

Chapter - I

Appraisal of the Problem

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CHAPTER - I

'APPRAISAL OF THE PROBLEM

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1.1 INTRODUCTION -

The study of rural settlements has been one of the most significant theme of the human Geography. Studies in such areas like man-land relationship within the context of rural settlements have also been expressed by several human geographers (Kumbhar, 1997).

Rural settlement is the spatial differentiation of the grouping of houses and highways in rural areas where social cohesion and cultural ties are strengthened according to the needs of the society and mankind (Mandal-1988)

The term rural essentially means an area which is characterised by non-urban way of life (Nand lal-P.239). It is also regarded as the topographic expression of the grouping and arrangement of two fundamental elements of houses and highways (Brunhes-1952).

Rural settlements are the point of origin, they are primary residence of human society. Therefore, the study of rural settlements runs like a thread through almost the whole fabric of geographic thought. Since the country is dominated by agrarian economy and most of the population is concentrated in villages, the study of rural settlements in India should be given prime importance.

Considering the aspects, a study of rural settlements in Koregaon Taluka of Satara District has been under taken. The present intends to study the spatial distribution and growth of rural settlements, demographic structure, types and patterns, rural service centres and their hierarchic orders of the study region.

1.2 REVIEW OF LITERATURE -

Rural settlement geography as a field of study has been taken late start in India. In our country, the credit for introducing this branch of geography goes to Prof. E. Ahmad, Prof. R. L. Singh and Prof. Pithwala, Prof. R. L. Singh studied the 'Evolution of settlement in the Middle Ganga Valley.' The work of Prof. E. Ahmad in

this particular branch of human settlement studied both the rural and urban settlements of the Uttar Pradesh. A. B. Mukherji has made valuable contribution towards 'Jat settlements and habitation.' A. Anas in his study of settlements of sub-Himalayan Region discuss in detail the various patterns of rural settlements. Prof. N. D. Bhattacharya explained the details of evolution growth, morphology of settlements in relation to Physical features of district Murshidabad. A. Prasad studied the evolution types and spatial distribution of rural settlements of Chota Nagpur.

Besides this, K. N. Singh, V. N. P. Sinha, R. B. Mandal, R. C. Tiwari, A. P. Kumbhar and S. s. Choudhari have Studied various aspects of rural settlements for their study region.

1.3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PRESENT STUDY :-

In the present study an attempt has been made to show a light on different aspects of rural settlements in Koregaon Taluka. The major objectives of the present study are as follow :-

- i) To study the spatial distribution of rural settlements and their relationship with physical and cultural factors.
- ii) To study the population characteristics of the rural settlements.
- iii) To study the types and patterns of rural settlements.
- iv) To study the Ruralservice centres and and their hierarchic orders.

1.4 DATA COLLECTION -

The required data is collected from various sources like census handbook of satara district, socio-economic Abstract of satara District and District statistical Department. The information is collected from taluka panchayat office and village Panchayat. The topographical maps of 1:50,000. Scales are used for identification of Physical division, drainage pattern, location of rural settlements and types and patterns of rural settlements.

Besides this information regarding the study is collected from various reports and Journals.

1.5 METHODOLOGY -

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In the Present study various statistical methods are used for the analysis of different aspects. Various quantitative and cartographic techniques are used at appropriate places. The maps and diagrams are prepared from various data and their interpretation support to the present study.

1.6 THE DESIGN OF THE PRESENT STUDY-

The present study is organized into seven Chapters. The first chapter deals with the appraisal of the problem, aims and objectives, data collection, methodology Review of literature and the design of the present work.

The second chapter deals with the geographical setting of the study region. In this Chapter discussion on physical setting, Climate, drainage, soils, Forests, Population Character and Cultural environment has been made. These are the important factors, which are directly or indirectly influence on the growth of study region.

The third chapter, includes the spatial distribution and growth of settlements. The distribution of rural settlement is affected by several factors in which Physiography, drainage, population land under cultivation, land under irrigation and transportation have considered. In the present chapter an attempt has been made to find out the influence of various factors on the distribution of rural settlements in the study region. In the same chapter growth of rural settlements have been considered, also the growth of rural settlements is related to various geographical factors and changing economic situation. Further attempt has been made to study the growth of rural population, growth of individual settlements and their classwise growth rate.

The chapter fourth has been devoted to the study of the population characteristics of the study region. Here, an attempt has been made to show light on the population, population projection, population growth, its density, sex composition, literacy structure and religious distribution.

The fifth chapter has devoted to study, the types and patterns of rural settlements. Rural settlements indicate the complex relationship between human occupation of the land and the environment. However, in India religious and social structure also plays an important role in the formation of the various types of rural settlements. The detail analysis of rural settlement types has been attempted through the observation of one-inch topographical map of the study area and field observation. The patterns of rural settlements have been studied under two subheads, i) internal form and 2) External form. Both the aspects are closely related to various geographical and cultural conditions.

The sixth chapter has been devoted to study, the rural service centres in the study region. Rural service centres are central settlements, Which provides the goods and services to the surrounding areas. In the present Chapter rural service centres have been identified and hierarchic structure of the rural service centres has been presented.

The Chapter Seventh is devoted to finding and concluding remarks.

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