



# **SYM 101**

# **Sociological**

# **Concepts**

**UNIT : 03**

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**TOPIC : RURAL**

**COMMUNITY PART-I**



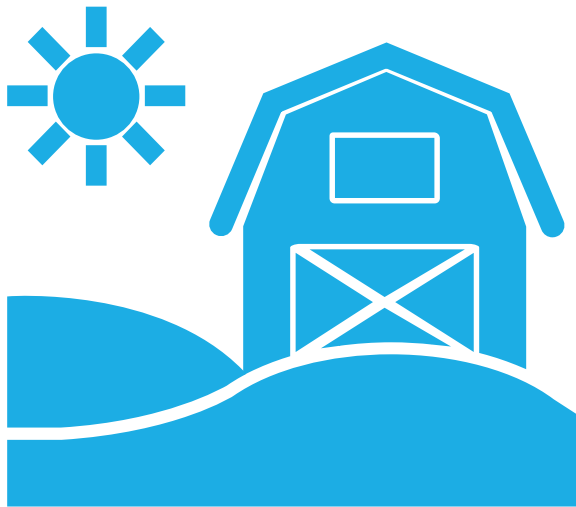
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# Rural Community

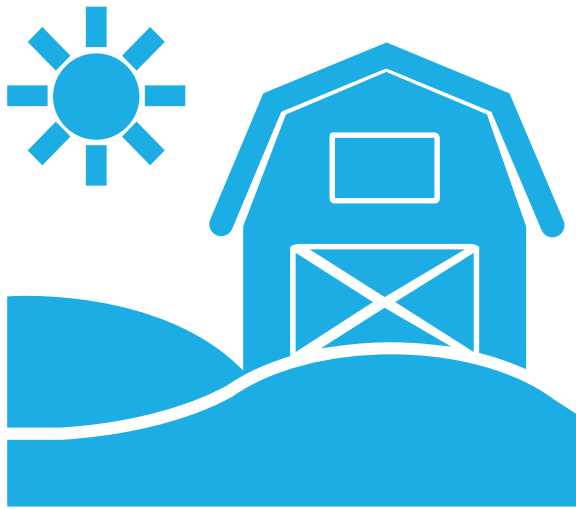
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A rural community is marked primarily by a small, sparsely settled, relatively homogeneous population that engages primarily in agriculture (although there are exceptions to this rule, especially in industrial societies). **The traditional rural community tended to be a folk society. Robert Redfield (1947) describes the folk society as a society, which is small, isolated, non-literate and homogenous with a strong sense of group solidarity . . . .** Behavior is traditional, spontaneous, uncritical and personal; there is no legislation or habit of experiment and reflection for intellectual ends.

# Rural Community

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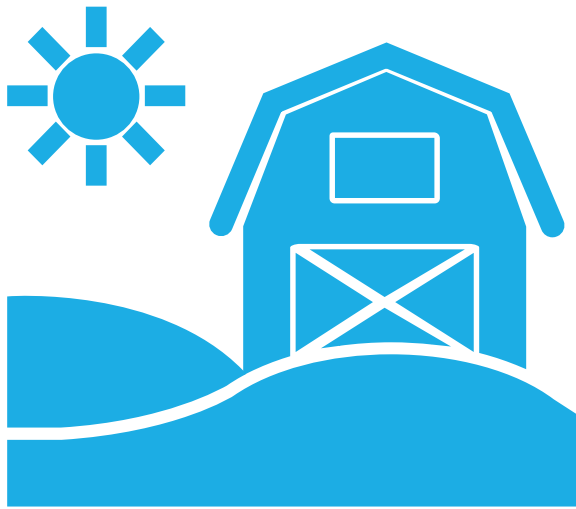


Kinship, its relationships and institutions, are the type of categories of experience and the familiar group is the unit of action.

**The sacred prevails over the secular;** the economy is one of status rather than of the market. Today, however, traditional rural community is **losing its folk society character** and flavors as described by Robert Redfield.

# Rural Community

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Rural communities form the backbone of India- adhering to the adage that India lives in its villages. Village life is much talked about in terms of its serenity, idyllic surrounding, free from conflict and having a beautiful relationship with nature. **The geographical and cultural variability** brings with it social arrangements that are adaptive to the specific context- hence defy the notion of uniformity in village communities.





# Rural Community

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Rural communities reside in rural areas. Rural areas as per census consider the village as the basic area of habitation. **A village is usually considered as the smallest area of habitation.** The village generally follows the limits of a revenue village that is recognized by the local administration. It may have one or more hamlets. The entire revenue village is one unit.

The other meaning relates to the **nature of livelihoods**. Rural thus refers livelihoods that are based on **agriculture and something to do with nature**. It would also refer to the scale and nature of technology used in rural areas. Thus, in rural areas the **technology followed is simple** with production levels meeting one's family's needs and some surplus that could be sold in the markets nearby.

# Rural Community

From **sociological point of view**, the term '**rural society**' implies the following:

- In comparison with the urban society, it is a **small society**, meaning thereby that it has a **small population and extends over a shorter physical area**. Various institutions (such as police stations, hospitals, schools, post-offices, clubs, etc.) may or may not be there, and if existent, they are not available in plenty.
- **Density of the rural population is also low**, and it **may be clustered according to the criteria of social status**. In other words, people occupying the same status may share the same neighborhood, and may observe considerable social, and sometimes physical, distance from others, especially those lower in hierarchy.



A photograph of a tractor plowing a field at sunset. The tractor is dark and silhouetted against the bright orange and yellow sky. The field is a mix of green and brown, showing the tracks of the tractor. The overall mood is peaceful and rural.

# Rural Community

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- A sizable number of rural people are **engaged in agriculture**, which is the mainstay of their lives. In addition, a **rural society has several other groups**, engaged in various other occupations of arts and crafts, usually known as artisans and craftsmen, who regularly supply their services to agriculturalists in exchange for grains and cereals.
- Rural society has some **full-time and a large number of part-time specialists**. Craftsmen and artisans also indulge in agricultural pursuits, especially during the monsoon and the agricultural produce of such specialists and small agriculturalists is mainly for domestic consumption.





# Rural Community

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- Rural society is regarded as the **repository of traditional mores and folkways**. It preserves the traditional culture, and many of its values and virtues are carried forward to urban areas, of which they become a part after their refinement.



# Factors in the growth of Rural Community

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- Topographical Factors
- Economic Factors
- Social Factors

# Topographical Factors

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**Land**

**Water**

**Climate**

# Economic Factors

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**CONDITION OF  
AGRICULTURE**



**THE ECONOMY**



**COTTAGE  
INDUSTRIES**



## Social Factors

Peace

Security

Cooperation

Intelligence and  
Labour

# Ecological Elements in the Rural Community

Population

Occupation

Distance from Town

Social Organization

Geographical Location



# Idea of Indian Rural Community

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- Village occupies an important place in the social and cultural landscape of contemporary India.
- Apart from it being an important **demographic** and **structural reality** characterizing contemporary India, Village has also been an important **ideological category**.
- As **Andre Beteille** write, “ The village was not merely a place where people lived; it had a design in which were reflected the **basic values of Indian Civilization**.”

# Historical Background and Context

**Metcalfe**, in his celebrated remark in his **Minute on Indian Education (1835)** stated that the “ Indian village communities were **little republics**, having nearly everything they wanted with themselves, and almost independent of foreign relations. They seemed to last where nothing else lasted. Dynasty after dynasty tumbled down; revolution succeeded revolution, but the village community remained the same.”

The stereotypical image of the Indian Village as self-sufficient community was challenged by many.





# Historical Background and Context


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**Beteille** argued at least as far back in time as living memory went, there was no reason to believe that the village was fully self sufficient in the economic sphere.


Similarly, **Srinivas** too contested the colonial notion of Indian Village being a completely self-sufficient republic. The village, he argued, **was always a part of wider entity.**

## Historical Background and Context

Srinivas argues that individuals had a sense of identification with their village and an insult to one's village had to be avenged like an insult to oneself, one's wife or one's family.



Dube argues that the village settlement, as unit of social organization, represented a kind of solidarity which was different from that of the kin, the caste, and the class.



**Jajmani System:** Traditional system of reciprocal exchange and service between different castes. Essentially patron-client relationship where so-called upper caste, known as 'Jajmans' provide services and security to so-called lower castes, called 'kamins', in exchange for goods and services, primarily in kind.

# Historical Background and Context

**F.G Bailey-** Provided radical critique of “unity-reciprocity” thesis. Those who found caste system to their taste have exaggerated the harmony with which the system works.

**Gandhi-** celebrated the simplicity and authenticity of village life, an image largely a colonial representation of Indian Village.

## Views of Different Social Scientists

- **Dipankar Gupta** says, “The village is shrinking as a sociological reality”, though it still exists as space. One can see level of hopeless disenchantment.
- **BR Ambedkar**- Village is a cesspool of degradation, corruption and worse.
- **SC Dube**- Economic Integration in modern times.
- **Mckim Marriott**- “Brahmin priests, barbers, potters, carpenters, washermen, and sweepers who live in Kishangarhi go out to serve hereditary patrons in some fifteen other villages and derive about ½ of their income from those outside patron.”
- **Srinivas**- World War II brought increased cash for dominant landowning Okkaliga Caste in Rampura(Karnataka).





# Views of Different Social Scientists

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- **MSA Rao-** Identified **three types of urban impact** on rural community, when he conducted study on Yadavpur, a village situated on the fringe of Delhi:
  - Sizable number of people have taken employment in Indian cities
  - Land totally or partially acquired for urban development, influx of immigrant workers----stimulated the demand for houses and market inside village
  - As city expands, it sucks in villages lying on the outskirts.



# Thankyou

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