

Basic Definitions Related to Extension

Extension education is an applied social science consisting of relevant content derived from physical, biological and social sciences and in its own process synthesized into a body of knowledge, concepts, principles and procedures oriented to provide non-credit out of school education largely for adults. - Leagans (1971).

Extension Education is a science, which deals with the creation, transmission of knowledge designed to bring about planned changes in the behavior-complex of people to help them live better by learning the ways of improving their vocations, enterprises & institutions (Reddy, 1993).

Extension Education is a science that brings about desirable changes in the behavior of the concerned persons through educational methods, so as to improve their general standard of living with their own efforts. In fact, it deals with the designs & strategies of transfer of technology to the concerned persons. In other words, what is taught to the farmers is not Extension Education, though its knowledge is applied for the effective & efficient communication of various programmes of change (Singh, 1994).

Extension is education and that its purpose is to change attitude and practices of the people with whom the work is to change. (Ensminger, 1957)

Extension Education is the process of teaching rural people how to live better by learning ways to improve their farm, home and community institutions (Leagans, 1961).

Extension is an out of school education and services for the members of the farm family and others directly or indirectly engaged in farm production to enable them to adopt improved practices in production, management, conservation and marketing. Several authors defined extension in various ways emphasizing the importance of one or the other aspect of extension (National Commission on Agriculture, 1976).

Scope of Extension Education

Extension appears to have unlimited scope in situations where there is need for creating awareness amongst the people and changing their behavior by informing and educating them. Kelsey and Hearne (1967) identified nine areas of programme emphasis, which indicate the scope of agricultural extension.

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1. Efficiency in agricultural production.
2. Efficiency in marketing, distribution and utilization.
3. Conservation, development and use of natural resources.
4. Management on the farm and in the home.
5. Family living.
6. Youth development.
7. Leadership development.
8. Community development and rural area development.
9. Public affairs.

The following statements will further amplify the scope of extension.

1. Extension is fundamentally a system of out-of-school education for adults and youths alike. It is a system where people are motivated through a proper approach to help themselves by applying science in their daily lives, in farming, home making and community living.
2. Extension is education for all village people.
3. Extension is bringing about desirable changes in the knowledge, attitudes and skills of people.
4. Extension is helping people to help themselves.
5. Extension is working with men and women, boys and girls, to answer their felt needs and wants.
6. Extension is teaching through "learning by doing" and "seeing is believing".
7. Extension is working in harmony with the culture of the people.
8. Extension is a two-way channel; it brings scientific information to village people and it also takes the Problems of the village people to the scientific institutes for solution.
9. Extension is working together (in groups) to expand the welfare and happiness of the people with their own families, their own villages, their own country and the world.
10. Extension is development of individuals in their day-to-day living, development of their leaders, their society and their world as a whole.