

# **Rural Development in Vietnam – Issues & Challenges**

## Outline

1. Underlying Assumptions
1. Definitions & Characteristics
2. What are the components of rural livelihoods?
3. What are the challenges for achieving these components?
4. What are rural citizens' responses to these challenges?
5. What are nation & state responses to these challenges?
6. Conclusion

REFERENCES CITED – AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

# 1. Modern Assumptions & Urban Myths True or False?

1. modern = “the west”
1. Modernization = Progress = Industrialization = economic development
1. Modernization = urbanization
2. traditional/not modern/not western = non-progress, non-development or backwardness

# 1. Modern Assumptions & Urban Myths True or False?

5. Urban productivity & livelihoods are more valuable than rural livelihoods & productivity for national economic development.
6. Rural people are less educated. Therefore, their ideas on rural development are ill-informed, wrong & have less value.

# 1. Modern Assumptions & Urban Myths

## True or False?

7. Urban people are more modern than rural people because they are more ambitious and more clever.
  
8. Urban & modern people need more access to infrastructure and services provided by the State than rural people (e.g., roads, hospitals, education, subsidies for cheaper food, cheap credit etc.).

## 2. Characteristics

1. The “modern” & the “West”
  - Usually dichotomous oppositional definitions
  - Usually a-historical definitions
  - Usually focus on homogeneity – not heterogeneity

## 2. Characteristics

### 2. Modernisation & Industrialisation + Industrial Agriculture

- Technology
- Social and economic re-arrangement for intensive use of resources & higher productivity
  
- Non-human/non-animal energy sources
- Mass production
- Mechanization
  
- Intensification (not extensive)
- Petroleum-based cropping & food production
- Mechanized food production
- The Green Revolution

## 2. Characteristics

### Green Revolution

- High yield, hybrid, seeds (grains – rice, wheat, corn)
- Synthetic fertilizers
- Pesticides & herbicides (new chemical compositions)
- + industrial agricultural management & expansion of irrigation
- 1940-1960s: research - development – technology transfer

## 2. Characteristics

### Economic Modernisation (theory of)

- Walt Rostow – 1960's – Stages of Growth
  - ✓ Traditional society
  - ✓ Preconditions for take off
  - ✓ Take-off
  - ✓ Drive to maturity
  - ✓ High mass consumption

### 3. Livelihood - components

#### Capitals/Assets

- a. Natural capital
- b. Physical capital
- c. Human capital (+ institutional & political capital)
- d. Social capital
- e. Financial capital

### 3. Livelihood - components

#### a. Natural capital

- Soil, land
- Flora/forests, fauna
- Water, fisheries

### 3. Livelihood - components

#### b. Physical capital

- Production tools
- Machines
- Vehicles
- Dwellings

### 3. Livelihood - components

#### c. Human capital

- Labor (from healthy, productive humans)
- Education
- Knowledge, skills

### 3. Livelihood - components

#### d. Social capital

- Associations
- Mutual aid groups
- Family/clan networks

### 3. Livelihood - components

#### e. Financial capital

- Savings
- Credit
- Remittances
- Pensions

## 4. Challenges to Livelihood Components

Capital Assets

- a. natural
- b. physical
- c. human
- d. social
- e. financial

Quality/Quantity/Access to

- 1. land
- 2. production tools
- 3. labor
- 4. associations
- 5. credit

## 4. Challenges to Livelihood Components

Capital Assets

Quality/Quantity/Access to

a. natural

1. land

## 4. Challenges to Livelihood Components

Capital Assets

Quality/Quantity/Access to

b. physical

2. production tools

## 4. Challenges to Livelihood Components

Capital Assets

Quality/Quantity/Access to

c. human

3. labor

## 4. Challenges to Livelihood Components

Capital Assets

Quality/Quantity/Access to

d. social

4. associations

## 4. Challenges to Livelihood Components

Capital Assets

e. financial

Quality/Quantity/Access to

5. credit

## 5. Rural Citizens'/Households' Responses to Challenges

Quality/Quantity/Access to

Citizen/Household Response

1. land

a. rent land from others

2. production tools

b. mutual aid groups

3. labor

c. network collaborations

4. associations

d. e.g., officially recognized  
natural resource use groups

5. credit

e. family/clan networks

## 5. Rural Citizens'/Households' Responses to Challenges

Quality/Quantity/Access to

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a. rent land from others

## 5. Rural Citizens'/Households' Responses to Challenges

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## 5. Rural Citizens'/Households' Responses to Challenges

Quality/Quantity/Access to

Citizen/Household Response

5. credit

e. family/clan networks

## 6. Nation State Responses to Challenges

Quality/Quantity/Access to

Nation/State Response

1. land

a. consolidation

2. production tools

b. mechanization

3. labor

c. agricultural extension

4. associations

d. devolution of natural resource  
management

5. credit

e. support for medium/larger  
producers

## 6. Nation State Responses to Challenges

Quality/Quantity/Access to

Nation State Response

1. land

a. consolidation

## 6. Nation State Responses to Challenges

Quality/Quantity/Access to

Nation State Response

2. production tools

b. mechanization

## 6. Nation State Responses to Challenges

Quality/Quantity/Access to

Nation State Response

3. labor

c. agricultural extension

## 6. Nation State Responses to Challenges

Quality/Quantity/Access to

Nation State Response

4. associations

d. devolution of natural resource management

## 6. Nation State Responses to Challenges

Quality/Quantity/Access to

Nation State Response

5. credit

e. agricultural extension

## 7. Conclusion

- Assumptions, myths, beliefs & theories regarding development & rural people
- Green Revolution & its limits?
- Sustainable livelihoods & ecologically sustainable rural development?
- Theories, beliefs, myths & responses to rural development challenges

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