

ABSTRACT

An Economic Analysis of a Rural Jamaican Community

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Urban bias in social scientific theory distorts the perception of rural life, presenting it as passive and static. In fact rural communities are characterized by significant activity in an attempt by peasants to maximize income and improve their standard of living. The concept of social kinesis is introduced as a framework within which rural life may be better understood.

During a seven month period, the economic, social and political life of a rural community in the parish of St. Thomas, Jamaica, was studied using four in-depth interview schedules and participant observation.

Multioccupationality and family land are explored as kinetic phenomena, and in this context, the possibilities for rural development are discussed.