

CHAPTER [VI]CONCLUSION

Settlement geography is recent most sprout from the venerable tank of human geography. It's considerations have however run like a thread through almost the whole fabric of geographic thought. Settlement geography deals with the facilities built in the process of human occupance of the land and their grouping the nature and distribution of these facilities are related to the art and made of living and on physical factors.

In the present study rural settlements of Satara district have been considered. The distribution of growth characteristics and site and location of rural settlements have been studied. The study of rural settlements plays an important role in the life of people whether the settlements are small or large.

The Sahyadries and Mahadeo are the two important major hill ranges which form the main element of landscape in the Satara district. The main range of the Sahyadries extend about 96 km from North to South from the Western boundaries of the Satara district. The Mahadeo range lies in the North of the Satara district which bifurcates from the Sahyadrian complex from about 16 m North of the Mahabaleshwar and stretches East and South-East across the whole breadth and the district. In the study region, there are four drainage systems. The Nira is in the entire

Northern belt. The Man in the south-east. The Yerla and the Krishna in the south. The maximum temperature in the month of April and May is 34°C to 36°C and minimum temperature 12°C to 15°C. In the study region the Mahabaleshwar rainfall is highest that is 6226 mm.

In the present study an attempt has been made to find out the influence of several physical, economic, social and political factors on the distribution of the settlements of the study region. The analysis of the spatial distribution of the rural settlements has been studied with the help of the quantitative method which is called 'Nearest Neighbour Analysis'.

The present analysis of the distribution of rural settlements and its relation to physiography. In the study region the area which lies below 900 meters covers nearly 83 percent of the total, and accounts for 81 percent of the rural settlements. It means that there is a positive co-relation between area covered by the settlements and the number of rural settlements. Again it is also observed that the area which lies above 900 meters covers less percentage of the total area and few percent of the rural settlements. It also shows a positive co-relation between area covered and number of rural settlements. Forests are the most precious resource than any other resources. It is observed that in the study region there is co-relation between land under forest and distribution of rural settlements. Here the percentage of land under forest is more which occupies less

land of the study region, but accounts for more percentage of rural settlements. It means that the area under forest which is high and number of settlements are also more. It shows positive co-relationship.

The density of rural population and distribution of rural settlements in the study region indicates a typical type of relationship. The density of rural population is found less than 200 persons per sq.km. covers an area about 62 percent of the total which accounts for 41 percent of rural settlement. It is also observed that the density of rural population above 300 persons per sq.km. covers an area about 14 percent of the total which accounts for 38 percent of the rural settlements. It means that the density of rural population is more which covers less percentage of area accounts more number of rural settlements (38 percent) of large and medium size because agriculturally and economically prosperous.

The development of agricultural practices plays an important role in the distribution of rural settlements. In the study region, it is observed that there is a close relationship between land under agriculture and distribution of rural settlements.

In the above discussion, we have tried to show that how the various factors influence on the distribution of rural settlements. Hence, an attempt has been made to study of existing pattern of rural settlements with the help of quantitative technique 'Nearest Neighbour Analysis'. In the

study region western part, some part of north and north-west of the study region have clustered type of distributional pattern, the western part south central part and eastern part of the study region have random type of distributional pattern. The central part, north-east part and few part of the eastern side of the study region have a near to uniform type of distributional pattern. In the study region, it is observed that the area which covers about 58.8 percent of the total and accounts for 40.5 percent of the total rural settlements have uniform and nearer to uniform type of distributional pattern. Now a days, most of the Geographers have given their attention to study the changes in mean population size of rural settlements and their mean areal size. The average spacing between the rural settlements is also one of the important aspect of the study of rural settlements.

The growth characteristics of rural settlements have discussed the various physical and cultural factors which affects on the distribution of rural settlements. The study of growth characteristics of rural settlements is situated in relation to the growth in number of rural settlements with their various size groups. Talukawise growth rate of population and rural settlement and the growth pattern of individual villages.

The term 'Site' should not be confused with 'Situation'. The former refers to the actual ground on which a place is built and it is therefore concerned with local relief features and perhaps also with rivers and springs

with soil and rocks with coastal features even with micro, climate and weather. The latter has been to do with wider positional aspects e.g. location with respect to communications, agricultural, industrial and political areas, social and cultural regions and so on.

Here, an attempt has been made to study the sites of rural settlements with the help of one 'Inch' topographical maps. For the study region which is covered by mountain ranges, so physiography of the region plays an important role in determining the site and location of rural settlements.

