

Course Code	Course Name	Credits
26RD751	Dissertation	08

Course Description

The Master of Arts (MA) in Rural Development Dissertation is an advanced, research-based capstone project. Students conduct empirical or secondary data research on a rural issue, applying theoretical frameworks to real-world challenges, and culminating in an academic project report.

Course Objectives

- Translate classroom theories of rural sociology, economics, and community planning into actionable field research
- Equip students with skills in research design, data collection (primary/secondary), and analytical techniques.
- Identify and evaluate developmental deficits in rural areas, proposing sustainable solutions or policy interventions.

Skill Enhancement Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, the learner will be able to:

- Identify and formulate a research problem
- Learning to navigate academic databases, archives, and conduct fieldwork or surveys.
- Assessing the validity, bias, and relevance of academic sources and literature.
- Designing and executing qualitative or quantitative research frameworks.
- Self-regulating an independent timeline across months, meeting intermediate deadlines without daily supervision.
- Organizing and coding large amounts of data, notes, and references efficiently.
- Keeping your research topic focused and realistic relative to your timeframe
- Creating clear charts, tables, and appendices to communicate dense information.
- Articulating and defending your methodology and findings in front of an academic panel

Course Content and Execution

- Formulation of project or research problem
- Review of literature
- Preparation of the research proposal and methodology design
- Presentation of the research proposal
- Field Study
- Data collection and analysis
- Report writing
- Presentation of report and viva voce
- Publishing of an article based on the research study

Learning Outcome

- Student will be able to define a focused, original, and academically relevant research problem
- Critically review and evaluate existing scholarly literature to establish a theoretical framework for the study.
- Analyze and interpret primary or secondary data rigorously to draw valid conclusions.
- Assess the limitations, implications, and broader significance of your research findings
- Student will be able to create comprehensive written reports that summarize findings and communicate them effectively to a target audience