

Unit 3

Site , situation

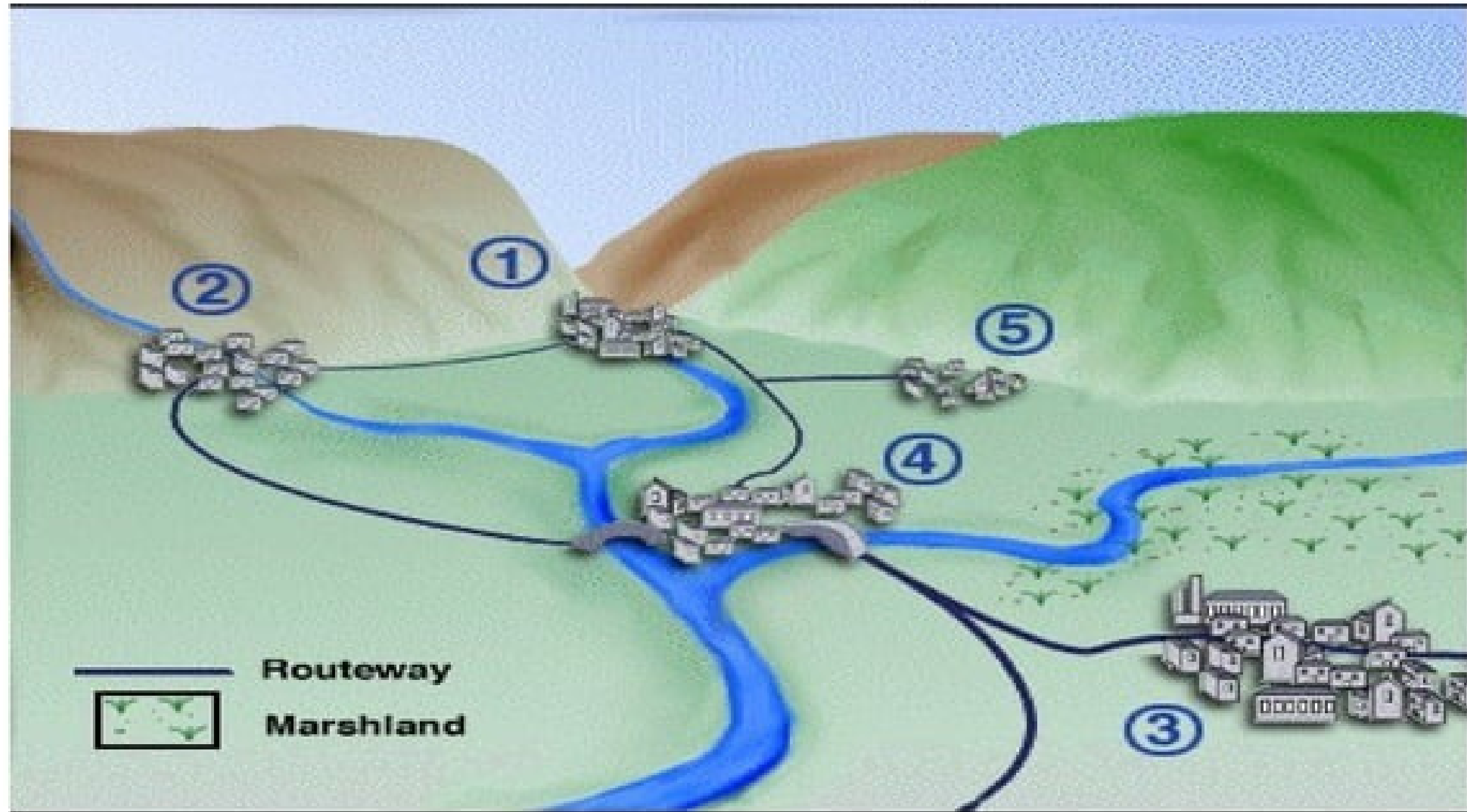
You should be able to;

- Define settlement site and situation
- Understand that the location and growth of a settlement is related to its **site and situation**
- Identify and explain the **site factors** responsible for the location of Bratislava
- Identify and explain the **situation** of Bratislava and link this to the reasons why Bratislava has grown into a major city

References and Definitions

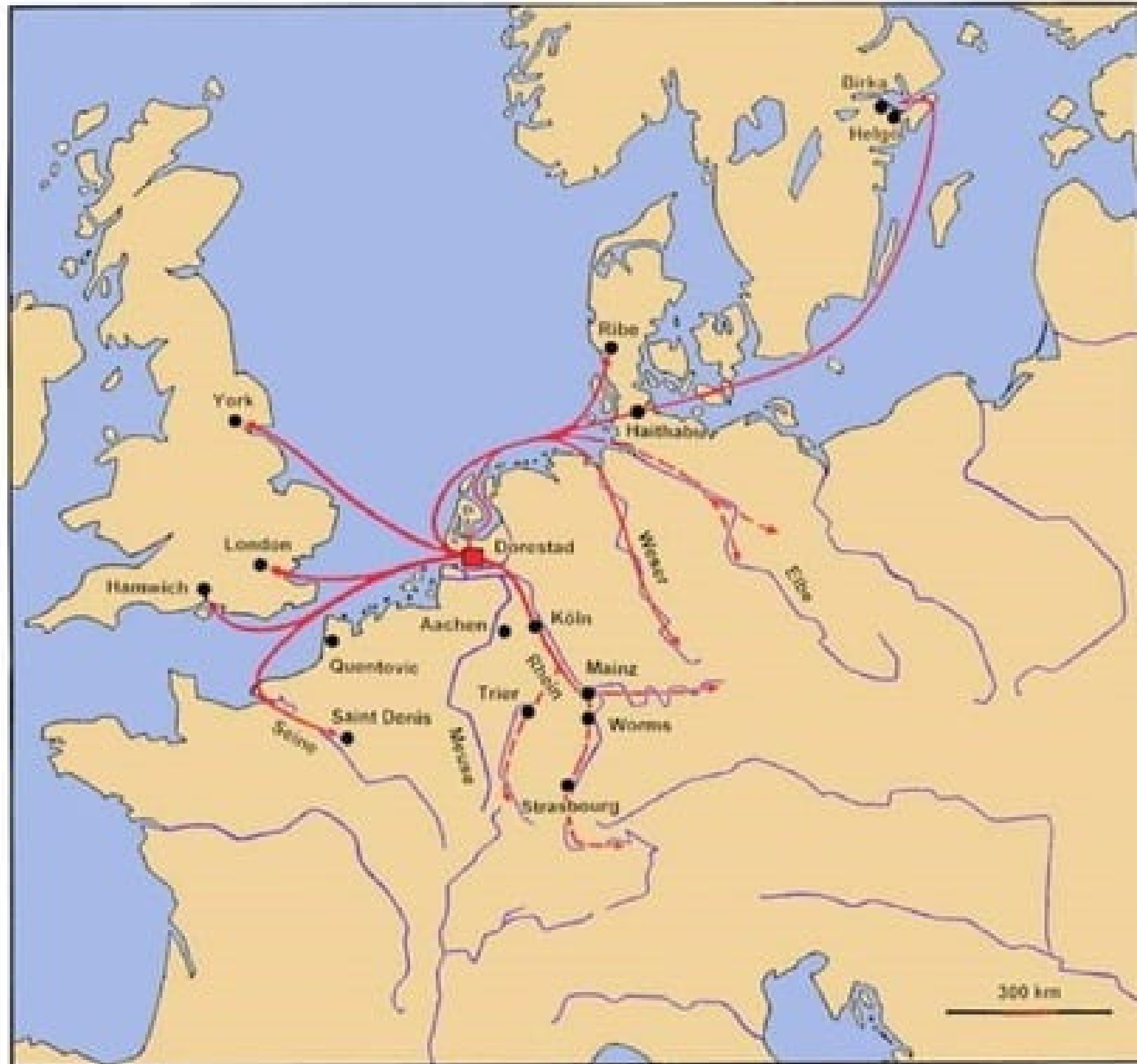
- **Site** describes the point at which a settlement is located, it describes the land it is build on. Factors such as relief, soil, water supply and other resources were important in choosing the sites of early settlements.
- **Situation** describes where the settlement is located in relation to the surrounding features such as other settlements, mountains, rivers and communications (roads, etc.). It is the situation of a settlement that determines whether it will grow from a small village into a large town or city.

Site Example



What site advantages do each of these settlement sites have?

Situation Example



Why has Dorestad grown into a major port settlement?

Characteristics of rural settlement

Main points in Characteristics of rural settlement

Rural settlements possess several key characteristics that distinguish them from urban areas:

1. **Size and Population:** Rural communities are smaller in area and have lower population densities compared to urban areas. This results in close-knit communities where everyone knows each other.
2. **Agriculture-Centric:** Agriculture is the primary occupation in rural areas, forming the backbone of the rural economy. Families often work together in farming activities, making it a family enterprise.
3. **Close to Nature:** Rural inhabitants have a deep connection with nature as their daily lives revolve around it. They rely on the land for food, clothing, and shelter.

4. Homogeneity: Rural communities tend to be homogenous, with most residents engaged in agriculture or related occupations. This homogeneity extends to dress, language, and customs.

5. Social Stratification: Traditional social stratification based on caste is common in rural society.

6. Social Interaction: While social interaction may be less frequent in rural areas, it is characterized by stability and continuity. Primary groups like the family play a crucial role in shaping values and traditions.

7. Slow Communication: Rural areas experience slower rates of change due to limited exposure to education and modern technology. Informal social life is prevalent.

8. Strong Community Bonds: Rural communities often have strong bonds among residents, with people helping each other in times of need and sharing in each other's joys.

9. Low Pollution: Rural areas typically have lower pollution levels since they lack industrial facilities and have fewer automobiles.
10. Conservatism and Stability: Rural settlements tend to be conservative, stable, introverted, and resistant to change and progress.
11. Limited Commercial Activity: Rural areas have fewer shops, and residents often rely on periodic markets or fairs for supplies and commerce.
12. Dominance of Open Countryside: Rural areas are characterized by extensive open spaces, lower population densities, and simpler lifestyles compared to urban areas.
13. Permanent Settlements: Many rural settlements around the world are stable and permanent, with generations of families living in the same areas.

Conclusion

In summary, rural settlements are typically marked by their agricultural focus, close ties to nature, traditional social structures, and slower pace of life compared to urban areas. They offer a distinct way of life characterized by stability and community bonds.

Characteristics of rural settlement

Rural settlements have a much longer history of development than urban settlements, and so their human characteristics have a much deeper foundation.

The characteristics include demography, way of life, intellectual outlook, environmental perception, aspects of behaviours, and sociological interaction are the direct result of man's long and involved relationship with his surrounding and they represent the most natural and human conditions.

- **Size of the Community:** The village communities are smaller in area than the urban communities. As the village communities are small, the population is also low.
- **Density of Population:** As the density of population is low, the people have intimate relationships and face-to-face contacts with each other. In a village, everyone knows everyone. Rural area is sparsely populated because many people leaves rural areas and settles in the urban areas for more facilities.
- **The primacy of Agriculture:** Agriculture is the fundamental occupation of the rural people and forms the basis of the rural economy. A farmer has to perform various agricultural activities for which he needs the cooperation of other members. Usually, these members are from his family. Thus, the members of the entire family share agricultural activities. That is the reason why Lowry Nelson has mentioned that farming is a family enterprise.
- **Close Contact with Nature** The rural people are in close contact with nature as most of their daily activities revolve around the natural environment. This is the reason why a ruralite is more influenced by nature than an urbanite. The villagers consider land as their real mother as they depend on it for their food, clothing, and shelter.

- **Homogeneity:** The village communities are homogenous in nature. Most of their inhabitants are connected with agriculture and its allied occupations, though there are people belonging to different castes, religions, and classes. These society has homogeneity in its profession that is their only source of earning is agriculture and this is transmitted from generation to generation. There is homogeneity in dress, language and customs. It means all these remain same because their culture is same, they belong to the same area.
- **Social Stratification:** In rural society, social stratification is a traditional characteristic, based on caste. The rural society is divided into various strata on the basis of caste

- **Social Interaction:** The frequency of social interaction in rural areas is comparatively lower than in urban areas. However, the interaction level possesses more stability and continuity. The relationships and interactions in the primary groups are intimate. The family fulfils the needs of the members and exercises control over them. It is the family, which introduces the members to the customs, traditions and culture of the society. Due to limited contacts, they do not develop individuality and their viewpoint towards the outside world is very narrow, which makes them oppose any kind of violent change. In Rural society there are more formal groups than urban society.
- **Slow Means of Communication** Rural areas have very slow rate of change because of lack of education and modern technology. The exposures to the outer world is limited. These settlements have got simple culture transmitted from generation to generation. Rural areas have got informal social life that is they spent their life in a simple way

- **Social Mobility:** In rural areas, mobility is rigid as all the occupations are based on caste. Shifting from one occupation to another is difficult as caste is determined by birth. Thus, caste hierarchy determines the social status of the rural people.
- **Social Solidarity:** The degree of social solidarity is greater in villages as compared to urban areas. Common experience, purposes, customs, and traditions form the basis of unity in the villages. The point is debatable as there is much politics going on in villages.
- **Joint Family System:** Another characteristic feature of rural society is the joint family system. The family controls the behaviour of the individuals. Generally, the father is the head of the family and is also responsible for maintaining the discipline among members. He manages the affairs of the family.

- **Strong Bonding** Rural communities have got strong relationships and interactions of the people. It means that they help each other in distress and shares the happiness.
- **Less pollution** In such areas there is less rate of pollution because there are no factories and mills and the number of automobiles is less. Nature is more important to them.
- There are also some other specific nature and character of rural settlements are as follows. In general, the essential characteristics of the rural way of life are marked by conservatism, stability and introversion. Compared with other settlements, rural settlement tends to be slower, calmer, quieter, and less stressful. Such characteristics can be seen in many economic, sociological, and geographical aspects. In country districts, people tend to be healthier and to live longer.

- They are less mobile (Occupationally and spatially) more superstitious and traditional, more introvert and suspicious of strangers, and more wary of change and progress.
- Rural settlement is purely residential, and shops are few and far between the villagers getting their supplies at the periodical, weekly or biweekly markets (hats or pants) or the fair (mela) to which people flock in from the neighborhood.
- In this respect rural India is not unlike mediaeval England, where nearly all selling and buying took place at weekly markets or annual fairs. We see that in India, as in all countries, society is arranged in strata, which are based upon differences of social or political importance, or of occupation. Most of the rural settlements of the world are stable and permanent.
- The rural are dominated by open countryside extensive land uses relatively low population densities and simple mode of life dominates the rural areas. It is often supposed as opposite to urban. Most of the world settlements are rural.

Types of rural settlement

1. Clustered Settlements :

In clustered settlements, houses and buildings are grouped closely together. This pattern promotes social interaction and shared resources. Villages are a common example of clustered rural settlements.

2. Linear Settlements :

Linear settlements are elongated along a transportation route like a road, river, or railway line. Homes are often arranged in a line, with fields or open spaces on either side. This type can be found in areas where transportation is crucial.

3. Dispersed Settlements :

In dispersed settlements, houses and buildings are scattered across the landscape with significant distances between them. This type is common in agricultural areas where each family has its own plot of land

4. Nucleated Settlements :

Nucleated settlements have a central point or nucleus, which could be a village green, a market square, or a religious center. Houses and structures radiate outward from this central point.

5. Circular Settlements :

Circular settlements have a circular or semi-circular layout, with buildings arranged around a central open space. These are less common but can be found in some cultures.

6. Grid or Rectangular Settlements :

In some planned rural areas, settlements are designed in a grid or rectangular pattern, with streets intersecting at right angles. This layout is often seen in newly developed rural areas.

7. Hamlets :

Hamlets are small settlements that typically consist of a few houses and lack many services or amenities found in larger villages or towns.

8. Farmsteads :

Farmsteads are individual farmhouses with associated outbuildings, fields, and agricultural activities. They are often dispersed throughout rural areas.

9. Ranching Communities :

Common in areas with extensive grazing land, ranching communities consist of large ranches with minimal settlement structures, primarily focused on livestock management.

10. Seasonal or Nomadic Settlements :

Some rural populations have seasonal or nomadic patterns, moving between different locations based on agricultural seasons or resource availability.



**FACTORS
AFFECTING
RURAL
SETTLEMENTS**

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PHYSICAL FACTORS

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CULTURAL FACTORS



A human settlement is defined as a place inhabited more or less permanently. The study of rural settlements is one of the important part of human geography because the form, type, location, pattern as well as function of rural settlement in any particular region reflects human relationship with the environment. For example, people preferred to settle near fertile lands as it was suitable for agriculture.

PHYSICAL FACTORS



These include relief, altitude, soil capability, climate, drainage, ground water level, etc. These factors influence the type and spacing of dwelling

- Nature of Terrain or Relief
- Altitude
- Climate
- Availability of Water
- (Drainage and Ground Water level)
- Soil

Nature of Terrain or Relief

Dispersed type of settlements is found in remote jungles, small hills of Himachal Pradesh. Compact settlements are found in highly productive alluvial plains of Punjab. The availability of broad flat land such as floodplains promotes agricultural activities. Paul Vidal De La Blache has aptly observed that the clustered village is indigenous in areas where the arable land is continuous. The settlement may become dispersed and hamleted in the marshy areas and near meandering rivers where the river changes its course frequently. In the Terai region the settlement is unevenly distributed due to high percentage of forests, marshy lands and seasonal floods.

Altitude

High altitude creates barriers and limit human existence due to reduced atmospheric pressure and low oxygen content. Therefore, very few permanent settlements can be seen in the lofty mountains of the world at a height above 5,000 metres. It has been observed in different parts of the world that the vertical distribution of population, both in numbers and densities, decline with increasing altitude. According to Staszewski, 56 per cent of the world's population lives within 200 metres from the sea level, and over 80 per cent within 500 metres. Thus clustered settlements appear in the plains whereas dispersed settlements are common in the hills. In India dispersed settlements are found in hills of Meghalaya and clustered and semi-clustered settlements are found in Gujarat plains.

Climate

Due to frequent droughts and floods settlement may become dispersed and hamleted. The areas of hot and cold deserts do not support compact settlements whereas temperate and subtropical areas favour compact settlements. Occasional floods also lead to compactness of settlements in several areas having almost flat land. In these areas the elevated lands are few and far between. These are built up into compact settlements.



Availability of Water (Drainage and Ground Water level)

The location and density of rural settlements depend on the availability and distribution of water resources. Water is vital for human and agricultural needs, so settlements tend to cluster near water bodies or sources. In regions where water is scarce or the water table is low, such as Rajasthan, compact settlements are common. In regions where water is abundant or the water table is high, such as parts of Bihar, dispersed settlements are more prevalent. Water resources influence the shape and size of rural settlements.

Soil



Fertility of soil is also another consideration for agricultural activities and agricultural development favouring more and more nucleation. Fertile lands attract compact but smaller hutments whereas unfertile lands repel population concentration and attract only fewer hutments.

ECONOMIC FACTORS



- Income
- **Economic Activities**
- **Nodal points**
- **Infrastructure**

Income

In areas of high income of the farmers the settlements are huddled together but poor and backward economy favoured sprinkled settlements. Compact settlements are well adapted in economic conditions of paddy cultivation. This type of agriculture needs large labour force hence both the farmers and associated labourers tend to reside in the same nucleated settlements. Moreover those village communities which are self contained having cottage industries, their own blacksmiths, carpenter; potter, weaver, and tailor lead to compact settlements.

Economic Activities

Economic activities have a profound impact on the patterns of rural settlements. For instance, areas primarily engaged in agriculture tend to have dispersed farmsteads and hamlets, as they require extensive land for cultivation. In contrast, mining regions may feature compact settlements near resource extraction sites, while forestry areas may have settlements strategically located near timber resources. Tourism-based regions often see the development of clustered settlements around popular attractions, as they cater to the needs of tourists. These variations in economic activities dictate the infrastructure, housing, and community organization of rural settlements, shaping their unique characteristics.

Nodal points

Cross roads, ferry points, railroad stations, bus depot attract settlements as they develop business centres. Sometimes emergence of market site along the railway junction also attracts settlements resulting into the creation of separate hamlet. This may outgrow the older cluster on account of better economic advantages.

Viewpoints

School, college, temple, dak bungalows, hospitals, block development office, literacy centres and places of tourist interests predominate the more modern type of settlements in rural areas

SOCIAL FACTORS

- **Social Cohesion**
- **Social Services and Institutions**
- **Social Hierarchies**
- **Social Change**
- **Community**
- **Caste system**

Social Cohesion

The degree of social cohesion within a community can influence settlement patterns. Communities with strong social ties may choose to live in close-knit, clustered settlements to facilitate social interaction and mutual support.

Social Services and Institutions

The presence of social services and institutions, such as schools, places of worship, healthcare facilities, and community centers, can influence settlement organization. These services often serve as focal points around which settlements develop.

Social Hierarchies

Social hierarchies and class distinctions within a society can affect settlement patterns. In some cases, elite or wealthier members of a community may live in more isolated or exclusive settlements, while others live in more common or clustered arrangements.

Social Change

Changes in societal norms and values can influence settlement patterns over time. For instance, shifts in family structures, such as smaller households or changing gender roles, can impact the types of housing and community arrangements preferred by residents.

Community

The identity and sense of belonging to a particular community or ethnic group can influence settlement patterns. People may choose to live in areas where they feel a strong connection to the local culture and heritage. The decisions made by local community leaders and governing bodies can influence settlement planning and development. These decisions may be based on the social priorities and values of the community.

Caste system

Same social customs and traditions involving the caste systems, especially related to the untouchables, have led to the fragmentation of the rural society. For example the harijans, belonging to the lower castes of the society are forced to dwell far away from the main settlements. Moreover, the best land was reserved for the families belonging to the upper castes and their relatives. A multi caste village most likely have hamleted pattern.

REFERENCE

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POLITICAL FACTORS :

Most villages were erected when political instability and hostility of neighbouring groups made defensive sites a great advantage.

1. SECURITY FACTORS :

In the areas where the land was free from the invaders small hamlets rather than large clusters came into existence.

- During the times of political instability, war, hostility among neighbouring settlements, villages were built on defensive hills and islands.
- Upstanding inselbergs in Nigeria formed good defensive sites. In India most of the forts are located on higher grounds or hills.

2. DEFENCE FROM INVASIONS AND WILD ANIMALS :

- *In the past the need of defence from external lawless elements was of paramount importance.*
- *Due to defence from dacoits, wild animals or fear, settlements may cluster and form compact settlements.*

CULTURAL FACTORS :

- 1. Caste and Tribal Structure: Due to ethnic factors settlement may become fragmented and hamleted e.g. Chhattisgarh.***
- 2. Religion : People of same religion prefer to live together making a settlement large or small.***

An aerial photograph of a suburban residential neighborhood. The houses are arranged in a somewhat grid-like pattern with winding streets. Many houses have swimming pools in their backyards. There are a lot of green trees and lawns. The overall scene is a typical suburban development.

RURAL SETTLEMENT TYPES AND PATTERNS



Definition of Rural Settlement

A rural settlement refers to a community or a cluster of dwellings located in the countryside, typically characterized by low population density and a reliance on agricultural activities for sustenance.

Rural Settlement Types and Patterns

Welcome to our presentation on rural settlement types and patterns. Join us as we explore the various types of rural settlements, factors influencing their patterns, emerging trends, challenges, and recommendations.



Types of Rural Settlements

Dispersed

In dispersed rural settlements, the dwellings are scattered throughout the landscape, often associated with extensive agricultural practices.

Nucleated

Nucleated settlements feature a compact layout, with houses situated close to each other, forming a central core or nucleus.

Linear

Linear settlements are characterized by dwellings arranged along a transportation route, such as a road, river, or railway.

Factors Influencing Rural Settlement Patterns

1 Physical

Physical factors like topography, soil fertility, water availability, and climate play a significant role in determining the layout and distribution of rural settlements.

2 Human

Human factors such as cultural practices, historical development, economic activities, and government policies influence the spatial organization of rural settlements.



Emerging Trends in Rural Settlement Patterns



Sustainable Energy Projects

Rural settlements are increasingly embracing renewable energy projects, such as wind farms and solar power installations, to promote sustainability and reduce reliance on traditional energy sources.



Agritourism

Rural settlements are diversifying their economies by capitalizing on their natural landscapes and agricultural resources to attract tourists, offering experiences like farm stays, vineyard tours, and local food experiences.

Technological Advancements

Rural settlements are adopting advanced technologies, such as precision agriculture and smart farming, to optimize agricultural practices, increase productivity, and improve sustainability.

Challenges Facing Rural Settlements

Depopulation

Rural settlements often face the challenge of depopulation as young people migrate to urban areas in search of better opportunities, resulting in an aging population and declining communities.

Limited Infrastructure

Lack of quality infrastructure, including roads, schools, healthcare facilities, and high-speed internet, hampers the development and livability of rural settlements.


Economic Sustainability

Rural settlements must navigate economic challenges, such as limited employment opportunities, declining agricultural profitability, and insufficient access to markets, to ensure long-term sustainability.



Conclusion and Recommendations

In conclusion, rural settlement types and patterns are shaped by a combination of physical and human factors. While challenges exist, emerging trends offer new opportunities for sustainable development. To ensure the viability of rural settlements, we recommend improving infrastructure, supporting economic diversification, and promoting environmental stewardship.



village pattern

Roshini & Renganathan
settlement geography

RURAL AREA

Where the people are engaged in primary industry in the sense that they produce things directly for the first time in cooperation with nature.



RURAL SETTLEMENT

Outside of town and cities where population density is low and which can take the form of a dispersed settlement, a hamlet, or a village.



RURAL SETTLEMENT

- A remote and a sparsely populated place
- People support their livelihood from primary economic activities
- Facilities that provide goods and service for people are amenities
- These settlements are mainly concerned with primary activities such as agriculture, mining, fishing, forestry etc.
- Most of the people (more than 50% of adult male) of rural settlement are engaged in agricultural work.
- Population density is small and the settlement size is small.
- Buildings are of non-durable materials in most cases.

RURAL SETTLEMENT PATTERNS

- Pattern of settlement has been defined by Emrys Jones (British Urban Geographer).

- *Topographical maps are the easiest way to study pattern of settlements*

Rural settlement pattern are affected by 3 factors

- Kind of resources found in the area
- Transportations methods available at time of settlement
- Role played by Government policy

RURAL SETTLEMENT PATTERNS

- Mainly two types



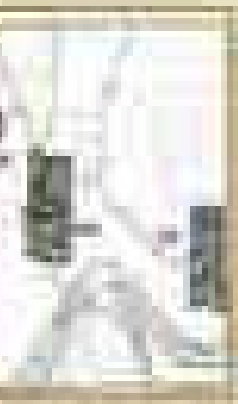
Clustered
rural
settlement



Dispersed rural
settlement

RURAL SETTLEMENT PATTERNS

The rural settlements may be broadly classified under the following patterns:



Rectangular pattern



Linear pattern



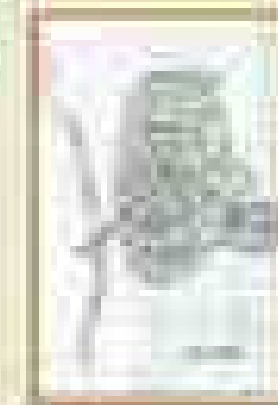
Circular and semi-circular pattern



Star like pattern



Triangular Pattern



Nebular pattern

Rural Settlement Pattern Of Asia

- Nucleated Settlement
- Dispersed Settlement
- Elongated settlement
- the cluster village
- grid-pattern settlement

Rural Settlement Pattern Of Asia

- **Nucleated Settlement**

The nucleated or compact farm villages are a very characteristic feature of the rural scene in nearly all Asian countries.

Example:Indus Ganga plains of northern India and Pakistan, and the North China Plain,japan,china, Sugao, a village of nearly 2,500 residents, is located in the State of Maharashtra southeast of Mumbai, in India.



Rural Settlement Pattern Of Asia

- **Disperse Settlement**

The dispersed settlement, in which each farm or a small group of farms is located at some distance from its neighbors, is increasingly becoming uncommon, but is widespread in hunting-gathering and fishing societies.

Example: hilly areas of mainland Southeast Asia, the Ganga delta of Bangladesh, the Kerala coast, The Sichuan Basin in China .In northern Honshu and in Hokkaido island of Japan.



Rural Settlement Pattern Of Asia

- **Elongated Settlement**

Elongated or string-like clusters are other common shapes of Asian villages. Such is the case with villages along seashore, a riverbank, a natural levee or terrace, a paved road, or some other linear site that induces the arrangement of houses in a single file or a double-file.

Example: Bangladesh, India, Pakistan



Rural Settlement Pattern Of Asia

- **The Cluster Village**

Asian villages are arranged in a variety of forms and shapes. The compact villages have generally no particular shape or pattern and may be labeled as “the cluster village.”

Example: Most villages of northern China, northern and northwestern India, and southwestern Asia belong to this category.



Patterns Of Rural Settlement In Bangladesh

★ Nucleated Settlements



A nucleated settlement pattern refers to the grouping of many houses around a centre called a nucleus.

★ Developed at road intersections, focal points of an area or confluences of rivers



Pattern Of Rural Settlement In Bangladesh

Nucleated Settlement

- Found in northwest in the **Barind region (Varendra Bhumi)**. Assumes a rectangular, square or circular form. Some nucleated settlements in Barind area are quite large with 2 to 4 hundred families.
- This is the common type of settlement pattern in **Chittagong Hill tracts**.
- In **Sylhet Basin area** this type of settlements are found on artificially built mounds (hillocks).

★ Grow in size to form a market town in the rural area.

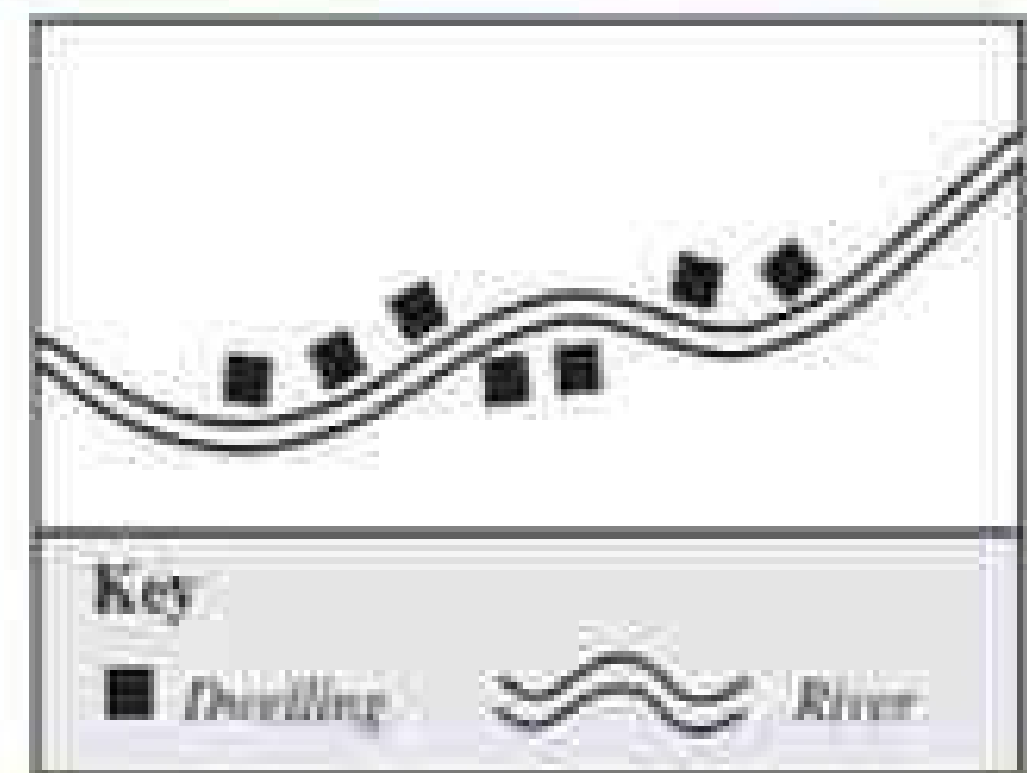


Pattern Of Rural Settlement In Bangladesh

Linear Settlement

- In the active delta region, linear villages have been formed on only one side of the river.
- Found in the **Barind**, in the moribund delta region (**Jessore, Kushtia, and Faridpur**) or in areas where river erosion is no longer active. These types of settlement are found on both side of the river.
- This is the dominant type of settlement on the bank of **Jamuna, Mahananda, Tista, Ganges** and the hilly valleys of **Chittagong**.

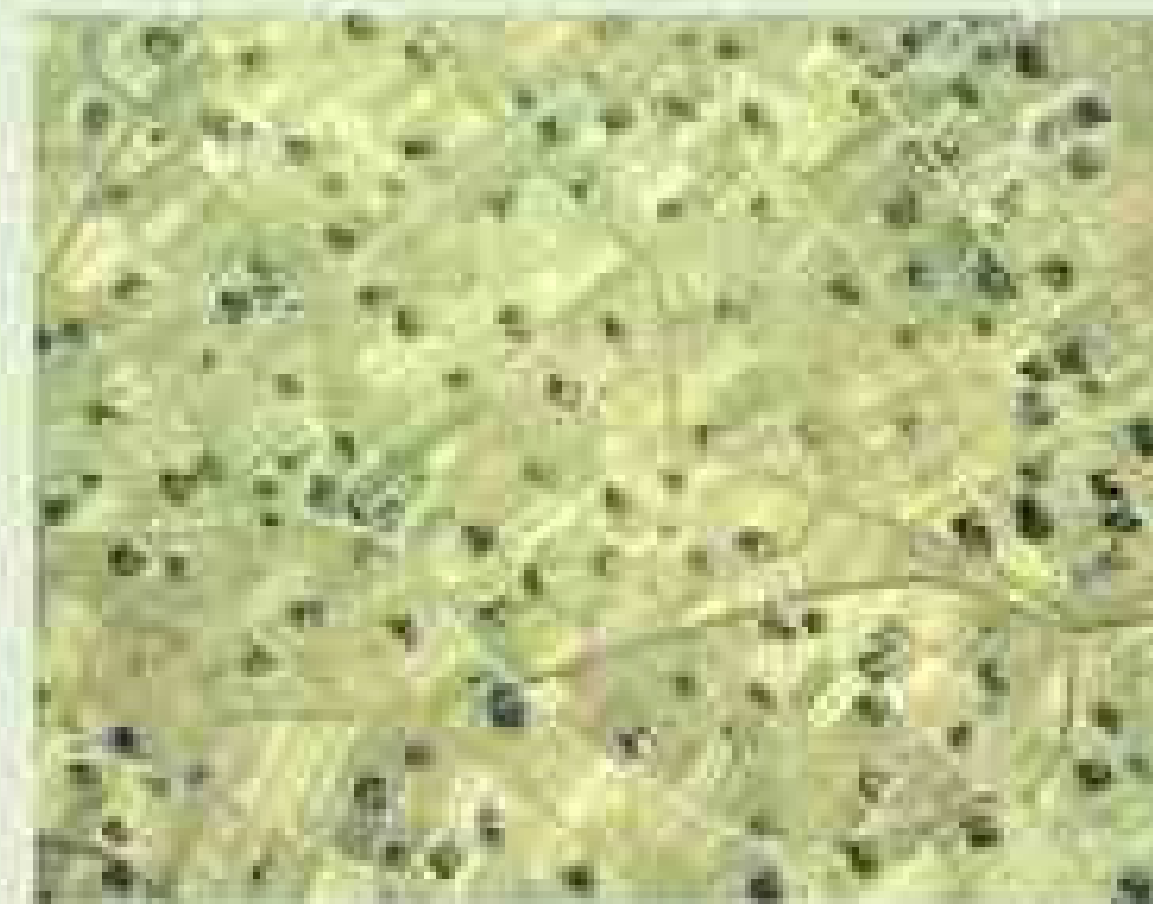
Linear Settlements



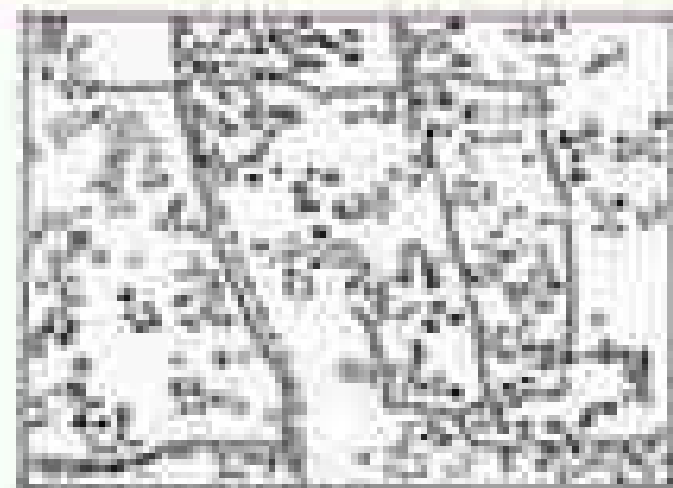
Pattern Of Rural Settlement In Bangladesh

Disperse Settlement

- Found in fertile flood plain where heavy inundation takes place during the rainy season. People build their houses by raising the homestead land with earth generally by digging a pond.
- This type of settlement common in haor areas of greater **Sylhet** and **Mymensingh**.



Pattern Of Rural Settlement In Bangladesh



SCATTERED



SCATTERED & CLUSTERED



NUCLEATED



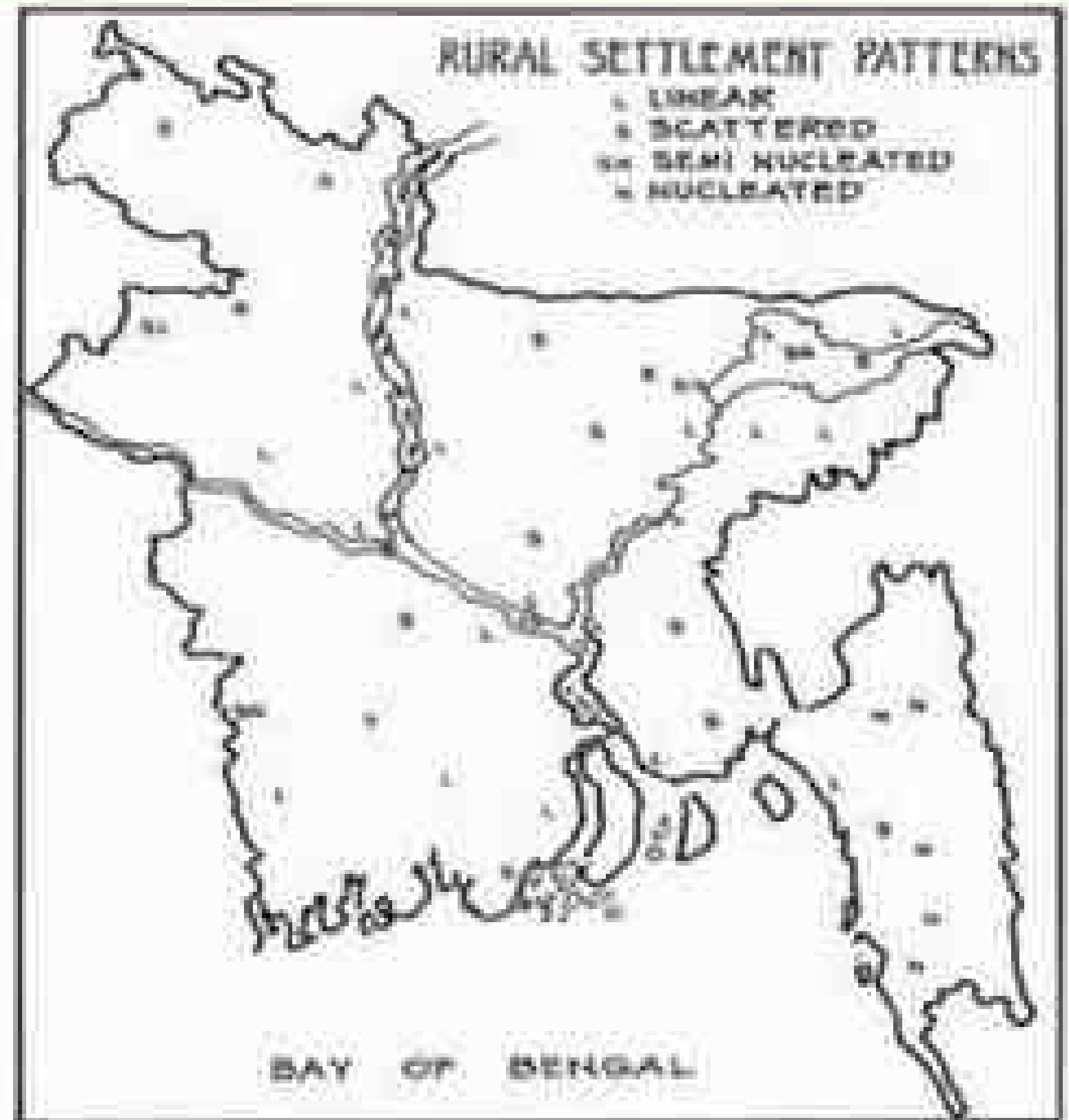
NUCLEATED & LINEAR



LINEAR



CLUSTERED-ABORTIVE



Different house type of Asia(India)



Kucca house



Pucca house

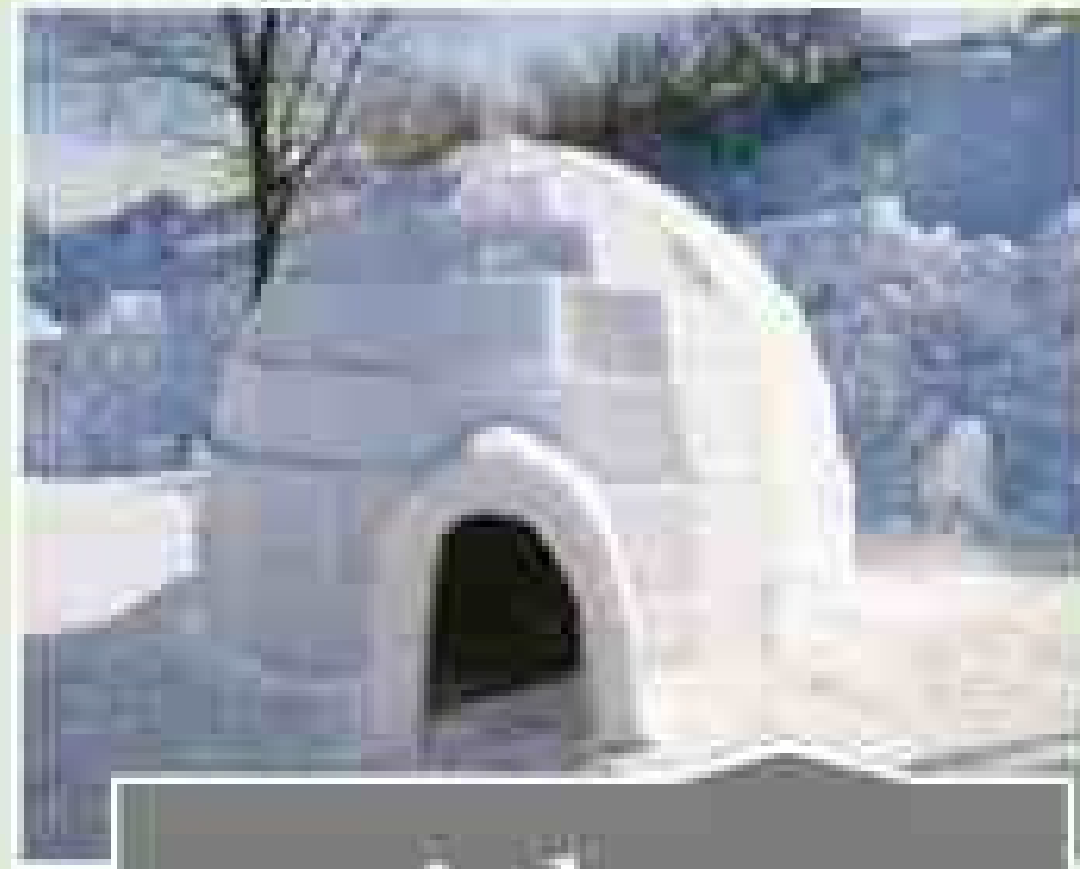


Tents

Different house type of Asia(India)



caravan



igloo



Houseboats

Different house type of Asia(Nepal)



Brahman house



Stone house



Tharu house

Different house type of Asia (Bangladesh)



Mud house



Khasia house



Tin sheet house



Half building

Different house type of Asia(Srilanka)



Clay house



Old clove house