

Rural Development: A Necessity

Real progress and productivity are possible only if the development of rural areas - which house considerably larger populations as compared to urban centres - is taken into account. Rural areas paint the real picture of unemployment and poverty in the country. The poor are compelled to live in the rural peripheries while the rich occupy the urban centres creating a self-sustaining contrast between the two. In addition to traditionally provided agricultural development, rural developmental strategies must focus on water, electricity, health and education provision to change the ^{bring} physical and social change. The goal is to create a sustainable, prosperous and culturally rich rural society.

(101 words)

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.

Precis:

Rural development means the uplift of village population that usually suffers from privation and deprivation of physical and social infrastructure. The migration of dejected but talented villagers to cities did not improve their lot, rather it resulted in urban overload. The prosperous villagers carved their successful way in the urban set-up but this trend reduced their villages to sprawling slums. The rural areas must be provided with all modern amenities which lead to increase in production, rise in the standard of living and overall prosperity of the country.