

Lesson-3

Settlement



Learning outcomes :

The students will–

- ✦ know what is settlement
- ✦ get an idea on the various types of settlement
- ✦ learn about rural and urban settlement and their characteristics.
- ✦ know about the relationship between rural and urban settlements
- ✦ get an idea about the differences between settlement in uplands and lowlands.

In primitive times, man did not have any permanent settlement. They used to live a nomadic life and moved from one place to another in search of food. They took shelter in caves of mountains, big trees etc. and as a result lived in insecurity. Only after man took to agriculture, permanent settlement came into being. It means with the beginning of agricultural practices man started to settle down permanently in a place. Man had to settle down permanently to plough the land and sow seeds. Further, they settled permanently to store the harvest for future use. That is why agricultural practices are regarded as the main reason for permanent settlement.

Man started settling down by the side of rivers since water was necessary for both man and



Fig : 3.1 Settlement

agriculture. Later on, man started building houses to protect themselves from the sun, wind, rain and various wild animals. Initially, man used locally available materials to construct houses. In this way, small hamlets were created. With the passage of time these hamlets grew in size with increase in the population and villages came into being.

Look at the picture given at the previous page. As shown in the picture, some facilities are required in a place for the growth of a settlement. Man settles down in a place having productive land, availability of water, grassland, vegetation cover, etc. Settlement generally refers to permanent settling down by man. It is basically of two types– Rural settlement and Urban settlement.

Two types of settlements are shown in the adjacent picture. Look at them carefully. What differences do you find in these two pictures? Which one of them resembles your own locality? Rural and urban settlements are shown in these two pictures. When people settle in one place for the purposes of agriculture, animal husbandry and collection and use of forest resources, are called *rural settlements*.

Some settlements are based on business, commerce, industrialization and have better transportation compared to villages. Such settlements are called *urban settlements*.



Fig. 3.2 Rural & urban settlement

Write Answer:

- ✦ State the reasons why man settles down permanently for agriculture.
- ✦ Why does man select places by the sides of rivers for permanent settlement?
- ✦ What do you mean by urban settlement?

Rural settlement :

Commonly, it is seen that villages develop in areas close to rivers, lakes, ponds, springs etc. Availability of water is the primary condition for development of rural settlement because water is needed for drinking, cooking, washing, agricultural activities etc. In addition, people make a living by catching fish in the wetlands. People also use the rivers as a mode of transport. Land is as important as water for a rural settlement. Generally man establishes a village in the fertile lands by the side of a river. Agriculture is the main stage of a rural settlement. Apart from water and land, uplands are required for a settlement so that floods and dampness can be avoided. Locally available construction materials such as– bamboo, wood, thatch, sand, stones etc. are

some factors responsible for making settlement easier. Climatic factors like sunshine, wind, rain, etc. are also considered. Similarly, man also examines the probability of occurrence of any disease in a place before settling down in it.

Types of rural settlements :

Human settlement is not similar at all places of the earth. Places having fertile soil, adequate water supply, locally available building materials, a good transport network, are generally densely populated. Mountainous terrains or hilly areas are sparsely populated. In certain areas, people live in cluster due to availability of various facilities. Such type of settlement is called a Nucleated settlement. You will understand better by closely observing the picture given below.

Generally, due to various disadvantages in the hilly areas and also unfavourable climatic



Fig : 3.3 Nucleated settlement



Fig : 3.4 Sparse settlement

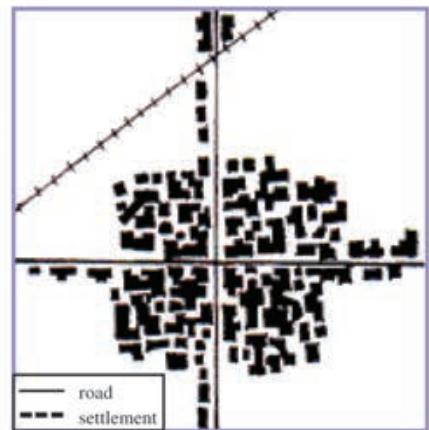
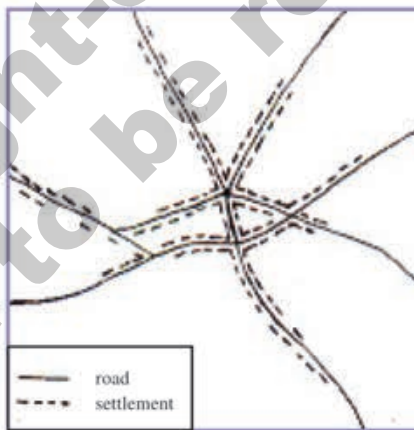


Fig : 3.5 Linear settlement Fig : 3.6 Star pattern settlement Fig 3.7 Square pattern settlement

conditions, infertile soils, problems of transport in the plain areas, the settlement may be of dispersed types.

If you notice the patterns of settlement you will see that in some settlement the houses are located along a road. Such settlement is called a linear settlement. Where several road converge, a star shaped settlement develops. Such settlements in due courses of time transforms into urban settlement. Similarly, square pattern of settlement develops around the agricultural fields in villages.

Activity :

- ✦ What type of settlement pattern is seen in your locality? Discuss in group the reasons for such types of settlement pattern in your place.

Urban Settlement :

Urban settlement is also known as municipal settlement. It means a town. Education enhances human intelligence and capability. Such empowered people starts industry and trade by utilizing various resources apart from practising agriculture. As a result, some people previously engaged in cultivation, animal husbandry, fishing etc. get into industry, trade and commerce, etc. In this way, agrarian settlement transforms into industry based settlement. Based on industry, trade and commerce, transport, etc. markets develop in such places and finally towns are created. This implies that trade and commerce, industry and craft, jobs in educational institutions, offices, etc. become the primary occupation of people living in towns. In this way, the town dwellers belong to the secondary, tertiary and quaternary activities.

Let us know :

- ✦ Many towns and cities of the world are situated on river banks. Dibrugarh, Tezpur, Guwahati, Dhubri are situated on the bank of the river Brahmaputra in Assam. Patna, Benaras are situated on the bank of the Ganges. Karachi, Hyderabad on the banks of Indus, Cairo on the bank of Nile, Beijing on the bank of Hwang Ho, St. Louies on the bank of Mississippi, London on the bank of Thames and Baghdad is situated on the bank of Tigris and so on.

Characteristics of the Rural and Urban Settlement :

Every human settlement has some unique characteristics. Important amongst them include occupational structure, shape and patterns of houses, land use, roads, institutions, industry, communication, trade etc. These characteristics change with time and place. A striking can be noticed in terms of these characteristics between a village and town. Again, considerable variations exist between a big town and a smaller one. Such variations can be easily seen by observing one's own village or town. A few such difference are mentioned in the next page:

Let us know :

Primary Activity :	Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fishery, Hunting, Mining etc.
Secondary Activity :	Household industry, Cottage industry etc.
Tertiary Activity :	Advocacy, Banking Service, Teaching, Accountancy etc.
Quaternary Activity :	Management, Direction, research, entrepreneurship, etc.

Characteristics of Rural Settlement	Characteristics of Urban Settlement
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Main occupation of the inhabitants is agriculture. 2. Settlement is thin and dispersed. 3. Houses are of traditional type. 4. Transport system is not convenient. 5. Fewer number of vehicles. 6. Lesser number of institutions 7. Less scope for trade and commerce. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Main occupations of the inhabitants are trade and commerce, industry and service. 2. Settlement is dense and clustered. 3. Houses are built of modern design, most of which are tall buildings 4. Better transport network. 5. Large number of vehicles and well connected with other places. 6. Institutions are many. 7. Better scope for trade and commerce.

Let us know :

- ✦ According to 2011 census, the urban population in India is 377 million which is 31.96 percent of the total population.
- ✦ The countries with more urban population (100 percent) are- China, Singapore, Kuwait, Gibraltar, Monaco and Bermuda.
- ✦ The four states in India with the least Urban population are- Himachal Pradesh (10%), Bihar(11.3%), Assam(14.1) and Odisha(16.7%)

Activity :

- ✦ Discuss the reasons why towns have more population as compared to villages.

At present the number of people residing in towns and cities is increasing in almost all countries of the world. You will understand easily by looking at the table given below. About 70 percent of the population in developed countries like USA, Canada etc. are urban population. In India, only around 30 percent population reside in towns and the remaining 70 percent reside in villages.

Relation between Rural and Urban Settlement :

Although many differences exist between rural and urban settlement, there is a strong bondage too. It has been already mentioned that towns have borne out of villages. But this may not be true in all the cases. There are certain towns that have been newly created in a planned manner.

Normally, trade and commerce connects villages with the towns. Moreover, service sector too confirms this connectivity. The villagers supply their agricultural products

Year	Urban population (%)
1800	3
1850	6
1900	14
1950	30
2001	48
2010	50.5

growth of urban population in the world

to the towns and the towns provide the village with manufactured commodities and other services. Services such as banking, postal service, insurance, education also connects the villages with the towns. People from villages move to towns regularly for various works and return by purchasing necessary items available in the towns. Nowadays, a new trend has developed within this rural-urban linkage with the advent of cellular phone, internet and various other media of publicity.

Activity :

- ✦ Discuss the types of problems we would have faced in the absence of any linkage between towns and villages.

Settlements in Uplands and Lowlands :

Due to steep slope and undulating topography in the uplands, settlement pattern is sparse or dispersed. The physiography of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir being undulated with hills and mountains and valleys, the settlement is very sparse. Karbi Anglong, West Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao in Assam being hilly areas are sparsely populated. On the other hand, settlement is dense in lowlands or plains due to better mode of transport, agriculture, trade facilities and various other advantages.

Assam is a unique state in terms of physical features. It is composed of hills and mountains, plateaus, plains, river valley, chars and various other features. Settlements are seen more or less at all of these places. There are at present 26,395 villages and 214 towns in Assam. Most of them are situated in the plains of Brahmaputra and Barak valley respectively. Again, there are a number of villages in the hill districts of Assam too, viz. Karbi Anglong, West Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao. Irrespective of being situated in a plain, plateau or hilly area, the salient feature of each village is determined by its natural environment. Agriculture is the mainstay for the people residing in the plains of Brahmaputra and Barak Valley of Assam. Although, rice is the major crop, jute, mustard seed, sugarcane, sesame, pulses and a variety of vegetables are grown. Very often it is seen that the crops are destroyed in the lowlying areas by the floodwaters of the Brahmaputra and Barak rivers. That is why in Assam, people take to cultivating 'Boro' and 'Iri' variety of rice crop during winter season in the lowlands. On the other hand, cultivation is a little different in the uplands. People living in the uplands keep changing the plots of land for cultivation. Rice, corn, sesame, potato, vegetables, oranges, etc. are cultivated in such places. During dry season, there is a scarcity of water in these places and agricultural productivity becomes very less. Difference exist in the construction of houses in the uplands and the lowlands. People in the appliance build houses on raised stilt along the slopes. The houses are made of wood, bamboo, thatch, etc. Majority of the Hills people domesticate pigs, poultry, etc. People living in the flood plains on the other hand build houses on stilt to protect themselves, their domestic animals, food and other necessities from flood havoc. People living on the river banks build their houses on raised platforms.

Activity :

- ✦ In the light of the above discussion, find out the differences between settlements in upland and lowland in terms of settlement, agriculture and vegetation as given in the table below-

Subject	Settlement in Upland	Settlement in lowland
Settlement	1. 2. 3.	
Agriculture	1. 2. 3.	
Vegetation	1. 2. 3.	

Let us remember :

- ✦ Settlement means people living in some places permanently.
- ✦ Settlement is primarily of two type- rural and urban
- ✦ Rural settlement generally grow by the side of a river, lake, spring, stream, etc.
- ✦ Rural settlement is of two types- Disperse settlement and Nucleated settlement.
- ✦ Agriculture is the main occupation of people living in rural settlement.
- ✦ Trade, industry, service, etc. are the main occupation of people living in urban settlement.
- ✦ Density of population in urban settlement is more than that of rural settlement.
- ✦ People residing in rural and urban settlement respectively are inter dependent.
- ✦ Settlement is dense in lowlands due to better facilities of transport, agriculture, trade etc. whereas settlement is sparse in uplands due to inadequacy of such facilities.

Exercise

1. Fill in the blanks—
 - (a) Man started to live permanently in the same place with the beginning of _____.
 - (b) On the basis of availability of _____ the villagers enjoy a lots of advantages.
 - (c) The settlement pattern that develop along a road, railway line or river is called a _____ settlement.
 - (d) At present, there are _____ number of villages in Assam.
2. Choose the correct answer—
 - (a) Trade and commerce/industry/agriculture is the main occupation in a rural settlement.
 - (b) Density of population is less/more/equal in a rural settlement than in an urban settlement.
 - (c) About 70/80/60 percent people in India live in the villages.
 - (d) When a settlement is clustered in some place, it is known as linear/nucleated/disperse settlement.
3. Give answer : (in 4 or 5 sentences)
 - (a) Why do you think man settled down permanently in a place?
 - (b) Discuss the main characteristics of rural settlement.
 - (c) State how Nucleated settlement develops.
 - (d) Write briefly about the main occupation of people living in an urban settlement.
 - (e) Discuss the relation between a rural and an urban settlement.
4. Write short notes on—
 - (a) Linear settlement. (b) Square pattern settlement. (c) Upland Settlement.
5. Write the differences—
 - (a) Rural and Urban settlement.
 - (b) Linear and Nucleated settlement.
 - (c) Upland and Lowland settlement.
6. Draw a sketch map of your village or town (only a portion of the town) and show the various physical features such as rivers, hills, ponds etc. (if any) and the man-made features.
7. Write what are the facilities/difficulties you have noticed in your village/town.

