

School of Undergraduate Studies
Ambedkar University Delhi
Course Code: SC805 (4 credits), MS 2017

Title: Conceptualising Rural and Urban Societies (CORUS)

Course Teacher: Dr. Rinju Rasaily

Assessment details:

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| 1. Take- home assignment | 20% |
| 2. Field assignment | 40% |
| 3. End semester | 40% |

Course Objective:

The course attempts to understand the two categories, namely Rural and Urban, as/in a dynamic, dyadic relationship rather than as binary opposites. With increased urbanization the world over and resultant shrinking of rural, the focus seems to have shifted out from the latter. For these landscapes are not merely about two distinct physical and social spaces but involve and are connected by a complex set of issues relating to livelihood, migration, sustainability and politics of demography. Informed by micro-level data and research in-puts, there has been a fresh theoretical reorientation towards understanding societies and its various stages in a non-linear framework. The course problematises the conventional unilinearity of rural-urban dichotomy and instead asks if it is at all possible to understand Delhi, for instance, without understanding the neighbouring rural Haryana, Punjab or Uttar Pradesh. Bangalore and Bellary have to be understood together to make sense of the forces which made the former a globally known city. The course, while interrogates some of the traditional premises of defining rural and urban as two contrasting physical spaces, goes on to map the shifts that have occurred as a result of multiple sources of transformations.

Unit I: Understanding the rural

Srinivas, M.N. 1976. *The Remembered Village*, Delhi: Oxford India: Ch 4: The Universe of Agriculture pp 112- 152; Ch 6: Relations between Castes (pp 182-233) Ch 7: Classes and Factions (pp 234-256); Ch 8: The Changing village (pp237-284)

Beteille, Andre. 1980. *The Indian Village: Past and present* in E.J. Hobsbawm et.al, *Peasants in History*, Published for Sameeksha Trust by Oxford University Press, Delhi.

Unit II: Debunking the stereotypes

Appadurai, A., 1989. "Transformation in the culture of agriculture." in *Contemporary Indian Traditions: Voices on Culture, Nature, and the Challenge of Change* (ed.) C. Borden: 173-184. Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press.

Jodhka, Surinder. 1998. From "Book view" to "Field view": Social Anthropological construction of the Indian Villages. *Oxford Development studies*, Vol. 26, No. 3.

Unit III: Village India: From 'Little republic' to 'village on sale'

AlokBhalla and Peter Bumke (ed.). 1992. *Images of rural India in the twentieth century*. New Delhi: Sterling Publishers.

Gupta, Dipankar, 2005, "Whither the Indian Village: Culture and Agriculture in Rural India," *Economic and Political Weekly*, Feb. 9, 2005.

Unit IV: Understanding Urban, Urbanism and Urbanization

Rao, M.S.A, 19, *Urban Sociology in India: General Introduction: A case study for Urban studies in India*. Orient Longman.

Louis, Wirth 1938 "Urbanism as a way of Life" in *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 44, No.1 (July), Pp1-24

Shah A. M. 2012, *The Village in the City and the City in the Village* EPW Dec 2012 pp 17-19

Unit V: Understanding the City and its Political Economy

Weber, Max. 1978. *Economy and Society*. Vol.2, G.Roth and C.Wittich (eds.). Berkeley: University of California Press. Ch. 16.

Redfield, R & Singer, M 1954, "The cultural role of cities", *Economic development and cultural change*", vol. 3.

Unit VI: Cities of Everyday Life: Migration, Slum, Neighbourhood, Culture

Rao, M.S.A. 1981. Some aspects of Sociology of Migration, in *Sociological Bulletin*, vol.30:1.

Rao, M.S.A. (ed.). 1974. *Urban Sociology: A reader*. New Delhi: Orient Longman, Chapters 1,9,10 & 15

Weiner, Myron.2004 "Migration" in Veena Das (ed.), *Handbook of Indian Sociology*. OUP. Pp156-171

Unit-VII: Towards the liminal space beyond the Urban and Rural

Singer, Milton. "When a great tradition Modernizes: An Anthropological Approach to Indian Civilization", University of Chicago Press, (February1980).

Scott, A. 2007. The urban rural divide: Myth or Reality? *Serg Policy Brief*. Number 2.
