

Q.1 Write a Précis of the following passage and Suggest a Suitable title. (20+5=25)

Rural development lies at the heart of any meaningful development strategy. This is the only mechanism to carry the message to the majority of the people and to obtain their involvement in measures designed to improve productivity levels. Rural population exceeds 70 percent of the total population of the country, despite a rapid rate of urbanization. Average rural income is 34 percent less than per capita urban income. A large part of under employment is still concealed in various rural activities particularly in the less developed parts of the country. For centuries, the true magnitude of poverty has been concealed from view by pushing a large part of it to the rural areas. This set in motion a self-perpetuating mechanism. The more enterprising and talented in the rural society migrated to the cities in search of dreams which were seldom realized. Such migrants added to urban squalor. The relatively more prosperous in the rural society opted for urban residence for different reasons. The rural society itself has in this way systematically been denuded to its more enterprising elements, as rural areas developed the character of huge and sprawling slum. Development in the past has touched rural scene mainly via agricultural development programmes. These are essential and would have to be intensified. Much more important is a large scale rural water supply and village electrification as a part of the change in the physical environment and primary education and primary health care as the agents of social change. The task is to provide modern amenities as an aid for bringing into motion the internal dynamics of the rural society on the patch leading to increase in productivity and self-help, changing the overall surrounding, while preserving coherence, integrated structure and the rich cultural heritage of the rural society.

Rural Areas are Essential

No strategy is complete till rural areas of the country are considered. Rural population is more than half of the country's total population; however, it still contributes less to the economy of ^{the} country than the urban population. The unemployment and poverty in rural areas is not given any attention. People of these areas move to cities for accomplishment of their dreams. They often do not get what they want, and just add up to ^{the} urban population. The rural areas witnessed great development in the past due to agricultural schemes. These programmes accelerated the flow of electricity and water supply to villages; education and health-care also got better. These schemes brought a big change. Hence, these people should be provided much of these facilities. Their betterment will ~~increase~~ ~~country's~~ ~~prestige~~ contribute to country's betterment.

(132 words)