

## **Quadrant II – Transcript and Related Materials**

**Programme: Bachelor of Arts (Third Year)**

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**Paper Code: SOC 109**

**Paper Title: Urban Society in India**

**Unit: I**

**Module Name: Rural-Urban Continuum**

**Module No: 04**

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### **Notes:**

Rural-Urban Continuum

### **INTRODUCTION**

The concept of rural-urban continuum is based on the assumption that rural and urban structural patterns represent two distinct modes of life. The structural pattern of rural life is based on villages while the structural pattern of urban life is based on cities. These two types of phenomena represent two distinct modes of living.

### **RURAL-URBAN CONTINUUM-MEANING AND DEFINITION**

Rural-urban continuum, the merging of town and country, a term used in recognition of the fact that in general there is rarely, either physically or socially, a sharp division, a clearly marked boundary between the two, with one part of the population wholly urban, the other wholly rural.

According to Professor A. R. Desai, Social life in the country-side moves and develops in a rural setting just as social life in the urban area moves and develops in an urban setting, their respective settings considerably determine rural and urban social life.

From the analytical point of view, the characteristics of these two modes of living are represented by two concepts namely 'ruralism' and 'urbanism'. Ruralism signifies the rural mode of living in which there is predominance of traditions, customs, and folk culture and joint family. On the other hand, urbanism signifies the urban mode of living in which there is predominance of impersonal relations, individualism and secondary associations. The rural social world is different from the urban social world. There is a valid distinction between village and city in terms of two different ethos of life, cultural patterns, socio-cultural groupings and modes of earning and livelihood. However, there are also structural similarities between the two with regard to the patterns of caste, kinship, rules of marriages, observance of religious practices, migrations, educational institutions, employment opportunities and administration are the other institutional sources of linkages between villages and cities. Thus, villages and towns cannot be seen simply as dichotomous entities. They are interlinked and yet distinct from each other.

The concept of rural-urban continuum is based on the assumption of rural-urban differences. According to G. V. Fuguitt, 'If rural-urban sociology is to continue a specialized sub-field and has a meaningful conceptual basis, the need for a new orientation is evident'.

Professor Bertrand made the following observation: Proponents of the continuum theory feel that rural-urban differences Occur in a relative degree in a range extending between two polar extremes of rural and urban.

The continuum theory lays emphasis on the rural-urban differences rather than on the rural-urban dichotomy. Irrespective of the course of evolution, distinction can be drawn between rural and urban way of life.