**UNIT – 2**

**Rural Development Programmes**

**Sriniketan Experiment**

* Sriniketan focused on agriculture and rural development with the co-operative efforts of the villagers themselves and its aim was to develop a better life for the people of rural India by educating them to be self-reliant and encouraging the revival of village arts and crafts
* Sriniketan Village Welfare Institute was established in 1920 whose main objectives were the following:

(1) To increase the knowledge of rural people.

(2) To help the rural people in establishing cottage industry.

(3) To inspire the people to follow new technology.

* Rabindranath Tagore’s work in “village reconstruction” at Sriniketan is not as widely known as his work at Shantiniketan. Founded at Sriniketan in 1922, the Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IRR) was Tagore's attempt to put to work his ideas about village reform.
* It maintained a demonstration farm, a dairy and poultry unit, an outdoor clinic, a department of cottage industries and a village school. These agencies were to treat the villages as their laboratory to identify problems and test their ideas.
* With, these ideas and philosophy of rural reconstruction in mind, Sriniketan was established in a vil- lage in Brigham along with Viswa- bhaiati with the considerable assist- ance from Mr Leonard K. Elm- hirst, the President of International Society of Agricultural Economists.
* The word Shantiniketan means “the abode of peace”. It was here that Rabindranath Tagore gave a practical shape to his educational ideas. There is an atmosphere of joy and freedom, love and peace, sympathy and nobleness of spirit, simple living and high thinking.
* SRINIKETAN: Also in the core area, is Sriniketan, **an Institute for Rural Reconstruction** founded in 1922 with Leonard Elmhirst as its first Director. Surul Kuthibari: Rabindranath purchased this building in 1912.

**Gurgoan Experiment**

* Gurgoan Experiment (1920) **The rural upliftment programme on a mass scale** was firstly

Started by Mr. F. L. Brayne, Deputy Commissioner in Gurgoan District of Punjab in 1920. According to him the main principle of this experiment was development on practical basis.

* Agricultural Development Programme: The programme was launched to exhort farmers to set up model farms, use improved seeds, adopt Gurgoan plough and other improved implements; use preventive measures against crop pest, killing of field rats and monkeys
* In **1920**, Mr. Brayne had been appointed on the post of Deputy Commissioner in Gurgoan district and he began this project of rural upliftment in his district, which became famous as �Gurgoan Project�.
* The Village Development Programme was started by **F.L.** **Brayne**, a Britisher, appointed as Deputy Commissioner, in Gurgoan district of Punjab and Haryana. He emphasised on the dignity of labour and self-help.

**The developmental work was taken up under Gurgoan scheme under these sub-heads:**

* **1. Institutional work comprised in the setting up of:**
* a. **School of rural economy to train guides for the rural uplift-**The school managed a farm of 51 acres on long lease for the purpose of providing practical training to the students. The curriculum of the studies including scouting, co-operation, practical agriculture, first aid, infant welfare, public health, domestic hygiene and sanitation, stock breeding and elementary veterinary training. The students were exposed to qualify in the examination in first aid, and co-operation and special test in all the other subjects. Those who qualified in this test were appointed as village guides. The village guides were entrusted with these duties:
* i. Development of co-operation
* ii. Public health work, collecting list for, preparing people for vaccinators' visit
* iii. Cleaning of villages by digging of manure pits, putting in of windows, ventilators etc. in the houses
* iv. Agricultural demonstration and sale of improved ploughs and other implements, improved seeds, Persian wheel etc.
* b. Domestic school of Economics to uplift village women. The curriculum of studies in the domestic school included reading and writing up to primary standard, in the case of illiterate women, and some instructions in sewing, knitting and making clothes, embroidery work, toy making, cooking, hygiene, sanitation, first aid and child welfare, etc.
* c. Health Association to promote public health
* d. Women's Institution to manage the ladies' garden in Gurgaon and also to organize games and magic lantern shows for the women and first-aid classes.
* 2. **Rural Sanitation Work:** with a view to improve living conditions in the villages by using manure pits as latrines and preserving sweepings, rubbish and dung in properly dug pits. Efforts were also initiated to fight epidemics like small-pox, plague and cholera.
* 3. **Agricultural Development Programme:** The programme was launched to exhort farmers to set up model farms, use improved seeds, adopt Gurgaon plough and other iproved implements; use preventive measures against crop pest, killing of field rats and monkeys and drawing out other harmful insects by keeping lanterns in the fields. The programme also emphasized on the consolidation of fragmented land holding on co-operative basis. The principal objective of this programme aimed at increasing yield per hectare, so that the farmer gets a fair return on his efforts.
* 4. **Education:** Under the scheme, the school teacher was mad the centre of all development activities in the village. Mr. Brayne emphatically stated "The village school teacher with his school library, his night school and his scouts must be the centre of uplift and culture and he must be so trained that he can solve all the simple problems of the villager, whether they are of agriculture, social or moral or relate to public health."
* 5.**Co-operation:** Co-operation was given special thrust as the cornerstone of reconstruction of rural areas. Everyone will extend whole-heartedly co-operation in the development of the village economy.
* 6. **Social Reforms:** Mr. Brayne had also realized that any process of economic development should run concurrent with speedy social reformers, social reformers were aimed at:
* a. Prohibition of child marriages
* b. Education of girls in the mixed schools
* c. Abolition of Veil system
* d. Curtailment of ceremonial expenditure
* e. Introduction of marriage registers by which litigation in family disputes is very much less ended
* f. Propaganda against injuries litigation

**MARTHANDAM EXPERIMENT**

* During 1921 under the auspices of YMCA, Marthandam project was started at Travancore in Kerala by Dr. Spencer Hatch, an American agricultural expert specialized in sociology. Fundamental aim of this programme was **five fold development of physical, spiritual, mental, economic and social.**
* The aim of the project was **to bring more abundant life for rural people**. It was intended to symbolize the three-fold development, not only spiritual, mental and physical but also economic and social.
* **The quality of produce was poor.** **Wages were low.** **Water problem was chronic.** **Large number of families was indebted**.
* Marthandam is famous for **honey, cashew nut processing, rubber and hand-embroidered motifs**. The area is among the most fertile lands of Tamil Nadu with substantial vegetation, and a river adjoining. It is also a major trade centre due to its location bordering Kerala.
* Brayne; Sriniketan Experiment in Bengal by Sri Rabindra Nath Tagore; Marthadam project by Dr. Spencer Hatch under the auspices of YMCA; Sevagram experiment in Wardha by Mahatma Gandhi; Adarsh Seva Sangh, Pohri, Gwalior; Indian Village Service in Lucknow and Etawah in Uttar Pradesh by Mr.

**The philosophy or rural reconstruction principles were:**

1. The programme of rural reconstruction was people's own programme. The personnel were only to help them achieve the programmes.
2. Help the people to help themselves upwards on all sides of life comprising spirit, mind, body, economic, social and cultural.
3. People of all communities were to be included.
4. It is the poor who require help more and, therefore, reach the poorest.
5. Implement a comprehensive programme, and as such attention was devoted to the development of poultry keeping, bee-keeping and other cottage industries like mats and basket making, sugar, hand woven cloths, etc.
6. Spirituality should be the basis of every programme.
7. Simplicity should be the key-note of the programme. Unless the whole rural reconstruction movement remains simple it would cost too much and would stop short of benefits to millions of rural people.
8. Honorary unpaid service helps make an efficient and highly productive extension services.
9. Close co-operation between the rural people and the government officials is a must.
10. Emphasis was laid on training of workers.

**BARODA EXPERIMENT**

* This movement was started by **V.T.** **Krishnachari** in 1932 in the Baroda state where he was Dewan at that time. In the first instant its objective was to bring about a rapid increase in standards of living, industrialization and rapid expansion of the educational system.
* The first rural reconstruction centre was set up in 1932 and the work commenced in **a group of villages round Kosamba (in Navasari District)**.
* An experimental art school that drew artists of a variety of backgrounds, the Baroda Group offered an alternative to the nationalism associated with Shantiniketan and the Bengal School. The dynamic group was formed in 1957 under the guidance of N. S. Bender.
* **Maharaja Sayajirao** Ruled from year 1875 to 1939, and contributed overwhelmingly to revive and reform Vadodara (Baroda) with some best initiatives like… Art and Architecture.
* The first rural reconstruction centre was set up in 1932 and the work commenced in a group of villages round Kosamba (in Navsari District). The basic idea underlying the rural reconstruction experiment in the rural areas around Baroda were: "The single outstanding fact in the agricultural economy of India is that owing to seasonal and other conditions, work on the land is possible only during a portion of the year. Millions of people are, thus, unemployed over periods of the year ranging from two to three months in the highly irrigated areas to as much as eight to nine months in the dry tracts. This long interval of enforced idleness and dreary waiting between crop and crop leads to evil, economic and moral, which it is unnecessary to describe to those who know village life in India-the squalor and rivalries, and factions and the litigation which has been described as 'our second greatest industry.' No lasting improvement can be achieved in the conditions of rural life unless all sides of it are attacked at the same time; the many sides of it are all so closely interconnected."

**The centre aimed at:**

1.       Effecting an improvement in all aspects of rural life i. e. changing the outlook of the agriculturists, the problem being "the development of the desire for a higher standard of living,"

2.       To undertake intensive work to release this aim,

3.       To develop best type of village leadership; and to undertake the following programme:

**a) Economic Programme consisted of:**

(i) Development of subsidiary occupation like kitchen gardening, weaving, poultry farming, sericulture, bee-keeping etc.

(ii) Farm improvements in cotton and other crops

(iii) Co-operative society to inculcate thrift and

(iv) The village panchayats to provide for sanitation, village roads and drinking water supply.

**b) Education and Moral Programmes included Adult Education:** development of community sense and of a feeling of solidarity in the village; propaganda against evils like early marriages and unreasonable customs connected with social observances; the proper use of village libraries; the scout movement and other educative work through lantern lectures; in short, making village life full and interesting. The village school should be the centre of all such activities.

The programme of rural reconstruction was to be part of a wider programme for bringing about a rapid increase in standard of living. Increased agriculture production lay at root of all development. Therefore, the programme was progressively expanded to cover measures such as provision of irrigation facilities; conservation of soil; production of nucleus seed; their multiplication and distribution; education in agriculture and supplementary occupations.

**FIRKHA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME**

* **The government of Madras (now Tamil Nadu)** decided to make efforts for the development of villages at Firka level. The first programme began in 1946.
* It was government sponsored and aimed at the attainment of the Gandhian ideal of Gram Swaraj.
* The scheme was launched in 1946 in 34 Firkas throughout the state and on April 1, 1950, it was extended to another 50 additional Firkas, at the rate of two Firkas for each district.
* The scheme, which aimed at attacking of the rural problems as a whole, as well as in parts, consisted of short term plans for the development of rural communications, water supply, formation of panchayats, organization of cooperatives and programmes for sanitation, as also long term plans to make the area self-sufficient through agricultural, irrigational and livestock improvements and the development of Khadi and other cottage industries.
* The collector was primarily responsible for the successful working of athe scheme in the district.
* Each Firka was divided into 5 to 10 groups of villages which were put in the charges of Gram Sewaks.
* Each Firka or Group of Firkas was provided with special staff like agricultural field man, administrative officers, P.W.D., Supervisors and minor irrigation oversees.
* It the state level, there was a state Rural welfare Board comprising the heads of the departments and influential and constructive social workers. This board drew up the comprehensive plan of Firka Development October, 1947.

          In order to effectively stimulate healthy competition between official and non-official agencies, the Government of madras decided to entrust the development schemes to non-officials agencies engaged in doing constructive work. Five non-official agencies were actually selected and paid grants for doing Firka Development of:

* Rural Reconstruction
* Drinking water facilities
* Sanitateon
* Agriculture
* Khadi and village industries

**ETAWA PILOT PROJECT**

The idea of starting this project was conceived and born in 1947. It was put into action with headquarters at Mahewa village about 17 miles from Etawah (U.P.) in September, 1948. First 64 villages, which were then increased to 97, were covered under this project. Lt.col. Albert Mayer of USA, who came to India with the American forces in 1944, was the originator of this project for his scheme; assistance was given by USA and UP Government.

**Mayer studied all the other projects and forms them he came to the conclusion that:**

1. A programme should be based on the need of the people.
2. This programme should be extended by conducting demonstration and evaluation work.
3. The programme should include cottage industries development so that subsidiary occupation could be developed.
4. A project has to be well organized and planned.
5. Rural development should take into account all the aspects of the human being. It is not enough to have a programme for just one class or group of people.

          In this project major emphasis was given on increasing agricultural production by the use of green manure, better seeds, agricultural implements fertilizers, adult education and reactivation of saline soils.

**Characteristics of the scheme:**

1. The extension workers were known as a colleague.
2. These colleagues met villagers informally and discussed their specific problems.
3. They kept personal touch and personal contact with them.
4. Colleagues were educated up to graduate level.
5. There were counsellors behind colleagues, who guided them in technical aspects.

* The Etawah Project came into being November 1948. It was founded at the instance of **Mr Albert Mayer**, an American expert town- planner, formerly of the American Army. It covers 97 villages round about Mahewa, a small town about eighteen miles east of Etawah, the headquarters of the Etawah district.
* The idea of intensive all-round development work in a compact area was put into practice as a Pilot Project in Rural Planning and Development in the Etawah District in **Uttar Pradesh** in 1948, which can be regarded as a forerunner of the Community Development Project in India.
* It started during 1948 under the leadership of S.K. Dey. Its primary purpose was **to develop a new township to rehabilitate displaced persons from West Pakistan**.
* Etawah Pilot Project was the first Post Independence Program of India. The project plays a vital role in Indian Developmental context because **it touched the social, economic and physical aspect of Rural India**. Under the leadership of Albert Mayor and vision of Nehru the project brought the idea of model village.

**NILOKHERI EXPERIMENT**

It was started to settle the 7000 displaced persons (from Pakistan) and later integrated with 100 villages surrounding Nilokheri. It was built around the vocational training centre that was transferred from Kurukshetra in July 1948 to the 100 acres of Swampy land on Delhi Ambala highway. This scheme was called "Mazdoor Manzil".

[**Objectives**](http://ecoursesonline.iasri.res.in/mod/page/view.php?id=32488)**:**

1. Self sufficiency for rural cum urban township in all essential requirements of life.
2. Making provision of work and training for the people according to their native background.
3. To check middle men.
4. To enable transactions between the consumer and the producer, to approach a vertical order.

[**Activities**](http://ecoursesonline.iasri.res.in/mod/page/view.php?id=32498)**:**

1. Polytechnic training for B.D.O. and S.E.O. and V.L.W.
2. Housing and marketing facilities.
3. Management of schools, hospitals and recreation centre.
4. To make the cultivable land of all 700 acres of Swampy land.
5. Cooperative credit facility.
6. Small scale industries were run on cooperative basis.

* It started during 1948 under the leadership of **S.K.** **Dey**. Its primary purpose was to develop a new township to rehabilitate displaced persons from West Pakistan.
* The programme was originally started to rehabilitate 7000 displaced persons from Pakistan and later integrated with the 100 surrounding villages into what came to be a rural cum urban township.
* It was built around the vocational training centre that was transferred from Kurukshetra, in July, 1948 to the 1100 acres of swampy land on the Delhi-Ambala highway.
* The central figure of this project was Shri S.K. Dey, later Union minister of Community Development and cooperatives up to 1965.
* The scheme called "Mazdoor Manzil" aimed at self-sufficiency forthe rural-cum-urban township in all the essential requirements of like. The colony had school, an agricultural farm, polytechnic training centre, dairy, poultry farm, piggery farm, horticulture garden, printing press, garment factory, engineering workshop, soap factory, etc.

**APPROACHES TO RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

TAGORE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

* Tagore's concept was self-reliance and self-help through community development projects, cooperative credit, and spread of basic education, use of science and technology in agriculture, development of cottage industries, in general, establishment of a genuine relationship with the village folk.
* **Tagore wanted the welfare of the rural poor not by prodding mere literacy but by nurturing and widening their minds to give strength and consciousness**. According to Tagore, reading and writing is a secondary question, communication from heart to heart is what matters more.
* Tagore's approach can be summarized as “**spiritual humanism**,” because it is a form of spirituality rooted in this world and centred on human beings. He argued that the goal of unity between self and world does not entail denying the individual-human and the loss of the self.
* Rabindranath Tagore wanted to establish an ideal school, which would converge both Indian and Western cultures. This experiment became successful when he established a school at Shantiniketan. Similarly, the **rural reconstruction experiment at Sriniketan** attempted to bring the Indian villages and cities closer.
* TSRD was founded by the then Ghanaian leader **Sri Jayprakash Narayan and freedom fighter Sri Pannalal Dasgupta** imbibing the philosophy of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore.

GHANDHI COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

* The human settlement with local communal acceptance, local norms, and values, environmental protection, help and cooperation, trusteeship, health, education, sanitation, training, transportation, marketing, etc. are the major components of the Gandhian Model of Community Development.
* The Gandhian plan of rural reconstruction was the meta-model of Indian development. It emphasized three dimensions: **socio-economic development of localized need; village participation for self-development and self-reliance; and rural industrialization**.
* According to Gandhi the basic element of a community is mutual co-operation and common sharing. The emphasis of Gandhian concept of community work is the **reconstruction of the community rather than on organising an unorganised or disorganised community or on the development of an entirely new community**.
* **Truth, nonviolence, Sarvodaya and Satyagraha** and their significance constitute Gandhian philosophy and are the four pillars of Gandhian thought.
* The Gandhian Plan was introduced by S. N. Agarwal **emphasizing the expansion of small unit production and agriculture for the economic development of the country**. Further Reading: Economic Planning In India.