude along with making them aware of their social, political, economic and environmental contexts. In addition, the people in the rural areas are able to realize the significance of education. Through the acquisition of education, the individuals and communities are able to bring about improvements in their overall quality of lives. Thus, adult education would contribute to the development of individuals and communities in the rural areas.

Thus, we can see that education has to be fitted to the rural contexts to bring development in those areas. It has to fulfill the demands of the developmental process of the rural areas, rather than preparing them to leave the rural community and shift to the urban areas later seeking employment opportunities. Education based on the principles of rural life integrated with modern and scientific advancements can ensure rural development.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q. 3: Write one of the problems of rural development.

.....

.....

Q. 4: Write any one important point of education for rural development.

.....

.....

Q. 5: How can agricultural education help in rural development?

.....

.....



ACTIVITY 10.2

Make a special educational plan for a rural area of your district through which people of the area may get relevant knowledge, skills and develops right attitude for getting employment or self-employment in its own place.



10.6 LET US SUM UP

- As the majority of India's population lives in the village, so without studying and solving the problems of rural areas, we cannot think of national development.
- The main objective of the rural development is improving the living standards of rural people by utilizing the easily available natural and human resources.
- The scope of rural development is very broad as it includes all the aspects of development including socio-economic development of the rural areas.
- Execution of various plans and programmes such as poverty alleviation programme, improvement of agricultural productivity programme, rural development schemes, programmes of housing, irrigation, sanitation, water supply, health care facilities, women empowerment and child development schemes, etc. come under the scope of rural development.

- Development of a nation always depends on the development of both urban and rural areas of the nation. So, it is very important to empower the condition of the rural people with development plans and programmes.
- The major problems of rural development are poverty, lack of infrastructure, lack of education, lack of employment, conservative attitude, lack of technical knowledge, lack of awareness, problems in the implementation of plans and programmes.
- Such problems can be subsidized by bringing advance agricultural infrastructure, establishment of training centres for providing knowledge and skill on technology, augmenting both human resource and material resource, adopting proper plans and strategies for sound economic growth, launching family planning programmes, educational programme, development of industrial facilities etc.
- Education is a determining factor in the process of rural development.
- Development in the field of education itself signifies rural development and its effects are found in other fields as well.
- Skill development programmes, vocational education, technical education etc. play a significant role in producing manpower which increases productivity.
- Education is the main way of awakening the rural people about their welfare programmes. When the people become conscious about their environment, they will be encouraged to participate in the rural development programmes.
- Education can bridge the gap between rural and urban people through changes in attitudes, behaviour and skill of rural people.
- Education plays a significant role in providing employment and income sources for the rural people.
- Education helps to develop personality and leadership quality which are essential for creating rural leaders to develop community.
- There are various differences between the education systems of urban and rural areas.
- Education has to be more and more relevant to rural contexts if it has

to lead to rural development. For instance, agricultural education, merging technology and education, vocational education, adult education etc. would help in rural development.



10.7 FURTHER READING

1) Bhushan, V. & Sachdeva, D. R. (2014). *An Introduction to Sociology*. Allahabad: Kitab Mahal
2) Chaliha, B. K., Saikia, T. & Saikia, R. (2014). *Foundation of Education*. Jorhat: Vidyabhawan
3) Chaliha, B., Saikia, T. & Saikia, R. (2015). *Sikshar Darshanik Vitti.* Jorhat: Vidyabhawan
4) Navaratnam, K.K. (1986). *Role of Education in Rural development: A Key factor for developing countries*. ERIC
5) Sharmah, M. (2015). *Foundation of Education.* Dibrugarh: Banalata.
6) Sharma, A., Bordoloi, M. & Machey, A. (2014). *Rural Development—Issues and perspective*. Dibrugarh: Mahaveer Publications



10.8 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans. to Q. No. 1: Rural development is a process which aims at improving the well-being and self-realization of the people living outside the urbanized areas through collective processes. It is a comprehensive process aimed at all round development of rural people in all aspects of their life.

Ans. to Q. No. 2: Two significant points of rural development are:

(i) To develop the rural areas as whole in terms of culture, society,

economy, technology and health.

(ii) To develop the living standard of the rural mass and also to create consciousness among them by implementing different development programmes.

Ans. to Q. No. 3: The one major problem of rural development is Poverty.

Ans. to Q. No. 4: Education provides knowledge, skills and also develops proper attitude among rural people which in turn enhance the opportunity for employability.

Ans. to Q. No. 5: Agricultural education plays an important role in preparing the farmers, researchers, educators, extension staff, and members of agri-businesses and others to make productive contributions. Moreover, the education system of rural areas should focus more on agriculture at all stages right from primary to higher education. It can also bring positivity in attitude towards agricultural profession.



10.9 POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

A) Short Questions (Answer each question in about 150 words)

Q. 1: What is the meaning of rural development?

Q. 2: State the objectives of rural development.

Q. 3: Write about the scope of rural development.

Q. 4: State the significance of rural development.

Q 5: Enlist the major problems of rural development.

B) Long Questions (Answer each question in about 300- 500 words)

Q. 1: Discuss the problems and prospects of rural development.

Q. 2: Describe the need of education for rural development.

Q. 3: What kind of education is required for Rural Development? Explain.

*** ***** ***