

CHAPTER NO-VII

CONCLUSION

The problem of human settlements have emerged as one of the most challenging issues particularly in the under developed countries of the world. About 65 percent of the world's population still live in rural areas. So there is a need to study all the facts of rural settlements.

India is a rural country, where nearly 75 percent population live in the rural areas. The rural settlements in India from ancient period show a dominance of social and economic factors in the development.

The distribution of rural settlements are influenced by various factors. Out of the several physical, social, economic and political factors a few factors are more responsible for the distribution of rural settlements. However, the settlement distribution is not only determined by the natural conditions but it is also influenced by socio-economic factors.

In general it is observed that physiography plays an important role in the distribution of rural settlements. It is observed that out of the total study area nearly 40.13 percent area has covered by the plain region and occupied nearly 44.62 percent rural settlements of the total. It is also found that the area which lies between the below 600m to 900m in height occupies an area about 72.95 percent of the total and accounts for 75.39 percent settlements of the total. It is also observed that there is a positive correlation between area and settlement distribution.

The drainage is another factor which influences the distribution of a rural settlements. In the study region, it is observed that flat and plateau region, the drainage density is less but there is correlation between medium drainage density and area covered and number of settlements. The drainage density between below 0.50 to 0.75 km. per sq. km. covers an area about 57.11 percent of the total which accounts for 61.52 percent of the

total settlement. It indicates that where the drainage density is high, the number of settlements are found less.

The density of rural population and distribution of settlements in the study area indicate a typical relationship. In general, it is observed that, in the hilly areas, where the density of population is low, the number of small size settlements are more and in the areas where the high density of the rural population is observed, the number of settlements are less.

The analysis clearly indicates that where less land available for cultivation, the number of rural settlements are more, but their size is small as compared to the areas where more land is available for cultivation.

In the study region, it is observed that plain and plateau region having more land under the irrigation, so there is correlation between irrigation land and distribution of settlements.

The density of the road is the another factor which has a great bearing on the road is the distribution of rural settlements. All types of roads play an important role in the distribution of rural settlements in the study region. It is observed that the density of the road is moderate which is occupied by more number of settlements. The density of road between below 35 to 70 km. per sq. km. covers nearly 92 percent of the total area and 83.07 percent of the total settlements.

The western, southern and eastern part of the study region, which covers an areas about 23.27 percent of the total and accounts for 24.62 percent of the total settlements have clustered type of pattern. The region which lies in the south east, northern and middle east to the west part of the study area, covers an area about 52.42 percent of the total and account for 55.38 percent of the total settlements have random type of pattern. In the southern and central as well as northern portion have been covered the 24.31 percent of the total area and account of 20 percent of the total settlements have uniform type settlement pattern.

The dynamic of rural growth is related to various geographic factors and changing economic situation. The study of growth pattern clearly indicates that the area which is agriculturally prosperous and economically developed, indicate

more growth rate of rural population and these areas have an addition of new villages which have been carved out of the old large size villages.

The growth of rural population in Khandala taluka is found 22.44 percent in decade 1991, while considering this population growth rate, population of Khandala taluka will be rich near to 1,19,636 in 2001. The density of rural population in the study area indicates a typical relation ship. In general, it is observed that, in the hilly areas, where density of population is very low and the area having deep fertile soil, irrigation facilities transportation occupied more density of population. The sex ratio is observed unbalanced in the study area status of woman in society, migration and medical facilities influencing the sex ratio in the study region. The overall literacy percentage of the region is comparatively high. The occupational structure clearly indicates that more population is engaged in primary activities and only 45.50 percent is found working population out of the total population. The scheduled tribe population has an insignificant percentage in the study area, the dominance of scheduled caste population is observed in Lonand, Shirwal and Khandala villages etc.

Rural settlements indicate the complex relationship between the human occupance of land and the environment. The type of settlement is a system of functionally interrelated settlements. Each village is a part of total system and as a part of total system of each centre it performs certain functions. Four basic patterns of rural settlements have been observed in the area they are,

- 1) Compact or clustered settlements.
- 2) Composite settlements.
- 3) Disperse settlements.
- 4) Fragmented settlements.

The settlement types are influenced by various physical, social and cultural factors. The compact type of rural settlements are dominant in the areas where agriculture is developed and accessibility is high. Such settlements are more common in plain fertile region of the study area. The composite form of rural settlements, which is dominantly found in the region disappearing in many parts of the study area. In decade

1981 and 1991, several settlements which were part of main single settlements have gained independent status. The dispersed form of rural settlements are commonly found in hilly and plateau areas. The fragmented forms of rural settlements have developed in the interior parts of the study area, where the houses in the settlements are found in the scattered manner. Most of the fragmented villages are located on spurs or in the valleys of small streams.

Morphogeneses of rural settlements are the result of physical and cultural environment of the area. The internal and external forms of rural settlements are closely related to various geographical and cultural conditions. The village site, water availability, nature of soil, vegetation, agricultural practices and farm size are the important aspects which influence the form of rural settlements.

Rural service centres are the central places, which serve the needs of the surrounding area. While identifying rural service centres in a under developed region, one must take care of very small functions like kirana shop and dispensary are great significant in the under developed economy. The hierarchical structure of rural service centre in Khandala taluka classified into four orders of hierarchy. The first order is occupied by only one centre namely Lonand, it possesses several important functions and services the large area of the study region. The lower order of hierarchy includes small villages having limited functions. Most of these places provided very few service and functions. They only provided the basic services to near by villages.