

**COVENANT UNIVERSITY  
NIGERIA**

*TUTORIAL KIT  
OMEGA SEMESTER*

**PROGRAMME:  
DEMOGRAPHY AND SOCIAL STATISTICS**

**COURSE: DSS 329**

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**DSS 329**  
**RURAL SOCIOLOGY**  
**DR. AKANBI, M. A**

**Tutorial Questions and Answers**

- Q1. Describe the two key theoretical models in understanding society
- Q2. Discuss which one clearly explains life in rural Nigeria.
- Q3. What are the definitions of the term 'rural'?
- Q4. Show clearly what makes the concept of rural to be problematic.
- Q5. Using relevant examples, describe clearly ten differences between rural and urban Nigeria.
- Q6. The evolutionary school of thought describes communities as whether they are rural or urban.
- Q7. Analyse in relation to Ferdinand Tonnies typology of Gemeinschaft and Gesellschaft.
- Q8. Using relevant examples, describe clearly your understanding of the field of rural sociology.
- Q9. Discuss the usefulness of the field of rural sociology in Nigeria.
- Q10. What is rural sociology according to Ekong (1998)?
- Q11. State the challenges of rural farmers in relation to rural sociology.
- Q12. According to development scholars such as; Dudley Seers, Paul Stresten and Raul Prebisch; what are the basic obstacles to development?
- Q13. How can we measure rural Nigeria according to Idode (1989)?
- Q14. With reference to 1952 and 1963 censuses; what are the classifications of rural and urban settings?
- Q15. What are the factors that prompted the understanding of rural sociology in the United States in the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century?
- Q16. What has been the general focus and concern of rural sociology right from inception till date in Nigeria?
- Q17. Justify the fact that the study of Nigeria's rural societies and the problems of agriculture had long been going on outside the Universities.
- Q18. Outline the research emphasis of Rural Sociology
- Q19. In order to solve the persistent problems of the society, what are the four (4) major structural features identified by a Scholar known as 'Parsons'?
- Q20. Discuss the three theoretical models that helps us in understanding rural sociology.

## ANSWERS

Q1. The two main models of society include the consensus model and the conflict model. Differences as shown in a tabulated form include:

ISSUE	CONSENSUS MODEL	CONFLICT MODEL
1) Interests	Uniting	Dividing
2) Social Relations	Advantageous	Exploitive
3) Social Unity	By consensus	By Coercion
4) Conceptual of Society	System with Needs	Stage for Class Struggle
5) Nature of Man	Requires restraining institutions	Institution distort man's Nature
6) Inequality	Social Necessity	Promotes Conflict
7) State	Promotes Common good	Instrument of Oppression
8) Class	Heuristic device- a place where	Social groups with antagonistic interests

Q3. The difference between the village and the city to an ordinary Nigerian might simply be an issue that requires no discussion. This is why Ekong (1988) stated that to the not too sophisticated Nigerian, the city is where all the good things of life are found; while the village has the entire negative and opposite attributes. The word 'rural' therefore can assume economic, sociological, ethnic and racial connotations. Rural may be limited to spatial (landmarks and population of the area) or occupational context and the degree of disaggregation of social services.

- According to Idode (1989), rural Nigeria is measured by a spatial index which indicates the percentage of population living in a rural area and by an occupational index indicating the percentage of the labour force involved in agricultural occupation.
- Census figures have been used traditionally to differentiate rural from urban areas; however the lack of consensus figure have often made its use very problematic. Because of this it has often not been possible to clearly identify which proportion of Nigeria's population is urban and which is rural. The 1952 census used five thousand (5000) people or over to identify an urban area and where it was less, such an area was classified as rural. At that stage the size of the settlement was immaterial.
- The 1963 census used a population count of twenty thousand (20,000) and above to identify urban settlement and anything less was regarded as rural. This therefore calls to question the use of numbers as a yard stick for determining that which is rural and urban.
- The arbitrariness of numbers becomes more ridiculous when one considers a situation where a settlement has a population of four thousand nine hundred (4,900) or nineteen thousand nine hundred (19,900) would a settlement be regarded as rural? On the other hand, if a settlement has five thousand and ten (5,010) or twenty thousand and ten (20,010) and does not possess all the variables with which a settlement ought to be called an urban settlement?

Q5. Using relevant examples, describe clearly ten differences between rural and urban Nigeria.

Idealized mode of differentiation includes:

1. size of place
2. population density and composition
3. closeness to nature
4. occupation
5. simplicity of nature
6. social interaction
7. social differentiation
8. social stratification
9. social mobility

10. social control

Q7. Ferdinand Tonnies in 1887 used the typology Gemeinschaft and Gesellschaft to characterize social relations in rural and urban societies

FEATURES	GEMEINSCHAFT	GESSELLSCHAFT
1) social relationship	Kingship, fellowship and neighbourliness	Exchange, rational calculation, contact
2) perception of benefit and goals in social interaction	Shared goals and mutual benefits	Congruent, joint or antagonistic goals
3) dominant forms of group relationship	Solidarity and accommodating forms	Symbiotic forms
4) principal form of wealth	Land	Money
5) ranking of social relations	Family, village and town life	City life, cosmopolitan, national life
6) central institutions and forms of social control	Family norms, kinship group, strict adherence to folkways, mores and taboos	The state, political and legal legislations, conventions, public opinion and contacts
7) status- role	Ascribed statuses and fully integrated roles.	Achieved statuses with roles based on specific relationships

From an ideal perspective it represents the differences between the rural or village setting and the urban or city life in Nigeria

Q9. The importance of rural sociology in Nigeria can be analysed under the following:

- 1) It brings to light the main characteristics and problem of rural areas for which an understanding is required so as to deal appropriately with the rural dwellers.
- 2) It provides direct change programmes such as rural development programmes with relevant information about the needs of rural people and the appropriate strategies to accomplish them.
- 3) It provides a feedback mechanism to change agents involved with rural development in terms of progress made and modifications needed.
- 4) It helps to educate agents of change with sociological knowledge especially with regards to an understanding of the culture and environment they find themselves.

In conclusion rural sociology is interested in rural areas; it examines problems in such areas and tries to proffer adequate solutions to meet them. It also studies rural man as he functions in rural group situations.

Q11. The problems of rural farmers and challenges they face are that of how to attain loans and other credit facilities for farming, the challenge of inadequate education, labour shortage due to migratory tendencies of the youths or active labour force. There is also the challenge of improved seedlings and fertilizers. It is also interested in the importance of agriculture to the entire nation.

Q13. According to Idode (1989), rural Nigeria is measured by a spatial index which indicates the percentage of population living in a rural area and by an occupational index indicating the percentage of the labour force involved in agricultural occupation.

Q15. (i) Sincere concern about the seriousness of the social problems that was inherent in the rural life in America at that time.

(ii) The 1909 report of President Roosevelt country life commission which stirred up a desire for social reforms in order to improve the livelihood of American rural dwellers.

Q17. The study of Nigeria's rural societies and the problems of agriculture had long been going on outside the universities. Also professional rural sociologists in Nigeria are rather few in number. Most of them had their training in American universities. Their activities include teaching research and extension services. The teaching of rural sociology so far has concentrated on introducing its concepts, and the application of such concepts to the analysis and understanding of rural social change. In the area of field research emphasis has been on community development, family life, youth emancipation, migration trend, nutrition and family welfare, rural occupational structures and the evaluation of rural development programmes.

Q19. To solve the problems of society and persists, Parsons stated that society must have four (4) major structural features and they include

- 1) Economy
- 2) Polity (political structure)
- 3) Kinship and family ties
- 4) Community and cultural organization