

## 02. SOCIOLOGY AND RURAL SOCIOLOGY

### **Sociology**

Literally sociology means the study of the processes of companionship and may be defined as the study on the basis of social membership. No definition could entirely be satisfactory because of the diversity of perspective which is characteristic of the modern discipline. However, the definition for sociology according to various authors is given below for better and comprehensive understanding.

1. Sociology is the study of human beings in their group relations. As such it studies the interaction within and between groups of people - Chitamber.
2. Sociology in its broadest sense may be said to be the study of interactions arising from the association of living beings - Gillin and Gillin.
3. Sociology is the science which attempts the interpretive understanding of social man - Max Weber.

Sociology seeks to discover the principles of cohesion and order within the social structure, the ways in which it roots and grows within an environment, the moving equilibrium of changing structure and changing environment, the main trends of the incessant change, the forces which determine its directions as any time, the harmonies and conflicts, the adjustments and mal adjustments within the structure as they are revealed in the light of human desires and thus the practical application of means to ends in the creative activities of social man.

### **Rural Sociology**

Rural Sociology is the science of rural society. The laws of the structure and development of rural society in general can aid us in discovering the special laws governing a particular society.

Rural sociology is the study of sociological life in rural setting to discover their conditions and tendencies and to formulate principles of progress. - A.R. Desai

Rural Sociology involves the study of human relationships in rural situations.

### **Scope of Rural Sociology**

Each village in India lived almost an independent self sufficient social and economic existence. That was the unique agrarian socio-economic structure of India. This self sufficiency was disrupted in British period by foreign rulers. In social life the joint family systems, the caste, the village panchayat were gradually replaced by British laws (e.g) revenue, judicial, executive etc., Introduction of modern communication and transport accelerated the above process. Every aspect of village life, social, economic, political and

cultural experienced a steady transformation. Thus changes made an agrarian economy into an acute crisis. The rural sociology studies the various problems concerning the rural society and rural life. The problems that fall within the scope of the study of the rural sociology are:

- i. Rural social life: Rural Sociology as the name itself indicates is the scientific study of the rural social life. It studies the rural society of rural life in all its aspects. In fact this basic thing is the subject matter or scope of rural sociology.
- ii. Rural social organizations: While studying the rural society, rural sociology makes a study of all the problems of various rural social organization such as Red Cross Society, Co-operative movement etc.
- iii. Rural social institutions: No study of rural sociology shall be complete unless the rural social institutions like family, neighbourhood, marriage, caste, religion, economic and educational institutions are studied.
- iv. Rural Social process: In rural society, different process like co-operation, competition etc, will go on. The study of rural society shall not be complete unless all these social processes are studied thoroughly and properly in a scientific manner.
- v. Social control and social change in rural social setup: While studying the rural environment and complexities of the rural social set up, the factors of social control and social change have to be studied properly. They can be studied under rural sociology. The urban life influences the rural life. This in fact is very much responsible for social change. Factors of social control and social change form part of the scope of the study of rural sociology.
- vi. Rural planning and reconstruction: The rural society needs reconstruction. It has to be done in a planned manner. Proper guidance is provided by the scientific study of the rural sociology is to provide guidance to the institutions that are engaged in the task of rural reconstructions and planning of rural society. Therefore the rural planning and reconstructions form a subject matter of the study of rural sociology.
- vii. Religion and culture in rural society: In rural society religion plays an important role. Cultural difference in rural society is typical. Rural sociology studies all the aspects of religion and culture in the rural social setup.
- viii. Rural problems and rural community: Rural problems have to be viewed not from an isolated angle but from a comprehensive point of view. Problems of the rural community are a part of the problems of the society as a whole and they have to be viewed in this very context.

- ix. Difference between rural and urban society: The study of rural society shall not be complete unless the difference that exists between rural society and the urban society is studied in a proper and scientific manner.

Thus rural sociology studies the village society, so its scope is very wide.

Government agencies, scientists, welfare organizations etc. are now focusing their attention on the development of rural society. Thus, it becomes necessary for any development worker, scientist, administrator and planner to study the rural societies.

Further, countries which has agriculture as main occupation must have the well established rural sociology faculties. India has been described as a country of villages. In India, about 75 per cent of the population lives in about six million villages. After independence both the central and state governments are launching many rural development programmes and there is wider scope for rural sociology in India.

### **Importance of Rural Sociology**

For India rural sociology is more important than any other country. India is basically a country of villages. After independence the process of reconstruction of the country was started and therefore, the importance of rural sociology was recognised. If India is to achieve progress, the villages have to be improved and education has to be spread in these villages. That is why in community development programme every attempt is being made to improve the villages of this country. This objective can be achieved only when the administrators and the planners have correct knowledge of the rural life and that knowledge can be provided only by rural sociology. That was the reason why it acquired greater importance in India after independence.

### **Importance of Rural Sociology in Extension Education**

The inter relationship between rural sociology and extension as given below will indicate the importance of rural sociology in extension education.

S.No	Rural Sociology	Extension
1.	It is the scientific study of laws of the structure and development of rural society.	It is informal education for rural people with a view to develop rural society on desirable lines.
2.	It studies the attitude and behaviour of rural people	It seeks to modify or change the attitude and behaviour of village people.
3.	It studies the needs and interests of rural society	It helps rural people to discover their needs and problems, and builds educational programmes based on these needs and wants

4.	It analyses rural social relationship or groups or organizers and leaders in rural area.	It utilizes the organizers and leaders to achieve the objectives of rural development.
5.	It studies social situation and assembles social facts of rural society	It makes use of such social data as a basis for building up extension programmes for rural people.
6.	It investigates the social, cultural, political and religious problems of rural society	It also studies these problems with reference to their impact on extension work in village.

From the above inter-relationship between the rural sociology and extension education, one could understand that rural sociology will help the extension worker to make a correct diagnosis of the ills of the rural society and evolve a correct prescription or programme to overcome these ills. Therefore, rural sociology is important in extension education and in turn to any rural development worker.