1. Rural Development: Dimensions and Strategies

Definition of Rural Areas – Concept of Rural Development – Causes of Rural Backwardness – Need for and Scope of Rural Development

Significance of Planning for Rural Development – Nature and Scope of Regional Planning – Need for Intervention on Region-specific problems


Demographic Structure of India – Analysis of Trends and Changes in the Composition of Rural Population and Rural Work Force – Concept of Demographic dividend – Problems of Unemployment and Underemployment in Rural Areas

Concept of Poverty – Dimensions of Rural Poverty – Measurement of Rural Poverty

Education in Rural Areas: Problems of School Education – Right to Education – National Child Labour Project – Sarva Siksha Abhiyan – Vocational Education and Skill Development

Health Services in Rural Areas – Family Welfare – Maternal and Child Health – Integrated Child Development Services Scheme – National Health Policy of India – National Rural Health Mission

Rural Infrastructure: Bharat Nirman – Prime Minster’s Grameen Sadak Yojana – Rural Infrastructure Development Fund


2. Indian Rural Economic Scene


Role of Agriculture in Economic Development of India – Agricultural Development under Five Year Plans – National Agricultural Policy – Implications of Globalization for Indian Agriculture

Organizational Aspects of Agriculture: Factors affecting Cropping Pattern – Land Reforms – Green Revolution – Contract Farming

Risk and Uncertainty in Agriculture – Agrarian Crisis and Farmers’ Suicides – National Commission on Farmers – Dry Land Farming Technologies – Concept of Climate Smart Agriculture – Doubling Farmers’ Income – National Agricultural Insurance Scheme – Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

Allied Activities: Dairying – Poultry – Fishery – Horticulture – Sheep Rearing – Mixed Farming

Rural Non-Farm Sector – ISB Sectors – Rural Non-farm Employment – Rural Labour Markets – Rural Labour Migration – Feminization of Wage labour market

Cooperation: Concept and Principles – Types of Rural Cooperatives and their Importance – Causes for failure – Remedial measures – Farmer Producers’ Organizations (FPOs)

Non-conventional Sources of Rural Energy: Biogas, Solar and Wind energy

3. Indian Rural Social Scene

Rural Communities: Definition and Characteristics – Types of Rural Settlements

Individual and Society – Heredity and Environment in shaping Human Behaviour – Socialization – Social Control

Rural Social Structure – Family – Marriage – Religion – Caste – Caste and Economic Inequalities


Evolution of PRIs – 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act – Devolution of Powers and Functions to PRIs – Role of PRIs in Rural Development

4. Micro Economic Analysis


Elements of Farm Management: Farm Size and Productivity – Farm Managerial Functions: Farm Planning, Resource Assessment, Resource Mobilization, Target Fixation, Strategies for achieving Targets

5. Macro Economic Analysis


Models of Agricultural and Economic Development: Rostow – The Traditional Society, The Pre-Conditions to Takeoff, The Take off, The Drive to Maturity and The Age of High Mass Consumption, Critique
Mellor – The Traditional Agriculture, Technologically Dynamic Agriculture (low capital formation), The Technologically Dynamic Agriculture (high capital formation), Critique Lewis – Capitalist Sector, Subsistence Sector, Assumptions, Development and Capitalist Surplus, Bottlenecks, End of Growth Process, Critique
Ranis-Fie – Assumptions, Stages of Development, Critique
Ester Boserup’s Theory of Agrarian Change

Foreign Trade and Rural Economy – New Economic Policy (Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization) – Impact of LPG on Rural Economy

6. Rural Industrialization and Entrepreneurship

Rural Industrialization: Concept and Importance – Gandhian Approach to Rural Industrialization – Appropriate Technology for Rural Industries

Entrepreneurship: Concept, Characteristics and Types – Entrepreneurship and Rural Industrialization – Rural Entrepreneurship: Problems and Prospects – Significance of Incubation Centres

Policies and Programmes for the Development of Rural Industries – Industrial Policy Resolutions – Five Year Plans

Rural Industrial Sectors: Small Scale, Handloom, Agro-based Industries, Rural Artisans, Handicrafts – Khadi and Village Industries Commission


Growth Centre Strategy: Advantages and Operational Difficulties – Industrial Estates

Globalization and Promotion of Rural Industries: Imports and Exports, Strategies, Policies, and Implications

7. Rural Markets in India
Credit Markets: Nature and Significance – Sources: Institutional and Non-Institutional – Cost of Credit – Rural Indebtedness

Institutional Credit: – Cooperative Credit Institutions – Commercial Banks – Regional Rural Banks – Concept of Lead Bank Scheme

National Seed Corporation and State Seed Corporation: Organisation and Functions – Genetically Modified Seeds


Implications of Globalization on Indian Agricultural Marketing: World Trade Organization – Agricultural Protection and Subsidies in Developed Countries

Commodity and Consumer Markets - Apni Mandi Scheme/ Rythu Bazars - Corporate sector and Retail Rural markets

8. Environmental Economics

Concepts of Ecology, Eco-system and Environment – Implications of Climate Change – Environmental Problems in Developing Economies


Theories of Environmental Management: Hardin’s Tragedy of Commons and Prisoner’s Dilemma Game Theory – Olson’s theory of Collective Action - Ostram’s Governing the Commons – Wade’s Essentials for Collective Action, Baland and Platteau Model

Environmental Valuation – Environmental Cost-Benefit Analysis – Environmental Accounting – Environmental Monitoring and Impact Assessment


9. Natural Resources Management


Water Resources Use – National Water Policy of India – Problems of Irrigated Agriculture: Depletion of Water Table – Water Logging – Transmission Losses - Sustainable Use of Water for Irrigation

Problems and Prospects of Tank Irrigation – Promotion of Micro Irrigation Systems (Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation) – Transfer of Irrigation Management to Farmers – Irrigation Privatization: Concept and Practice

Forest Resources Use in India: Challenges for Sustainability – Indigenous Knowledge Systems for Forest Management – Concept of Ethno Forestry – Concept and Strategies of Sustainable Forestry – Concept and Models of Social Forestry


Common Property Resources and Livelihoods of Poor – Problems of CPRs - Strategies for Sustainable Use of CPRs

Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Management of Natural Resources: Designing, Measuring and Communicating to the People.

10. Human Resource Development and Management in Rural Sector
Human Resource Development: Concept, Need and Elements – HRD in Rural Sector –
Human Capital Formation: Efforts and Achievements in Investment for raising Nutritional and Educational Standards – Capacity Building for Rural Development

Dimensions of HRD for Rural Development: Health – Nutrition – Education – Skill Development – Importance of HRD in Agriculture and Allied Activities, Rural Industries and Rural Service Sector

Human Development Index – Concept – Importance – Components – Measurement – Construction of Human Development Index at the State and District level

Strategies for Manpower Planning: Agriculture and Allied Activities– Rural Industries – Business and Service Sectors

Institutional Arrangements for the Promotion of HRD – F.T.C. – K.V.K – GOs and NGOs (CAPART, NIRD and KVIC) – Educational Programmes: Vocational Education –Total Literacy Campaign, Jana Sikshana Nilayams, Zilla Saksharatha Samithis – Promotion of HRD at the local level (District, Block (sub-district) and Gram Panchayat)

Human Resources Management: Definition, Scope and Components – Principles and Functions – Management and Administration – Universality of Management concepts and principles

Human Resource Management in Rural Institutions: Cooperatives – PRIs – NGOs – CBOs

11. Micro Finance, SHGs and Women Empowerment

Issues of Gender Equity in Rural areas – Practical and Strategic Needs of Women – Concept and Significance of Gender Sensitization – Collective Action – Critical Minimum Development.

Gender in Development: Essential elements – Empowerment versus Sustainability – Gender Development Index.


SHGs: Savings, Credit, Marketing and Insurance – Crises faced by the SHG members – Role of Micro-savings and Micro-insurance – Innovative savings and Insurance products.
SHGs: Monitoring, Evaluation and Impact Assessment - Experiences of GRAMEEN, SEWA and Rashtriya Mahila Khosh

12. Participatory Rural Appraisal

Participatory Approaches for Learning: Rapid Rural Appraisal – Participatory Rural Appraisal – Participatory Action Research – Participatory Learning and Action – Interactive Bottom Up Approach
Capacity Building and Empowerment of Rural Communities: Methods for Capacity Building of Communities – Leadership Building: Concept and Principles

13. Rural Project Planning and Management

Concept of Project – Systems Model for Development Projects – Importance of Project Approach to Rural Development – Need for and Scope of Project Management – Project Planning and Management Cycle
Project Identification: Environment – Steps in Project Identification – Selection of Project Size, Location and Technology – Pre-feasibility Brief
Concept of Project Formulation - Elements of Project Formulation Technique - Project Formulation and Development Planning - Systems Approach to Formulation and Execution of Development Projects
Project Finance – Sources of Capital – Government Policy Initiatives – Capital Market as a Financing Option – Loans from Financial Institutions and Banks – Foreign Funding

14. Non-Governmental Organizations and Rural Development
State-Market-Civil Society – Need for and Concept of Voluntary Action – NGOs and Development Functionaries – Distinction between Voluntary Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations – Role of NGOs in Rural Development

Interface Between NGOs and GOs: Need and Strategies – Sustainability of Interventions – Role Transformation of NGOs and Withdrawal Strategies


Type of NGOs – Grassroots, Network, Advocacy and Donor NGOs – Problems and Prospects of NGOs in India – Assessment of the working the NGOs – NGO Registration under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA)

Funding agencies for NGOs: CAPART – Central Social Welfare Board – State Social Welfare Board – Other Central and State Government Departments

International Donor agencies: DFID – NOVIB – Action Aid – Family Health International – Alliance India International – Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation – CARE


Corporate Sector and Rural Development – Corporate Social Responsibility – Case Studies of GVK, Reddy Labs, Ratan Tata Trust, Aditya Birla Grameen Vikas Trust

15. Research Methods, Quantitative Techniques and Computer Applications


Tools of Data Collection: Questionnaire – Schedule – Interview – Observation – Processing of Data – Classification and Tabulation

Presentation of Data: Graphical Methods: Histogram – Pie Chart – Bar Diagrams (Simple, Multiple and Sub-divided)

Quantitative Data Analysis: Mean – Median – Mode - Standard Deviation – Correlation – Regression – Chi-Square Test

Interpretation of Data – Drawing Inferences and Conclusions– Generalizations – Report Writing

Microsoft Office: Word, Excel and Power Point – Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS)