

8. HUMAN SOCIETIES



- Human evolved between 1 to 2 million years ago and lived in close contact with nature, from hunters and gatherers stage, they began to live settled life.
- Gradually they form different settlements as well as societies i.e. rural and urban society.



- Settlement is an organized colony of human with dwelling units (Kutchcha or Pucca houses) and roads, they use for travelling.
- In agricultural era, rural settlements predominated. With industrial revolution, urban settlements got established which are growing today.
- Settlements may be rural (village) or urban (towns and cities).



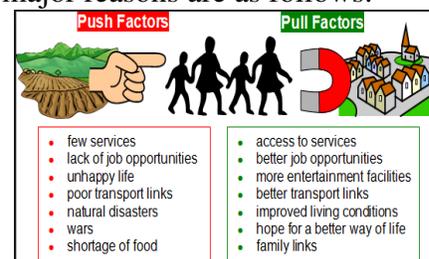
- Rural settlements are chiefly engaged in primary activities such as agriculture, fishing, forestry, mining, artifact (craft) making, cloth weaving etc.



- Urban settlements indulge in non-agricultural activities e.g. industries and manufacturing, trade and commerce, transport and communication, defence and administration.



- Life in cities and towns is urban life. Markets, dwelling units, brick houses or concrete buildings for administrative bodies etc are common features of towns and cities.
- People come into cities from villages in search of jobs settle down in shanties at periphery of cities.
- Some major reasons are as follows:



- The tendencies of concentrate in town and cites is called urbanization.
- Social heterogeneity, freedom from social control, voluntary association, individualism, social mobility and availability of facilities are the main characteristics of urban settlement.
- When a rural youth migrated from their village, they have to face many social, economic and environmental hurdles.

Type of impact	At origin	At destination
Social	Men leave the women behind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too many people • Cannot always cope with education and health
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No land for farming • Crops decline • No personnel for service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployment • Economic insecurity • No professionalism/vocation • Non taxable, low salary, informal work
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slums develop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution • Trash • Contaminated food and water • Marginal land

S/No.	Factor	Rural society	Urban society
1.	Environment	Predominance of nature. People directly related to nature.	Human-made environment predominant. Inhabitants isolated from nature.
2.	Occupation	Agriculture- cultivators and their families are in majority. Few in non-agricultural pursuits.	Mostly industrial workers, traders, professional and working in offices. Mostly engaged administration. All non-agricultural occupations.
3.	Community size	Small	Much larger than rural community.
4.	Population density	Comparatively lower density of population	Large population density.
5.	Social differences and stratification	Much less due to similar vocation	Differentiation pronounced due to work related differences in earnings. Different strata of urban society noticeable.
6.	Homogeneity versus heterogeneity	In racial, cultural and psychological traits much homogeneity noticeable.	Much heterogeneity in the same country and same time.
7.	Caste system	Rampant	Much eroded
8.	Mobility	Social mobility low. Migration of population towards cities mainly due to poverty much more.	Social mobility based on achievement. Migration towards villages low.
9.	Social interactions	Primary contacts. More durable and sincere relationships due to simplicity.	Numerous contacts and wide interactions. Casual, short-lived relations-formal and mostly superficial.

- Primitive humans began to lead a settled life about 10,000 years ago. Rural societies have low population density and limited opportunities.
- Simple living, agriculture, joint family system, caste system, jajmani system, poverty, illiteracy, and social change are main characteristics of rural settlements.
- Agriculture is the only major vocation in villages. Village community has land owners and landless agricultural workers.
- Land required for building roads, dams, railway tracks, houses and industries is acquired from villagers by paying them monetary compensation. This has caused colossal shrinkage of agricultural land and landscape.
- A traditional or modern method of agriculture is to produce more crops by providing factors necessary for increased crop production.
- Modern agricultural technology has helped to achieve to produce more food through the use of mechanized tools and implements, expansion of irrigation facilities and use of agrochemicals.
- Modern agriculture has had an adverse impact such as urbanization, deforestation, industrialization pollution of water sources.
- Urban life has its blessings and curses.
- Lack of opportunities, poverty, conservative life style and orthodoxy force youth from villages to migrate to cities and towns.
- Difference between rural and urban settlements

- The job opportunities are limited in villages and youth no longer wish to continue the occupation of their parents and forefathers.
- With better exposure through radio, television and mobile phones providing easy connectivity young villagers are lured towards cities and towns.
- Once they reach the cities they encounter both facilities and difficulties
- Rapid increase of urban population has necessitated expansion of urban limits. The requirements of housing, construction of roads, industries and dams has led to encroachment on agricultural fields and forests
- In most developing nations high rise condominiums (multistoried flats) are surrounded by squatters and neighborhood slums which attract new migrants to cities.
- As large number of people permanently settles in small areas to form cities and towns, this leads to increase in the consumption of natural resources.
- Land availability dwindles as buildings for housing purposes come up.
- Increased water requirement of the growing urban population causes a sharp decline in water availability.
- Excessive withdrawal of ground water leads to ground water depletion.

**Senior Secondary Course
Learner's Guide – Environmental Science (333)**

- Urbanization and industrialization produces colossal quantities of waste. Quantity of Solid waste from domestic and industrial sources is growing problem.
- They may be biodegradable when they may be used for generation of biogas. The non-biodegradable waste is dumped in landfills.



- Liquid wastes from domestic sector and industrial effluents are usually discharged without any treatment causing pollution of rivers and lakes.
- Sewage treatment may help but is either lacking or seriously inadequate.
- Urbanization leads to economic development.
- Increasing number of motor vehicles on the road cause air pollution leading to congestion and traffic jams, apart from causing serious problem of air pollution.

- Migrant from villages coming to cities in search of jobs are generally poor and landless.
- After reaching the city, they squat on vacant lands ultimately develops into a slum which are also known as “Jhuggi Jhonpri”.
- Often slums proliferate rapidly in unplanned manner.
- Slums are clusters of huts or homes in parts of cities. Kutcha or Pucca houses, built back to back and edge to edge often lack inadequate sun light, or fresh air due to poor ventilation.
- Absence of safe disposal of garbage and solid waste, lack of piped water supply and drainages, electricity creates very precarious situation. Slums are squatter settlements.





Check Yourself

1. Which one of the following is not a temporary settlement?
 - a. Village
 - b. Camps
 - c. Hamlets
 - d. Agglomerate
2. Which one of the following is not a characteristic of rural settlement?
 - a. Small family system
 - b. Jajmani system
 - c. Lack of pipeline water
 - d. Lack of transport
3. Major factor which is responsible for migration of villagers towards cities is :
 - a. Better lifestyle
 - b. Employment
 - c. Rural discrimination
 - d. Religious persecution
4. Which one factor is not directly related to increase waste generation?
 - a. Urbanization
 - b. Industrialization
 - c. Abundant motor vehicles
 - d. Shortage of housing and infrastructure
5. Individual life style, social mobility and availability of facilities are the features of :
 - a. Rural life
 - b. Town life
 - c. Urban life
 - d. All the above

Ans: 1. a 2.a 3.b 4.d 5. c



Stretch Yourself

1. Give any two examples of temporary and permanent settlement.
2. Define the term urbanization.
3. Name the largest slum of India.
4. What is hamlet?
5. Define shanties.



Test Yourself

1. Mention the main occupation of rural settlement.
2. Mention the characteristics of urban settlement
3. Discuss the push and pull factors whose are responsible for migration from rural to urban area.
4. Differentiate between rural and urban societies.
5. How does modern technology impact on agriculture and rural life
6. "Slum formation upset urban planning." Justify this statement with suitable reasons.