

MA Rural Development 1st semester

RD 511: Rural Development Concepts and Dimensions

Credit hours 3

Aim and Objective

The objective of this course is to familiarize students with the well-known concepts and dimensions of rural development. It aims at enabling students to gain in-depth knowledge and understanding relating to the various important aspects of rural development, Course Outline

Unit 1: Concepts and Definitions

Concepts of rural area and rural development; definition and scope of rural development, causes of rural backwardness; need for rural development; historical evolution of the concept of rural development in Nepal's context; rural reconstruction; community development, sectoral development; area development; target group development; poverty alleviation; integrated rural development; holistic development; sustainable development; participatory development.

Unit 2: Population and Poverty

Population growth trend in Nepal; analysis of trends and changes in the composition of rural population and rural workforce; problems of unemployment and underemployment in rural areas; conditions and problems of rural labour; living standard of rural people, concept of poverty; poverty indicators; measurement of rural poverty-poverty line, integrated rural poverty; poverty reduction; millennium development goals (MDGs).

Unit 3: Education and Health in Rural Areas

Literacy rates; educational institutions; quantitative and qualitative aspects of formal, informal and non-formal education; rural health; structure and accessibility of health services in rural areas; child health; nutrition; contagious diseases and medical care; issues in community health; human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS); national health policy of Nepal.

Unit 4: Rural Housing

Housing in rural areas: problems and prospects; rural housing schemes; low-cost housing appropriate technologies in rural housing; problems and prospects of rural water supply and sanitation; programmes for drinking water and sanitation.

References:

Desai, V., A Study of Rural Economy.

Jain, S.C., Rural Development.

Das, K.B., Rural Development through Decentralization.

Khanna, B.S., Rural Development in South Asia: Policies, Programmes and Organizations. Chambers, R., Rural Development: Putting the Last First.

Desai, A.R., Introduction to Rural Sociology.

RD 512: Development Theories and Planning

Credit hours: 3

Aim and Objective

The objective of the course is to acquaint students with the theories of development and planning in the context of rural development so that they build their strong foundation to study, understand and use rural development related matters well.

Course Outline

Unit 1: Growth and Development

Distinctions between growth and development and between growth and equity; features, problems and prospects of developing economies with reference to countries in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) region.

Unit 2: Development Theories

Critical analysis of development theories; Schultz's theory of transformation of traditional agriculture; balanced versus unbalanced growth; theory of growth with unlimited supply of labor; concept of modernization (Smelser and Redfield); dependency theory (Baran and Frank); new development theories (rural approaches); people-centered development - human development approach, new growth approach; economic determinants of development in rural perspectives (with special reference to Nepal).

Unit 3: Development Planning

Concept and characteristics of planning; planning in capitalist, socialist and mixed economies; types of Planning - planning by direction and planning by inducement, long-run and short-run planning, regional planning, local development planning; growth pole and growth center approaches in planning; concept of capital-output ratio; choice of techniques in planning; overview of planning in SAARC countries in the special context of Nepal.

Unit 4: Rural Project Development and Management

Project planning; project cycle; project screening; implementation, monitoring and evaluation of rural development projects.

References:

Blackely, E. J. and K.B. Ted, 2003, Planning Local Economic Development: Theory and Practice, Vistar Publication, New Delhi.

Chambers, R., 1997, Whose Reality Counts, ITDG Publishers, London.

Csaki, C., 2003, Reach in the Rural Poor: A Renewed Strategy for Rural Development, World Bank, Washington, D.C.

Dale, R., 2004, Development Planning, Zed Books, London.

Devi, L (ed.), 1997, Strategic Planning for Rural Development, Anmol Publications, New Delhi. Haq, M.U., 1976, The Poverty Curtain: Choices for the Third World, Columbia Press, New York.

Lekhi, R.K., 2008, Economic Development and Planning, Kalyani Publisher, New Delhi. Mathema, K.R.B., 2008, Economics of Development, New Hira Books, Kirtipur. Nepal, G, 2006, Development Planning in the Era of Globalization. Himalayan Book Store, Kathmandu.

Pandel, M.M., 1986, Drive against Poverty, Vikas Publishing House, New Delhi. Seddon, D., 1998, Nepal: A State of Poverty, Vikas Publishing House, New Delhi. Stern, N., 2002, A Strategy for Development, World Bank, Washington, D.C. Todaro, M. P., and S.C. Smith, 2003, Economic Development, Pearson Education, New Delhi. UNDIO, Guide to Practical Project Appraisal: Benefit Cost Analysis in Developing Countries, Oxford & IBH Publishing Company, New Delhi.

UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), various publications. UNDP, 2004, Nepal Human Development Report, UNDP, Kathmandu. World Bank, World Development Report, various years and issues.

RD 513: Economics for Rural Development

Credit hours: 3

Aim and Objective

This course intends to provide students with the fundamental knowledge on economics that is essential for understanding matters relating to rural development. The aim is to enable students to deal with rural development issues in economic perspectives.

Course Outline

Unit 1: Introduction to Economics

Demand - law of demand, demand curve; supply - law of supply, supply curve; price determination; demand - supply intersection; welfare economics - concept, meaning; welfare Economics and rural development interrelation; scope of rural economics; production theory - production function; cost minimization; least cost production; changes in costs and Outputs; input-output relationship; output-output relationship; input-input relationship; Cobb-Douglas production function; Linear programming; underlying principles; assumptions; Linear programming technique.

Unit 2: Law of Variable Proportions

Concept, meaning, assumptions, model of variable proportions; applicability of the model in agriculture; rural areas and rural livelihoods; elements of farm management - steps in farm planning, resource assessment, target fixation; strategies in farm planning; risk and uncertainty in agriculture - concept, meaning, natural risks and uncertainties, manmade risks and uncertainties, impact of risk and uncertainty in dry land agriculture; poverty and measures to mitigate the problem; agricultural practices; crop and cattle insurance; minimum support prices.

Unit 3: Capital Formation

Meaning, process, conditions, vicious and virtuous cycles; problems in capital formation in rural areas; solutions for enhancing; capital formation in rural areas; capital formation in agri- culture and rural development; difference between industrial capital and rural capital; rural community capital and household capital; models of agricultural and economic development- Rostow: traditional society, pre-conditions to takeoff, the take-off, the drive to maturity and the age of high mass consumption, and critique; Mellor: traditional agriculture, technologically dynamic agriculture (low capital formation); technologically dynamic agriculture (high capital formation), critique.

Unit 4: Food Security

Concept, dimensions (production, distribution and purchasing power); food subsidies, input subsidies, marketing subsidies, distribution subsidies, agricultural subsidies, input subsidies; new economic policies (liberalization, privatization and globalization) - meaning, and their Impacts on agriculture and rural development.

References:

Jhingan, The Economics of Development and Planning.

Samuelson, Economics

Metcalf, D., The Economics of Agriculture.

Singh, I.J., Elements of Farm Management Economics.

Sharma, A.V. and V.K. Sharma, Elements of Farm Management.

NPC, Development Plans, National Planning Commission (NPC), Kathmandu, various periods.

Mellor, J.W., The Economics of Agriculture.

Sen, A.K., Resources, Values and Development.

RD 514: Practical Workshop and Field-based Study cum Seminar I,

Credit hours: 3

Aim and Objective

This course intends to impart students with practical knowledge, exposure and experience relating to various dimensions of the subject of rural development. The aim is to enhance the students' analytical and presentation skills, knowledge base and confidence level essential to work effectively in their academic and professional life.

Course Conduct Pattern

Time Allocation and Schedule

This course will occupy a total of four hours every working week for its classroom discussion part. Depending upon the availability of time and suitability, the four-hour period time could be used either in a single day or divided in four separate sessions of one hour on any four days of the working week.

Discourse, Deliberations and Output

Upon completion of a few hours of introductory sessions, the students will be asked to search rural development related articles from local, national, and international newspapers, journals, magazines, and materials/models/illustrations from books, make a copy of each of such material and make their reviews with interpretation of the contents one material a week. Each student will submit to the instructor one such output each week, two days prior to the forthcoming classroom discussion / seminar. The submitted materials must be the respective students' individual work not tallying with the ones submitted by any other student in the class. In case of collision the concerned students will be asked to submit another work confirming independent work.

The students will put their respective materials in presentation formats - preferably power-point for presentations before the class. Each presentation will entail a brief question-answer/discussion. All materials submitted will be compiled and made available as references for the students and others interested in the subject matter.

Short Visits and Guest Lectures

One or two brief field visits could also be arranged now and then in lieu of the respective day's classroom presentation session provided there are relevant cases to be observed in proximate locations for the students and instructor to make comfortable and amicable visit. Such visits would require students to make their individual notes for presentation and submission in the following classroom discussion session. The instructor could also decide to and arrange one or two guest lecture sessions in lieu of regular sessions depending upon the availability of guest lecturers to make relevant and interesting presentations.

Field-based Study

Towards the end of the semester in which this course is offered, the students will make a study visit to one or just a few locations in proximity to each other in Surkhet district of the Mid-western Development Region (MWDR) of Nepal. They will make observation of the area(s) and the various rural environments and situations around and prepare notes for presentation in written and report (presentation) format individually. They will also take regulated but random interviews of concerned local people and have focus group discussions when possible. Prudent picture- and video-takings and uses could be greatly supplemental in this regard.

Assessment/Evaluation

The instructor in charge will allocate appropriate percentage of marks to each of the major activities required and record performance scores for individual student, thus coming up with the final scores based on the overall evaluation of each of the students.

Comp 515: Computer Applications

Credit hours: 3

Nature of course: Theory + Practical

Semester: I

Aim and Objective

The course intends to provide students with the basic knowledge and skill required to make efficient use of computer programs in more effectively analyzing and presenting academic and professional tasks, thus enabling them to become successful in their studies and jobs.

Course Outline

UNIT-1: BASIC ON COMPUTER[4 Hours]

Introduction, History of computer in Nepal, Parts of computer, Meaning/Functions of hardware and software, Application areas of computer, Characteristics of computer, Block diagram of computer, Concept of Memory

UNIT-2: COMPUTER CRIME AND SAFETY MEASURE[7 Hours]

Introduction, Hacking, Software piracy, Anti piracy, Computer ethics for Computer users, Network Security: Client/Server security and protection methods, Data and Message security, Cyber Law, Computer viruses, Anti-viruses

UNIT-3: INFORMATION SYSTEM CONCEPT [10 Hours]

Data and Information, Information system, Types of Information system, Characteristics of Information, Information system vs. Information Technology, IT policy on Nepal-2057 B.S.

UNIT-4: OPERATING SYSTEM [7 Hours]

Overview of Operating System, Functionalities and Characteristics of Operating System, Types of Operating System, Disk Operating System (DOS), DOS commands, Window Operating System and its features.

UNIT-5: DTABASE SYSTEM [7 Hours]

Introduction, Use of database, Data Models, E-R diagrams, Languages of Database, Database Administrator

UNIT-6: COMPUTER APPLICATION & USE FOR STATISTICAL TECHNIQU [10 Hours]

Use of Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point and simple statistical packages such as the Statistical Package for Social Sciences(SPSS)

Text/Reference books:

Peter Norton, Introduction to Computers

B.Ram, Computer Fundamentals

C.J. DATE, Introduction to Database System

Andrew s. Tanenbaum, Modern Operating System

RD 516: Rural-Urban Interrelation

Credit hours: 3

Aim and Objective

The objective of the course is to provide students with the knowledge concerning contemporary issues on rural-urban relation and important models, techniques, problems, prospects, policies and strategies pertaining to rural-urban integration in rural development context. Its aim is to raise the students' ability to understand and make use of the rural-urban linkages in rural development efforts.

Course Contents

Unit 1: Basic Concepts and Issues in Rural-Urban Relation

Definitions and meaning of urban and rural settings; inter-linkages between urban and rural (hinterland) areas in rural development process; settlement types (e.g. dispersed and agglomerated) and their implications for planning and development; issues in urban-rural linkage; distinction, dichotomy, continuum and hierarchy between rural and urban areas.

Unit 2: Changing Rural - Urban Relationship

Theories of evolution of early towns; historical expose of changing relationship of town and country of the world; change and development in rural-urban relation in Nepal.

Unit 3: Rural-Urban Interrelation Typology

Types of rural-urban linkages; constraints in rural-urban linkages in developing countries.

Unit 4: Rural-Urban Interrelation Theoretical Models

Central place theory (Christaller and Losch); Gateway model; urban land use model (Von Thunen); core- periphery linkage model; spatial development models (growth pole/center, agropolitan model, UFRD model, service center approach, market center approach); rural- urban migration theory (Todaro's model).

Unit 5: Techniques/Measures of Rural-Urban Interrelation

Urban center measure-identification of urban/growth centers and their spatial distribution - criteria of identification; density and distribution measures and centrality measures (Scalogram, infrastructure index, functional measures, weighted indices and economic base); hinterland measure - expected (natural, administrative and graphic-Thiessen polygon and breaking point theory), and actual - origin and destination survey and mapping; rural-urban linkage measures spatial interaction, flow model, facility location measures, relative measures of service accessibility.

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Unit 6: Rural-Urban Transfer Mechanisms

Rural- urban transformation spatial model; spatial diffusion of innovation model (Hagerstrand); microeconomic enterprises; informal sector and local resource use. Unit 7: Rural-Urban Integration Approach to Rural Development

Integrated rural-urban linkage planning; problems and prospects analysis; public-private partnership; public institutions and strategies to rural-urban integrated development.

[NB: Field-based study will be scheduled and conducted as part of the practical courses in the programme.]

References:

Baker, J. (ed), 1990, Small Town Africa: Studies in Rural Urban Interaction, The Scandi- navian Institute of African Studies, Uppasala.

Burghardt, A. F., 1971, "Hypothesis about Gateway Cities," Annals of the Association of American Geographers, Vol. 61.

Corroll, T. et al., 1984, "Exploration of Rural-Urban Linkage and Market Centers in High- land Ecuador." Regional Development Dialogue (RDD), Vol. 5, No. 1.