

CHAPTER - I

APPRAISAL OF THE PROBLEM

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APPRAISAL OF THE PROBLEM

The study of settlements forms one of the most important themes of Human Geography. The term 'Settlements' refers to the "Characteristic groupings of population in to occupance units together with the facilities in the form of houses and streets which serve the inhabitants." (Trewartha, 1942). Houses and streets being the chief elements of occupance unit become the focal point of the study in settlement geography and determine the external and internal form of the habitation.

Rural Settlement Geography, a branch of Settlement Geography. Rural settlement means the totality of human community in rural areas with all the social, material, organisational, spiritual and cultural elements that sustain a community. Rural settlement is the spatial differentiation of the grouping of houses and highways on any landscape where social cohesion and cultural ties strengthened according to the needs of the society. (Mandal, 1979).

It is also regarded as the topographic expression of the grouping and arrangement of two fundamental elements of houses and highways (Brunhes, 1952).

The regional analysis of settlement pattern reflects upon the condition of settlements in different areas depending upon settlement types, their size and distribution, population density, architectural style and construction material.

The functional structure of rural settlement is closely related to social, economic and political structures of the society. These aspects vitally influence the shape, form and location of settlements. Each community has its distinctive religious centres (like temples, mosques and churches) and educational institutions and these have a bearing on the development of settlements. (Sinha, 1976).

Rural settlements are the points 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 settlement in India should be given prime importance.

Considering the above aspects, a study of rural settlements in Sindhudurg district has been undertaken. The present work 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.

1.1 REVIEW OF THE 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. Pithawala. Prof. R. L. Singh studied the 'Evolution of settlements in the Middle Ganga Valley.' The work of Prof. E. Ahmad in this particular branch of human settlement studied both rural and urban settlements of Uttar Pradesh. Prof. A. B. Mukerjee has made valuable contribution towards 'Jat settlements and habitations.' M. Anas in his study of settlements of Sub-Himalayan Region, discusses in detail the various patterns of rural settlements. Prof. N. D. Battacharya explained the details of evolution, growth, morphology of settlements in relation to physical features of district Murshidabad.

L. R. Singh has analysed various aspects of rural settlement geography with special reference to Uttar Pradesh R. B. Singh has studied rural settlement types, their distribution

and future trends in Varanasi district of Uttar Pradesh. 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.

1.2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PRESENT STUDY :

In the present study, an attempt has been made to throw a light on different aspects of rural settlements in Sindhudurg district, selected for this purpose. The major objectives of the present study are as follows :

1. To study the spatial distribution of rural settlements and their relationship with physical and cultural factors.
2. To study the growth characteristics of the rural settlements.
3. To study the population characteristics of the rural settlements.
4. To study the types and patterns of rural settlements.
5. To study the rural service centres and their hierarchic orders.

1.3 SOURCE OF DATA AND INFORMATION :

All the required data has been collected from various sources like Census Hand Book of Sindhudurg district, Socio-Economic Review and District Statistical Abstract of Sindhudurg district. The other information has been collected from taluka Panchayat Offices and Village Panchayats. The topographical maps of 1:50,000 scale have used for identification of physical divisions, drainage pattern, location of rural settlements, types and patterns of rural settlements.

To calculate the centrality and hierarchy of rural service centres, the data for basic functions for each villages, relating to educational, communication and medical services were compiled from the Census of Sindhudurg district. The list of bus station, police station, market centres, co-operative societies has been collected from various Block Development Offices, District Statistical Offices and Municipal Offices.

Besides, this information regarding the **present** study has been taken from various reports and journals.

1.4 METHODOLOGY :

In the present study, various quantitative methods have been used to study the distribution of rural settlements.

Data has been collected suitable gridwise (10 x 10 km) and relationship of rural settlements studied with various factors, which affect on the distribution. For this purpose various isopleth maps have been drawn to show relationship between affecting factors and distribution of rural settlements. The spatial analysis of rural settlements has been done by using nearest neighbour analysis of Clark and Evans (1954).

To study the growth characteristics of rural settlements the growth rate of individual rural settlements have been calculated decadewise and shown with the help of maps. The growth rate of rural population has been calculated by using Gibb's Method. Lorenz curve has been used to measure the dispersion of population and rural settlements in relation to area and population and in relation to the distribution of rural settlements.

To study the types and pattern of rural settlement has been used observation and statistical methods. In the present study one-inch topographical sheets of the study area have been used and various settlement types and pattern have been identified from the observation method. The index of dispersion has been calculated by the formula used by Mandal (1977).

To centrality score of rural service centres has been calculated by Location Index Method (Davis, 1967). With the help of centrality score, six various hierarchic orders of rural service centres have been determined by using Rank-Size Rule. The hierarchic order of rural service centres and functional linkages have been represented with the help of maps.

1.5 DESIGN OF THE RESEARCH WORK :

The present research work has been divided into eight chapters.

The First chapter deals with the appraisal of the problem, aims and objectives of the present works, source of data and information and methodology that have been applied in the present study.

The second chapter deals with the geographical setting of the study region. In this chapter, discussion on physical setting, climate, drainage and various cultural and economic aspects have been studied.

The third chapter includes the study of spatial distribution of rural settlements in relation to various physical and cultural factors, in which physiography, drainage, climate, population, land under irrigation, land under agriculture, road

network etc., have been studied. The spatial pattern of rural settlements has been studied quantitatively by using several techniques.

The fourth chapter has been devoted to the study of dynamics of rural growth is related to various geographical factors and changing economic situation.

The fifth chapter analyses the growth, distribution, density, occupational structure and social composition of the rural population in the study region.

The six chapter has been devoted to study the types and pattern of rural settlements. In this chapter, the detail analysis of rural settlement types and pattern has been attempted through the observation of one-inch topographical maps of the study region and field observation.

The seventh chapter an attempt has been made to identify rural service centres in the Sindhudurg district. In this chapter details about the functional organization of rural service centres and the centrality and hierarchy of rural service centres have been studied.

The last chapter i.e. eighth chapter deals with major finding and concluding remarks on the study of distribution,

growth, population characteristics, types and pattern of rural settlements and centrality and hierarchy of rural service centres of the Sindhudurg district.

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