

Chapter VII
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Settlement Geographically is one of the recent branches of human geography, in the twentieth century. Settlement is the symbol of man's occupation of land, and serves as the link between the man and the environment. Settlement is defined as the place where one person or more dwells regularly, or the act of establishing a permanent residence.

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

The topography of any region plays an important role not in influencing its past history but also the climate, land use, means of transportation, distribution of settlements and distribution of population. It is observed that out of total Study region nearly 13.5 percent area covers mountain spurs and hilly which comprises nearly 11.8 percent of rural settlements. The area which lies between 900 to 1100 m in height occupies 26.1 percent of the total rural settlements. The low-land region which lies between 700 to 900 m in height occupies 24.3 percent area of the total and it comprises nearly 19% of the total rural settlements. The height is below 700 m from mean sea level, occupies nearly 36.1 percent of the total area which comprises nearly 28.2 percent of the rural settlements.

Drainage density is observed that nearly 33 percent area of the study region has an average less than 0.5 kms drainage density and it comprises nearly 16.4 percent of total rural settlements. The drainage density is found above 1 k.m. per sq. km, occupies an area nearly 13.9 percent of of the total and comprises 14.5 percent of the total rural settlements. It is observed that the drainage density between 0.5 to 1 km per sq. km the number of settlements are found more, i.e. 69.1 percent.

Forest are most important resource, in the study region nearly 9.7 percent of the land is covered by forest. Most of the study region is covered with monsoonal type of trees.

Many factors, which affects on the density of Rural population, i.e. Physical, social, economical and cultural. The study region, it is observed that in the hilly areas population density is low i.e. below 200 persons per sq. km it occupies 46.9 percent of the total area and comprises nearly 43.7 percent of the total rural settlements. The river basin region which is plain and fertile, where density of population is above 600 persons per sq. km and occupies nearly 6.9 percent total area and comprises 11.8 percent of the total rural settlements.

In short, it is observed that hilly regions having low population density, because the developement of agriculture, transportation facilities and marketing facilities are found less.

Agriculture plays an important role in the developement of man and his economic condition, In the study region it is observed that, where irrigation facilities are developed, fertility of soil has occure, and modern tools and techniques are used in agriculture, the land under agriculture is more. Western side of the study region, where agriculture density is found 40 to 60 percent and above 60 percent per sq. km occupies area is about 8.7 percent and 6.8 percent of the total and comprises nearly 9.1 percent and 8.2 percent of the total rural settlements.

It is a wellknown fact that water is an essential element for maintaining life on the surface of the earth. It is equally needed for man, animals & plants. It is observed that southren part of study region, where irrigation density is found more developed as compare to northern part of the study region. Northern part of the study region, where the percentage of land under irrigation is found 10-15 percent and above 15 percent occupies an area is about 22.8 percent and 17.3 percent of the total respectively, and compirses nearly 21.8 and 18.2 percent of the total rural settlements respectively.

The physiography of the region plays an important role in the development of roads in the study region. Nearly all settlements of the study region linked with one another by crude paths, metalled and unmetalled roads. Middle strip of the study region where density of road is found more i. e. Above 1 km per sq.km. It occupies nearly 8.7 percent of the total area and comprises nearly 9.1 percent rural settlements. The Density between 0.5 to 1 km per sq.km is found Northern and middle part of the study region, where towns are located, it occupies an area about 29.5 percent of the total and comprises nearly 31.8 percent of the total rural settlements.

There are many factors, which influences on the distribution of the rural settlements, such as cultural, historical and topographical. In order to study the spatial pattern of rural settlements, the 'Nearest Neighbour Method' has been used to analyse the nature of distribution of rural settlements. The middle and southern part of the study region have been covered 61.8 percent of the total area and accounts for 62.7 percentage of the total settlement have clustered type of pattern. The Northern and some middle patches of the study area covers 27.8 percent of the total and 14.6 percent of the total settlements have Random type.

The dynamic of rural population growth is related to various geographic factors and changing economic conditions. It is observed that the growth pattern clearly indicates that the area which is agriculturally developed and economically prosperous indicate more growth rate of rural population. In general it is observed that the size of rural settlement is large in the central part of the study region. The Northern and eastern boundary of the region is hilly and rugged, so the size of rural settlement is found small as compare to other part of the study area.

In the study region, it is observed that, there is change in the growth of rural settlements and population in the decade 1981 and 1991. The minus growth rate of population up to minus 20 percent, is observed in nine villages for the decade 1981 to 1991. Above 60 percent growth rate of population is observed that the minus

growth rate of population. In general it is observed that size of rural settlement is large in the central part of the study region. The Northern and eastern boundary of the region is hilly and rugged, so the size of rural settlement is found small as compare to other part of the study area.

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The growth of rural population in the study region is found 18-3 percent in the decade 1991. While considering this population growth rate, population of Koregaon Taluka will be reach near to 2,20,000 in 2001. Generally, it is observed that in the hilly and mountainous areas population density is low, where the density of population is high area having fertile soil, irrigation facilities and transportation facilities found more. western and Middle part of the study region, where population density is high as compare to eastern portion of the study region. Agricultural and physiological density is also found high in the western part of the study region, where population density is also high.

As compare to sex ratio of India, in the study region sex ratio is higher. In the decade 1981 sex ratio was 1099 females per thousand males. In the decade 1991 as compare to past decade sex ratio has found decrease i.e. 1046 females per thousand males.

Literacy structure is one of the most important indicator of the social development. According to 1981 census nearly 52.12 percent of the total population is literate. In the decade 1991, literacy rate shows increase i.e. 69.43 percent population of

the total is literate. Occupation indicates the earners nature of work. It is observed that out of total population 68.8 percent population is engaged in agriculture and related activities. Nearly 3.9 percent population is engaged in household activities and 2.2 percent and 20.5 percent workers engaged in trade and commerce and marginal activities respectively.

The distribution of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe population has been studied. It is observed that in the decade 1991 10.7 percent population was scheduled caste population while only 1 percent was scheduled tribe population of the total population in the study region.

Rural settlements are affected by many factors, such as physical, social historical and economic. Four basic patterns of rural settlements have been observed in the study area they are,

- 1) compact settlements
- 2) composite settlements
- 3) Disperse settlements
- 4) Fragmented settlements

Fragmented type of rural settlements are most commonly found on the margins of spurs or in the small nalas. Disperse settlements include farmstead, homestead and wadi settlements. The composite types of settlements have one main single village attached with two to five small hamlets. The compact settlements are normally found in the plain, fertile agricultural regions.

In the study region, square pattern, Elongated pattern, circular pattern. Irregular pattern, linear pattern, Amorphous pattern and shapeless Agglomeration patterns has been found. It is observed that the compact and composite types of rural settlements show variety of patterns of villages.

Rural settlement as a cultural bearing units are mirror of the region where the civilization originate, develop and spread into the whole sphere of human life. The rural service centre is defined as a place which supplies the social, economic and administrative needs of the people of the service area. It is observed that, the considering the centrality score, the order service centre is Koregaon having highest magnitude of functions and regional importance and serves the entire study area. Rahimatpur is second order Rural service centre in the study area, it provides educational, retail and wholesale trades, health services and important market centre. The third order includes three rural service centres and the last hierarchic order i.e. fourth category in which 15 rural service centres are included. They provide basic lower order services and functions and serves very few villages of the surrounding region.