

Forms and Location of Human settlements

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Forms And Location Of Human Settlement

Settlement:

A settlement is a place where people live. It can be a small farm house or a mega city.

Settlements can be :

- ✓ Temporary
- ✓ Permanent

Temporary settlements include things such as refugee camps. Some temporary settlements have become permanent over times such as Rochina, largest favela in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In permanent settlements people build homes to live in. Most of the settlements these days are permanent settlements.

Human Settlement:

Definition:

Human settlement refers to the totality of human community with all the social, material, organizational, spiritual, and cultural elements that sustain it. Any form of human dwelling, from the smallest house to the largest city, where group of people reside and pursue their life goals, can be understood as settlement. Human settlements come in many forms and can be permanent and temporary, rural and urban, mobile and sedentary, disseminated and agglomerated.

Why settlement is needed?

Settlements are of great importance in human life.

- Settlements are important for safety and security of the humans.
- They Protect Humans from adverse weather conditions such as extreme temperatures , stormy weather and winds.
- Settlements protect humans from enemies and predators such as wild animals .
- Human need settlements to safeguard their food and domestic animals .
- Shelter plays an essential role in reducing vulnerability and building resilience.
- Settlements are not simply safe physical spaces but also socially acceptable and socioeconomically viable living environments.

History Of Human Settlements:

Settlements are really important for the efficient survival of the humans. Humans have been trying to find out the best condition for their survival from the first day of their existence. The earliest geographical evidence of a human settlement was Jebel Irhoud. We will discuss human settlements in different **ages**.

Paleolithic Age:

- ❖ It is called **old stone age**.
- ❖ In the Palaeolithic period (roughly 2.5 million years ago to 10,000 B.C.), early humans settlements were caves or simple huts or tepees.
- ❖ They were hunters and gatherers.
- ❖ They used basic stone and bone tools, as well as crude stone axes, for hunting birds and wild animals.



Mesolithic Age:

- ❖ It is called **bronze age**.
- ❖ During the Mesolithic period (about 10,000 B.C. to 8,000 B.C.), humans lived in huts built with mammoth bone, followed by houses of wood, straws and rocks.
- ❖ They often lived nomadically in camps near rivers and other bodies of water. Agriculture was introduced during this time, which led to more permanent settlements in villages.
- ❖ They were nomads and hunters.
- ❖ People did not use to build permanent settlements, but only short-period seasonal settlements.



Neolithic Age:

- ❖ It is called **iron age** or **new stone age**.
- ❖ During the Neolithic period (roughly 8,000 B.C. to 3,000 B.C.), ancient humans switched from hunter/gatherer mode to agriculture and food production.
- ❖ People of this era developed permanent settlements.
- ❖ Neolithic houses were rectangular and were built using trees trunks.
- ❖ The roof was usually made of timber beams with a reed thatch covering.
- ❖ The houses usually had a hearth which was used for cooking.
- ❖ The people of this age were farmers and herders.



Forms Of Human Settlement:

There are many different forms of human settlements used around the world today. Typically, human settlements are split up into the following categories:

- **Rural human Settlements**
- **Urban human Settlements**

Many factors go into determining the layout of human settlements, as well as the architectural styles and what opportunities are available within the settlement. Factors that determine the design of human settlements include settlement geography, community

culture and needs, and the resources available for each area. These factors all affect the growth of the population within a human settlement.

Rural Human Settlements:

Rural settlements are usually described as villages, small towns, towns, and the countryside.

- Rural human settlements are settlements that have significant sections of wild natural land surrounding them that often segregate different rural settlements from one another.
- Rural settlements are characterized by usually having a smaller population than urban settlements, with an economy based on trade and the utilization of natural resources.
- Natural resources that are used in rural economies include agricultural practices, timber, fisheries, and tourism.
- Rural human settlements also usually have households that are lower on the socioeconomic scale, and households overall earn less than their urban and suburban



A small village in Montana

Is showing rural human settlement

Forms Of Rural Human Settlement:

There are several different types of rural human settlements arranged in different ways.

- ❖ **Compact rural settlement**
- ❖ **Linear rural settlement**
- ❖ **Circular rural settlements**
- ❖ **Scattered rural settlements**
- ❖ **Isolated rural settlement**

➤ **Compact Rural Settlement:**

- ✓ These types of settlements are centered around the most important community spaces, such as churches, schools, and shops, with housing units that surround the town centre.

- ✓ Farmland can then be situated out beyond the housing units. Compact rural settlements are usually situated geographically in the plains or a valley, usually around a water source.
- ✓ These are mostly found in highly productive alluvial plains like Indo-Gangetic Plains, the Hwang Ho Valley, Valley o Nile. The houses are compact and congested with narrow plains.
- ✓ The size of these settlements depends on nature and resources of surrounding country.
- ✓ Compact settlements are also found in hunt-ing and fishing.

➤ **Linear Rural Settlement:**

- ✓ Linear rural settlements are arranged in rows along a road, river, or coastline, with agricultural fields often behind the rows of houses.

➤ **Circular Rural Settlement:**

- ✓ Circular rural settlements are arranged in a circle, and were very popular during medieval times.
- ✓ Circular rural settlements are usually positioned on a hill, with a wall built around them for protection and an open court space in the town centre.

➤ **Scattered Rural Settlements:**

- ✓ Scattered rural settlements are dispersed settlements that have buildings and homes scattered throughout the region.
- ✓ This type of settlement is common in mountainous regions, in densely wooded areas, and in other areas that have large geographical factors that physically separate dwelling spaces.

➤ **Isolated Rural Settlements:**

- ✓ These types of settlements consist of one home, such as a farmhouse or a house on an island, positioned in isolation from other buildings and surrounded by natural resources, such as farmland or an ocean.

Urban Human Settlements:

Pattern of human settlement is the tendency toward urbanization.

- ✓ Eventually, if the resources in a specific location are abundant, or the settlements are positioned in an advantageous location, villages will become cities. This process is known as urbanization, where large numbers of people become permanently settled in a relatively small area.
- ✓ This leads to the development of structures that accommodate larger numbers of people, such as skyscrapers, apartment buildings, and densely packed houses, which make up urban human settlements.
- ✓ Urbanization happens in the wake of industrialization, which refers to a period of technological advancement and commerce becoming the center of life in settlements.
- ✓ The promise of increased access to resources, opportunities, and advancement brings many people to cities, both historically and in the modern-day.
- ✓ Today, approximately 55% of all people globally reside in urbanized locations, and as much as 80% of the population in mid to high-income countries live in cities.
- ✓ This increase in population to cities influences many factors, such as crime rates, economy, and government.
- ✓ Without careful planning, an increase in population can lead to an increase in poverty rates as well as increased pollution. This is why urbanization often requires considerable civil planning.

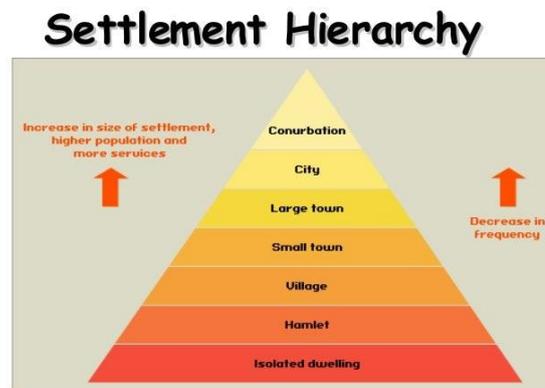


Brooklyn bridge is the example of urban human settlement

Location Of The Human Settlement:

The location of the settlement is the actual place where people decide to locate their settlement. The location of the settlement depend upon various physical

and economical factors. This pyramid or settlement hierarchy shows that how people started to choose their location for settlement.



Conurbation: A super city consisting of multiple cities and towns. The population is usually several millions.

Large Cities: A city with large population and services. The population is usually >1 million.

City: A city would have less services and population than a large city. Its population is usually 100,000

Large Town: A large town has population from 20,000 to 100,000

Small Town: It has population usually from 1,000 to 20,000

Hamlet: A hamlet has a tiny population >100.

Isolated dwelling: An isolated dwelling would have only 1 to 2 buildings or families.

Physical Factors Affecting The location of the Settlement:

The factors that affect the location of the settlement are following:

- **Availability Of Water Resources:**

1. The existence of the lakes and the rivers is an important factor influencing the location of a settlement.

2. Only the region with the water supply will permit the cultivational activities.
3. Because of this we can find that most of the ancient people like to settle near lakes and river such as Mohanjo daro, Harappa, Indraparastha.

- **The Topography Of Land:**

1. The fertile and plain areas will be populated more densely as compared to hilly and rugged areas.
2. The facility of transport is more convenient in plain areas.

- **Defence :**

1. building on high ground allowed people the chance to look out for enemies (e.g. Edinburgh castle) while surrounding a settlement with water also helped with deed defence e.g. Durham is built inside a meander.

- **Aspect and shelter :**

2. In the northern hemisphere south facing slopes receive more sunlight and are protected from cold Northerly winds. More settlements and agricultural land is therefore located on South facing slopes.

The economic factors affecting human settlement:

- **Communications :**

- I. Settlements often located next to rivers that could be easily crossed. These are called bridging points.
- II. Other favourable places included where at the junctions of valleys or in gaps through hills.
- III. These locations allowed maximum communication between different settlements and increased trade. E.g. Newcastle is built on the Tyne at a bridging point and could benefit with trade from the North and the South.

- **Resources :**

- I. Early settlers relied upon wood for fuel and building.
- II. A site close to woodland was there fore an advantage. Later, resources such as Iron ore, coal and bauxite encouraged the growth of settlements.

Patterns of Human Settlement:

There are three different types of human settlements on the basis of arrangements of buildings:

- I. **Linear Settlements**
- II. **Nucleated settlement**
- III. **Dispersed Settlement**

Linear Settlement:

A linear settlement pattern occurs in a line or arc shape. They typically follow a road, valley or water body. This allows the settlement to utilise transport routes. They can also occur along valley floors where the sides are very steep.

- Nucleated Settlement:

A nucleated settlement occurs in a circular shape with buildings mainly concentrated around a common centre such as a road junction, park or service area. Most large cities are nucleated indicating they are well planned.

Nucleation occurs due to:

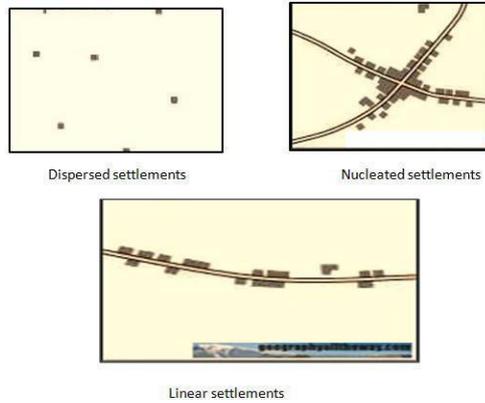
- Flat relief which is easy to build on.
- The site has a bridging point.
- The site is a good defensive position.
- a good water .
- No restrictions to development in any direction.
- Good job opportunities.
- Effective public services.

Dispersed Settlement:

A dispersed pattern is where isolated buildings are spread out across an area, usually separated by a few hundred metres with no central focus. It is typically an area containing buildings rather than a single settlement. The population is sparsely distributed in a dispersed settlement.

Dispersed settlements usually occur in:

- Remote or mountainous regions.
- Areas where the land is predominantly used for agriculture.
- Areas with limited job opportunities.
- Locations with few, if any, job opportunities.



Importance Of Human Settlement:

- 1) Humans have adapted to their environment well over the years, both biologically and non-biologically. However, humans require shelter from the elements to survive.
- 2) Most wilderness survival advice says that acquiring a suitable shelter is often the most important part of successfully surviving in the wild.
- 3) Throughout history, humans have displayed many ways in which to shelter themselves. From ancient cave dwellings and tents, to log cabins and castles, there remains a rich diversity of dwelling spaces that are used by humans today.

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