

Human Settlement

Lesson No.	Title	Activity
29	Human Settlement	Observe your area and identify which kind of settlement patterns are found in your area.

Meaning

Human Settlement is influenced by various factors. A settlement may have specific nature and its evolution is based on various factors. Accordingly these are classified in rural and urban settlements.

Settlements

- Settlement is a form of human habitation which ranges from a single dwelling to large city. The word settlement has another connotation as well as this is a process of opening up and settling of a previously uninhabited area by the people.
- Settlements can broadly be divided into two types – rural and urban.

Types and Patterns of Rural Settlements

Type refers to a category of things having some common features whereas pattern refers to a regular form or order in which a series of things occur.

Compact Settlements

These settlements have closely built up area. Therefore in such settlements all the dwellings are concentrated in one central site and this inhabited area is distinct and separated from the farms and pastures.

Linear Pattern

It is commonly found along main roads, railways, streams, etc. It may have a single row of houses arranged along the main artery.

Rectangular Pattern

This is a very common type which develops around the rectangular shape of agricultural fields as it is common to find a system of land measurement based on square units.

Square Pattern

This is basically a variant of rectangular type. Such a pattern is associated with villages lying at the crossing of cart tracks or roads and also related to features restricting the extension of the village outside a square space.

Circular Pattern

The outer walls of dwellings adjoin each other and present a continuous front so that when viewed from outside, the villages look like a walled and fortified enclosure pierced by a few openings. The round form was a natural outcome of maximum aggregation for the purpose of defense during the past.

Radial Pattern

In this type, a number of streets converge on one centre which may be a source of water (pond, well), a temple or mosque, a centre of commercial activity or simply an open space.

Semi-Compact Settlement

As the name suggests, the dwellings or houses are not well-knit. Such settlements are characterized by a small but compact nucleus around which hamlets are dispersed.

Checker Board Pattern

This is a type of settlement found generally at the junction of two roads.

Elongated Pattern

Such settlement occurs as a result of elongation of the rectangular pattern due to influence of site features.

Fan Shaped Pattern

This is seen where some focal points or line is situated at one end of the village. A focal object may be a tank, a riverside, a road, an orchard etc.

Hamleted Settlements

These type of settlements, are fragmented into several small units. The main settlement does not have much influence on the other units.

Dispersed Settlements

This is also known as isolated settlements. Here the settlement is characterized by units of small size which may consist of a single house to a small group of houses. It varies from two to seven huts.

Factors influencing the types of Settlements

There are three factors that influence the type of settlements in India. These factors are (i) Physical (ii) Ethnic or cultural and (iii) Historical or defence. Let us discuss these factors one by one.

House Types of India

Building materials used for walls

In India, building materials used for walls can broadly be grouped under five categories. These are (i) mud, (ii) stone, (iii) brick, (iv) timber, and (v) wattle

Building materials used for roofs

These materials can broadly be grouped under seven categories. These are (i) tiles, (ii) thatch, (iii) mud and other material, (iv) tin, (v) stone slab, (vi) wood, (viii) brick and others.

Urban Settlements

According to the census of India urban areas are those which satisfy the conditions given below.

- All places with a municipality corporation, cantonment board or notified town area committee etc.
- All other places which satisfy the following criteria:
- A minimum population of 5000;
- at least 75 percent of male working population engaged in non- agricultural sector; and
- a density of population of at least 4,000 persons per square kilometer.

Types of Urban Settlements

Class	Population
Class I	1,00,000 and above
Class II	50,000 – 99,999
Class III	20,000 – 49,999
Class IV	10,000 – 19,999
Class V	5,000 – 9,999
Class VI	less than 5,000

- There is another classification of urban settlements. The classification is as follows:
 - Town- Places which have less than one lakh population
 - City- Urban centres having population between one lakh to one million.
 - Metropolitan Cities- Cities having population in between one million to five million
 - Mega cities- Cities having more than 5 million population

Functional Classification

Ashok Mitra's Functional classification of Indian cities

Ashok Mitra's classification is based on a categories of workers classification available in the census of 1961 and 1971.

Sector	Industrial Category
1. Primary Activity	I. Cultivations II. <u>Agricultural labourers</u> III. <u>Live stock</u> , forestry, fishing, hunting, plantations, orchards and allied activities. IV. Mining and quarrying
2. Industry	V. Manufacturing, processing, servicing and repairs. (a) household industry (b) other than household industry VI. Construction workers
3. Trade	VII. Trade and commerce
4. Transport	VIII Transport, storage and communication
5. Services	IX Other services

Evaluate Yourself

1. Define settlements.
2. Explain the pattern of compact settlements.