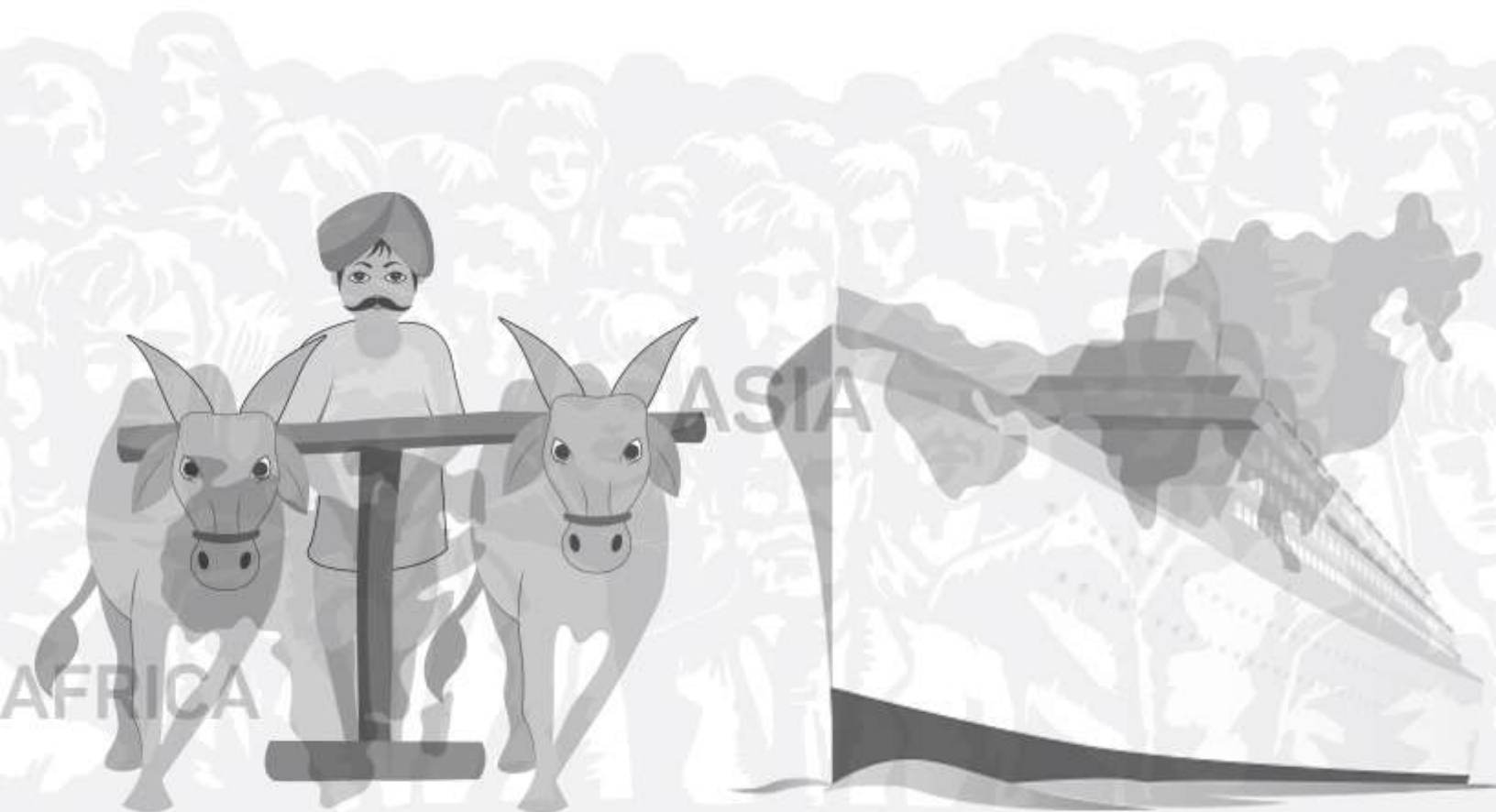


GEOGRAPHY



Human Settlements

Humans modify the environment of the place where they live. As they settle, they construct houses, buildings and roads. **Settlements** are places where people live and build their homes. While buildings can be altered, settlements more or less remain the same.

Classification of Settlements

Settlements can be classified into rural and urban settlements. However, there is no consensus as to on what basis settlements could be classified into rural and urban. Although population size is an important criterion, it is not universally applicable. This is because the population of many villages in India and China is more than the population of some towns of Western Europe and United States. A more acceptable difference between the two is that people are mainly engaged in primary activities (cultivation, fishing, lumbering, animal husbandry and mining) in villages, while they are engaged in the secondary and tertiary sectors in cities. However, in various developed countries, people prefer to live in villages even though they work in cities.

Sub-urbanisation is a new trend in which people move away from densely populated city areas to cleaner and decongested areas outside the city in search of better quality of living. They are willing to commute from their homes to their workplaces located in cities.

According to the **1991 Census of India**, urban settlements are places which have a municipal corporation or cantonment board and have a population of at least 5000 people. About 75% of the male workers should be engaged in the non-agricultural sector.

Types of Settlements

On the basis of their shape, settlements can be classified into compact settlements and dispersed settlements.

Compact or Nucleated Settlements: Houses and buildings are built close to each other. Such settlements usually develop along the river valleys and in fertile plains. Communities often share occupations.

Dispersed Settlements: Houses are located far from each other. Often houses are interspersed with fields commonly bound by a cultural feature like a temple or market.

Rural Settlements

Majority of people are engaged in primary activities and the size of the settlement is relatively small. Some features of rural settlements are



A compact settlement



A dispersed settlement

Water Supply

- Generally rural settlements are located near water supply. Lakes, ponds and rivers can be used for drinking water, fishing and for irrigating agricultural farms.
- Navigable water bodies can also be used for transporting goods.

Land

- People usually settle near fertile lands which are suitable for cultivation.
- While people in European villages avoid settling in low-lying swampy lands, people in southeast Asia live near low-lying river valleys suited to wet rice cultivation.

Upland

- Upland is a piece or area of land which is located at a high elevation. People living in low-lying river basins settle on terraces and levees which are 'dry points'.
- In tropical countries, people build their houses on stilts to protect themselves from floods.

Building Material

- Building material such as wood is easily available in villages.
- In earlier times, villages were built after clearing forests where wood was available in plenty.

Defence

- Villages in many countries were built on hills and islands to protect them from enemies.
- In India, most of forts are located on high ground and hills.

Planned Settlements

- At various sites not chosen by villagers, the government planned settlements by providing water, shelter and other infrastructure.
- Schemes of villagisation in Ethiopia and the canal colonies around Indira Gandhi Canal in India are examples of planned village settlements.



In the Amazon River basin, people build houses on stilts to protect themselves from floods.

Rural Settlement Patterns

On the basis of	Types of Villages
Setting	Plain villages, plateau villages, coastal villages, forest villages and desert villages
Function	Farming villages, fishermen villages, lumberjack villages and pastoral villages
Form or shape	Linear villages, rectangular villages, circular villages, T-shaped villages, double villages

Settlements based on Shape

Linear Pattern: Houses are located along a road, railway line, river, canal or levee.

Rectangular Settlements: These settlements are found in plain areas. The roads are rectangular and cut each other at right angles.

Circular pattern: This pattern develops when settlements develop in a circular shape around lakes and tanks. Sometimes, the central part of the village is used for keeping animals to protect them from wild animals.

Star-like pattern: When several roads meet at a point, a star-like settlement develops by the houses built along the roads.

T-shaped, Y-shaped, Cross-shaped or cruciform settlements: T-shaped settlements develop at tri-junctions of roads, while Y-shaped settlements develop when two roads meet the third road and houses are built along these roads. Cruciform settlements develop on the crossroads with houses extending in all four directions.

Double village: These settlements extend on both sides of a river and are connected by a bridge or can be crossed by ferry.

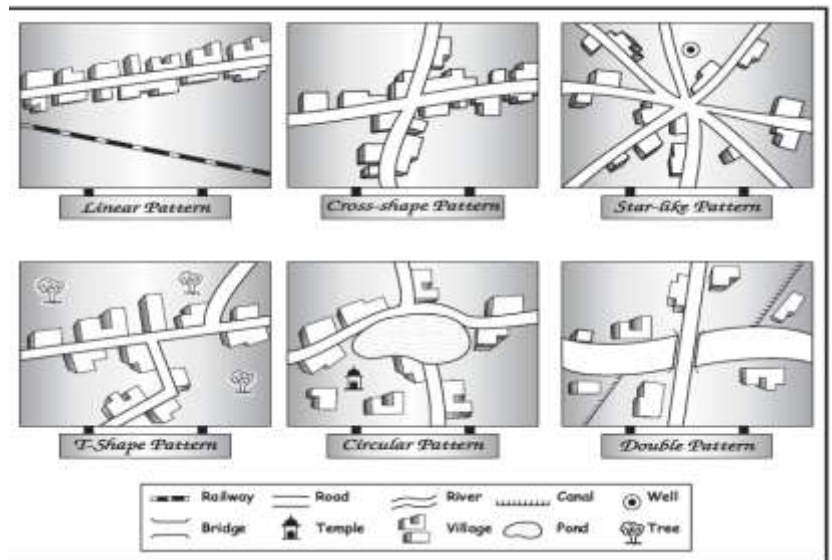
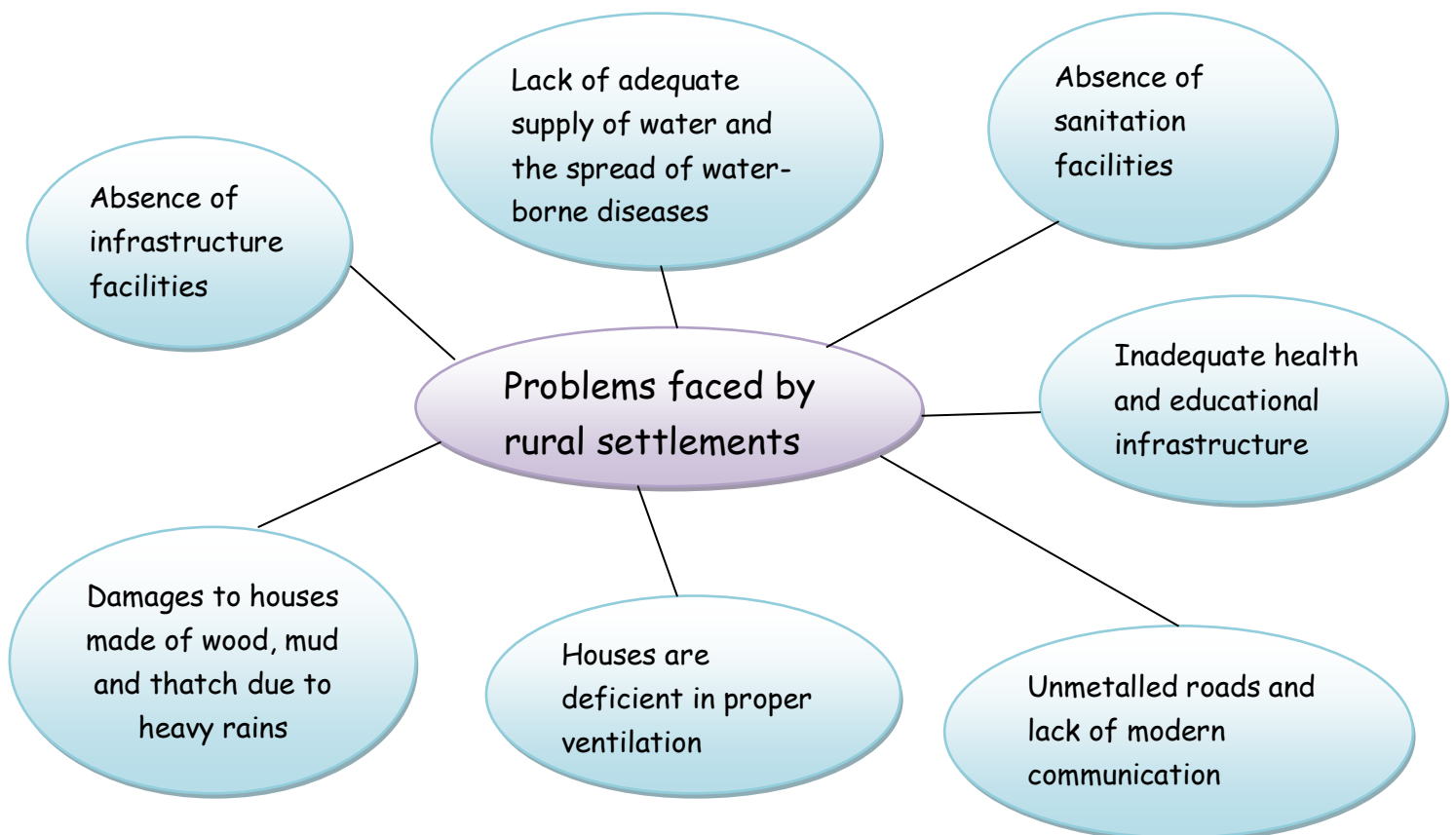


Figure showing various patterns of settlements

Problems of Rural Settlements



Urban Settlements

It is only of late that the number of people living in urban areas has increased. The first urban settlement to reach a population of one million was London by about AD 1810. By 1982, about 175 cities in the world had crossed the one billion mark.

Classification of Urban Settlements

Urban areas are mainly classified on the basis of the size of population, occupational structure and administrative setup.

Population Size

- This criterion is used by various countries to define urban areas.
- The lower limit of the population size for a settlement to be designated as urban is 1,500 in Colombia, 2,000 in Argentina, 5,000 in India and 30,000 in Japan.
- In India, apart from the size of population, an urban settlement should have a density of 400 people per sq km and more and at least more than 75% of its male population should be engaged in non-agricultural activities.
- Countries such as Denmark and Sweden which have a low density of population have an urban settlement with a population size of 250 people per square km.
- The minimum population of a city is 300 in Iceland and 1,000 people in Canada and Venezuela.

Year	Percentage
1800	3
1850	6
1900	14
1950	30
1982	37
2001	48

Table showing the increase in the percentage of people living in urban areas

Occupational Structure

- In countries like India, the occupation of people living in an area is also taken as criterion to designate it as a rural or urban settlement.
- In India, a settlement is called urban if 75% of its population is engaged in non-agricultural activities. In Italy, if more than 50% of its population are engaged in non-agricultural activities, it is designated as urban.

Administration

- In India, a settlement having a municipal corporation, cantonment board or notified area council is considered urban.
- In Latin American countries like Brazil any administrative centre is considered urban irrespective of its population.

Location

- Location of urban centres is examined with reference to their function because an area is designated as urban if it is an industrial town, military centre or sea port.
- Earliest urban settlements were located near water resources, while today settlements can be located away from resources. It is because modern technology has helped in transporting resources to urban areas.
- Areas which are located close to trade routes may also gradually develop into towns.

Functions of Urban Towns

Urban towns are centres of trade, industrial activity, defence, recreational, mining and manufacturing activities. Of late, information and technology activities have also developed in urban areas.

Administrative Towns

- Administrative towns are where all offices of the central government of the country are located.
- New Delhi, Canberra, Beijing, Washington DC and London are some administrative towns.
- Provincial towns such as Chennai (Tamil Nadu) and Victoria (British Columbia) are some examples of provincial towns.

Trading and Commercial Centres

- Some towns also perform the functions of trading activities.
- There are agricultural market towns such as Winnipeg and Kansas, banking and financial centres such as Frankfurt and Amsterdam, large inland centre such as Manchester and St Louis and transport nodes such as Lahore and Agra.

Cultural Towns

- Places of pilgrimage are considered cultural towns.
- Some examples of cultural towns are Jerusalem, Mecca, Puri and Varanasi.

Additional functions of some cities are health and recreation (Miami and Panaji), industrial (Pittsburgh and Jamshedpur) and mining (Broken Hills and Dhanbad).

Classification of Towns on the Basis of Forms

An urban settlement may be linear, square, star or crescent-shaped. While some towns have been planned, some have evolved historically in an unplanned manner.

Addis Ababa (the New Flower)

- Addis Ababa is the capital of Ethiopia which was established in 1878. It is located on a hill valley.
- Roads radiate from the government headquarters. Mercato is considered having the largest markets between Cairo and Johannesburg.
- Addis Ababa is an educational centre as it has several schools, a university and a medical college.
- It is also a terminal station. The city has developed because it performs various functions (it is an educational, administrative and commercial centre).



Aerial view of Addis Ababa

Canberra

- The city was planned as the capital of Australia in 1912 by Walter Burley Griffin.
- He had planned it as a garden city with five main centres.

- In the last few decades, the city has expanded and has accommodated several satellite towns with their own centres.

Types of Urban Settlements

On the basis of the size of population and functions, urban areas are designated as towns, city, million city, conurbation and megalopolis.

Town

A town is a centre of manufacturing, retail, wholesale trade and professional services.

City

A city can be regarded as a leading town. It is much larger than a town and performs a large number of economic functions. They may act as transport terminals, regional administrative centre, health centre or educational centre.

Million City

When the population of a city crosses one million, it is known as a million city. The number of million cities in the world has increased considerably. The number of million cities in the world has increased from 160 in 1975 to about 438 in 2005.

Conurbation

It refers to a large developed urban centre which emerged after the merging of original separate towns or cities. Examples of a conurbation are Manchester, Chicago, Tokyo and NCR in India.

Megalopolis

The term was popularised by Jean Gottman and signifies a 'super-metropolitan' region extending as a union of conurbations. In USA, the urban landscape stretching from Boston in the north to Washington in the south is the best known example of a megalopolis.

Distribution of Mega Cities

Cities along with their suburbs with a population of more than 10 million people are considered a mega city or megalopolis. New York was the first city to become a megalopolis with a total population of about 12.5 million. The number of mega cities has increased in the last fifty years.

Sl. No.	Name of the City	Country	Population (in millions)
1.	Tokyo	Japan	34.2
2.	Mexico city	Mexico	22.8
3.	Seoul	South Korea	22.3
4.	New York	U.S.A.	21.9
5.	Sao Paulo	Brazil	20.2
6.	Mumbai	India	19.9
7.	Delhi	India	19.7
8.	Shanghai	China	18.2
9.	Los Angeles	U.S.A.	18.0
10.	Osaka	Japan	16.8
11.	Jakarta	Indonesia	16.6
12.	Kolkata	India	15.7
13.	Cairo	Egypt	15.6
14.	Manila	Philippines	15.0
15.	Karachi	Pakistan	14.3
16.	Moscow	Russia	13.8
17.	Buenos Aires	Argentina	13.5
18.	Dhaka	Bangladesh	13.3
19.	Rio de Janeiro	Brazil	12.2
20.	Beijing	China	12.1
21.	London	G. Britain	12.0
22.	Tehran	Iran	11.9
23.	Istanbul	Turkey	11.5
24.	Lagos	Nigeria	11.1
25.	Shenzhen	China	10.7

Table showing the mega cities in the world

Some problems faced by human settlements in developing countries are increasing population, lack of clean drinking water facilities, congested housing, overcrowded streets and the lack of infrastructure facilities.

Problems of Urban Settlements

Urban settlements in developing countries face various problems. As they developed in an unplanned manner, they face severe congestion problems. People from rural areas migrate to cities in a large number. This has resulted in a shortage of housing and growth of slums. People face several problems in urban settlements. These are

Economic Problems

- Lack of work opportunities in rural areas force people to migrate to urban cities. This has increased the population of the latter.
- Poverty, hunger and unemployment are some problems faced by people in urban areas.

Socio-cultural Problems

- People in developing countries suffer from several social ills. The poor in cities cannot afford educational and health facilities.
- Children belonging to poor families are forced to work in shops, offices and houses.
- Male selective migration to urban areas also results in unequal sex ratio in cities.

Environmental Problems

- A large city generates a large quantity of solid and liquid wastes.
- Several cities in the developing countries struggle to provide clean drinking water to their inhabitants.
- Use of traditional fuel for domestic and industrial purposes severely pollutes the air.
- There is a lack of proper sanitation facilities in most developing cities.
- Huge concrete structures to accommodate rising population have created heat islands.



Many cities in the world face the problem of traffic congestion