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1

GRT A GEOGRAPHICAL STUDY OF SITE AND LOCATION OF RURAL SETTLEMENTS IN SATARA DISTRICT MAHARASHTRA

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Abstract:-The term settlement geography is derived from the German 'Siedleness Geography', which involves the study of visual imprints made by man upon the physical landscape in the process of occupancy. Geographers study settlement enables and their spatial patterns for analyzing sequence of change in the cultural landscape. In the aim of present study, an attempt has been made to study the relationship between physical and cultural factors and manmade factors the distribution of rural settlements. To study the site and location of rural settlements. It is found that, in the study region, most of the rural settlements are located near the water bodies. These settlements are called wet point rural settlements. In the western part of the study region more numbers of rural settlements are located in hilly areas on the spur and foot hill site away from the water bodies such settlements are called dry point rural settlements.

Keywords: Rural Settlement, Site, Location, River Bank.

INTRODUCTION:

Settlement Geography is a recent most sprout from the venerable tank of human geography. Its 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.

The term settlement geography is derived from the German 'Siedleness Geography', which involves the study of visual imprints made by man upon the physical landscape in the process of occupancy. Geographers study settlement enables and their spatial patterns for analyzing sequence of change in the cultural landscape. Urban and rural settlements are concerned of economists, historians and sociologists but their line of approach differs. Geographers mainly treat the problem as manmade habitat on the earth surface in relation with environment and examine the settlement features such as buildings and their architectural style-

According to Professor S. P. Chatterjee, 'Settlement geography deals with the size, form and functions of settlements built up by man and their historic growth'. Settlements studies appear as essential elements of research undertakings in many other branches of geography. It also studies the intensity of human success in the natural environment conditions. Settlement geography is intimately related to population geography, agricultural geography transport geography, Military geography and historical geography.

The Scientific study of settlement geography began in Germany with Ritters work in the early 19th century. Later on Kohl, Richthofen, Ratzel, Meitzen, GrandMann, Martiny Christaller and Nitz in Germany, Lefever in Belgium, Bowman, Hall Kohn, Stone, Jordan and Hudson in the United States, Bunge, Byland, Hagerstrand in Sweeden, Chisholm and Hgget in Britain, Ahmad and Singh in India and Doxiadis in Greece have made significant contribution to the field of settlement studies. In the present study, the rural settlements of Satara District have been considered. The distribution, growth characteristics and site and location of rural settlement have been studied.

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OBJECTIVES OF THE PRESERNT STUDY:

In the present study, an attempt has been made to study the spatial distribution of rural settlements. The site and situation of rural settlements and their relationship with physical and cultural factors have been studied.

The specific objectives of the present study are:

To study the relationship between physical factors and manmade factors the distribution of rural settlements.
 To study the relationship between cultural and manmade factors on the distribution of rural settlements.
 To study the site and location of rural settlements.

DATA BASE AND METHODOLOGY:

The data and information for the present study is taken from various sources.

District Gazetteer of Satara District -2012, District Census Hand Book of Satara District and Socio-Economic Review and District Statistical Abstract of Satara District 2001. The toposheet of 1:50,000 scale has been used for the purpose of physical division & for the study of site and location of the rural settlements. Besides, a few information regarding the research work taken from the various reports and journals.

To study the distribution of rural settlements various quantitative methods have been applied. In the present study, in order to get a clear picture of the distribution of rural settlements, the information for various aspects i.e. physiography, drainage, population, land under agriculture, land under irrigation, land under forest, Road network, has been collected in regular form of girds. In order to study the spatial pattern of rural settlement distribution, the statistical technique called. To study mean population size, mean areal size and average spacing of rural settlements various quantitative method have been used.

Study Region:

The Satara District is one of the district of Maharashtra State. It lies between 17° 05' North to 18° 11' North latitude and 73° 33' East to 74° 54' East longitude. The total area of the study region is about 1,484 sq. km. which is 3.4 percent of the Maharashtra State, consists of eleven talukas. The districts it is bordered by the Pune District on the whole of the northern side, the Solapur District on the east, the Sangli District on the south-east & south and the Ratnagiri district on the west.





Fig.1

2

Golden Research Thoughts | Volume 3 | Issue 9 | March 2014

SITE OF RURAL SETTLEMENT IN THE STUDY REGION:

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 rock, with coastal features, even with micro-climate and weather. The latter has 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.

Initially, the immediate environment is of commanding importance but as settlements grow its situation and the use of its inhabitants make and it becomes predominant. Here, an attempt has been made to study the sites of rural settlements with the help of one inch topographical maps. The study region plays an important role in determining the site and location of rural settlements. Rivers have always attracted man since the ancient times. Most of the settlements are established along the river sites. River sites settlements can be of following types.

1.River Bank site 2.Confluence site 3.Convex Bank site 4.Stream site 5.Dam site 6.Bridge site etc...

Besides these, there are other favorable sites for the location of rural settlements:

Tank site
 Well site
 Canal
 Spring site etc.

With the help of topographical map of the study region, which is covered into 10 toposheets, the sites of the rural settlements have observed but some toposheets are not available due to restricted areas of dams. From these toposheets various sites have been observed, most of the rural settlements have located near water bodies such as river, streams, tanks, spring and canal etc. Some of the rural settlements are located on the hill slope, foot hill, valley bottoms, mountain gaps, hill tops etc. The table 1 IV-I gives the distribution of sites of the rural settlements.



3

Golden Research Thoughts | Volume 3 | Issue 9 | March 2014





SITES OF RURAL SETTLEMENTS RIVER SITE

From ancient time most of the rural settlements have established along the river site. In the study region nearly 29 percent of the rural settlements are located on the river bank, the toposheet No.

4

47 <u>K</u>, 47 <u>J</u>, 47 <u>L</u>, 2 3 5 6 7 10 11 13 8 5

are the important toposheet which give several illustrations of the river bank settlements.

Golden Research Thoughts \mid Volume 3 \mid Issue 9 \mid March 2014

Sr.	Site	No. of	% to
No.		settlements	settlements
1	River site	495	29
2	Stream site	448	26
3	Tank site	57	03
4	Spring site	87	05
5	Canal site	214	12
6	Hill site	415	25
	Total	1.71.6	10
		1716	0

 Table 1

 Satara District: Distribution of Sites of the Rural Settlements

Source: Topographical Map – Satara District

Fig. 2 which have been prepared from toposheet, indicates the site of Karad, Umbraj, and other small settlements. Besides this, Shirwal, Phaltan, Wai, Bhuinj, Nagthane, Kashil, Chinchner, Lasurne, Shirgaon, Kameri are the important examples of the river banks settlements. Fig. 2 which have been prepared from toposheet, indicates the site of Karad, Umbraj, and other small settlements. Besides this, Shirwal, Phaltan, Wai, Bhuinj, Nagthane, Kashil, Chinchner, Lasurne, Shirgaon, Kameri are the important examples of the river banks settlements.

1.Confluence Site:

There are several rural settlements which are located on the confluence of the rivers. In every toposheets of the study region gives an example of confluence site Karad and Sangam Mahuli and Kshetra Mahuli. There are also other confluence sites in the study region for example Manglapur (on the confluence of Krishna and Vasana river), Kashil (Umbraj and Krishna) and Umbraj (Tarali and Krishna) Fig. No. 2

2.Stream Site:

There are several rural settlements which are developed along the streams. In the study region, nearly 26 percent of the rural settlements are stream site settlements. The Fig. No. 4.4 gives the example of stream settlements. In the western part of the study region most of the rural settlements along the stream site, for example Tadvale, Sawrat, Bhilar, Singdola, etc.

3.Tank Site:

Tank or dam site settlements are found in the study region. Now a day's number of dams has been constructed on various rivers. After construction of the dams several settlements remain into the catchment area of the dam. Naturally these settlements are shifted to protected sites of hill slopes, such settlements are found in the river basins of Krishna (Dhom dam), Koyan (Koyna dam), Kanher (Kanher dam) Yerala (Yeralwadi Dharn). Fig. No. 4.5 and 4.6 gives the example of dam and tank site rural settlements.

4.Spring Site:

In the western part of the study region which is covered by Sahyadri hill ranges, dense forest, so the small rural settlements are located at the point of spring. It is observed that nearly 5 percent of the total rural settlements are located near spring. For example – Malvadi, Korale, Vadgaon etc. The Fig. No. 4.7 gives the example of the spring site.

5.Hill Site:

In the western and northern part of the study region, which is occupied by Sahyadri hill ranges, so the land under agriculture is very limited, therefore most are the rural settlements are located on hill slope. Wai, Mahabaleshwar, Jawali, Satara, PAtan Talukas have several such type of rural settlements. The Fig. No. 2 gives examples of hill slopes and foot hill site

Golden Research Thoughts | Volume 3 | Issue 9 | March 2014

5

of rural settlements. There are more number of rural settlements which are observed in the river valleys such settlements are known as valley bottom rural settlements. The Fig.No.2 gives best example of such type of rural settlements.

In the western part of the study region, where most of the rural settlements are located at the foot hill, on the spur and on the top of the small hills. Such settlements are called spur site and Mesa site rural settlements. For example, Pratapgad, Mahabaleshwar, Yewateshwar, Pachgani etc. Fig.2 gives the examples of such Mesa, spur type of rural settlements.

6.Canal Site:

Canal is a cultural feature, which affects on the human activity as well as on the site of rural settlements, Construction of several canals in the study region; several settlements have developed along the canal site. The Nira left bank canal and its distributaries have developed number of rural settlements in the Phaltan taluka. Along the left and right bank canal of Dhom dam, Khodashi dam and Kanher dam gives rise to several canal site rural settlements.

The toposheet No. 47 \underline{K} , 47 \underline{K} , & 47 \underline{K} 8 2 3

shows such type of rural settlements. The fig. No. 2 gives the example of canal site settlements.

7. Economic and Cultural Site of Rural Settlements:

Like canal, several cultural sites having economic importance, offer favourable site the rural settlements. The nodal point, cross road site, rail road site, industrial site are the important sites which are observed in the study region. Shirwal, Lonand, Pusegaon, Dahiwadim Khatav, Aundh are important nodal point settlements. These settlements are called as cross road site rural settlements.

CONCLUSION

The introduction of canals in the study region which gives rise to agro-based industries. There are several sugar factories which are developed in the various basins of rivers, for example, Satara, Ajinkyatara, Sahyadri, Krishna, Marali, Sakharwadi and Shriram sugar factories. The Fig. 2 gives the example of economical and cultural site of rural settlements.

It is found that, in the study region, most of the rural settlements are located near the water bodies. These settlements are called wet point rural settlements. In the western part of the study region more number of rural settlements are located in hilly areas on the spur and foot hill site away from the water bodies such settlements are called dry point rural settlements. The rural settlements of Phaltan, Wai, Satara and Karad have affected by development of agricultural landscape which have changed their sites.

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6



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