

Non-Farm Activities in Rural Areas

Chapter 16: The Story of Village Palampur · Topic 2

Key Concept

Rural non-farm activities include small-scale manufacturing (like handicrafts or food processing), retail trade, transportation services, and government or private sector jobs.

These activities help diversify rural incomes, reducing dependence on agriculture alone, which can be affected by unpredictable factors like weather and market prices.

Non-farm activities also create employment opportunities for rural residents, especially during off-farming seasons when agricultural work is less available.

Government schemes and rural development programs often aim to promote non-farm activities, recognising their importance in improving rural livelihoods and reducing poverty.

Quick Revision Notes

- Non-farm activities include manufacturing, trade and services.
- Examples include handicrafts and food processing.
- Retail trade and transportation are also non-farm activities.
- Non-farm activities diversify rural incomes.
- This reduces dependence on unpredictable agriculture.
- Non-farm work is especially useful in off-farming seasons.
- It creates additional employment opportunities.
- Government schemes promote non-farm activities to reduce poverty.

Practice Questions

- 1 List three non-farm activities common in rural areas.
- 2 Discuss why relying only on farming can be risky.
- 3 Research a government scheme promoting rural non-farm work.
- 4 Explain how non-farm activities help during off-seasons.
- 5 Discuss an example of rural manufacturing or trade.
- 6 Interview someone (or research) about a non-farm rural livelihood.