

CHAPTER NO – I

“APPRAISAL OF THE PROBLEM ”

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Food, clothing and shelter are three basic human needs. Though we have able to provide the first two, to a fairly large segment of the country's population, much remains to be done in respect of shelter (Agarwal, 1990).

The study of rural settlement is one of the most significant theme of Human Geography. Studies in such areas like man-land relation-ship within the context of rural settlement have also been by several human geographer.

Rural settlement geography has gained independent status in the recent years. In a broad sense the rural settlement geography deals with the process of human occupance of land, its arrangement and grouping in context of physical ,social and economic conditions of the area.

Rural settlements as a pioneer habitat of human beings is a living and functional space.Rural settlements means a rural space occupied by rural community with their economic, social and cultural environment. This environment influences the entire rural way of life and their dynamic structure. Geography looks at the rural settlements as agglomeration of man-made habitat on the earth, dependent mostly on primary occupations (Kumbhar, 1979).

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 georaphic 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 Khandala 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.

1.0 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 Settlements studied both the rural and urban settlements of U.P., A.B. Mukerji 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. Bhattacharya explained the details of evolution growth, morphology of settlements in relations 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. Chaudhari have studied various aspects of rural settlements for their 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 Khandala taluka, selected for this purpose. The major objectives of the present study are as follows:

- 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 rural service centres and their hierarchic order.

1.3 DATA COLLECTION

The required data is collected from various sources like census handbook of Satara district, Socio-Economic Review and District Statistical Abstract of Satara District. The information is collected from Taluka Panchayat 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 proposed study is collected from various reports and journals.

1.4 METHODOLOGY

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.

1.5 THE DESIGN OF THE PRESENT STUDY

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

The second chapter deals with the geographical setting of the study region. In this chapter discussion on physical setting, climate, drainage, population character and cultural environment has been made. These are the important factors, which are directly or indirectly influence on the growth of Khandala taluka.

The third chapter includes the spatial distribution and growth of

settlements are studied. The distribution of rural settlements 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 class wise growth rate.

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

The fifth chapter ~~has~~^{is} devoted to study the types and patterns of rural settlements. Rural settlements indicate the complex relationship between the human occupance of the land and the environment. However, in India religious and social structure also plays an important role in the formation of 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 subs – heads, 1) internal form and 2) External form. Both the aspects are closely related to various geographical and cultural conditions.

The chapter six 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 rural areas. In the present chapter rural service centres have been identified and hierarchic structure of the rural service centres has been proposed.

The chapter seventh is devoted to finding and concluding remarks.

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