

**Multidisciplinary Course (MDC)**

**COURSE TITLE: RURAL STUDIES**

**Credit: 03**

**Marks: 75**

**(End Semester Examination: 60 Marks, Continuing Evaluation: 10 Marks, Attendance: 05 Marks; Total: 50+10+10+5=75 Marks)**

**Objective of the Course:**

1. To know comprehensive understanding of rural development, rural society, and economy;
2. To define rural areas, identify their key characteristics, and analyze the challenges and opportunities for rural development;
3. To understand the complex rural issues, such as poverty, unemployment, and rural-urban differences;
4. To gain knowledge on the role of different rural institutions in rural development;
5. To develop knowledge and skills on rural entrepreneurship.

**Outcomes of the Course:**

1. Students will be able to analyze the concept, nature, and indicators of rural development, as well as identify the challenges and opportunities for uplifting rural communities;
2. Students will enhance their analytical and critical thinking skills;
3. Students will be capable of evaluating the structural problems of rural society, identifying factors contributing to poverty and unemployment, and assessing the impact of various programs and policies;
4. Students will gain knowledge about rural entrepreneurship, skill development opportunities, and the role of various institutions in rural governance.

**COURSE CONTENT**

**Unit-I Introduction of Rural Studies**

- a) Importance and scope of rural studies;
- b) Defining rural areas and its characteristics;
- c) Concept, nature and indicators of rural development;
- d) Challenges and opportunities for rural development;
- e) Rural development programme: MGNREGS, PMAY, DAY-NRLM and ICDS.

**Unit -II Rural Society and Economy of India**

- a) Concept nature structure and problems of rural society;
- b) Rural urban differences;
- c) Poverty and unemployment in rural areas;
- d) Role of agriculture non-agricultural sector in rural economy;
- e) Demographic composition and migration of rural areas.

**Unit-III Rural Governance and Institutions**

- a) Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRI): evaluation, structure, functions and role;
- b) E-governance initiatives;
- c) NABARD, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Co-operative Societies;

- d) Microfinance Institutions(MFI) and SHGs;
- e) Role of NGOs in rural development.

**Unit-V Rural Entrepreneurship**

- a) Concept, types, scope and importance of rural entrepreneurship;
- b) Opportunities and challenges of entrepreneurship in rural areas;
- c) Skill development and entrepreneurship;
- d) Central and State Government initiatives for the promotion of rural entrepreneurship;
- e) Start-up India.

**Selected Readings:**

1. Singh, Katar, and Shisodia, Anil (2022), Rural Development: Principles, Policies and Management. 3rd ed. New Delhi: SAGE Publications India Pvt. Ltd
2. G. Sreedhar and D. Rajasekhar (2014). Rural Development in India: Strategies and Processes. Concept Publishing House New Delhi.