

EXPLORING TRADITIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRACTICES ACROSS THE CULTURALLY DIVERSE VILLAGES OF WEST BENGAL: A REVIEW

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Indigenous rural development practices in West Bengal show a strong link between cultural diversity, ecological knowledge, and community livelihoods. Across regions—from the Sundarbans to the lateritic plains and Himalayan foothills—villages follow distinct traditions in farming, water use, crafts, forest management, healing practices, and collective labour. These methods support social unity and environmental care rooted in local culture. This review outlines key indigenous approaches, their role in sustaining livelihoods, and the influence of cultural identity on resource use. It also notes the vital contributions of women and traditional institutions. Alongside the pressures of modernization, climate change, and cultural decline, the study points to ways traditional knowledge can be strengthened and blended with current development efforts to support community-led rural progress.
