

## Unit I :

Geography of Settlement: Meaning ,  
Nature and Scope – Settlement –types,  
Fundamental Concepts in Settlement  
Geography.

- **Introduction:**

- Settlements can vary in size from the very small to extremely large. They can be small as one house and as large as a megacity, home to tens of millions of people. That can be permanent or temporary. Settlements start in different places for different reasons.
- A settlement is an existence of occupancy for shelter where people live. Settlement is man's structural transformation towards application to his environment. The study of settlements is largely a product of the twentieth century.
- A settlement is man's first step towards adaptation to his environment. Settlement designates an organized colony of human beings, together with their residences and other buildings, ( shops , hotels , banks etc .) , the roads , streets which are used for travel .Settlements are located as advantageously as possible with respect to natural features such as water .fuel , food , protection and drainage and access to transportation and communication .

## **What Is Settlement Geography?**

Settlement geography is the study of human land, water and resource use, population density patterns, and settlement growth.

It is essential to urban planning and urban landscape.

Group of people living together forms a settlement.

Settlement geography studies these villages, towns, etc. and also the types of relationships they generate.

“A human settlement is place inhabited more or less permanent by human groups”

## **Definition**

Jordan (1966) “Emphasizes that settlement geography not completely investigates the distributions, but even more the structures, processes and interactions between settlements and its environment (such as soil, geomorphology, economy or society), which produce them.” “settlement geography describes and explains the settlements,, location, substance, form and structure, as well as the functions and processes that produced them over time.”

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## **Nature of settlement Geography :**

Settlements, facilities built by man in the process of land occupancy and their groupings , from the most expressive feature of the cultural landscape . Settlement clusters or agglomerations may vary in size from a small hamlet and village to metropolis , mega city and megalopolis , and in occupational structure and functional mix from predominantly agricultural and other primary productions to secondary, tertiary and quaternary activities and in their sphere of influence from a village and locality to macro-regions, sometimes of supra - national dimension. The branch of geographical knowledge concerned with the study of patterns and variation in the spatial distribution of settlement features and their groupings on all scales in the present as well as in the past and future may , in general, is called Settlement Geography .

## Scope of settlement Geography:

The primary aim of studying settlement geography is to acquaint with the spatial and structural characteristics of human settlements under varied environmental conditions Settlement site and structure- Internal morphology and external form, field patterns functions and house-types. Settlement geography being an offshoot of social g or a recent most sprout from the venerable trunk of human was mainly concerned with urban settlements before the turn of the twentieth century. As the past is the key to the present and we walk to a certain degree in every village among the ruins of antiquity 18. The themes form proposed for international symposium had at Varanasi in 1971 out lined below comprehensive subject matter of and approaches to the study of settlement geography in general and rural settlements geography in particular



## How can we describe settlements?

### **Area**

How large the area of a settlement is.

### **Site**

describes the actual land upon which a settlement is built.

### **Population**

The size & type of people that live in a settlement.

### **Function**

The **function** of a settlement relates to its economic and social development and refers to its main activities.

### **Situation**

describes where a settlement is located in relation to other surrounding features such as other settlements, rivers and communications.

### **Shape**

Describes how the settlement is laid out. Its pattern.

## Categories of Settlement:

Based on above discussed factors, human settlement is categorized as follows:

- 1) Clustered Settlement:** The settlement in which the houses are closely built up and compact is known as clustered settlement. The shape of clustered settlement normally varies from rectangular, radial, to linear. Clustered settlement in India normally found in fertile alluvial plains and in the northeastern states.





## **2) Semi-Clustered:**

The settlement, clustering in a restricted area of dispersed settlement normally looks like semi-clustered. Examples of such settlement can be seen in Gujarat plain and some parts of Rajasthan.



### 3) Hamleted Settlement:

Some settlement is fragmented into several units and physically separated from each other is known as hamleted settlement. Examples of hamleted settlement can be seen in the middle and lower Ganga plain, Chhattisgarh and lower valleys of the Himalayas.



#### **4) Dispersed Settlement :**

The isolated settlement is known as dispersed settlement. Examples of such settlement can be seen in parts of Meghalaya, Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh and Kerala have this type of settlement.

