

Add-On Course
On
Rural Development
Offered by Department of Economics,
Pramathesh Barua College, Gauripur



Course Name: Rural Development

Inaugural Session: 2025-26

Duration: 30 hours (can be spread over 10-12 weeks)

Mode: Blended Mode (Online and Offline) and Fieldwork/Project work.

Target Students: Any odd Semester under graduate student of any stream and discipline of P. B. College, Gauripur.

Medium of instruction: Both English and Assamese

Course Objectives:

- Understand the socio-economic dynamics of rural India,
- Explore policies, programs, and institutions driving rural development,
- Develop practical skills for planning and implementing rural initiatives and
- Encourage critical thinking around sustainability, equity, and innovation in rural contexts.

Course Contents

Unit 1: Introduction to Rural Development

- **Definition, scope, and significance:** Evolution of the term 'rural development. 'Why is it crucial, especially in developing countries like India?
- **Key challenges and opportunities:** Poverty, unemployment, inequality and lack of infrastructure.

Unit 2: Rural Economy & Livelihoods

- **Agriculture and allied sectors:** Role of agriculture in the rural economy, challenges of small and marginal farmers, and modern agricultural practices.
- **Non-farm employment and rural entrepreneurship:** Importance of rural non-farm activities, cottage and small-scale industries.
- **Role of SHGs, Cooperatives, and microfinance:** Their role in promoting entrepreneurship and financial inclusion.
- **Livelihood Diversification:** Strategies for creating sustainable livelihoods in rural areas.

Unit 3: Governance & Institutions

- **Panchayati Raj and decentralization:** Evolution, structure, functions and challenges of local self-governance.
- **Role of NGOs and Civil Society:** Non-governmental organizations in rural development and community mobilization.

- **Empowerment of Women:** Gender issues and the role of women in rural development.
- **Government schemes:** MGNREGA, PMGSY, PM-KISHAN, PMAY etc.

Unit 4: Infrastructure & Sustainable Rural Development

- **Rural health, education, and sanitation:** Status of education in rural areas, challenges of access and quality. Primary healthcare services, sanitation, and nutrition.
- **Connectivity:** roads, electricity, digital inclusion
- **Environmental Issues:** Impact of climate change and deforestation on rural areas.
- **Sustainable Agriculture:** Promoting organic farming and eco-friendly practices.
- **Case studies on successful sustainable models**

Unit 5: Field Engagement & Project Work

- Field visits to rural communities/villages
- Interaction with local stakeholders
- Preparation of mini-project and presentation.

Reference:

1. Singh, Katar. : Rural Development – Principles, Policies and Management, Sage Publications. New Delhi.
2. Reddy, Venkata. K. : Agriculture and Rural Development, Himalaya Publishing House.
3. Mukundan, N. : Rural Development and Poverty Eradication in India, New Century, New Delhi.

Teaching Plan:

- **Introduction to Rural Development: 3 Sessions = 3 Hours**
Definition, scope, and significance and :
Key challenges and opportunities
- **Rural Economy & Livelihoods : 8 Sessions = 8 Hours**
Agriculture and allied sectors,
Non-farm employment and rural entrepreneurship and
Role of SHGs, Cooperatives, and microfinance,
Livelihood Diversification.
- **Governance & Institutions : 8 Sessions = 8 Hours**
Panchayati Raj and decentralization,
Role of NGOs and Civil Society,
Empowerment of Women and
Government schemes.
- **Infrastructure & Sustainable Rural Development : 9 Sessions = 9 Hours**
Rural health, education, and sanitation,
Connectivity,

Environmental Issues,
Sustainable Agriculture and
Case studies on successful sustainable models.

- **Field Engagement & Project Work** : 2 Sessions = 2 Hours
Project preparation

After completion of all the sessions, students are to undergo a project work/ Field Work under the guidance of faculty members, the department of Economics and after that students are expected to prepare a report on that work and submit the same to the department.

Course Fees: No course fee from the students

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Analyse rural development issues with a multidisciplinary lens.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of policies and programs.
- Propose innovative and sustainable solutions for rural challenges.
- Engage meaningfully with rural communities through participatory methods.

Assessment & Certification

Course will have total 50 marks. These are categorised into the following heads-

- Attendance: 4 Marks
- Assignments: 6 Marks
- Final Assessment: 20 Marks MCQ Test
- Fieldwork/Project Work and Presentation: 20 Marks
- **Certificate awarded upon successful completion of the course.**

Counter sign by


Principal
P B College, Gauripur
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