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B.A. PART - 3 (HUMAN GEOGRAPHY : PAPER - 6)

TOPIC : TYPES OF RURAL SETTLEMENT

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Any settlement in which most of the people are engaged in agriculture, forestry, mining and fishery is known as rural settlement. It is often called as agricultural workshop.

TYPES:

Most of the world's settlements are rural and they are stable and permanent. They are of three types:

1. Compact Settlements:

A compact settlement is based on farming. These are mostly found in highly productive alluvial plains like Indo-Gangetic Plains, the Hwang Ho Valley, Valley of Nile. The houses are compact and congested with narrow plains.

The size of these settlements depends on nature and resources of surrounding country. They have a high degree of segregation and differentiation of the upper and lower castes. Compact settlements are also found in hunting and fishing communities.

2. Semi-Compact Settlement:

Semi-Compact is a transitional phase in the growth of compact settlement. The emergence is because of the difference of semi-arid regions from humid regions and marginal productive land to that of fertile land.

Increase in population cause villages to grow in number of houses. These houses occupy open spaces and lead to semi-compact settlement which ultimately acquires a nucleated settlement.

3. Dispersed Settlement:

These are generally found in hills, plateaus and grasslands. These are found in areas where it is essential that the farmer should live on his own land. Overpopulation is one of the reasons for dispersed settlement.

If a part of the population left a village to found a new one they often found dispersed rather than a new village. Dispersed settlements are relatively recent in age like Steppe grasslands of Kazakhstan.

The rural settlements are concerned with the degree of dispersion of the dwellings and the life is supported by land based primary economic activities. Rural people are less mobile and therefore, social relations among them are intimate. In India, the rural settlement varies with the diversity of climatic condition in India that is compact or clustered village

of a few hundred houses is a rather universal feature, particularly in the northern plains. However, there are several areas, which have other forms of rural settlements. There are various factors and conditions responsible for having different types of rural settlements in India which is given below:

- **Physical features** – nature of terrain, altitude, climate and availability of water
- **Cultural and ethnic factors** – social structure, caste and religion
- **Security factors** – defence against thefts and robberies.

RURAL SETTLEMENTS IN INDIA

- **Clustered, agglomerated or nucleated:** It is a compact or closely built up area of houses. In this type of village the general living area is distinct and separated from the surrounding farms, barns and pastures.
- **Semi-clustered or fragmented:** These types of settlements may result from tendency of clustering in a restricted area of dispersed settlement. More often such a pattern may also result from segregation or fragmentation of a large compact village.
- **Hamleted:** Sometimes settlement is fragmented into several units physically separated from each other bearing a common name. These units are locally called panna, para, palli, nagla, dhani, etc. in various parts

of the country. This segmentation of a large village is often motivated by social and ethnic factors.

- **Dispersed or isolated:** This pattern of settlement appears in the form of isolated huts or hamlets of few huts in remote jungles, or on small hills with farms or pasture on the slopes. Extreme dispersion of settlement is often caused by extremely fragmented nature of the terrain and land resource base of habitable areas.

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