6. Rural Sociology

Rural sociology is a branch of sociology that focuses on the rural people and rural places in relation to their social activities. It is an applied field of sociology that engages sociological research and training toward the development of rural people and places. Simply put, rural sociology can be defined as the scientific study of rural society. It can also be referred to as 244 Introductory Sociology the science of laws that govern the development of rural areas (Desai, 1994). Rural sociology studies rural people’s ways of life as they affect and are affected by the people in the urban regions. Specifically, it studies the social institutions, social processes, social organisations and social structure in the rural societies. The scientific study of rural society is based on the assumption that people’s pattern of life in the rural areas such as belief systems, traditions, norms, values, rules and regulations are totally distinct from those in the metropolis. The scope of rural sociology is much less narrow-minded today than in the past, embracing practical sociological research themes, unconventional methodologies, and policy issues that shape the boundaries with sociology (Litcher, 2015). Its subject matter is the explanation and exploration of origin and growth of social life, in its entirety, as they occur in the rural areas. Rural sociology has been broadened to address emerging synthesis of research that borders on rural-urban societies.