

## (2) RURAL SOCIETY.

- Is defined as the form of association maintained between the people and their institutions in a local area in which they live on dispersed farmsteads and in a village, which usually forms the centre of their activities”.
- It is an agricultural society.
- Interactions are simple, informal and intimate.
- There is strong hold of social institutions.
- The use of technology is scarce and primary health care facilities are lacking in the rural societies.

# Importance

- Understand humans and own social nature
- Understand human affections and actions
- Studies man and its institutions
- Rural behaviour
- Eliminates tragedies and emotions
- Diagnose rural and social evils
- Emphasis growth and change of society
- Appraises happenings of society
- Interprets the role in community development

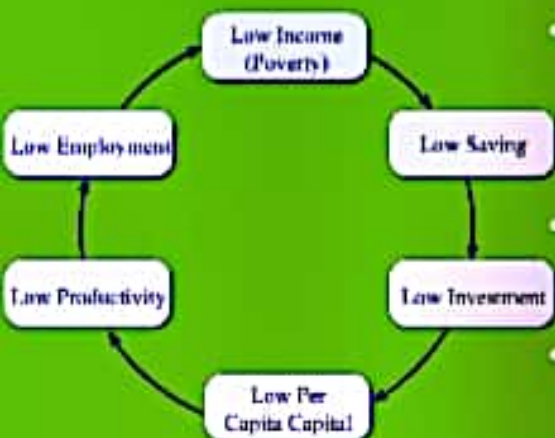
# Characteristics of rural society

- Village is the unit
- Caste is the dominant institution
- People lives traditionally
- Caste occupation dominates
- Cooperative function of several caste exists
- Village is a self sufficient economic unit
- Governed by religious/local traditions
- Leisurely attitude towards life
- Low standard of living
- Its character and structure depends on caste religion and linguistic composition

**The Planning Commission of India**

**“Community development is an attempt to bring about a social and economic transformation of village life through the efforts of the people themselves.”**

## Background



- Over 65% of the population living in rural areas are primarily dependent on agriculture for their livelihood
- about 11.25% of the rural families are landless and among the land holders, over 69.35% own less than 1 ha (marginal farmers) and 21.25% own between 1 and 2 ha (small farmers)
- only 28% area is under irrigation and the rest is dependent on rains, where hardly one crop can be grown in a year
- Apart from inadequate earning for livelihood, the rural people also suffer from poor health arising from starvation, lack of immunization, hygiene and sanitation
- 25% villages do not have year-round supply of drinking water and about 75% of the potable water sources are polluted
- the rural poor have to depend on money lenders, to meet their emergencies and fall into the debt trap
- They often try to forget their problems by consuming alcohol
- While some migrate to cities, others live in chronic poverty. They lose confidence in others as well in their ability to live a decent life
- This is a vicious cycle.



### **Short-Term Objectives**

1. To increase agricultural production both quantitatively and qualitatively
2. To solve the problem of rural unemployment
3. To develop the means of transport and communication in the villages through repairing old roads and constructing new pukka roads
4. To bring about development in the sphere of primary education, public health and recreation
5. To assist the villagers to build good and cheap houses with the help of modern plans and new building methods
6. To set up and encourage cottage industries and indigenous handicrafts

### **Long-Term Objectives**

1. holistic development of rural life through optimum utilisation of physical and human resources
2. to provide all sorts of facilities available in a Welfare State to the ruralites
3. Taking care of the social, moral and financial progress of the villagers

## **CDP-1952 Brief**

- Biggest rural reconstruction scheme undertaken by the government of free India
- Described as the 'magna carta' of hope and happiness for two-thirds of India's population
- Testament of emancipation, the declaration of war on poverty, ignorance, squalor and disease under which millions have been groaning
- Its successful execution will bring back to village economic prosperity, bring both outward and inward grace to the Indian village
- The CP of the present form is, in the main, an American concept
- It is, in a way, the culmination of the economics of rural reconstruction as learnt and developed in the US with its practical usefulness justified under the Indian conditions
- Emerged out of the experiments made at Etawah and Gorakhpur under the inspiration of Albert Meyers
- It is intended to apply it to the concept of the village community as a whole, cutting across caste, religious and economic differences.

## **Panchayati Raj**

Panchayats have been the backbone of the Indian villages since the beginning of the recorded history. Gandhiji's dream of every village being a republic or Panchayats having powers has been translated into reality with the introduction of three-tier Panchayati Raj system to enlist people's participation in rural reconstruction.

The 73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment 1992 added a new Part IX to the constitution titled "The Panchayats" covering provisions from Article 243 to 243(O); and a new Eleventh Schedule covering 29 subjects within the functions of the Panchayats.

24th April, 1993 was a landmark day in the history of Panchayati Raj in India as on this day the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 came into force to provide constitutional status to the Panchayati Raj institutions.

**The salient features of the Act are as follows:**

- a) To provide three-tier system of Panchayati Raj for all states having population of over 20 lakh.
- b) To hold Panchayat elections regularly for every 5 years.
- c) To provide reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women (not less than 33 percent).
- d) To appoint State Finance Commissions to make recommendations regarding financial powers of the Panchayats.



## **PANCHAYAT RAJ**

**Local self government system prevailed In our country from a long time. It is described as the pillar of village administration . Under this system every village was self sufficient and whole administration was in the hands of panchayat, whose head was called “Sarpanch” .**

**If the constitution is a frame work for federal structure then the power is shared between two sets of government.. One of the center called Union or federal Government and other State or provincial Government. So Indian constitution has the unique distinction of containing provision regarding government at three levels**

**(a)Union**

**(b)State**

**(c)Local**

**Zilla Parisad – District Level**



**Anchalik Panchayat – Block Level**



**Gaon Panchayats – Village level**

**Gram Sabha/Word Sabha  
(Para/Mouza level)**

# GRAM PANCHAYAT

- ⦿ It is basic, first formal democratic institution at the village level.
- ⦿ The chairperson of this unit is called as Sarpanch.
- ⦿ It is primary unit of local self-government.
- ⦿ Gram panchayat is a cabinet of the village elders, directly elected by the adult citizens of the village. There are 8 to 10 ward punches, two or three coopted members, who constitute the body of Gram Panchayat; they are consists of 8 to 10 villages.
- ⦿ The members of the Gram Panchayats have tenure of five years and are directly elected from wards while the Sarpanch is elected by the members.
- ⦿ There is provision for reservation of seats for women and for scheduled casts and scheduled tribes.
- ⦿ There is Gram Sabha for each panchayat and the Sarpanch is required to conduct Gram Sabha meetings at least once in six months.

# PANCHAYAT SAMITI

- ◉ This is the next tier of administration at the **Block level**.

Local M.L.A. and M.L.C.  
One person nominated by District Collector.

- ◉ **Reservation:**
  1. women.
  2. One from scheduled castes.
  3. One from scheduled tribes.

The president and vice-president of the samiti are elected from among the village panchayat presidents.

- ◉ Block Development Officer appointed by the Government is the **chief executive** of the samiti and function as the leader of the team of block level officials.

# ZILLA PARISHAD AND ITS FUNCTION

- ⦿ **This is the third tier of Panchayat Raj operating at the district level. It consists of:**

**M.L.A.s of the District  
M.P.s of the District  
Two women representatives.  
One representative of Scheduled Casts.  
One representative of scheduled Tribes.  
Two persons interested in rural development.**

**The members of the Parishad elect a chairman and a vice-chairman.**

**The District heads of development departments take part in the proceedings of the parishad and its standing committees.**

**There will be a secretary appointed by the Government, who attends all meetings of the Parishad and its standing committees.**