

Sustainable Agri-Based Livelihood System: Need for Social Work Intervention in Contemporary Times

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Abstract:

Agriculture continues to serve as the foundation of livelihood systems for billions of people across the globe, particularly in rural and peri-urban regions. Yet, in the 21st century, these livelihoods face a convergence of challenges—climate change, ecological degradation, market instability, socio-economic inequalities, and technological disparities—that threaten their sustainability. This paper examines the conceptual underpinnings and global significance of sustainable agri-based livelihood systems, identifies the contemporary threats they face, and presents the case for integrating social work interventions into agricultural development strategies. Drawing on comparative examples from India, sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia, it argues that the human-centered, participatory, and equity-focused approaches central to social work are vital for ensuring resilient and inclusive agricultural systems. The discussion extends to best practices, case illustrations, and policy recommendations aimed at aligning sustainable agriculture with social justice and community empowerment.

Keywords:

Sustainable livelihoods, agriculture, social work, climate change, rural development, community empowerment, food security.