

Classification and Patterns of Rural Settlements in Latur District: A Geographical Approach**S.B. Ashture**Associate Professor & Head Department of Geography,
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Abstract:

Settlement Geography is a branch of human geography. It deals with how the human population is distributed on the globe in the form of settlements. Generally it covers distribution of population, size and patterns of settlements and growth of human settlements in associated with Socio- physical factors. It also focus on the discussion, how human settlement has been changing landuse patterns and impacting on environment. Presently the nature of settlement geography is shifted to remote sensing based spatial analysis as well as settlement planning model to gain development with sustainability. The branch also describes characteristics and progress of settlement based on basic components such as area, site, situation, shape, function and population. "Settlement geography not completely investigates the distribution, but even more the structure, process and interactions between settlements and its environment (Such as soil, geomorphology, economy or society), which produce them". " Settlement geography describes and explains the settlements, location, substance, form and structure as well as the functions and processes that produced them over time"(Jorden, 1966).

Key words: Settlements,, types, Patterns, influence

1.0 Introduction

Food, shelter and clothing are the basic needs of human being. At initial stage man was a hunter and food gatherer. Since the Neolithic time the man become a sedentary agriculturist and started to live in the house. Through the passage of time, man adopted settlement system to his physical and socio – economic environment. Generally, the human settlement are considered as points of population concentration, whether it may be rural or urban. Rural and urban settlements can be classified on the basis of socio economic characteristics, occupational structure, way of life and population size. "Settlements as a collection of man-made structures, put up with the intension of habitation or social, economic use which forms a spatial unit for human interaction" (Summit Ghosh, 2003). Human settlement means cluster of dwellings of any type or size where human being live. For this purpose, people may construct houses and command some area or territory as their economic support base (A. Balasubramanian, 2017). Any form of human habitation particularly a group of dwelling is termed as human settlement. Settlement is a permanent collection of houses, buildings and inhabitants.

Settlement is large or small in size whether nucleated or dispersed or liner or square in pattern but exert a greater influence on the world's culture. 'Settlements are both the storage centers of the world heritage and the point of origin for the dissemination of innovative economic, social and political patterns' (Majid Hussain, 1994, p. 318).

The settlement geography studies spatial distribution of human settlements. The branch deals with location, size and shape, as well as growth, internal structure, external forms and appearance, areal arrangement, historical, economic and cultural conditions of settlement. It includes interpretation of origin and growth, locational patterns, functions, morphology, spacing service centers and spatial organizations. "Man's activities were more important in the realm of settlement than the man himself" (S.D. Maurya,2014, P. 1). "Settlement geography not completely investigates the distribution, but even more the structure, process and interactions between settlements and its environment (Such as soil, geomorphology, economy or society), which produce them". " Settlement geography describes and explains the settlements, location, substance, form and structure as well as the functions and processes that produced them over time"(Jorden, 1966).

There are many types and patterns of rural settlements in the world. Broadly, these may be

grouped into two types i.e. Nucleated or agglomerated and Dispersed or isolated. Ecological factors such as relief, geological structure, soil conditions, water and non ecological factors such as economic, cultural and political factors confines the type and pattern of rural settlements. Type of settlement is related to distance and spacing between the houses and pattern of rural settlement refers to geometric form and shape.

1.1 Objectives:

This research paper carried out some specific objectives:-

1. To know the influencing factors to form the types and patterns in the study area.
2. To find out types rural settlements in selected tahsils of the study area.
3. To observe the patterns of the rural settlements in selected talukas of latur district.

1.2 Database and Methodology:

This research paper is prepared with the help of secondary data. Report of censuses, books, unpublished thesis, website information, socio economic abstract and toposheet maps are the sources of information. Dispersal Index method of Mandal (1970) has been adopted to know the types of rural settlements in the study area. Formula is as following.

A Dispersal Index =
$$\frac{\text{Average population size of settlement}}{\text{Average spacing of settlement}}$$

B Average population size of settlements =
$$\frac{\text{Total Rural population}}{\text{Number of settlement}}$$

C Average Spacing =
$$\sqrt{\frac{\text{Total Rural Area}}{\text{Number of settlements}}}$$

1.3 Classification of settlements:

Table no 1.1 Latur District: Blockwise spacing, size and dispersal Index 2001-2011

S r	Selected Block	Average Spacing		Average population size		Dispersal Index
		2001	2011	2001	2011	
1	Latur	2.90	2.90	2037.21	2037.21	4009.33

2	Ahmedpur	2.92	2.34	1327.21	1588.69	2093.95
3	Ausa	3.07	3.13	1889.12	2153.17	4473.90
4	Nilanga	2.60	2.71	1641.46	2033.79	2976.40
5	Udgir	2.86	2.89	1766.34	2054.29	3105.53
	Latur District	2.75	2.78	1684.34	1883.96	

Source: Computed by Author

As per table no 1.1 types of rural settlements are as following:-

1 Compact Settlements: Compact settlements are observed in latur rural and in Ausa tahsil of the study area. Fertile soils of manjara basin, rainfall, irrigation, wells, ponds or water bodies and market place are the factors to confine this type of settlements in the study area. The dispersal value of this type is above 4000.00.

2. Semi- Compact Settlements : The semi compact settlements are an intermediate type between the zones of compact and sprinkled settlements. These type of settlements are observed at extensive fertile areas and high water table. At udgir tahsil semi compact settlements are found due to dense drainage texture. The dispersal value ranges from 3995.00 to 3000.00.

3. Semi-sprinkled settlements: In Nilanga tahsil, where areas are characterized by adverse physical conditions as rugged topography with low rainfall, semi sprinkled settlements are found. The dispersal value ranges from 2999.00 to 2200.00.

4. Sprinkled settlements: Forest and hilly areas with dry climate conditions and poor soils has been occupied by sprinkled settlements. In Ahmedpur tahsil of the study area this peculiar type of settlement is observed. Dispersal value is below 2100.00.

1.4 Patterns of Rural Settlements:

Any rural settlement has external and internal form. The morphology of rural settlement is footprint of physical and cultural factors. Settlement site, water availability, vegetation, types of soil, agricultural practices are important factors influencing the pattern of rural settlement. The arrangement of houses,

roads, provision of facilities also influences the form of villages.

Common village pattern found in the study area as following:-

1 Liner Pattern: This type of settlement pattern develops along the roads, rivers, Nalas and the hill terraces. In Latur tahsil, Khuntegaon village is the typical example of this type of pattern.

Fig. no 1.1 Liner and Triangular pattern of Rural Settlement



2 Square Pattern: A Square shaped village develops at the intersection of road. The entire village is divided into small squares of the houses occupying the people of different castes. In Ausa tahsil Budhoda and in Latur tahsil Samangaon are the examples of this type of rural settlement.

3 Hallow Square Pattern: In hallow square pattern open space occurs at the center due to presence of

tank, playground and public place. Khandapur and Almala are the villages of this type of pattern.

4 Circular Pattern: Circular pattern of settlement is a result of concentration houses due to defense and accessibility. Chalburga and Mahapur are this type of pattern.

5 Triangular Pattern: Topography plays an important role in the formation of triangular patterns. Ashiv and Bokangaon are the settlements of this type.

6 Hallow Rectangular patterns: Khopegaon and Borphal are typical examples of hallow rectangular pattern of rural settlement.

7 Irregular pattern: Most of the villages having irregular pattern are of the dispersed type in the study area. Ankulga and Ranjani are the examples of this type of settlement.

Fig. no 1.2 Circular and square pattern of Rural Settlement



1.5 Conclusion:

Physical. Cultural and ethnic and security factors confines the types of rural settlements. It includes terrain, altitude, climate, availability of water. The cultural and ethnic factor includes caste, religion and tribal structure. The security factors include defense from invasions and wild animals, thefts and robberies. Most rural settlements of the study region are in the shape as liner, triangular, circular and in square pattern. There is compact, semi compact sprinkled and semi sprinkled types observed in the study area. This type of settlements are influenced by Fertile soils of manjara basin, rainfall, irrigation, wells, ponds or water bodies and market place, adverse physical conditions as rugged topography with low rainfall, Forest and hilly areas with dry climate conditions and poor soils.

1.6 References:

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