

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT SPECIAL REFERENCE WITH SETTLEMENT TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

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ABSTRACT

Human settlements have progressed in a big way since the nomadic tribes and settlers of the river valley civilizations of about 5000 years back. Settlements in earlier times to be temporary in nature. People in those times used to settle at a place, practice hunting, gathering of food, shifting cultivation and once the resources of the area were not enough to meet their needs they moved to another area. This was known as temporary settlements. This pattern is greatly reduced in today's environment except for some tribes in the forests and hilly areas. People have now chosen to make their dwellings permanent. Human settlement refers to a collection of dwellings of various types and sizes where people live. The patterns of settlement differ from one location to the next. The smallest of settlements could be grouped together into villages, while the largest of cities could be grouped together into cities. Understanding the ancient environment, economy, and society by exploring the human-land relationship and the evolution of civilization reflected by the settlement environment is essential when studying the human settlement process. From the Palaeolithic through the Bronze Age (45 ka BP-2250 a BP), this study explores the natural and social environmental preferences of early human settlements in Xinjiang, China. The distribution of settlements may be accurately predicted to use the characteristics of settlement preferences, and the relationship between settlement preferences and the evolution of the environment and civilization could be validated.

KEYWORDS: *Settlement, Desert, Environment, Transport and Communication*

Article History

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INTRODUCTION

Human settlements have progressed in a big way since the nomadic tribes and settlers of the river valley civilizations of about 5000 years back. Settlements in earlier times to be temporary in nature. People in those times used to settle at a place, practice hunting, gathering of food, shifting cultivation and once the resources of the area were not enough to meet their needs they moved to another area. This was known as temporary settlements. This pattern is greatly reduced in today's environment except for some tribes in the forests and hilly areas. People have now chosen to make their dwellings permanent. Human settlement refers to a collection of homes of various types and sizes where people live. Settlement patterns vary from place to place. A Settlement can group together into villages to the largest of cities. Settlements come up and grow in size depending on various factors like

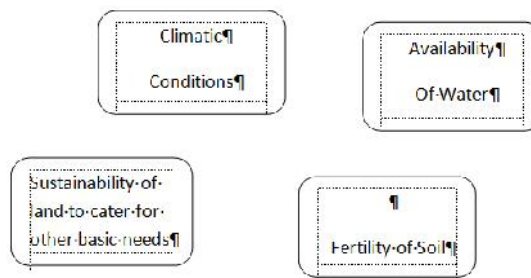


Figure 1.

Settlements are also classified in terms of density and in terms of their nature of permanency.

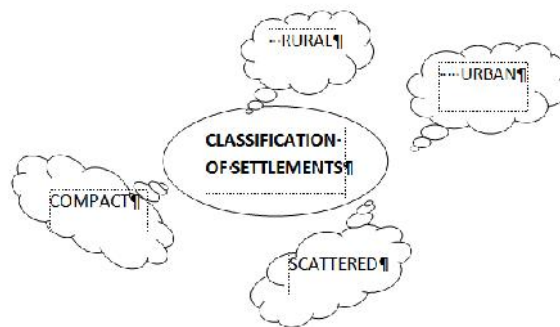


Figure 2.

URBAN SETTLEMENT

A heavily inhabited area is referred to as an urban settlement. In contrast to rural areas, which have more open space, they have a lot of man-made structures. Sewer systems, roads, and public transportation networks are typically more developed in urban communities than in rural ones. Many urban communities have a diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural population. The main occupations of the individuals who live here are often commercial, administrative, and industrial. Urban settlements are further divided into towns and cities based on their size.

RURAL SETTLEMENT

Rural settlements are generally associated with agriculture as the primary occupation. They also have animal husbandry and cottage and small scale industry. They are normally small in size as compared to towns and cities. Generally life style of people is very simple. They have few shops, primary health centre, schools etc to meet the basic requirements. These settlements are sub-grouped as scattered and compact settlements.

SCATTERED SETTLEMENT

When a settlement has a few isolated huts or houses, it is called scattered. These types of settlements are found in hilly areas, deserts and forests. These settlements do not have much resources and support.

COMPACT SETTLEMENT

Where settlements in rural areas are compact they have slightly better organized health and education facilities in immediate vicinity. Facilities like shops, post offices, bank etc are all close to the houses. It is like a town but at a smaller scale. Normally such settlements are so small they do not have public transport systems and distances are walk able.

HABITAT

Humans have been living in various parts of the world which have different terrain and geological conditions. There are regions which remain under snow for the whole year. And there are the others where there is water all around.

There are regions of mountains and deserts, forests and barren lands, all the local conditions of weather and climate.

- COLD REGIONS
- MOUNTAINS
- JUNGLES AND WATER LOGGED
- DESRTS
- MODERN DWELLING

COLD REGIONS

In the Arctic regions some tribes have been living for centuries. They survive in the sub-zero temperatures by living in ice-houses called 'IGLOOS'. The Igloos are small huts which are made of ice blocks. Inside they were lined by animal skins and the Eskimos could live in them throughout the harsh winters as well.

MOUNTAINS

In the mountains, people have made huts and houses very close to the hills side so as to prevent fast winds to lash against them. Their houses have sloping roofs so that the seasonal snow and rain flows down and does not accumulate on top which could break the roof. At some places like in Kashmir, the houses also have lofts to keep the animal food on the top floor so that it does not get wet in the snow and rains. Even in the areas getting frequent rains the houses are built with sloping roofs which are either thatched or with mud baked tiles.

JUNGLES AND WATER LOGGED

In the Jungles where animals could walk into houses and Plains where the water tends to overflow in to the houses, people devised ways to build houses on Stilts. This helped them be safe from both animals and sudden floods.

DESERTS

At three overlapping cultural/technological levels, people's effects on dry and semi-arid environments can be seen.

- Small groups of people, such as Kalahari bushmen and Australian aborigines, live semi-nomadic food collecting and hunting lifestyles and have adapted to their surroundings with extraordinary efficiency. • Pastoral nomads, on the other hand, cultivate certain areas seasonally, whereas hunter-gatherers have had little persistent impact on their environment across time. Pastoral nomads and shifting cultivators have had a significant impact on the natural flora and wildlife of the region. Their mobility allows them to respond to physical situations.
- Many millions of people live in a moderately wet environment, such as near oasis, on a flood plain or delta, or in a region irrigated by imported water. Irrigation, with its many benefits, is one of them.

Irrigation's Advantages and Drawbacks

Benefits

Aqueducts and underground channels were traditionally utilised by people who settled in oases to raise and distribute water locally. Although some water is lost through infiltration, evaporation losses from this system are modest. Other methods included cisterns, subterranean caverns, depressions built to catch run-off and retain water moving by gravity through the sub-soil, and the construction of lakes during the rains by obstructing stream beds with rocks and earth barriers. Today, electric or diesel pumps elevate groundwater from deeper depths, and gigantic dams produce hundreds of kilometres of deep lakes. Water is transported from the reservoir to the field and released through metal pipelines of decreasing diameter.

Irrigation has brought Some Problems for Pakistan

- Dams and diversions have caused floodplains to be deprived of alluvium and its nutrients, and to need expensive fertilizer.
- There is increased danger from infections like bilharzias.
- Where year-round cultivation replaces cropping with a dry fallow period, crop pests may thrive on perennial food sources.
- There are also many instances of plant pests and diseases being carried along water channels.
- Despite these problems through the 19th and 20th centuries, irrigation projects have continued apace. Inundation canals were built to carry water from cuts in the bank to land parallel with the river. Gated barrages were constructed to raise the water level and allow accumulations of alluvium to pass downstream. Water could now be diverted throughout the year. Large canals were built to transfer water from the western rivers to supplement those further east. More recently, high dams in the mountains have provided storage and hydro-electricity. Perennial canals now serve most of the cropped land. Despite the aridity, over half Pakistan's workforce is engaged in agriculture.

- There are many types of rural settlements. Early villages had to be near a reliable water supply, be defensible, and have sufficient land nearby for cultivation, to name but a few concerns. They also had to adapt to local physical and environmental conditions, conditions that can be identified with a practiced eye. Villages in the Netherlands are linear, crowded on the dikes surrounding land reclaimed from the sea. Circular villages in parts of Africa indicate a need for a safe haven for livestock at night. A careful examination of the rural settlements of a region reveals much about its culture, history, and traditions. Most people can agree that cities are places where large numbers of people live and work and are hubs of government, commerce, and transportation. But how best to define the geographical limits of a city is a matter of some debate. So far, no standardized international criteria exist for determining the boundaries of a city. Often, different boundary definitions are available for any given city. "City proper," for example, describes a city according to an administrative boundary, while "urban agglomeration" considers the extent of the built-up area to delineate the city's boundaries. A third concept of the city, the "metropolitan area," defines its boundaries according to the degree of economic and social interconnectedness of nearby areas.

The use of raster data to assess the quality of urban human settlement environments has significant academic and practical value. The study chose Qingdao as the research area for assessing the suitability of the human settlement environment, used the ESDA-GIS analytical mode to analyse and process the evaluation results, and evaluated the human settlement environment in Qingdao comprehensively, coming to the following conclusions. The adaptability of the human settlement environment in Qingdao has been highly established, displaying multi-center radiation driving development features. The overall distribution, however, is uneven, decreasing from the shore to the interior. The southwest, as well as other locations near the city centre, are preferable to the northeast. Natural livability, complemented by human livability, is the primary development mode of the human settlement environment.

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