



TYPES OF RURAL SETTLEMENT IN SATARA TAHSIL OF SATARA DISTRICT: A GEOGRAPHICAL STUDY

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INTRODUCTION

Rural settlements refer to clusters of dwellings called 'villages' together with the surrounding land from which the inhabitants derive their sustenance. Rural settlement has been defined in different ways by various geographers. In words of Richthofen, "The (villages) are groups of families /unites by common descent, or at least having rites in common, who cleave to one another because of the necessity for cooperating in the cultivation of the same crops". Blache has termed the village as the expression of a type of community larger than family or clan. According to Bruhnes, "village is a term applied to a geographical fact the collection of houses and residents of the most numerous aggregations."

According to Blache, "India is par excellence, a country of villages". The words rural settlement type and rural settlement pattern are different. Rural settlement patterns mean a form in which a series of settlement occur. On the other hand type means a category of rural settlement with some common features. The term settlement pattern used to the spatial distribution of settlements in particular area. The term settlement pattern used to the spatial distribution of settlements in particular area.

STUDY AREA

Satara tahsil located at the central part of the Satara district of Maharashtra. Satara tahsil is situated in the basins of the Krishna Rivers. The tahsil lies between 17° 68' north latitude 74° 03' east longitudes. Tahsil is surrounded by Patan and Karad tahsil to the south, Jaoli tahsil to the west, Wai to the north and Koregaon tahsil to the east. The area of the tahsil is 907.26 sq. km. Total population of Satara tahsil 502049 as per the 2011 census. The density of population is 555 persons per sq. km. according to 2011 census the sex ratio of the tahsil recorded 976 females per thousand of males.

OBJECTIVE

The main objective of the present study is to find out the rural settlement types of Satara tahsil.

METHODOLOGY:

In order to study the types of rural settlements in study areas the researcher, has used different indices of dispersion to find out various types of settlements. It means that the researcher has used statistical methods in studying the types of settlements. Agglomerating and deagglomerating factors are the two types of variables which have a bearing on the

settlements types in rural areas. These factors lead to the compact and disperse nature of settlements. In the present study the index of dispersion has been calculated by the formula used by Mandal (1977) in the study of ‘Planned Development of Rural Settlements in North Bihar. To find out the settlement types, the entire areas have been divided into circles and index of dispersion has been calculated for each circle by the following formula:

$$\text{Dispersal Index} = \frac{\text{Total Rural Population of an Circle} \times \text{Number of Villages in an Circle}}{(\text{Total Rural Area})^2}$$

After calculating the index of dispersion for all twelve circles, the region has been classified into four types of rural settlements. They are:

TYPES OF RURAL SETTLEMENTS IN SATARA TEHSIL:-

To find out the settlement types, entire area has been divided into circles and index of dispersion has been calculated by the formula used by Mandal (1977) in the study of ‘Planned Development of Rural Settlements in North Bihar.’ The table -1 gives the details of area, number of settlements and Dispersal index of the study region.

Table- 1
Satara Tahsil:

Circle Wise Area Covered, Number of Settlement and Dispersal Index Values

Sr. No.	Circle	Area (sq.km)	Total settlement	Total population	Dispersal index values
1	Satara	21.9521	7	15724	228.41
2	Khed	65.8455	15	45263	156.60
3	Varye	75.0393	14	26953	67.01
4	Vaduth	64.299	12	26239	76.16
5	Tasgaon	79.1546	17	27662	75.05
6	Apashinge	71.0283	19	24317	91.60
7	Nagathane	101.6144	12	39286	45.66
8	Shendre	93.9574	22	27709	69.05
9	Parali	93.1835	22	9899	25.10
10	Dahivad	80.5003	32	8471	41.80
11	Ambavade	65.768	21	21416	104.00
12	Kanher	61.7074	18	16886	79.80
		874.0498	211	289825	-

The type of rural settlements in Satara tahsil has been determined here after considering the dispersal index of all circles of the area. The arranging of the value of dispersal index in descending order it has been decided to demarcate four types of rural settlements, they are given in the table- 2.

Table- 2
Satara Tahsil: Rural Settlement Types

Sr. No.	Dispersal Index Value	Types of settlement	Area in Sq. km	Area in %	No. Of Settlement	Settlement in %
1	Less than 60	Fragmented	275.2982	31.50	66	31.28
2	61 to 120	Dispersed	510.954	58.46	123	58.29
3	121 to 180	Composite	65.8455	7.53	15	7.11
4	More than 181	Compact	21.9521	2.51	7	3.32
	-	-	874.0498	100	211	100



1) The Compact Type of Rural Settlements:-

Compact settlements are also called as agglomerated settlements. Blache (1962) called such settlements as clustered settlements, while Flinch and Trewartha (1946) called them nucleated settlements. The compact types of rural settlements are dominant in the areas where agriculture is developed and accessibility is high. Such compact settlements are found in various sizes where the houses are very close to each other; in certain areas such clustered settlements are so compact that the houses share common walls. Compact types of rural settlements are normally found in the plain, fertile agricultural regions or in the areas where the resources are agglomerated at certain points.

The compact form of rural settlements is observed in Satara circle of the Satara tahsil. It covers 2.51 percent area of the study region, where 3.32 percent of the rural settlement is located. Due to fertile agricultural land and nearness of district administrative town Satara the compact type of rural settlement found in the Satara circle. The average size of rural settlement is comparatively large. Most of the settlements Saidapur and Kondhave village located in the area have dense population with close spacing between the houses.

2) The Composite Type of Rural Settlements:-

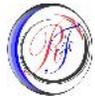
Composite types of settlements have on main single settlement attached with two-to-five small hamlets (Wadis). These hamlets totally depend on the main settlement. The composite type of rural settlement is dominantly found in the Khed circle of study region. Composite types of settlement cover only 7.53 percent area, where only 7.11 percent of the settlements are located. Some of the main settlements were attached with more than seven to eight hamlets. Wadis like Dhangarwadi and Khavali are totally depending on the Kshetra Mahuli village.

3) The Disperse Type of Rural Settlements:-

Disperse settlements can be also called as isolated settlements. Such settlements include farmstead, homestead and Wadi settlements. The disperse type of rural settlements are found in Varye, Shendre, Tasgaon, Vaduth, Kanher, Apashinge and Ambavade circle of the study region. Development of irrigation facilities and fertile soil are some of the contributory factors responsible for development of disperse type of rural settlements. These settlements are small in size and they are located near the agricultural land. It covers nearly 58.46 percent area of the study region, where 58.29 percent rural settlements are located.

4) The Fragmented Type of Rural Settlement:-

In such settlements houses are away from each other but the entire group of houses makes one village. In these settlements, the entire village has a common social organization. Fragmented type of rural settlement has a common division of labour and common community life. The fragmented types of rural settlements are found in Nagathane, Dahivad and Parali circle. Due to development of irrigation facilities and fertile land in Nagathane and Parali circle fragmented type of rural settlement found. It covers nearly 31.50 percent area of



rural settlement of the Satara tahsil, where 31.28 percent rural settlements are located in the study region.

CONCLUSION

Rural settlements indicate the complex relationship between the human occupancy of land and the environment. The type of rural settlement is a system of functionally interrelated settlements. Four main types of rural settlement have been observed in the Satara tahsil, they are, dispersed, compact, composite and fragmented type. The compact types of rural settlements are dominant in the areas where agriculture is developed and accessibility is high. Such settlements are more common in Satara circle. Composite type of rural settlements mainly found in the Khed circle. The dispersed types of rural settlements are commonly found in hilly areas of Satara tahsil. In Ambavde, Apashinge, Kanher, Vaduth, Tasgaon and Shendre circle dispersed type of rural settlements found, on the other hand Fragmented type of rural settlements found in Parali, Dahivad and Nagathane circles. Most of the fragmented settlements are located in the valleys of small streams.

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