

Gandhian concept of Rural Development

- Gandhian concept of development is based on upliftment of common man.
- The village is the basic unit of the Gandhian ideal social order.
- He says if the village perishes, India will perish too.
- Gandhi's ideal village belongs to the British period.
- The concept of Ram Rajya is the basis of Gandhi's idea of an ideal social order.
- Gandhian approach to rural development may be ~~app~~ labelled as 'idealist'.
- Gandhi defined Ram Rajya as 'sovereignty of the people' based on moral authority.
- Gandhi believed in democratic order in which people are supreme.
- The Central authority will have no power to enforce its decision on village republics except the moral pressure.
- Bringing change among the rural community from traditional way of living to progressive way of living.

1) Decentralization →

- Gandhi believes that villages republic can be built only through decentralization of social and political power.
- In such a system decision-making will be vested in the village panchayat rather than in the State and the national Capital.
- The representative would be elected by the all adults for fixed period of five years.
- The elected representative would constitute a council, called the Panchayat.
- Resources for Gandhian Approach to managing village affairs would be raised from the villages.
- All the conflicts and disputes would be resolved within the village.
- The village would be capable of defending itself against any invasion.
- A non-violent peace brigade of volunteers would be organised to defend the village.

2)

② Self Sufficiency →

- The village should be self sufficient as far as its basic needs - food, clothing and other necessities are concerned.
- The village has to import certain things which it cannot produce in the village.
- Village economy should be planned with a view to providing full employment.

- Each man should be guaranteed employment to enable him to meet his basic needs in the village itself so that he is not forced to migrate to town.
- Gandhiji said if all laboured for their bread then ~~there~~ there would be enough food and enough leisure for all.

③ Industrialization →

- Gandhiji maintained that industrialization would help only a few and will lead to concentration of economic power.
- Industrialization leads to passive or active exploitation of the villages.
- industrialization replace manpower and hence it adds the unemployment.
- Industrialization force labourers to migrate to urban areas, this will ruin ~~urban~~ villages.
- Village and cottage industries should be revived they provide employment and facilitate village self sufficiency.

④ Trusteeship →

- Gandhiji emphasized the principle of trusteeship in social and economic affairs.
- All social property should be held in Trust.
- The capitalists would take care not only of themselves but others also.

- Some surplus wealth would be used for the rest of the society.
 - The poor workers, under Trusteeship would consider the capitalists as their benefactors.
 - Gandhiji believed that such a trusteeship ~~would consider~~ were established, the welfare of the workers would increase and the clash between the workers and employers would be avoided.
 - Gandhiji believed that land belong to God, Hence individual ownership of land should be shunned.
 - Land belongs to community and must be used for welfare of the community
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