

ADD ON COURSE 2023-24
RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Duration: 30 Hours

Course code: SOC-RD

Course Description:

This course provides an overview of theories, strategies, and practices related to rural development. Students will explore the socio-economic, political, and environmental factors influencing rural communities, as well as examine various approaches to promoting sustainable development in rural areas. Through case studies, discussions, and fieldwork, students will gain insights into the challenges and opportunities facing rural communities and develop skills in designing and implementing rural development initiatives.

Course Objectives:

1. Understand the concept of rural development and its significance.
2. Analyse the socio-economic, political, and environmental dynamics of rural communities.
3. Identify key challenges and opportunities for rural development.
4. Explore theories and models of rural development.
5. Evaluate different strategies and approaches to rural development.
6. Develop skills in project design, implementation, and evaluation.
7. Examine the role of stakeholders and partnerships in rural development efforts.

Module 1:

06 Hours

Introduction to Rural Development

- Definition and scope of rural development
- Importance of rural development for sustainable growth
- Historical perspectives and evolution of rural development approaches

Rural Socio-Economic Dynamics

- Demographic trends in rural areas
- Livelihoods and income sources
- Poverty, inequality, and social exclusion

Module 2:

06 Hours

Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods

- Role of agriculture in rural development
- Sustainable agriculture practices
- Diversification of rural economies

Infrastructure and Services

- Access to basic services (water, sanitation, healthcare, education)
- Rural infrastructure development (roads, electricity, communication)
- Challenges of rural service delivery

Module 3:

08 Hours

Natural Resource Management

- Sustainable land use and conservation practices
- Water resource management



- Forest and biodiversity conservation

Rural Governance and Institutions

- Decentralization and local governance structures
- Role of government agencies and NGOs in rural development
- Community-based organizations and participatory approaches

Module 4:

08 Hours

Entrepreneurship and Rural Enterprise Development

- Promoting small and medium enterprises in rural areas
- Access to finance and credit facilities
- Market linkages and value chain development

Rural Tourism and Cultural Heritage

- Role of tourism in rural development
- Cultural preservation and heritage tourism
- Community-based tourism initiatives

Sustainable Energy Solutions

- Renewable energy technologies for rural electrification
- Energy-efficient practices and technologies
- Access to clean cooking fuels

Textbook:

"Rural Development: Principles, Policies, and Management" by Katar Singh

References:

1. "Rural Development: Putting the Last First" by Robert Chambers
2. "Development Projects and Critical Theory of Development: Perspectives on Rural Change" by S. K. Goyal

