

## **E content**

**for**

**M. A. Semester III**

**CC 12 ( Human and Social Geography)**

### **Types and Patterns of Rural Settlement**

Inhabitants of the rural settlement depend for their livelihood upon the exploitation of the soil, small fishing, quarrying, mining forestry caps etc. A typical village has secondary workers supplying services to the primary group of farmers and farm labourers e.g. shopkeepers, teachers, clergymen, the . publican, postmaster, smith and garage proprietor. Besides the village consists of a part of retired people and in part of younger people who live in the village but go to work in a neighbouring town as urbanism is fast becoming a new way of life. The proportion of population in each of these classes bears to the total village population, varies with the kind of farming characteristics of the locality, the quality of the soil, the attractiveness and accessibility of the site and its place within the general settlement pattern.

The main factors influencing the rural settlements are :

1. Nature of the topography
2. Local weather conditions
3. Quality of the soil
4. Nature of surface and sub-surface water
5. Pattern of landholding
6. Social organization

Depending on the size, the rural settlements are classified as Hamlets (is rural settlement comprising of few houses only), true village communities, villages and large villages. True village community are just ancient and long settled villages where in extreme cases, no personal property exists and everything belongs to community of peasants. Such village communities are seen in India, Malaya and France.

Besides agricultural villages, there also exists forest villages, mining and quarrying villages, fishing villages, villages chiefly supported by tourist industry, dormitory villages serving nearby towns and industrial villages. Each has its own characters :

1. Many industrial and mining villages are unprepossessing which suffer from ugly and drab surroundings.
2. Fishing and tourist villages are more attractively situated and in many cases possess the charm and interest of historical buildings.
3. Most of dormitory villages are either new or consists largely of modern housing estates. In all such settlements, occupations are much more specialized than in towns and such typical urban functions as administration and wholesaling are rarely present. The number of villages in a country and the role played by villages in the social and economic context is profound. In India around three fourth of the population live in more than six hundred thousand villages and most of these support a population of less than five hundred. It is

estimated that two out of every three persons still live in villages or in hamlets and scattered dwelling all over the world.

## **Types of Rural Settlements**

Any settlement in which most of the people are engaged in agriculture, forestry, mining and fishery is known as rural settlement. It is often called as agricultural workshop. Most of the world's settlements are rural and they are stable and permanent. They are of three types:

### ***1. Compact Settlements:***

A compact settlement is based on farming. These are mostly found in highly productive alluvial plains like Indo-Gangetic Plains, the Hwang Ho Valley, Valley o Nile. The houses are compact and congested with narrow plains.

The size of these settlements depends on nature and resources of surrounding country. They have a high degree of segregation and differentiation of the upper and lower castes. Compact settlements are also found in hunting and fishing communities.

### ***2. Semi-Compact Settlement:***

Semi-Compact is a transitional phase in the growth of compact settlement. The emergence is because of the difference of semi-arid regions from humid regions and marginal productive land to that of fertile land.

Increase in population cause villages to grow in number of houses. These houses occupy open spaces and lead to semi-compact settlement which ultimately acquires a nucleated settlement.

### ***3. Dispersed Settlement:***

These are generally found in hills, plateaus and grasslands. These are found in areas where it is essential that the farmer should live on his own land. Overpopulation is one of the reasons for dispersed settlement.

If a part of the population left a village to found a new one they often found dispersed rather than a new village. Dispersed settlements are relatively recent in age like Steppe grasslands of Kazakhstan.

## **Patterns of Rural Settlement**

Pattern of settlement is defined as the relationship between one house or building to another. It can be identified by reading and observing a local scale map. The patterns of settlement deals with compact and semi-compact only, as dispersed has its own shape. The socio cultural factors like caste structure or a functional need of people has a close bearing on its shape and size.

The rural settlements are classified under following patterns: Rectangular, Linear, Circular, Semi-circular, Star-like, Triangular, and Nebular Pattern. The settlements is linear in valleys and mountainous areas, rectangular in fertile plains, circular near the lakes and ponds, triangular at cross roads and in exceptional cases it resembles the nebular form and on river terraces it is star-type.

***a. Rectangular Pattern:***

This is the most common pattern observed in rural settlements. Rectangular settlements are developed over flat, fertile, alluvial plains and wide valleys. The streets in rectangular settlements are straight and at right angles to each other. The examples of this are villages in Sutlej-Ganga plain, planned settlements of Germany, Malaysia, Israel, France, etc.

***b. Linear Pattern:***

The houses are aligned along the sides of a road, railway line, river, canal or valley. The physical restrictions associated with these sites give rise to the linear pattern. The example of it can be settlement along the roads of Ganga-Yamuna plain and in valleys in Alps and Rocky mountains.

***c. Circular and Semi-circular Pattern:***

Settlements along seacoasts, around lakes, over mountain-tops and along meandering rivers, develop circular or semi-circular pattern. The population is mostly engaged in fishing, salt production and tourist services like boating, providing boarding and lodging.

***d. Star-shaped Pattern:***

At places where roads converge, radial or star-shaped settlements develop. The new parts of settlement grow along the roads in all directions. The examples of it can be plains of Yangtze-kiang, Punjab in India, and parts of Northwest Europe.

***e. Triangular Pattern:***

Points, such as meeting place of rivers give rise to a triangular pattern of settlements.

***f. Nebular Pattern:***

It is a circular pattern developing all around a centre. This centre could be anything ranging from a temple to a landlords house, etc. Rural settlements can be classified based on the size and pattern or shape.

**According to Santibhushan Nandi and D. S. Tyagi, the village settlement patterns can be classified into the following four categories:**

i. 'Shapeless cluster' or agglomerate with streets not forming an integral part of design. These may be again divided into massive and dispersed types.

ii. 'Linear cluster' or assemblage with a regular open space or straight street provided between parallel rows of houses.

iii. 'Square or rectangular cluster' or agglomerate with straight streets running parallel or at right angles to one another.

iv. Villages formed of 'isolated homesteads', a number of which are treated together as a mauza for convenience of collection of rent or taxes.

Many factors influence the origin and character of a rural settlement. Wherever possible, these factors should be considered while classifying the settlement patterns. Let us now deal in detail with the above-mentioned village settlement patterns.

***i. Shapeless Clusters:***

In such type of villages, one can notice a tortuous or irregular road, which is not a part of the original design but emerged as a result of local requirements and convenience of the village people. Such shapeless clusters are enclosed with stonewall or wooden palisade, which is meant for the purpose of defence. If a cluster lies on the top of a narrow ridge of a mountainous area, such palisade or stonewall may take an elongated form. Linear clusters may also grow as the population increases in the village.

Parallel streets and roads set at right angles may be added to the existing streets that may eventually form a square, which may appear from a distance as a shapeless cluster. The presence of open streets as an integral part of the design and occurrence of simpler linear forms in the same neighborhood, when the settlement is of small size, would help us in regarding the square genetically related to linear and unrelated to massive cluster, which may by accident approximate to a square.

Most of these shapeless clusters are found in the Gangetic plain, Rajasthan, the Malwa Plateau and portions of Maharashtra. In the districts of Western Rajasthan, these clusters occur along with the villages of dispersed types. The dispersed clusters can also be seen in eastern Uttar Pradesh, portions of Madhya Pradesh and the Himalayan or Sub-Himalayan districts in the north of Bihar and almost in the whole of Brahmaputra Valley.

***ii. Linear Clusters:***

Linear settlement patterns consist of open space or straight streets provided between the parallel rows of houses. This type of clusters can be seen in (coastal districts of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh, villages of Gujarat, Kutch and Saurashtra and also in some of south of Rajasthan to Surat district.

***iii. Square or Rectangular Clusters:***

These types of clusters are formed with straight streets running parallel or at right angles to one another. Such square clusters also result in the development of linear clusters. These clusters can be seen in most of the parts of Madras (Chennai), in dry districts of Rayalaseema, and in districts of coastal Andhra.

A significant feature, which has been noticed in the coastal areas of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh, is that the houses in these villages are located in a continuous line, adjacent to one another and

most often sharing a common wall. Towards the south of Madras, the arrangement is same, but houses are located separately.

***iv. Isolated Homesteads:***

Isolated farmhouses or homesteads are found in different parts of India irregularly. Such settlements are found in the western Malwa Plateau, where they occur in association with dispersed clusters.

These are also found in areas of Western Ghats stretching from Satara towards Kerala high lands and also in some portions of Himalayan ranges in Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh. These isolated homesteads are also found unoccupied due to frequent floods in eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar districts. Thus, isolated homesteads seem to grow according to the exigencies of local circumstances.