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## **UNIT 3 EMPLOYMENT GENERATION AND LIVELIHOOD**

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### **Structure**

- 3.1 Introduction
- 3.2 Understanding Livelihoods
- 3.3 Need for Livelihood Promotion
- 3.4 Livelihood Intervention
- 3.5 Funding of the Livelihood Activity
- 3.6 Sustainable Livelihood (SL)
- 3.7 Let Us Sum Up
- 3.8 Keywords
- 3.9 Abbreviations
- 3.10 Bibliography and Selected Readings
- 3.11 Check Your Progress – Possible Answers

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### **3.1 INTRODUCTION**

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India has now over 1250 million people out of which 500 million are workers. Every year the workforce increases by about two percent that is about ten million net increment. Of the 500 million who are already working, about 93% are working either in the agriculture or the informal sector. The livelihood challenge in India, therefore, is a twin challenge – one of creating ten million new livelihoods every year and the second of upgrading the livelihoods of about 350 million people who are already employed. Given the magnitude of the issue, and the dearth of resources for livelihood promotion, the task of promoting livelihoods for the poor becomes even more urgent. It calls for companies to use their resources optimally to achieve maximum scale. On the other hand, most of the companies/development agencies are ‘theme oriented’ (e.g.: watershed management, health, agriculture, etc.). While they can leave a lasting and sustainable positive impact in livelihood promotion, they are oftentimes required to develop a thorough understanding of what livelihood promotion means to their respective specializations. This unit gives an overview of livelihoods and provides some basic concepts that are fundamental to livelihood promotion.

After studying this unit, you should be able to know:

- Describe the need for livelihood promotion
- Discuss the elements of design of livelihood intervention
- Discuss various efforts towards livelihood promotion
- Explain sustainable livelihood

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### **3.2 UNDERSTANDING LIVELIHOODS**

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A livelihood is much more than employment. The hidden complexity behind the term ‘livelihood’ comes to light when Governments, Civil Society, and external organizations attempt to assist people whose means of making a living is

threatened, damaged, or destroyed. From extensive learning and practice, various definitions have emerged that attempt to represent the complex nature of a livelihood.

### **Box 3.1: Livelihood and Sustainability**

A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources) and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stress, shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities, assets both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resource base.

A person's livelihood refers to the means of securing the necessities of life – food, water, shelter, and clothing. Livelihood is defined as a set of activities, involving capacity to acquire above necessities, working either individually or as a group by using endowments (both human and material) for meeting the requirements of the self and his/her household, on a sustainable basis with dignity. Living is largely about generating income. But this is really a means to an end which also includes aspects of food security, providing a home, health, reduced vulnerability to climatic, economic or political shocks, sustainability (the ability to continue to make a satisfactory living) and power (the ability to control one's own destiny). Hence, livelihood is a set of economic activities, involving self-employment and or wage employment, by using one's endearments (human and material), to generate adequate resources (cash and non-cash), for meeting the requirements of self and the household, usually carried out repeatedly and as such become a way of life.

### **3.2.1 Conditions for the Livelihood Promotion**

A livelihood should keep a person:

- meaningfully occupied;
- in a sustainable manner; and
- with dignity.

Livelihoods therefore go far beyond generating income. A livelihood is much more than employment. Less than 10 percent of rural workers in India are employed on a regular basis. Poor rural households engage in more than one activity for their livelihood.

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## **3.3 NEED FOR LIVELIHOOD PROMOTION**

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There are basically three reasons to promote livelihood:

- 1) The primary reason to promote livelihood is the belief in the essential right of all human beings to equal opportunity. Poor people do not have life choices nor do they have opportunities. Ensuring that a poor household has a stable livelihood will substantially increase its income, and over time, asset ownership, self-esteem and social participation.
- 2) The second reason for livelihood promotion is to promote economic growth. The 'bottom of the pyramid' does not have the purchasing power to buy even the bare necessities of life – food, clothing and shelter. But as they get

steadier incomes through livelihood promotion, they become customers of many goods and services, which promote growth.

- 3) The third reason for promoting livelihoods is to ensure social and political stability. When people are hungry, they tend to take to violence and crime.

**Check Your Progress - 1**

**Notes:** a) Write your answers in about 50 words.

b) Check your answer with possible answers given at the end of the unit.

- 1) Define livelihood.

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- 2) Which are the basic three reasons to promote livelihood?

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### **3.4 LIVELIHOOD INTERVENTION**

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#### **3.4.1 Background**

Livelihood promotion evolved a great deal since the early days with contributions from people like Rabindranath Tagore, conceiver of the Sriniketan experiment, Spencer Hatch of YMCA, Marthandam experiment, Fr. Brayne of the Gurgaon experiment, Albert Mayer of Etawah project who initiated livelihood promotion in their own ways. Mahatma Gandhi one of the early livelihood thinkers of 20<sup>th</sup> century had a holistic vision of livelihood, with the deep concern for both the poor and sustainability. Gandhiji suggested developing local economies by promoting inter dependent activities as a member of mutually supportive community, eventually leading to ‘gram swaraj.’ During this period the emphasis was on building human capital and imparting knowledge as the people lacked the know-how to do better. Even in the years after independence, the government, policies and strategies were based on similar principles. The multipurpose approach to promote rural livelihoods was promoted during the First and Second Five Year Plans through the Community Development Programme and Panchayat Raj System. In the subsequent Five-Year Plans emphasis was laid on livelihood promotion adopting various strategies.

### 3.4.2 Elements of Design of Livelihood Intervention

Livelihood interventions are conscious efforts by an agency or organization to promote and support livelihood opportunities for many people. Three elements of the design of the livelihood intervention are given below (Fig.3.1)

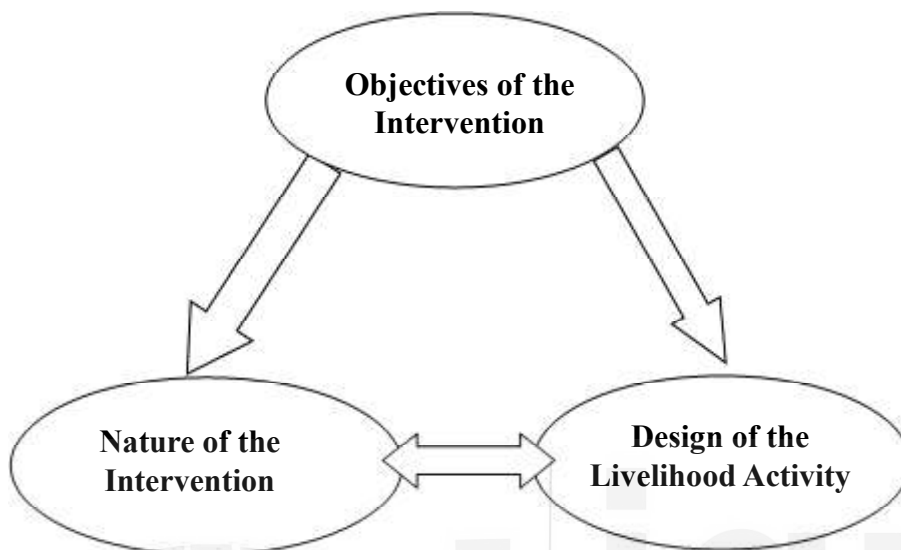


Fig 3.1: Three Elements of Design of Livelihood Intervention

### 3.4.3 Framing the Objectives of Livelihood Interventions

Livelihoods can be enhanced in many ways. Among others, it can be done by:

- Enhancing income
- Creating assets or wealth
- Increasing food security
- Reducing risk
- Reducing variances in income
- Reducing rural to urban migration
- Organizing producers to have greater control over their livelihoods
- Enhancing the money that circulates within the local economy

Although achieving one objective sometimes leads to fulfilling the other objectives, this is not always so. The primary objective of most livelihood interventions in India today is enhancing incomes and food security. Asset creation is usually seen as a means to enhance income. While organizing producers, again to achieve better returns, is also common, however, strategies to reduce risk are less common, and very few interventions explicitly focus on enhancing the money that circulates within the local economy. Reducing migration is often an outcome of other livelihood strategies, but is very rarely a stated objective. However, in the recent years, with the opening of the insurance sector, many new initiatives in this direction have been started. ICICI Lombard and ICICI Prudential, AVIVA, among others, have developed different products to reduce the risk of various livelihoods supporting activities.

### 3.4.4 Nature of the Interventions

The nature of livelihood intervention can vary along three dimensions:

1) **The sector to be intervened:** It should be decided whether the existing livelihood activity is to be improved or a new activity must be promoted. The sector to be intervened is often choice based demand. Upon the demand and factor conditions, however, there are choices:

- One could choose to improve upon an existing livelihood activity. For example, SIFFS (South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies) introduced motorized boats among small fishermen in Kerala

OR

- One could work on a livelihood activity new to the area. For example, Mysore Resettlement and Development Agency (MYRADA) introduced assembling watchstraps in collaboration with Titan Watches in a predominantly agrarian area.

2) **The point of intervention:** Which part of the value-addition chain is to be focused? Whether missing inputs such as technology development or credit has to be provided or integrated with the delivery of inputs, or intervened at multiple points providing several services; needs to be decided. After choosing the sector in which to intervene, it is important to identify in what to intervene? For example, if dairy sub-sector is chosen it is necessary to identify whether to improve fodder production, or to process the milk, or to build linkages with the market, to get the best benefit to the producers.

Intervention can be to improve the production process itself as in the case of PRADAN, which developed a small-scale technology for rearing poultry and is helping tribal groups take up such production. Seri-2000 with the support from Silk Development and Cooperation (SDC) helped silk farmers to improve their rearing processes.

Producers can be helped to get a better market price for their produce. Example, SIFFS (South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies) facilitates marketing of the fish caught by its members. NDDDB (National Dairy Development Board) has setup processing plants and provides marketing channels for the milk produced by the members.

3) **The instrument of intervention:** What is the tool of intervention? Do people have to be trained to make the necessary changes? The issue of where to intervene in the value-addition chain and the choice of approaches on how to intervene are closely linked.

The inputs to be focused on during intervention strategies:

- a) Technology: Some interventions in livelihoods have evolved around technological intervention. SIFFS has introduced motorized boats using a simple technology to help the fishermen.
- b) Training: Training inputs have been an integral part of most interventions in livelihoods. The NGO MYRADA had given significant skill building to rural girls to take up the contract for watchstrap manufacturing of

Titan, while promoting project MEADOW which aims at ensuring better livelihood through engagement of rural women.

- c) Marketing: The Association of Crafts Producers (ACP) provides marketing assistance to a wide range of producers in Nepal. Other interventions like Janarth, NDDDB extended market support services to the producers.
- d) Asserting Rights: The National Alliance of Street Vendors lobbied for the rights of street vendors and worked with national, state and local governments. Similarly, SEWA focused on ensuring that the beedi roller got what law entitled them to.
- e) Policy Advocacy: Livelihood choices are often enabled or restricted by the policy environment. SEWA (Self-Employed Women's Association) made significant dent in the policy environment, which earlier never recognized unorganized workforce as labour.
- f) Building Local Interdependent Economy: Interventions designed to strengthen an interdependent local economy, where a large proportion of the inputs required for an activity are procured locally, and value addition of the products is also done at the local level, have been tried by some agencies, as in the case of DHRUVA-BAIF (Bharatiya Agro Industries Foundation)
- g) Credit: BASIX (Bhartiya Samruddhi Investments and Consulting Services), a rural livelihoods promotion institution working in many states in India, extends micro-credit services for a variety of rural activities including farming, animal husbandry, cottage industries, trade and services.
- h) Infrastructure: Some interventions also provide infrastructure, such as developing milk-chilling centres, various food processing units etc. Infrastructure such as creating milk chilling centres or building a road is often beyond the capacity of NGOs. However, there are several examples of NGO interventions in creating small or micro infrastructures like grading and sorting platform or creating a common work place for community. The case on DHRUVA may be referred, which has created community owned processing unit.
- i) Institution building: In some cases, the organization promoting or supporting livelihoods has focused only on building producer organizations. The Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) in Gujarat has been involved in organizing communities into various peoples' institutions such as Water Users' Association, Mahila Vikas Mandal while developing watershed in this area. These institutions have emerged as strong peoples' organizations, where the livelihood choices are made by these organizations and not by the intervention agency. It is not essential that only one instrument of intervention is chosen; it is also possible to use more than one. For example, providing livelihoods support services of many kinds, like quality input, timely credit and output marketing (as AKRSP does).

**Activity 1**

Visit a CSR project on livelihood intervention in your vicinity. Write down the sector of intervention, point of intervention and instrument of intervention of the project.

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**Check Your Progress - 2**

**Notes:** a) Write your answers in about 50 words.

b) Check your answer with possible answers given at the end of the unit.

1) Define livelihood interventions.

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2) What are three elements of the design of the livelihood intervention?

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3) Write the ways in which livelihoods can be enhanced.

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**3.5 FUNDING OF THE LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITY**

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The funding of livelihood activities can be done by using any of the following means:

### 1) Grant-based Funding

Grants are good to start with and to provide a range of services in addition to the primary activity itself, but may lead to uncompetitive businesses, which close when grant funds run out.

### 2) Loan-based Funding

Loans allow for proper investment in the business, but may be difficult to access and difficult to repay if the business fails.

### 3) Equity

Equity is more flexible and less risky than loans, and is in many ways the ideal finance for an activity, but is often very difficult for a micro or small enterprise to secure. The case of MYRADA-MEADOW provides an example where workers themselves contributed equity-type funds to allow the business to invest in infrastructure. In many livelihood interventions, poor households provide sweat-equity in the form of their labour.

### 4) Financial Orchestration

A combination of grants, loans and equity can also be chosen. This kind of financial orchestration gives flexibility to do initial work (which is often not commercially feasible) with grant support and then take loans when the livelihood activity is in a position to scale up.

Government of India has been one of the largest agencies involved in such promotion efforts. However, the corporate sectors and the NGO sector have also contributed to promoting livelihoods.

#### Activity 2

Visit a CSR project on livelihood intervention in your vicinity. Write about the sources of funding of the project.

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Here are a few examples:

#### **Alternate Implementation Mechanism (AIM) - A Case Study on Public Private Civil Society Partnership in Jalna, (Maharashtra)**

The Public Private Civil Society Partnership (PPCP) project was designed for implementing National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) activities as well as State Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (SREGS) activities on watershed approach. The project is an AIM initiative undertaken by the Zilla Parishad, District administration, Watershed Organization Trust (WOTR) and Indian Tobacco Company–Rural Development Trust (ITC–RDT) in two blocks of Jalna district, Maharashtra. The PPCP arrangement in the project was designed



based on the lessons from State REGS, experience of WOTR–SIED and ITC–RDT, and willingness from the multi-disciplinary Zilla Parishad (ZP) of Jalna.

### ***Impact and Challenges***

More than 70 per cent of works under the PPCP programme was undertaken for soil and water conservation in the district. The programme is driven by the demand for work by the community. The flow of funds to NGOs and technical partners depends on the amount of work generated through shelf of work. Therefore, the labour estimates vis-à-vis the work generated impacted the livelihoods of the community.

The Gram Sabha (GS) had played a pivotal role in implementation of REGS. It was responsible for recommending shelf of works to be taken up under REGS and conducting social audits of the implementation. In addition, GS had supported extensively to facilitate the implementation of the schemes. In the process of delivery, the GS was strengthened institutionally in terms of generating work and handling payments.

WOTR is executing watershed projects under NREGA in two blocks, namely Jafrabad and Bhokardan of Jalna district of Maharashtra. From the PPCP arrangement it became evident that the partnership between the agencies has the potential to deliver results while aiming at improvement in the productivity of land. Soil and water conservation measures were the vehicles to address larger issues in implementing NREGS in the district, while considering the potential of all the stakeholders.

### **Few of the other examples are—**

- Government programs such as the National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), refashioned as the Sampurna Gram Samridhi Yojana, guaranteed wage-employment to the poor in the lean season through public works such as road building. Part of the wages were paid in kind as food grains, which was a carryover from the erstwhile “food for work” programme.
- Government programmes such as the erstwhile Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), refashioned as the Swarna Jayanti Grameen Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), promoted self-employment among the poor through acquisition of an income generating asset with the help of a bank loan and a government subsidy. AXIS and PNB bank are few examples.
- Special government programmes, run in specific states, to promote both wage employment, such as the Employment Guarantee Scheme (EGS) of Maharashtra and to promote self-employment through highly subsidized asset acquisition, such as the World Bank sponsored District Poverty Initiatives Program (DPIP) in Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- Programmes run by sectoral institutions such as the National Dairy Development Board, the Central Silk Board, the Coir Board, the National Horticultural Board, and the Development Commissioners for Handloom and Handicrafts.

- Programmes run by non-governmental agencies, for promoting livelihoods in different regions and sectors, such as by World Vision India, SEWA, BAIF, MYRADA, AKRSP, PRADAN, RGVN and BASIX.
- The Self-Employed Women’s Association (SEWA) works with over 750,000 self-employed women of low-income households.
- Bhartiya Agro-Industries Foundation’s (BAIF) programme supporting one million livelihoods, comprising cattle cross-breeding, pasture development, horticulture, etc.
- Venkateswara Hatcheries intervention to develop the poultry sector, culminating in the National Egg Coordination Council, which serves over 200,000 poultry producers.
- Various micro-finance interventions by banks and NGOs have influenced the livelihoods of more than twelve million people.

### 3.6 SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD (SL)

The concept of Sustainable Livelihood (SL) is an attempt to go beyond the conventional definitions and approaches to poverty eradication. These had been found to be too narrow because they focused only on certain aspects or manifestations of poverty, such as low income, or did not consider other vital aspects of poverty such as vulnerability and social exclusion. It is now recognized that more attention must be paid to the various factors and processes which either constrain or enhance poor people’s ability to make a living in an economically, ecologically, and socially sustainable manner. The SL concept offers a more coherent and integrated approach to poverty. In perspective of making the concept more practical and operational a composite flow of chart is given below (Fig.3.4):

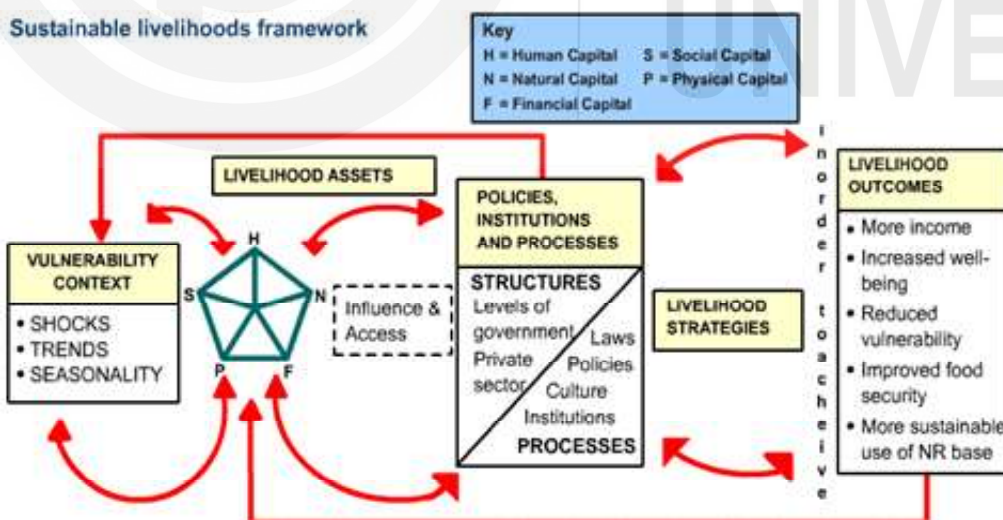


Fig 3.4: Sustainable Livelihood Framework  
(Source: DFID, Sustainable Livelihood guidance sheet)

**Project (Oil India Limited) OIL Rupantar: Sustainable Livelihood - Point (ii) of Schedule VII of Companies Act, 2013**

- Growing unemployment, a major cause of social unrest, threatens OIL’s long-term business goals. In its areas of operation, OIL is seen as the only

source of direct/indirect employment. Committed to socio-economic development, OIL collaborated with State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD), Assam, to launch Project Rupantar (meaning transformation) in the year 2003 to overcome unemployment especially amongst rural youth and women by motivating them to engage in entrepreneurship development programmes exploring self-employment opportunities in the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors.

- The project has since encouraged many self-help groups (SHGs)/joint liability groups (JLGs) to pursue agro-based industries, animal husbandry, sericulture, fishery, organic farming, and diversification of handloom products. Aastha, a marketing outlet in OIL Field Headquarters at Duliajan, Assam, adds value to the project by providing support to the marketing needs of the SHGs.
- With infrastructural and other support from OIL, SIRD has formed 8,500 SHGs and JLGs since 2003. OIL exclusively has formed 2,450 SHGs/JLGs from 2008-09 to 2016-17, providing farmers, women, and youth - mostly in tea garden areas with 50% subsidy, other financial and material inputs. In the last three fiscals since 2014-15, OIL has formed 1,300 SHGs/JLGs for poultry, piggery, handloom (weaving) and farm mechanization (power tiller), assisting 9,725 farm families.
- World Petroleum Congress held in Doha in December 2011 recognized Project Rupantar as one of 12 best CSR initiatives by the global oil and gas industry and highlighted it in the Social Responsibility Global Village, as part of the Congress.

#### ***Agriculture Project***

- Started in the year 1991, the project implemented under the Oil India Rural Development Society (OIRDS). OIRDS is one of the foremost social welfare projects of OIL conceived with the principal objective of promoting sustainable growth of rural economy.
- The primary objective of the Agriculture Project is to encourage the unemployed youth to adopt agriculture as a means of earning livelihood and thereby attain economic empowerment. The farmers are introduced to modern methods of cultivation for maximizing farm yield through in-field training by experts from Agriculture Department, Government of Assam and Assam Agriculture University (AAU) and providing them with high yield variety seeds, organic manure, farming tools and implements.
- Since 1991-92 till 2016-17, OIRDS has adopted 118 villages under various farmers' collectives, covering around 17,221 farm families.
- OIL has also signed MoU with AAU recently, to promote integrated farming in villages of OIL's operational areas in Upper Assam.

#### ***Project OIL Jeevika***

- Launched in FY 2016-17, the project is a community-cluster based sustainable rural livelihood promotion initiative, which aims at imparting skill development and up-gradation training to the targeted beneficiaries on beekeeping and honey processing, mustard, buckwheat and local pulse

processing as well as providing handholding support to them for generation of alternate source of income and formation of self-sustaining livelihood clusters.

**Check Your Progress - 3**

**Notes:** a) Write your answers in about 50 words.

b) Check your answer with possible answers given at the end of the unit.

1) What are the ways of funding of the livelihood Activity?

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2) What is sustainable livelihood?

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**3.7 LET US SUM UP**

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Traditionally the solution to the problems of poverty was conceived as an increase in income levels through the generation of employment. However, this vision has changed in the last two decades. A livelihood is a set of economic activities that involve self-employment and/or wage-employment.

In the current decade, according to estimates of the Planning Commission for the Tenth Five Year Plan, more than 10 million people in India will be seeking work every year. Thus, to ensure full employment within a decade, more than 10 million new livelihoods will have to be generated every year. Given the magnitude of the problem, and the dearth of resources for livelihood promotion, the task of promoting livelihoods for the poor becomes more urgent. It calls for organizations to use their resources optimally to achieve maximum scale. CSR has played an important role in livelihood intervention by either improving on the existing livelihoods or creating new livelihoods. In this unit you have read about the nature and instruments of livelihood interventions and the source of funding. Finally, we have discussed sustainable livelihood.

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**3.8 KEYWORDS**

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**Livelihood** : Livelihood refers to their “means of securing the basic necessities of life”. Livelihood is defined as a set of

activities essential to everyday life that are conducted over one's live span.

**Food Security** : Reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food.

**Sustainable Livelihood:** A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future, while not undermining natural resource bases.

### 3.9 ABBREVIATIONS

AAU	:	Assam Agriculture University
ACP	:	Association of Crafts Producers
AKRSP	:	Aga Khan Rural Support Programme
AP	:	Andhra Pradesh
BAIF	:	Bharatiya Agro Industries Foundation
BASIX	:	Bhartiya Samruddhi Investments and Consulting Services
DHRUVA	:	Vanguard of Awakening in Dharampur
DPIP	:	District Poverty Initiatives Programme
EGS	:	Employment Guarantee Scheme
GS	:	Gram Sabha
ICICI	:	Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India
IRD	:	Integrated Rural Development Programme
ITC-RDT	:	Indian Tobacco Company–Rural Development Trust
JLGs	:	Joint Liability Groups
MoU	:	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	:	Madhya Pradesh
MYRADA	:	Mysore Resettlement and Development Agency
NDDB	:	National Dairy Development Board
NGO	:	Non-Government Organization
NREGA	:	National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
NREGS	:	National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
NREP	:	National Rural Employment Programme
OIRDS	:	Oil India Rural Development Society
PNB	:	Punjab National Bank
PPCP	:	Public Private Civil Society Partnership
PRADAN	:	Professional Assistance for Development Action
REGS	:	Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

SEWA	:	Self-Employed Women's Association
SGSY	:	Swarna Jayanti Grameen Swarozgar Yojana
SHGs	:	Self-Help Groups
SIFFS	:	South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies
SIRD	:	State Institute of Rural Development
SL	:	Sustainable Livelihood
SREGS	:	State Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
WOTR	:	Watershed Organization Trust
YMCA	:	Young Men's Christian Association
ZP	:	Zilla Parishad

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## **3.11 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS - POSSIBLE ANSWERS**

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### **Check Your Progress - 1**

**Answer 1:** Livelihood is a set of economic activities, involving self-employment and/or wage employment. By using one's endearments (human and material), to generate adequate resources (cash and non-cash). For meeting the requirements of self and the household, usually carried out repeatedly and as such become a way of life.

**Answer 2:** The primary reasons to promote livelihood is the belief in the essential right of all human beings to equal opportunity. The second reason for livelihood promotion is to promote economic growth. And the third reason for promoting livelihoods is to ensure social and political stability.

### **Check Your Progress - 2**

**Answer 1:** Livelihood interventions are conscious efforts by an agency or organization to promote and support livelihood opportunities for numerous people.

**Answer 2:** The three elements of the design of the livelihood intervention are (1) Objectives of the intervention; (2) Design of the Livelihood activity; and (3) Nature of the Intervention.

**Answer 3:** Livelihoods can be enhanced in many ways. Among others, it can be done by:

- Enhancing income
- Creating assets or wealth
- Increasing food security
- Reducing risk

- Reducing variances in income
- Reducing rural to urban migration
- Organizing producers to have greater control over their livelihoods
- Enhancing the money that circulates within the local economy

**Check Your Progress - 3**

**Answer 1:** The ways of funding of the livelihood activity are: Grant-based Funding; loan-based Funding; Equity; and Financial Orchestration.

**Answer 2:** The concept of sustainable livelihood is an attempt to go beyond the conventional definitions and approaches to poverty eradication. These had been found to be too narrow because they focused only on certain aspects or manifestations of poverty, such as low income, or did not consider other vital aspects of poverty such as vulnerability and social exclusion. It is now recognized that more attention must be paid to the various factors and processes which either constrain or enhance poor people's ability to make a living in an economically, ecologically, and socially sustainable manner. The SL concept offers a more coherent and integrated approach to poverty.



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