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FUNCTIONS OF RURAL AND URBAN SETTLEMENTS

SETTLEMENT:

Settlement is an area where people live. It can be as small as a single house or as big as a large city with large population densities where people interact with each other. Settlement is the first step for man adapting to its environment.

URBAN SETTLEMENT:

It is a highly sophisticated area with human created structures (buildings, road, bridges etc.). It is a high population area. In Pakistan about two fifths of the area is urban populated.

RURAL SETTLEMENT:

Rural areas are the areas outside cities and towns with less homes and buildings. Rural settlement refers to the people living in such areas those dependency is mostly on agriculture and pastoral practices as there are less infrastructure development.



- Urban and rural settlementt

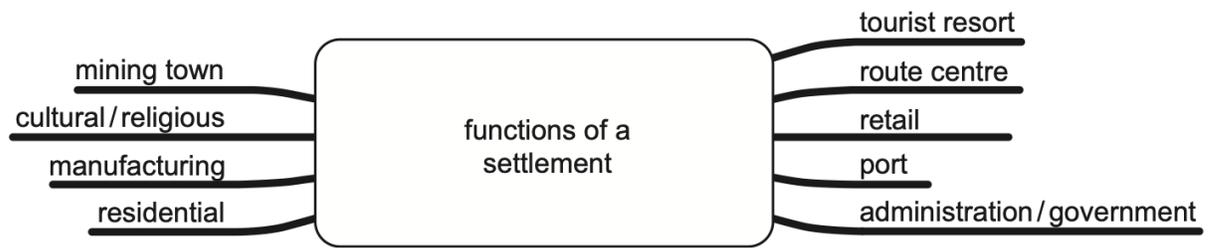
FUNCTIONS OF URBAN SETTLEMENTS:

Function of an area originate by the people who choose to live at that specific area. A city can provide a specific function or many varieties of functions at a time.

Urban settlement performs many functions in a society. Most important and main functions include commerce, recreational activities, government(administration), transport and communication, and manufacturing.

The functions can include:

- ♦ Employment opportunities
- ♦ Providing services
- ♦ Providing transportation
- ♦ Good residential areas
- ♦ Administration facilities
- ♦ Good entertainment
- ♦ Educational activities
- ♦ Port activities



FUNCTION OF INDUSTRY:

Industries provide a space where the raw materials can be converted to manufactured products which can be utilized by the people there. These industries are also providing employment opportunities to the people. Different urban hubs support different kind of industries, for example, Karachi has one of the largest steel industry.

FUNCTION AS RELIGION OR CULTURAL CENTRE:

Places of worship play an important function in the lives of people in urban areas. It allows people to gather, meet, share their believes and progress as a community. These centers welcome people from different locality to interact with each other and learn about religious rituals. Makkah and Medina are the best example of a city functioning as a religious Centre as thousands of people go there for hajj every year.

FUNCTION AS RESIDENTIAL AREAS:

Urban settlement provides people a roof to live under; their homes. It is one of the main functions of an urban hub. Urban Centre provide essential services increasing people to move there more often. These are the comfortable quiet places away from workplaces of people. Different towns and societies are made to accommodate large people migrating to cities.



FUNCTION AS A MARKET TOWN:

Specific area of cities is reserved for market place where people can sell and buy their everyday goods. Farmers sell their products here to earn a living. Hence market place is an important function a city.

FUNCTION AS A MINING CENTRE:

It is a specific function of some urban settlement, not all the cities have this function. Some urban areas are rich in minerals and natural resources like coal, natural gas etc. Baluchistan has many mineral deposits with Sindh rich in coal and KPK in gems. Gypsum reserves are found mostly in Dera Ghazi KHAN District.

FUNCTION OF A PORT:

It is also a specific function of an urban hub as not all the urban settlements are on sea shores. It provides a platform for importing and exporting goods and increasing trade generating economy. Pakistan has two major seaports including Gwadar port and Karachi port. These ports also act a route between different urban settlements like Gwadar port act as a route for china to connect to other countries. London is called a port city.



- Gwadar and Karachi port

FUNCTION OF TRANSPORTATION:

Cities and towns have highly sophisticated transport system of roads, bridges and other infrastructure. Different routes make it easier for people to move from one place to another. Transportation can be between cities and also between countries. Karakoram Highway between Pakistan and china is one of the most important trade route. Motorway in Punjab also provide hassle free movement of vehicles fast and efficient.



- Motorway and Karakorum highway

FUNCTION AS A ADMINISTRATION CENTRE:

Urban settlements act as a place where administration centers are located like PM house or CM house or other government offices including Banks or Courts etc. Different offices have different work which provide specific services to the people there making it one of the important function of cities.

FUNCTION OF A TOURIST RESORT:

Different urban cities provide different types of tourist resorts where people can relax and enjoy themselves. These tourist resorts are an important function as people enjoy there in their leisure time. Norther areas of Pakistan are rich in natural sceneries and is one of the main tourist point. Punjab has rich history and people interested in history comes here as tourists. CN Tower in Canada is also one of most visited tourist point.



- Gilgit Baltistan and CN Tower

FUNCTION AS A PUBLIC SERVICE PROVIDER:

Urban hubs provide educational centers like schools and university with high standard education and health care like hospitals and clinics with hygienic facilities. High standard living of cities due to these facilities make people migrate to cities. Many public and private institutes and hospitals are present all around the world to provide public services to the people there.

FUNCTION FOR ENTERTAINMENT PUROSE:

Different entertainment facilities are provided to urban settlements including restaurants, clubs, gaming zones, gyms and swimming pool etc. People enjoy these activities according to their interests. Different sports complexes and shopping malls are also built to facilitate the population in the area. Gymkhana and Shapes are some of the famous clubs in Lahore. Centaurus mall in Islamabad is famous shopping mall for entertainment purposes.



- Entertainment purposes function

FUNCTIONS OF RURAL SETTLEMENTS:

Like urban settlements, rural settlements also perform many functions. People living in rural areas usually depend on agriculture for their survival so the function of this settlement is agricultural. Other common functions of rural settlements are related to fishery, cattle keeping, dairying, forestry and mining.

Rural settlement also performs function of religious centers (mosques or church) along with cultivation of culture or domestication of cattle.

AGRICULTURAL FUNCTION:

Fertile soil and availability of land in rural areas due to lack of infrastructure makes agriculture one of the most important function of rural settlement. Different types of crops are grown according to the weather conditions and soil fertility. Rural areas of mountains grow different crops than the rural hubs of plain areas. Terrace farming is done in rural areas.

Animals are domesticated for agricultural use. These animals are used for labor purposes to improve the agricultural product as modern farming practices are not available in rural areas.

These animals are also used to provide meat and milk for the population. The skin of animals can be used to make wool.



FISHERIES:

Along with agriculture, fishing is one of the main occupation of rural settlement. The villages located on the side of rivers, lakes are the sites where fisherman live and most of the fishing activities take place. Market for the selling and buying these fish products are also present near the fishing site though not very well developed.

GATHERING OF FOEST PRODUCTS:

The settlements located in mountains are involved in forest related activities. Cutting of trees and using it more different purposes. These settlements are usually located near urban hubs so that the wood cut can be sent to industries for further processing and utilization. Forest products are also for domestic use for cooking as proper system of sui gas is not present n such regions. Northern areas of Pakistan is rich in such settlements.

SMALL TRADE CENTRES:

Rural hubs don't usually have very modern style industries but have small trade Centre for selling domestic products for their living. These trade centers act as a communication between rural and urban settlement. Increase in technology in rural settlement has increased interaction and business opportunities so these trade centers act as a major function in rural areas.

PRDAGOGIC FUNCTION:

Rural settlements also have a pedagogic function. The culture and esthetic manifestation of rural areas can be seen in the people of rural areas. The habitants living there try their best to provide an ideal environment for rural settlement.

Rural hubs have small religious places as well, including mosques and churches which act as a gathering point for the people. Different villages also have panchayats which act as an administration unit or judicial unit in rural areas and make decisions in such gatherings.



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