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## Adult Education in Rural Communities

**Dr. Anand Wagh**

Associate Professor,

Department of Lifelong Learning & Extension,  
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University,  
Aurangabad (Maharashtra, India)

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### Introduction:

Education is the means to acquire the present-day wisdom. Literate and educated people are a prerequisite for both preserving and developing the society. In rural India, access to education in various spheres such as social, political, economic, scientific and others can act as a catalyst to change. In today's rural India, many castes have successfully utilized education to break through social and cultural norms associated with their castes and have also helped in their economic betterment.

Throughout one's life, from birth till death, an individual goes through a process of continued learning. Learning is a fundamental social process. It helps individuals in adapting to changes in the environment by building on the previous experience. Learning refers to the accumulation of a body of information that serves as guide to actions and decisions. It is also considered to be a relative permanent change in behaviour or capability, which is the result of experience.

Learning affects personality, social behaviour and development. Most of the learning takes place effortlessly, as a product of a person's experience. Most of the learning is done before a person becomes adult because of contact and constant interaction with others. Since learning is considered to be vital to social life, it is not left to chance. Particular attitudes, knowledge and skills are imparted to members of a society through formal, systematic training or through education.

Education is one aspect of socialization by which behaviours, essential for effective participation by society, are acquired by members of the society. Part of this learning is done in an informal atmosphere, at home within the family structure, neighbourhood or peer group. Learning is also formally done in schools, colleges and universities, which are formal institutions of education.

According to Schaeffer, one aspect of education is socialization-the life-long process of

learning the attitudes, values, and behaviour appropriate to individuals as members of a particular culture. Socialization is the result of interaction with others-family members, friends and even strangers. It also results from exposure to books, films, television and other forms of communication. When learning is formalized and explicit, teaching -learning process is conscious, it is called education'.

### **Definitions of Education:**

1. Socrates defined education as, 'Education means the bringing out of ideas of universal validity, which are latent in the mind of every man.'
2. According to Vivekananda, 'Education is the manifestation of perfection already reached in man.'
3. Kant defined education as, 'Education is the development, in the individual, of all the perfection of which he is capable of.'
4. Rabindranath Tagore said, 'Education means to enable the child to find out ultimate truthmaking truth its own and giving expression to it.'
5. Mahatma Gandhi defined education as, 'By education, I mean drawing out of the best in child and man body, mind and spirit.'

### **Goals of Education:**

1. To develop the powers of critical independent thought;
2. To induce sensitiveness of perception, receptiveness to new ideas and imaginative sympathy with the experiences of others;
3. To produce an awareness of the mainstream of our cultural and literary and scientific traditions;
4. To make available important bodies of knowledge concerning nature, society, ourselves, our country and its history;
5. To cultivate an intelligent loyalty to the ideals of the democratic community;
6. To equip young men and women with the general skills and techniques and the specialized knowledge, which together with the virtues and aptitude already mentioned will make it possible for them to do some productive work related to their capacities and interests; and
7. To strengthen those inner resources and traits of character, which enable the individual, when necessary, to stand alone.

University Education Commission (1948) rightly points out that the purpose of all education is to provide a coherent picture of the universe and an integrated way of life. The Committee on Higher Education for Rural Areas (1955) clearly mentions that there is no difference between rural and urban education. It remarks, 'In our opinion, the aims and objectives of higher education in rural areas are not fundamentally different from those of higher education in urban areas.'

**Current Condition of Education in Rural Areas:**

1. Facilities, The first problem is the school itself.
2. Community and financial status. Families in the rural community are living in poverty.
3. Teachers
4. Lack of materials
5. Digi-Eskwela Project E-Learning Tablets
6. Book donations
7. Volunteer programs
8. The Case Study Project

**Why is education important in rural areas?**

Education is important for everybody, whether they are learning new facts, skills, or trades. An education system in rural communities has the opportunity to build capacity and knowledge in the rural populace, helping them to make informed decisions about their farms and to innovate in agricultural affairs.

**The role of education in rural communities:**

Education is important for everybody, whether they are learning new facts, skills, or trades. Having the opportunity to learn always benefits the individual. Over the past years, we have seen a focus on providing education to females all over the world, arguing that girls receive an education no less than men. However, if we take a step further, we can think about educating communities, specifically rural communities. What effects would education have if we were to educate a group of people?

Educating communities means developing schools and educating children and leaders. By doing so, rural communities will lead to a healthier and more sustainable future. An education system in rural communities has the opportunity to build capacity and knowledge in the rural populace, helping them to make informed decisions about their farms and to innovate in agricultural affairs. Education also exposes the masses to information and helps prevent the misinterpretation of information. Education can lead to many positive outcomes, such as an improved ability to understand policies, procedures, rights, duties, government schemes, legislation, available benefits, and protection laws.

It is important to understand the need for good quality education in rural areas, as it helps keep rural areas populated. Young people move to urban areas for better opportunities in education and employment, improved rural education is one possible strategy for keeping them in rural areas. It was recently documented that 69% of India's population lives in rural areas. Quality education is a pertinent tool for enhancing quality of life, creating awareness and capability, increasing freedom, and improving overall holistic human development for the people and the nation.



Education is considered a vital element in the development of a society, a system, and a country. I am convinced that a well-supported, easily accessible education system is an efficient means to make people economically conscious, and thereby, make them actively participate in their economic prosperity and cultural development. As an educator, I insist that education should be given first and foremost in the service of democracy, which demands not only to be protected against decisions but to be a part of decisions that influence society in a positive way.

In the long term, education in a rural setting should be focused on making rural people responsible for their participation in the following elements of rural development:

- Employment and income opportunities: increasing the quality of education in rural areas can significantly impact the development of employment opportunities. Studies have shown that the availability of skilled labour, transportation infrastructure, and local markets are prime factors in selecting a community for an industrial placement.
- Increase in productivity of rural labour force: education can improve labour productivity in rural areas, increasing the wealth of a region or area.
- Education develops leadership: with education, individuals gain confidence, knowledge, skills, and experience - all factors that increase an individual's ability to effectively and efficiently lead a group of people towards success. Education helps to identify and develop those leaders in our communities who will battle against low-quality education, and poverty, leading to a successful and strong community.

To conclude, education plays a critical role in rural development, as it is a key factor in developing the people of the rural area, the community, and the land itself. With education, there is always a bright future in store for rural communities. As a student and educator, I believe that the past shows us that education is an important factor in bringing about rural development in any country.

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