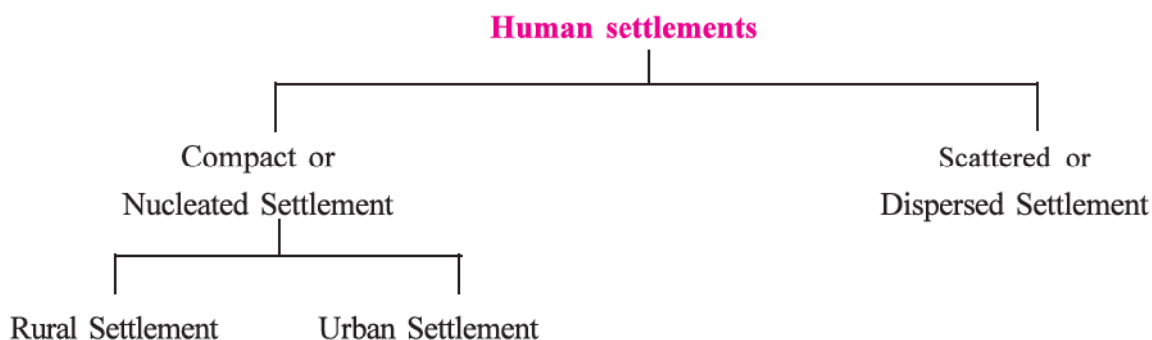


After food, the inevitable requirement of man is the shelter(dwelling). With the development of human culture, the house types also changed. The man, once living in a cave is now living in skyscrapers. Instead of scattered houses, a necessity arose to build houses closer and in large number. As a result, the idea of a 'settlement' came in to existence.

During the evolution of human civilization, man started to build dwellings for self protection. The number of such dwellings increases with the passage of time. A group of such dwellings ( or houses ) is called a settlement. While defining human settlement, **Griffith Taylor**, has said that a **large concentration of houses means a settlement**. Here the number of the houses is not decided. It can be one or more scattered huts or houses or may be buildings in large number.

### Classification of settlements

Settlements grow due to many favourable conditions. They can be classified by their size, appearance and a few other characteristics. Settlements are also classified according to the many criteria like profession of the people, population, pattern, shape of the settlement etc.



### Compact or Nucleated Settlement

When many families and more people collectively create their residences adjoining one another and start living there permanently, it is said to be a Compact or Nucleated settlement. In such a settlement, the roads, streets, buildings etc. are planned systematically.

**When more than one families and more people collectively create their residences adjoining one another and start living there permanently, and when their residence becomes permanent, such a settlement can be called a Compact Settlement.**

On the basis of size and functions, compact settlements are divided into two : (1) Rural Settlement and (2) Urban Settlement.

### (1) Rural Settlements :

The word 'rural' indicates the predominance of primary economic activity. It is known as Rural

Settlement all over the world. People in such settlement depend much on the primary activities like agriculture, animal husbandry, fishery, forest gathering etc. Today also, it is considered to be a major and an important rural character. Animal husbandry is considered to be an integral part of it.

In the rural settlement established near a sea, river or a lake, fishery holds an important place. In the rural settlement developed near a forested area, forest gathering, hunting and mining activities get more importance. The scope of agricultural development is much less there, so economic activities other than agriculture develop more.

Rural settlements developed in various geographical conditions show certain special characteristics. A detailed classification of rural settlements can be made on the basis of the size of the dwellings, construction, building material used in the construction etc.

On the basis of development pattern, rural settlements are classified as follows :

(1) Rectangular (2) Linear (3) Circular (4) Triangular (5) Semi-circular (6) Star-shaped (7) Nebular.

**(1) Rectangular Pattern :** More than 50 % of the rural population of the world lives in this type of settlement. It can be seen that the rectangular type has developed more. Such settlements are found more in the fertile plains. There are many such settlements in Ganga plain. Such settlements are also found in more number in Germany, Israel and France.

**(2) Linear ( Ribbon ) Pattern :** Linearity is considered to be an important characteristics of a settlement. Here the dwellings are seen arranged in parallel way to roads, railway, river or a canal. Some settlements also have developed along the sea coast. There are linear settlements in Greater Himalayas and along the bank of Ganga. This is also called Ribbon pattern.

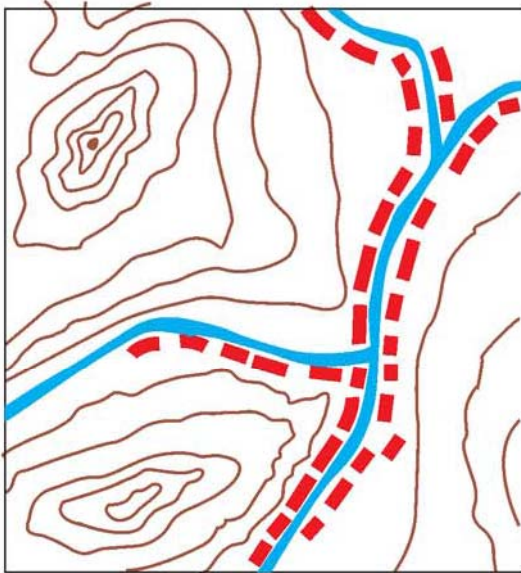
**(3) Circular Pattern :** The Circular type of settlements are generally developed by salt-makers and fishermen. These are developed on land where there is a salt water reservoir and along the sea coast.

**(4) Triangular Pattern :** Triangular settlements are generally formed near the river confluences. Due to the obstruction of the river banks, the physical expansion of the settlement takes place in triangular shape. A triangular settlement has taken shape between Mandovi and Zuari rivers In Goa.

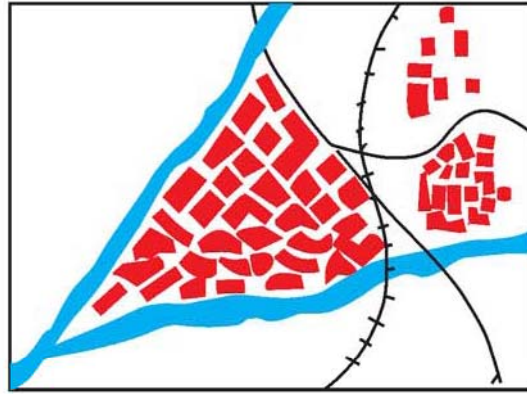
**(5) Semi - circular Pattern :** Such settlements are seen along the bank of a river which has meanders or along a curved road. The settlement takes shape along with the curves.

**(6) Star-shaped Pattern :** A star-shaped settlement develops at a place where many roads converge. Generally such a settlement is a centre of regional trade. Surrounding regions use such settlements which develop in a star shape for exchanging their commodities. If there is more infrastructural facility of water, roads and occasionally railway, then the settlement expands on a larger area. Here, the dwellings are constructed closely along the roads diverging in all sides. Such settlements are seen in the plains of North-Western Europe, Yangtze ( China ) and Ganga-Satluj.

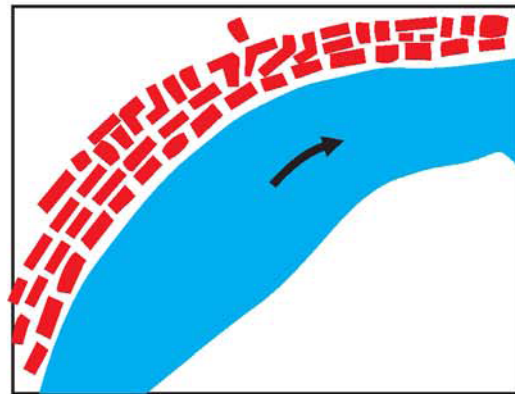
**(7) Nebular Pattern :** When a settlement develops into a nebular shape, it is called Nebular



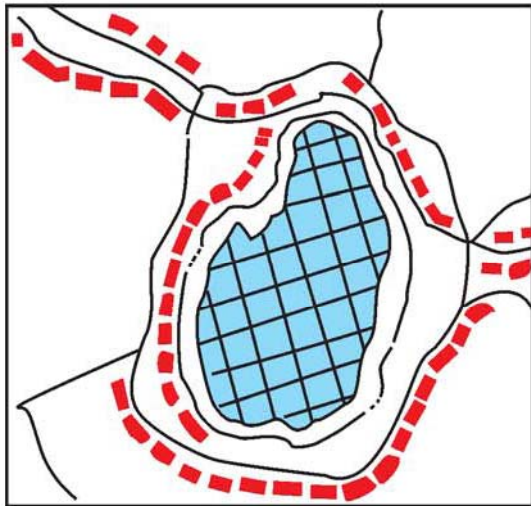
Linear



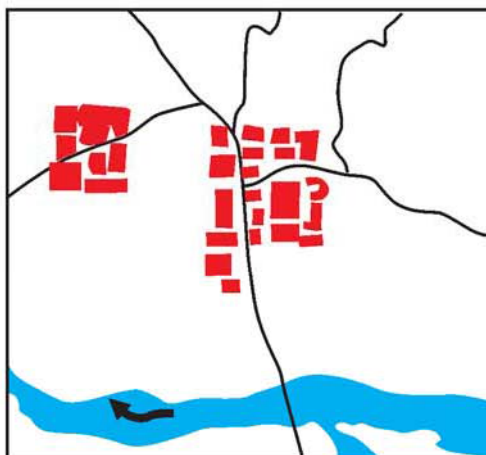
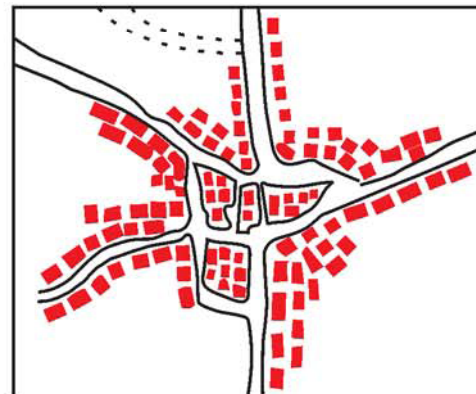
Triangular



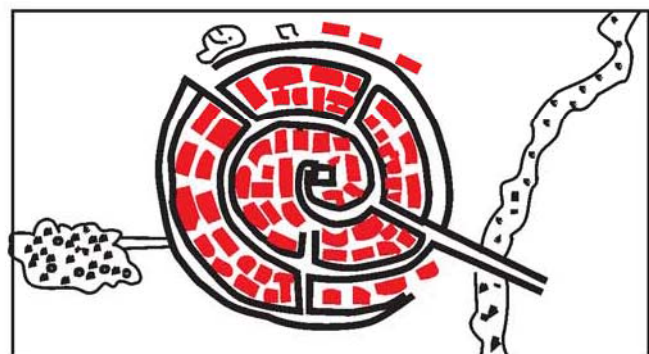
Semi-circular



Circular



Rectangular



Nebular

### 8.1 Types of Rural Settlement

settlement. Generally there is an elevated area in the centre and dwellings are constructed around the elevated area. Eventually, Nubular type of settlement develops out of this. The size of the settlement is smaller in the beginning but over a period, the size grows considerably. Many settlements of this type are seen in the hilly regions.

## **(2) Urban Settlements**

A unique identification of such settlements is such that the people who live there earn their livelihood through secondary, tertiary and quaternary economic activities. Their lifestyle is also different in many ways than the rural settlements. In their routine life, there is more use of machines or mechanical instruments. Also, the size of the population and its density are also more compared to the rural settlements.

### **Criteria for urban settlements**

A 'town' is a technical name for a small urban settlement while the larger town is called a City. It is so believed that the word 'city' has evolved from the Latin word 'Civitas'. We observe that the words town and city are generally used for each other. Technically the meanings of these two words are different.

Many scholars have defined a city. Different rules have been formed by different countries to call a settlement 'urban'. A settlement with a population of only 200 is given a status of a city in Denmark, Finland and Sweden. A settlement with a population of 1000 in Canada and 2500 in U.S.A. is considered to be a city. In Japan, a settlement having a population of 30,000 is called a city.

### **Criteria for an urban settlement in India**

- (1) If the total population exceeds 5000.
- (2) Density of population is more than 400 per sq. km.
- (3) More than 75 % of 'Workers' are associated with the non-agricultural economic activity.

Besides, if the population of a city exceeds 10 lakhs (1 million), then it is called a mega city. Mexico City, Tokyo, New York, Shanghai, London, Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Surat etc. are included in mega cities.

### **Classification of urban settlements on the basis of their functions**

A function of a city means the major activity of the settlement. Here 'activity' is suggestive of main economic activity. In rural settlement, agriculture is the only economic activity. So no other function is expected there, but in urban settlement, many economic activities other than agriculture are possible. Classifications of urban settlements is based on their functions.

**(1) Administrative Centre :** A city may have been known due to its administrative status. The state capitals are the examples. A centre is selected for administering a region, a district or a taluka, and such centre is called an Administrative centre. Main cities like Kolkata, London, Rome etc. are chief administrative head quarters. Chandigarh and Gandhinagar are both newly planned administrative cities.

**(2) Cantonment Centre :** In medieval period, some capitals and a few other cities were well known for their defence activity. Main objective of such city is the permanent residence of the military forces and availability of related facilities. Khadakvasla near Pune and Dehra Dun cities fall under this category. Besides, Jodhpur is famous as a fort city and Kochi as a naval base.

**(3) Cultural Centre :** Certain cities have become centres because of their cultural splendour and traditions. A religious place, historical building, music or any other fine arts, education etc. hold

speciality as cultural exhibitor. Since ancient times Varanasi, Mecca, Jerusalem and Vatican City are famous as religious places. Kota, Aligarh, VallabhVidyanagar, Visnagar, Modasa etc. are educational centres.

**(4) Industrial Centre :** Cities have developed in mining and manufacturing sectors. Kalgoorlie, Dhanbad and Khetari are mining centres. Kanpur and Rajkot are manufacturing centres. Some cities have developed due to industries, e.g. Jamshedpur, Kanpur, Durgapur, Pittsburgh, Modinagar, Ankleshwar and Morbi.

**(5) Trade and transport Centre :** Since ancient times, certain cities were famous as trade centres. Dusseldorf in Germany, Winnipeg in Canada, Baghdad in Iran, Agra and Jaisalmer in India are all important trade centres. Some cities have developed due to transportation only. Port cities along the sea shores are the centres of import and export. Rotterdam in Netherlands, Aden in Oman, Mumbai in India etc. are examples of this type of centres.

Besides, cities can be classified as exchange and distribution centre, production centre, tourist centre etc. on the basis of their functions.

### **Problems of urbanization**

The process of urbanization became faster in India after the Independence. Urbanization has left a long lasting impact on rural and urban centres.

The process of urbanization is becoming faster in the world. Maximum urbanization in the world is seen in America, Europe, Australia. This fast growing urbanization has created certain problems.

Illegal hutments and slums have come into existence due to urbanization. Wherever such settlements have emerged in the world, the urban life there has been very painful. Today, more than 60 crore people live an unsafe life in the cities.

In developing countries, the adequate labour force in rural area is lost due to the modern urbanization. There are hardly any questions regarding housing, pollution, drainage etc. in rural area. Against it, the responsibility about housing, transportation, health and public facilities in an urban centre rests with the administration which cannot be fulfilled completely. As a result, problems of pollution, traffic, anti-social activities etc. arise. The qualitative life in villages and cities have degraded. Only one third houses in Africa have the facility of drinking water. In most of the cities in developing countries, some people live on a footpath or in the houses of very low quality. In India, one citizen out of four lives in illegal housing in the cities which have a population of 1 million or more. There is a constant increase in this figure.

Illegal settlement is an integral part of a settlement where very poor people live. They are unable to even purchase their own house. So they live on unoccupied private or public land. These settlements include self made, irregular huts made traditionally.

People living in illegal settlements, have very low income. They are mostly migrants. But some of them are living there since two or three generations. In the illegal settlements, even the minimum services and facilities are not available. So there is a dearth of water, cleanliness, electricity, roads, gutters (drainage), schools, health centres and markets etc.

The physical and social conditions are extremely bad in such settlements. The family life of people living here is not satisfactory. In such houses, there is an absence of light, fresh air, toilets and

bathroom, and the facility of drainage system also does not exist. The surrounding remains water logged. The residence needs repairs. There is a possibility of breaking out of fire in such settlements. Due to extreme density there is a dearth of open space for entertainment. Dharavi in Mumbai is the largest slum settlement in India.

### Scattered human settlements

Generally, scattered settlements are seen in mountainous regions, deserts, and highlands. This is a settlement with few houses. People here are associated with one another by some cultural characteristics. Such scattered settlements are in very large number in Africa. In India, such settlements are found in North Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and northern part of West Bengal and in the hilly tracks of eastern hilly strip in Gujarat. In China, a group of such scattered houses are seen in its mountainous region.

It is obvious that the scattered settlements grow over an area where there are physical barriers and less scope for any economic activity.

### Exercise

#### 1. Answer the following questions in details :

- (1) Discuss the rural settlement.
- (2) What is meant by an Urban Settlement? State its types based on the functions.

#### 2. Answer the following questions to the point :

- (1) Write a note on the two main types of settlement.
- (2) State the criteria for an urban settlement.
- (3) State the problems of urbanization.

#### 3. Answer the following questions in one-two sentences :

- (1) Which is the second inevitable requirement of man after food ?
- (2) What is the definition of a settlement given by Griffith Taylor ?
- (3) What are the two main types of settlement ?
- (4) Where does the triangular settlement take place generally ?

#### 4. Select the correct option from the options given for the questions and write the correct answer :

- (1) Which type of settlement do the fishermen have ?  
(a) Rectangular                      (b) Nebular                      (c) Star-shaped                      (d) Circular
- (2) What is the population criteria for a 'city' in India ?  
(a) 10000                      (b) 1000                      (c) 5000                      (d) 500
- (3) Which of the following is the cantonment city ?  
(a) Mumbai                      (b) Vadodara                      (c) London                      (d) Meerut

### Activity

- Prepare a sketch of your village / town.
- Visit a slum area of your town and know and write its problems.