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RURAL DEVELOPMENT MODELS: THEORETICAL APPROACHES*

Kırsal Kalkınma Modelleri: Teorik Yaklaşımlar

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ÖZ

Tarih boyunca kırsal alanlar, yalnızca tarımsal üretime adanmış statik mekanlardan, ekonomik, sosyal ve çevresel faktörlerin iç içe geçtiği çok yönlü ortamlara dönüşmüştür. Bu bağlamda, bu çalışma, literatüre yön veren temel teorik yaklaşımları sistematik bir şekilde incelemek amacıyla hazırlanmıştır. Nitekim, kırsal alanların değişen doğası, kırsal kalkınma literatüründe tek boyutlu modellerden uzaklaşarak, yerel dinamikleri ve küresel ağları dikkate alan daha karmaşık ve bütüncül teorilere yönelmeyi zorunlu hale getirmiştir. Bu bağlamda, kırsal alanların tanımı ve kırsal kalkınma göstergeleri ayrıntılı olarak açıklanmaktadır. Teorik bir çerçeve içinde kalkınmanın yukarıdan aşağıya ve dış müdahalelerle sağlandığını savunan dışsal yaklaşım; yerel kaynakların ve toplumsal katılımın önemini vurgulayan içsel yaklaşım; ve bu iki yaklaşımı sentezleyen neo-içsel yaklaşım incelenmiştir. Çalışmada kırsal kalkınma modellerinin başarısının, yerel paydaşların yönetim ve inovasyon becerilerinin geliştirilmesine, tarım dışındaki gelir getirici faaliyetlerin teşvik edilmesine ve kamu, özel ve sivil toplum sektörleri arasındaki yatay ve dikey etkileşimlerin güçlendirilmesine bağlı olduğu sonucuna ulaşılmıştır.

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ABSTRACT

Throughout history, rural areas have evolved from static spaces dedicated solely to agricultural production into multifaceted environments where economic, social, and environmental factors are intertwined. Against this backdrop, this study aims to examine the fundamental theoretical approaches informing literature in a systematic way. Indeed, the changing nature of rural areas has made it imperative to move away from one-dimensional models in rural development literature towards more complex, holistic theories that consider local dynamics and global networks. In this context, the definition of rural areas and rural development indicators is explained in detail. Within a theoretical framework, the following approaches have been examined: the exogenous approach, which argues that development is achieved through top-down and external interventions; the endogenous approach, which emphasises the importance of local resources and social participation; and the neo-endogenous approach, which synthesises these two approaches. The study concluded that the success of rural development models hinges on improving the management and innovation skills of local stakeholders, promoting income-generating activities beyond agriculture, and fostering horizontal and vertical interactions between the public, private, and civil society sectors.

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1. Introduction

Globalisation, industrialisation and rapid urbanisation have made it necessary to reassess rural areas from social and economic perspectives. Current rural development discussions focus on issues such as an ageing population, migration, infrastructure deficiencies and poverty. In this context, the sustainability of rural settlements can only be achieved through strategic development initiatives aimed at preventing people from migrating out of these regions. However, the absence of a universally accepted definition of rural development in existing literature suggests that the concept is variable at theoretical and political levels (Merenkova et al., 2019; Wubayehu, 2020; Yenigül and Temiz, 2021).

Rural development is a multifaceted process encompassing increased agricultural production, economic diversification, strengthened social structures and the safeguarding of rural areas' sustainability. This multidimensional nature has paved the way for the development of various models of rural development in the literature. These models are classified as exogenous, endogenous or neo-endogenous, synthesising both approaches (Çubukçu, 2024; Gkartzios & Scott, 2014; Georgios et al., 2021). These models primarily aim to promote the more rational use of existing resources and improve the economic and social conditions of rural areas. Minimising the income gap between rural and urban areas is indeed one of the ultimate goals of rural development. Therefore, rather than maintaining a dependent structure through constant external resources and incentives, the aim is to establish a dynamic rural structure that is self-sufficient and actively contributes to the national economy (Ata and Dallı, 2024).

The primary objective of this study is to examine the concept of 'rural development', for which there is no single, universally accepted definition in the literature, within a theoretical framework. The study will examine different approaches to defining rural areas and rural development, and will systematically organise the external, internal and neo-endogenous rural development models that have gained prominence in the literature, at a conceptual level. The study will explain the developmental processes of these models and the aspects that distinguish them from one another theoretically. This study is significant in that it strengthens the theoretical basis of the subject by revealing the paradigm shifts that rural development has undergone throughout history. However, this study not only explains the historical development processes of rural development models but also examines the interactions and dynamics among internal, external, and neo-endogenous approaches from a holistic perspective. The comparative analysis of rural development models which are often treated separately in the literature sets this study apart from others. The core value of this study lies in clarifying the current conceptual framework, as this is essential for developing strategies regarding the future of rural areas. The first section defines rural areas, followed by a discussion of rural development definitions and indicators. The third section addresses rural development models, and the study concludes with the results section.

2. Rural Area

In order to define the concept of rural development, it is first necessary to clarify what is meant by 'rural areas'. These two concepts are complementary (Ata and Dallı, 2024: 2). In order to implement proposals, policies and decisions aimed at improving resource distribution, addressing inequalities between regions and raising the living standards of disadvantaged groups, a functional definition of rural areas must be established (Li et al., 2015: 13).

Geographically, the term 'rural' generally refers to agricultural areas and isolated, scattered settlements. Social and economic factors that distinguish rural areas from urban ones include education, economic resources, an ageing population, lifestyles, dietary habits and access to health services. However, these factors alone are insufficient to fully explain the concept of rural areas (Prieto-Lara and Ocaña-Riola, 2010: 268). In this context, the economic, social, cultural, demographic, environmental and other aspects of areas designated as rural acquire new meanings in accordance with changing times. Therefore, it is not possible to establish a definitive definition of a rural area. Instead, each country defines rural areas according to its own administrative structure (Ata and Dallı, 2024: 2).

In fact, the criteria used to define rural areas can differ even within regions of a single country. This also makes it difficult to identify and measure these variables. The criterion generally used in the literature to define rural areas is population density (Avcu and Yayla, 2021: 69). In the 1900s, the employment rate in agriculture was used to describe a region’s level of rurality. However, over time, this criterion was deemed insufficient and population

density measurements were used instead. At the European level and in other countries, the primary map of rural areas was created by the OECD and EUROSTAT based on population density (Balestrieri, 2014: 176). The OECD's (1994) classification consists of two methodological stages. First, municipalities are classified as rural or urban based on whether their population density is less than or greater than 150 people per km². These areas were then divided into three categories (urban, rural and intermediate) at Level 3 (NUTS-3) based on the proportion of the population living in rural areas relative to the total regional population (OECD, 1994: 10). For this reason, despite being an inadequate measure for defining rural areas, the population density indicator remains the most commonly used parameter (Balestrieri, 2014: 176).

The economic, political, and social restructuring of countries is reshaping the development process of rural areas. In their study, López-i-Gelats et al. (2009) incorporate the dimensions of agriculture, entrepreneurship, conservation, and endogenous development into the definition of rural areas, while Frouws (1998) discusses the agricultural-rural distinction, utilitarianism, and hedonism within this framework. Table 1 provides a summary of the variables used in the literature to describe rural areas.

Table 1. Some Variables Used to Define Rural Areas

Index	Variables	Source
Rural Index	Population size, density, percentage of urban residents, distance to the nearest metropolitan area	Waldorf (2006)
Relative Rurality Index	Economic dependence, population aging, employment in agriculture, livestock farming, or fishing, population density, migration, self-employment, the rate of second homes, and perceptions of noise and air pollution in the vicinity of residential areas	Prieto-Lara and Ocaña-Riola (2010)
Rurality Index	Population, household resources, occupational structure, commuting patterns, and distance from city centers	Cloke (1977), Cloke and Edwards (1986)

Source: Balestrieri, 2014: 177.

Li et al. (2015) state that defining rurality is quite challenging due to its multifunctional structure, diverse dynamics, and complexity. Rural areas undergo significant spatial and temporal changes due to the interaction of economic, social, and technological developments and the qualitative factors influencing rural development. Such changes complicate the understanding of rurality (Li et al., 2015: 13).

Rural evolution is linked to the internal dynamics of rural areas and their interactions with the external environment. Initially, farmers transformed local resources into products that strengthened the rural economy, and the social order in rural areas was supported by social relationships. Subsequently, due to the influence of external factors such as globalization, urbanization, industrialization, and information technology, villages became dependent on cities and urban markets. A series of changes have occurred in rural areas, including restructuring, population mobility, changes in lifestyle, industrial development, shifts in production methods, and changes in social governance (Li, 2011: 336-337). However, since most villages have been unable to adapt to this change, rural businesses have been unable to withstand market competition. During this process, rural businesses' inability to access sufficient technology and capital, coupled with population decline, the shrinking of the local market, and a shortage of rural workers, has led to the deterioration of rural areas. As a result, villages have tended toward individualization, a loss of social cohesion, and, moreover, economic and social isolation. Thus, since the economic contraction and population decline in villages occurred simultaneously, they have entered a vicious cycle in which these factors mutually reinforce one another. This vicious cycle will persist until major cities come to dominate these regions and the transition to a knowledge-based economy is completed (Li et al., 2019: 138).

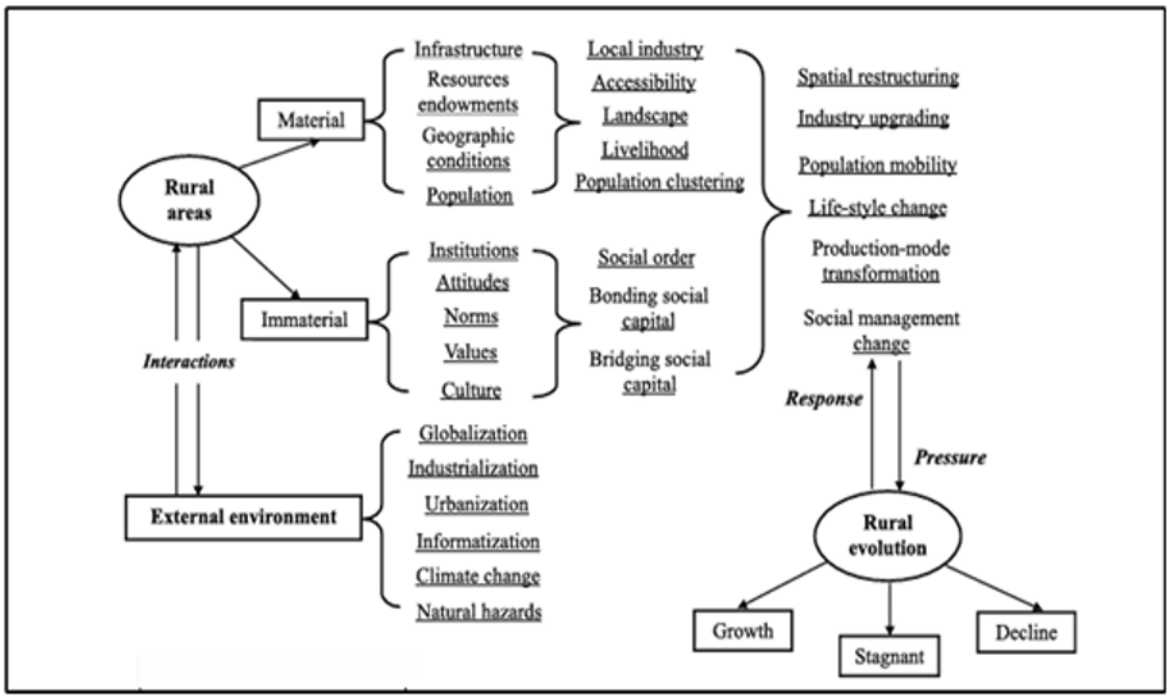


Figure 1. Rural Evolution Diagram

Source: Li et al., 2019: 139

Figure 1 summarizes the evolution of rural development. Thus, to develop rural areas, it is necessary to diversify rural livelihoods, establish market-oriented institutions, and strengthen social capital (Li et al., 2019).

3. Definition and Indicators of Rural Development

Rural development is linked to the creation of new products and services and the resulting development of new markets. It is also connected to the development of new ways to reduce costs through the adoption of new technological approaches. Strategic markets and cost-reduction methods align with the general needs and expectations of society (Van Der Ploeg et al., 2000: 396). In short, rural development involves the restructuring of rural areas and agriculture and ensuring that these are aligned with the economic, social, and cultural structures of rural areas (Günay et al., 2022: 2).

Rural development is perceived as an inclusive concept requiring the integration of the many different actors influencing livelihoods in rural areas. In reality, societies are not composed of two distinct structures, rural and urban. Instead, the predominantly agriculture-based rural economy is evolving into an economy where the population derives a greater share of its income from non-agricultural rural and non-rural activities. This evolution is the result of the gradual economic and social integration of rural areas (Mikos, 2001: 547).

The development of non-agricultural sectors in rural areas can help overcome the challenges associated with growth. As non-agricultural sectors develop, employment increases, and consequently, housing demand also rises. The growing housing need, which rural areas are meeting, is shifting the direction of migration from cities to rural areas. Additionally, the dense population in cities makes living there difficult. This situation is driving individuals' desire to live in rural areas (Yenigül, 2016, 18).

Rural areas are increasingly recognized as providers of ecosystem services such as fresh local food, renewable energy, and clean water sources. The flow of workers, migrants, and factors such as food and water between urban and rural areas is laying the groundwork for the formation of new connections. This has contributed to the establishment of new links between rural areas and the global economy, as well as to socio-economic transformation (Bosworth and Atterton, 2012: 255). For example, regions such as Bardajov in Slovakia, Oberpfalz in Germany,

Viège in Switzerland, and the Jura region in France, where industrial sectors like textiles and toys are concentrated, stand out for their non-agricultural activities (Yenigül, 2016: 18).

While the pace of urbanization and industrialization is high worldwide, those living in rural areas face challenges regarding the sustainability of this growth. Urbanization and high migration rates have led to a loss of rural labor, the abandonment of land, the depopulation of villages, and an increase in inequalities between rural and urban areas. Consequently, a range of issues has emerged, including rural poverty, inadequate infrastructure and services, the depletion of rural resources, the deterioration of the rural subsistence economy, and the degradation of rural ecosystems (Liu et al., 2024: 1).

Rural development strategies and policies have been developed to address these issues. For example, the European Commission aims to reduce rural poverty in a sustainable manner. To this end, it outlines a six-point framework for rural development that extends far beyond agriculture to encompass various sectors and involves all economic and social actors related to rural areas. The points are as follows:

• To build more peaceful, open, democratic, and equitable rural communities.

• To ensure that institutions in rural areas are more effective and accountable.

• To support economic policies that will foster the growth of rural areas.

• Enhancing the skills of individuals living in rural areas.

• Supporting sustainable natural resource management.

• Enhancing the coherence between European Union policies such as those related to agriculture, fisheries, migration, and trade that impact developing countries and the European Commission's development policy (Mikos, 2001: 547).

Since rural areas are characterized by diverse economic, social, political, and geographical structures, rural development requires a multifaceted approach. The complex and multidimensional nature of rural development leads to a wide variety of indicators. Different indicators represent various approaches to rural development. Furthermore, the policies and development programs implemented have evolved over the years. To effectively define rural development, these indicators must be determined in accordance with the conditions of the time. Consequently, rural development indicators that define socio-economic factors such as education, health, nutrition, and basic needs (roads, water, electricity, sewage, communication, etc.) are updated over time (Gupta, 2022: 14). Table 2 outlines the indicators and sub-indicators of rural development. Table 2 includes three main categories of indicators: those related to the economic structure, indicators of quality of life and social standards, and indicators of demography, migration, and the environment.

Table 2. Rural Areas Rural Development Indicators

Main Indicators	Sub-Indicators	Variables
Indicators Related to the Economic Structure	Competitiveness	Per capita income in the manufacturing sector
		Percentage of gross revenue in high-tech sectors
		Research and development expenditures
		Ratio of newly registered businesses to the total number of businesses
	Diversity	Percentage of rural population's income derived from non-agricultural activities
		Share of multiprofile rural sectors
		Ratio of employment in high- and low-technology sectors of the rural economy
		Share of people employed in agricultural production
		Share of rural businesses in total tourism revenue
		Ratio of net profit/loss to the number of businesses and organizations
		Profit/loss from goods and services
		Fixed capital investments per capita

	Effectiveness	Share of innovative goods, businesses, and services in the total volume of products produced in this rural area
	Income and Population	Volume and length of highways Total production value Percentage of households receiving social aid Average income per capita Spendable income of a household in a specific rural area Percentage of households connected to a farmers' organization Rural GDP (as a percentage of total GDP) Rural employment (as a percentage of total employment) Agriculture (as a percentage of GDP) Average economic size of a farm Labor productivity in agriculture Percentage of those opting for crop insurance Percentage of those opting for life insurance Percentage of skilled workers Total arable land Percentage of irrigable land Average landholding (hectares) Average productivity of major crops in the region
Quality and Social Living Standard Indicators	Quality of Employment	Ratio of highly skilled to low-skilled workers Percentage of part-time workers Percentage of self-employed workers
	Availability and Quality of Housing	Percentage of well-maintained housing in rural areas Social aid for purchasing housing Percentage of housing in rural areas improved through preferential loans
	Health Services	Accessibility of paramedic and obstetric stations in rural areas Ratio of available medical services Percentage of rural residents with access to healthcare workers Number of doctors per 1,000 people Ratio of low-birth-weight infants at birth Life Expectancy (Years) – Male Life Expectancy (Years) – Female Number of hospital beds per 1,000 people Rate of vaccinated children Child mortality rate
	Social	Number of banks per 1,000 people Number of ATMs per 1,000 people Number of post offices per 1,000 people Number of schools per 1,000 people Number of hospitals per 1,000 people Percentage of households with access to clean drinking water Percentage of households with electricity Accessibility of all roads leading to the nearest cities Public transportation options Accessibility of theater/cinema venues Accessibility of public libraries Availability of a multi-purpose public service center
	Education	Pre-school education coverage rate for children under six in rural areas Number of general education institutions in rural areas Number of highly educated people living in rural areas Literacy rate—Male Literacy rate—Female Primary school enrollment rate Lower secondary school enrollment rate Primary school retention rate Secondary school retention rate

Demographics, Migration, and Environmental Indicators	Demographics	Number of students per primary school teacher
		Number of students per secondary school teacher
		The share of the rural population in the country's total population
		Population density
		Percentage of the population aged 16 and under
		Percentage of the population aged 65 and over
		Average annual population change
	Migration	Household size
		Rural migration as a percentage of the total population
	Environmental Indicators	Share of environmental protection expenditures in the total rural budget
		Percentage of pollution mitigated in rural areas
		Number of wells per 1,000 households
		Number of ponds per 1,000 households
		Grazing area per hectare per 1,000 animals
		Forest area per hectare
		Percentage of households with their own toilets
		Percentage of people with access to sewer/drainage connections

Source: Gupta, 2022: 18–19; Morozova et al., 2023: 76.

4. Rural Development Models

Rural development models can be categorised into three distinct groups. The models under discussion are the exogenous rural development model, the endogenous rural development model, and the neo-endogenous rural development model. The following section aims to provide a comprehensive overview of rural development models.

In the aftermath of World War II, an external rural development model emerged in Europe. In accordance with this theoretical framework, rural areas were regarded as being economically, technically and culturally dependent on urban centres. The primary function of rural areas is to provide sustenance for the continually expanding urban population. In the initial phase of external rural development models, it is imperative to fortify agricultural structures (land reform), implement land improvement programmes (irrigation), and modernise farm-centred infrastructure. In the subsequent phase, the relocation of firms to rural areas is encouraged, for example through the tourism sector. In addition, the attraction of employment can be enhanced through investment in transportation and communication infrastructure between urban and rural areas (Gkartzios and Lowe, 2019; Lowe et al., 2019: 3). It can be argued that the external rural development model has been successful in increasing employment rates in rural areas, as well as in addressing improvements in technology, communication, and infrastructure, and the decline in the rural population. However, the model has been the subject of criticism on the grounds that rural development is dependent on foreign investment and that the model's non-participatory nature could create a democratic deficit (Gkartzios and Scott, 2014: 244). Lowe et al. (1998) articulated their concerns regarding external development approaches as follows:

• The viability of the initiative is contingent upon policy decisions and subsidies from external institutions or governing bodies.

• The policy is characterised by its selective approach, evidenced by its support for specific settlements and business types, while concomitantly neglecting other areas. Furthermore, it disregards the non-economic aspects of rural areas.

• The phenomenon under scrutiny in this study has been shown to have the capacity to obliterate the distinctive cultural and environmental characteristics of rural areas.

• The design of the project was overseen by external experts and planners (Lowe et al., 1998: 9-10).

Since the 1990s, endogenous models have occupied a central position within the theoretical framework and practical implementation of rural development. Endogenous approaches are predicated on the assumption that a region's unique natural, human, and cultural resources are pivotal to development. In the exogenous development model, disparities in rural areas are expected to be eliminated through the promotion of technical skills and the

improvement of physical infrastructure. However, within the endogenous development model, these disparities are intended to be minimised by means of enhancing the human and environmental capacities that are specific to rural areas. The endogenous development model posits that resources such as climate, soil fertility, and environmental quality, in conjunction with human capital, furnish the requisite conditions for long-term rural development. The fundamental objective of this model is to enhance the economic and social conditions of rural areas by mobilising internal resources (Galdeano-Gómez et al., 2011: 59; Shucksmith, 2000). The three fundamental principles of the endogenous rural development model are as follows:

• Development initiatives should be evaluated at the regional level rather than the national level.

• Economic and other development initiatives should aim to maximize benefits in rural areas through the utilization of local physical and human resources.

• Development should be shaped according to the capacity, perspective, and needs of the local population (Gkartzios and Scott, 2014: 245).

The implementation of the final two principles is of the utmost importance. Endogenous rural development functions as a mechanism to augment regional capacity, whilst concomitantly endeavouring to enhance the participation of the population in development initiatives. The endogenous rural model has been the subject of criticism on account of certain drawbacks. Firstly, the model posits the assumption that every region possesses growth potential that can be developed. Nevertheless, the present study does not elucidate the nature of this potential. Secondly, given the heterogeneity of societies, there is a tendency to support actors with greater capacity for action in endogenous development initiatives. Indeed, the question of whether the actors involved in development initiatives in this model genuinely represent the rural community remains contentious (Vermeire et al., 2008: 847).

Another approach to explaining rural development is the neo-endogenous (network-based) rural development approach. The fundamental characteristic of this approach is the acknowledgement that rural areas are shaped by both internal and external factors. In this context, the objective is to facilitate the rural sector's competition with the outside world and strengthen the connections between the rural sector and the outside world. The Neo-endogenous approach emphasises the necessity of diverse actors, each playing a distinct role in rural society and the economy, for the occurrence of rural development. Examples of such actors include rural professionals, regional stakeholders, civil society organisations, companies, universities, and research institutes. In this sense, while the quality and resilience of local businesses, communities, volunteer organisations, and households are important, the integration of the capital, power, and expertise of actors with stronger national and global connections is also of vital importance (Esparcia, 2014; Lowe et al., 2019: 30; Shucksmith, 2000).

In the neo-endogenous approach, the establishment of connections between rural areas is imperative to ensure access to resources and social infrastructure that are not locally available. In the context of network formation in rural areas, the contribution of connections between small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and established organisations is of significance. Established organisations with extensive networks have the capacity to provide information resources and innovation to regions lacking institutional systems (Georgios et al., 2021: 916-917). Furthermore, the model posits that entrepreneurship and innovation are instrumental in addressing the challenges confronting rural areas in their developmental endeavours (Olmedo and O'Shaughnessy, 2023: 211). According to Bosworth et al. (2016), the fundamental characteristics of the neo-endogenous rural development approach can be enumerated as follows:

• Local and regional development strategies

• Development and implementation of bottom-up strategies

• Local action groups promoting public-private partnerships in rural areas

• Multisectoral and integrated actions

• Innovation

• Networking

In summary, the role of the state is not so much to act as a dominant force in rural areas, but rather to utilise its capacity to promote rural development. To this end, the state must engage in collaborative endeavours with organisations and communities in rural areas (Bosworth et al., 2016: 428-429). The third table provides a comparison of indicators of rural development.

Table 3. Comparison of Rural Development Models

	Exogenous Rural Development	**Endogenous Rural Development**	**Neo-Endogenous Rural Development**
Basic Principle	Economies of scale and scope	Utilization of local (natural, human, and cultural) resources for sustainable development	Interaction between local and global forces, socio-spatial justice
Dynamic Forces	Poles of urban growth (external driving forces from rural areas); it is generally believed that the primary drivers of development originate from outside rural areas	Local initiative and entrepreneurship	Globalization, rapid technological change in the fields of communication and information
Functions of Rural Areas	Food and primary products for the expansion of urban economies	Diverse service economies	Knowledge economy, dynamic participation of local actors in local and external networks and development processes
Major Rural Development Challenges	Low productivity and environmental sustainability	Limited capacity of regions and groups to participate in economic activity	Resource allocation and competitiveness in a global context, climate change, economic crises
The Focus of Rural Development	Agricultural modernization: Promoting labor and capital mobility	Capacity building (skills, institutions, infrastructure): Overcoming exclusion	By enhancing local capacity and stakeholder participation, channeling local and external forces in line with their own interests
Focus Areas of Rural Development Studies	Agricultural economics; Keynesian economic models and positivism	Rural sociology and rural geography; interpretive approaches and case study research	Action in communities and activist research; interdisciplinary
Information Sources	Scientific research and external experts	Local community	Local experts
Criticism	Dependent, distorted, destructive, and dictated development	Not practical in contemporary Europe	Operates at a level of insufficient experimental evidence

Source: Galdeano-Gómez et al., 2011:59; Lowe et al., 2019: 31.

Irrespective of the approach adopted, the importance of rural areas is steadily increasing. It is imperative to acknowledge that resources in rural areas cannot be evaluated in isolation. In a highly developed economy, it has been demonstrated that idle resources, including social capital, cultural capital and environmental capital, enhance internal potential. However, the realisation of this potential requires external investors and consumers (Bosworth et al., 2016: 430).

5. Discussion and Conclusion

The purpose of this study is to provide a conceptual explanation of rural development and rural development models. To this end, the study provides a detailed explanation of rural areas, the definition of rural development, and rural development indicators. Subsequently, the characteristics of rural development models are compared.

Inhabitants of rural areas predominantly derive their livelihoods from economic activities that yield comparatively lower incomes, such as agriculture and livestock farming. The disparities in development between rural and urban areas are pronounced, and encompass economic, social, educational and infrastructural differences. It is evident that disparities of this nature are a contributing factor to the increasing rate of migration from rural to urban areas. The implementation of rural development models is a response to the challenges faced by rural areas. However, a review of the extant literature reveals an absence of any single model that can be identified as the driving force behind rural development. Instead, a plurality of pathways to development emerge from diverse combinations of local, regional, and global forces operating under specific conditions. The aforementioned models encompass endogenous development models, exogenous development models, and neo-endogenous development models. The complexity of rural areas is attributable to a combination of tangible and intangible assets.

The external development model posits that rural development is contingent on urban areas and attributes the primary cause of problems in rural areas to their distance from urban centres. The government's role is to direct industrial sectors towards rural areas. In this sense, rural development can be defined as the process by which urban regions assist rural areas in achieving economies of scale. Nevertheless, this perspective has been the subject of critique, with detractors arguing that it engenders a reliance on subsidies and foreign policy decisions. A comparison of the internal rural development model with the external rural development model reveals that local forces assume a pivotal role in the former.

The endogenous rural development model places greater emphasis on the consideration of regions as opposed to sectors. In addition, the strategic utilisation of local resources to address global challenges has the potential to enhance the success of rural development initiatives. The objective of the programme is to enhance the capacity and perspectives of local actors. In the context of rural development, enhancing capacity is recognised as both a pivotal instrument and an intrinsic objective. This is due to the fact that it guarantees the incorporation of the local population. The prevailing assumption of internal rural development models is that every region possesses local development potential that can be cultivated. Nevertheless, this model has been the subject of criticism on account of its failure to capture the essence of local growth potential and its inability to account for the fact that communities are not distributed in a homogeneous manner.

The neo-endogenous development model is characterised by two fundamental aspects. Whilst capacity building remains of critical importance, it is equally vital to provide support for the distinctive resources and identity of rural areas. It is vital that rural enterprises are supported, as they are the fundamental tools of rural development and essential components of vibrant communities. The provision of such support can be facilitated through the utilisation of centralized systems, such as taxation. Nevertheless, the crux of the matter is to provide support to businesses that possess the capacity to exert influence on infrastructure development and local policies. Indeed, the notion of endogenous goals hinges upon local participation, thereby empowering individuals to effect meaningful change within their respective contexts. In this way, this culture further strengthens the social and economic development of rural communities.

Consequently, the dependency relationship created by the external rural development model may not ensure the sustainability of increased prosperity. The endogenous model, which focuses on local potential, also remains limited in terms of technology transfer and economies of scale. In contrast, the neo-endogenous rural development model, shaped by both endogenous and exogenous factors, can be said to be more effective compared to these models. The success of rural development models is contingent on the enhancement of management and innovation skills of local actors, the support of non-agricultural income-generating activities, and the strengthening of horizontal and vertical interactions among the public sector, the private sector, and civil society organisations. Consequently, the formulation of rural development policies and strategies should be informed by region-specific, innovative production models and ecological sustainability. For example, policymakers should implement policies that prioritize social capital and local knowledge in rural development processes. In this context, governance mechanisms that ensure the participation of local actors in decision-making processes must be strengthened. Institutional cooperation among development agencies, cooperatives, civil society organizations, and producer associations should be enhanced. The unique potential of rural areas must be strengthened. In addition, rural development policies should be restructured to encompass multidimensional development elements such as local entrepreneurship, cultural heritage, rural tourism, digital transformation, and innovation. To prevent the migration

of the young population from rural areas, education, digital infrastructure, and innovative production models should be encouraged. Furthermore, policies developed by the central government must be integrated with local dynamics. In particular, if flexible policy tools that prioritize the local level are developed, they can yield long-term and inclusive outcomes in rural areas. Consequently, strengthening local capacity and integrating external resources must be made a priority policy for the institutional, economic, and social sustainability of rural areas.

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GENİŞLETİLMİŞ ÖZET

Küreselleşme, sanayileşme ve hızlı kentleşme, kırsal alanların hem sosyal hem de ekonomik açıdan yeniden değerlendirilmesini zorunlu kılmıştır. Kırsal kesimdeki nüfusun yaşlanması, göç, altyapı eksiklikleri ve yoksulluk gibi sorunlar, günümüzde kırsal kalkınma tartışmalarının merkezinde yer almaktadır. Bu doğrultuda, kırsal yerleşimlerin varlıklarını sürdürebilmeleri, ancak bu bölgelerden gerçekleşen göçün önlenmesine yönelik stratejik kalkınma çalışmalarıyla mümkün olabilir. Öte yandan literatürde kırsal kalkınma üzerine uzlaşılmış tek bir tanımın bulunmaması, kavramın kuramsal ve politik düzeyde değişken bir yapıya sahip olduğunu göstermektedir.

Kırsal kalkınma, yalnızca tarımsal üretimin artırılması değil, aynı zamanda ekonomik çeşitliliğin sağlanması, sosyal yapıların güçlendirilmesi ve kırsal alanların sürdürülebilirliğinin korunmasını kapsayan çok boyutlu bir süreçtir. Bu çok boyutlu yapı, literatürde farklı kırsal kalkınma modellerinin gelişmesine zemin hazırlamıştır. Bu modeller dışsal (exogenous), içsel (endogenous) ve her iki yaklaşımın sentezi olan neo-endojen kırsal kalkınma modelleri olarak sınıflandırılmaktadır. Söz konusu modellerin temel amacı, kırsal alanların ekonomik ve sosyal koşullarını iyileştirirken mevcut kaynakların daha rasyonel bir biçimde kullanılmasını sağlamaktır. Nitekim kırsal ile kentsel alanlar arasındaki gelir farkını minimize etmek, kırsal kalkınmanın nihai hedeflerinden biridir. Böylece, sürekli dış kaynak ve teşviklerle ayakta tutulmaya çalışılan bağımlı bir yapı yerine kendi kendine yetebilen ve ülke ekonomisine aktif katkı sunan dinamik bir kırsal yapı inşa edilmiş olacaktır.

Bu çalışmanın temel amacı, literatürde üzerinde uzlaşılmış tek bir tanımı bulunmayan "kırsal kalkınma" kavramını kuramsal bir çerçevede bütüncül olarak ele almaktır. Bu kapsamda, kırsal alan ve kırsal kalkınma tanımlarına ilişkin farklı yaklaşımları irdelemek ve literatürde ağırlık kazanan dışsal, içsel ve neo-endojen kırsal kalkınma modellerini kavramsal düzeyde sistematize etmek hedeflenmektedir. Çalışma, bu modellerin gelişim süreçlerini ve birbirlerinden ayrılan yönlerini teorik bir zemin üzerinde açıklamayı amaçlamaktadır. Bu çalışma, kırsal kalkınmanın tarihsel süreçte geçirdiği paradigmal değişimleri modeller üzerinden ortaya koyarak, konunun teorik altyapısını sağlamlaştırması bakımından önem taşımaktadır. Ancak çalışma, sadece kırsal kalkınma modellerinin tarihsel gelişim süreçlerini açıklamakla sınırlı kalmaz, aynı zamanda içsel, dışsal ve neo-endojen yaklaşımlar arasındaki etkileşimleri ve dinamikleri bütüncül bir bakış açısıyla ele almaktadır. Kırsalın geleceğine dair stratejiler geliştirilmeden önce, mevcut kavramsal haritanın netleştirilmesi bu çalışmanın temel değerini oluşturmaktadır.

Dışsal kalkınma modeli, kırsal kalkınmanın kentsel alanlara bağlı olduğu ve kırsal alanlardaki sorunların başlıca nedeni olarak kentsel alanlara olan uzaklık ile açıklamaktadır. Hükümetin rolü sanayi sektörlerini kırsal alanlara yönlendirmektir. Bu anlamda kırsal kalkınma, kentsel bölgeler tarafından kırsal alanların ölçek ekonomilerini geliştirmektedir. Fakat bu görüş sübvansiyonlara ve dış politika kararlarına bağımlılığın önünü açtığı için eleştirilmiştir. İçsel kırsal kalkınma modelini dışsal kırsal kalkınma modeli ile karşılaştırdığımızda içsel kırsal kalkınma modelinde yerel güçler daha ön plandadır.

İçsel kırsal kalkınma modelinde sektörler yerine bölgelere olarak odaklanılır. Ayrıca yerel kaynakları, küresel zorlukların üstesinden gelecek şekilde değerlendirmek kırsal kalkınmanın başarısını artırabilir. Yerel aktörlerin kapasite ve bakış açılarını genişletilmesine odaklanılmaktadır. Kırsal kalkınmada kapasiteyi artırmak için katılımcılar, önemli bir araç olmalarının yanı sıra nüfusun dahil olmasını sağlayan bir başlı başına bir hedeftir. İçsel kırsal kalkınma modelleri, her bölgede geliştirilebilecek yerel kalkınma potansiyeli olduğunu varsaymaktadır. Ancak bu yerel büyüme potansiyelinin özünü açıklamaz ve topluluklar homojen dağılmadığı için eleştirilmiştir.

Neo-endojen kalkınma modelinin ise iki yönü bulunmaktadır. Kapasite geliştirme önemini korumaya devam ederken kırsal alanların benzersiz kaynaklarını ve kimliğini desteklemek de son derece önemlidir. Kırsal işletmeler, kırsal kalkınmanın temel araçları ve canlı yerleşim yerlerinin temel özellikleri olduğundan desteklenmesi gerekmektedir. Söz konusu destekler vergilendirme gibi merkezi sistemler aracılığıyla olabilir. Fakat burada esas olan altyapı geliştirme ve yerel politikaları etkileme yeteneği olan işletmeler desteklenmelidir. Nitekim endojen hedefler, yerel katılım gerektirmekte ve bu durumda aktörlerin fark yaratmasına olanak sağlamaktadır. Böylece bu kültür, kırsal toplulukların sosyal ve ekonomik gelişimini daha da güçlendirmektedir.

Sonuç olarak, dışsal kırsal kalkınma modelinin oluşturduğu bağımlılık ilişkisi, refah artışının sürdürülebilirliğini sağlayamayabilir. Yerel potansiyeli merkeze alan içsel model de teknoloji transferi ve ölçek ekonomisi konularında kısıtlı kalmaktadır. Buna karşın hem içsel ve hem dışsal faktörler tarafından şekillenen neo-endojen kırsal kalkınma

modeli söz konusu modellere kıyasla daha etkin olduğu söylenebilir. Genel olarak kırsal kalkınma modellerinin başarısı, yerel aktörlerin yönetim ve inovasyon becerilerinin artırılmasına, tarım dışı gelir getirici faaliyetlerin desteklenmesine, kamu, özel sektör ve sivil toplum kuruluşları arasındaki yatay ve dikey etkileşimlerin güçlenmesine dayanmaktadır. Kısaca kırsal kalkınma politikaları stratejileri bölgeye özgü, yenilikçi üretim modelleri ve ekolojik sürdürülebilirliği dikkate alınarak tasarlanmalıdır.

YAZARLARIN BEYANI / DECLARATION OF THE AUTHORS

Katkı Oranı Beyanı	☒ Yazar, çalışmanın tümüne tek başına katkı sağlamıştır. ☐ Yazarlar çalışmaya eşit oranda katkı sağlamıştır. ☐ Çalışmaya birinci yazar %XX oranında, ikinci yazar %XX oranında, üçüncü yazar %XX oranında katkı sağlamıştır.
Declaration of Contribution Rate	☒ The author contributes the study on his/her own ☐ The authors have equal contributions. ☐ The first author contributes XX%, the second author contributes XX%, the third author contributes XX%.
Çatışma Beyanı	☒ Çalışmada herhangi bir potansiyel çıkar çatışması söz konusu değildir. ☐ Yazarlar, çalışmadan XXX (firması, kurumu, kişisinin) etkilenebileceğini ve ortaya çıkacak çıkar çatışması durumunu yönetmek için onaylanmış bir planının olduğunu beyan etmektedir.
Declaration of Conflict	☒ There is no potential conflict of interest in the study. ☐ Authors declare that XXX (firm, institution, person) may be affected from the study and in case of a conflict of interest they have a confirmed plan in order to administer the case.
Yayın Etiği Beyanı	☒ Çalışmada etik dışı bir husus bulunmadığını, araştırma ve yayın etiğine özenle uyulduğunu beyan ederiz. ☒ Bu çalışma, etik kurul belgesi gerektiren bir çalışma değildir. ☐ Bu çalışma için _____ Üniversitesi, Bilimsel Araştırma ve Yayın Etiği Kurulundan __/__/____ tarih ve _____ sayılı kararı ile etik kurul onayı alınmıştır.
Declaration of Publication Ethics	☒ We hereby declare that the study has not unethical issues and that research and publication ethics have been observed carefully. ☒ This study does not require ethics committee approval. ☐ Ethical approval for this study was obtained from the Scientific Research and Publication Ethics Committee of _____ University with decision number _____ dated __/__/___.
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Destek ve Teşekkür Beyanı	☒ Çalışmada herhangi bir kurum ya da kuruluştan mali destek alınmamıştır. ☐ Bu çalışma, X Projesi (Proje No: XXXXX) tarafından desteklenmektedir. ☐ Diğer (Belirtiniz) …….
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