SETTLEMENTS

Settlement is a place where people live in. It usually contains buildings wherein people live and work, and other essential amenities like road, etc.

Factors or conditions that favour a place to become a settlement are: adequate water supply, fertile soil, land for building, electricity supply, good road, presence of jobs, absence of disaster, favourable climate, etc.

Classification of Settlements according to Types

There are two main types of settlements. These are Rural settlements and Urban settlements.

A Rural settlement is a relatively small area with socially homogenous people that know one another very well. They have people with the same cultural background and language. They are normally made up of few buildings with people ranging from one family to few hundreds. They have few social amenities and the lifestyle is simple and quiet. They are normally involved in primary activities such as farming, hunting, fishing, and lumbering. Rural settlements could be *nucleated, dispersed* or *linear*. Homestead, hamlet and village are kinds of rural settlements. Homestead is a typical settlement of just one nuclear or extended family. Hamlet is a kind of settlement which is nucleated with few houses usually less than a hundred with many people living in them. Village is

a large nucleated rural settlement formed from the combination of several hamlets.

An Urban settlement is a relatively large densely populated settlement with socially heterogeneous people who do not know one another very well. They have people with different cultural backgrounds and different languages. They are made up of many buildings with thousands of people living in them. They have abundance of social amenities like pipe borne water, electricity, etc. They are mainly involved in secondary and tertiary activities such as manufacturing, construction, and many other service oriented jobs. They are usually compact or nucleated in nature. They exhibit impersonal or individualistic behaviour. They are usually well built up areas, with the presence of developed infrastructure. There is high rate of congestion and problems of poor waste management. They could be towns (having several thousands of people), cities (consist of a number of towns) conurbations, and megalopolis (having several millions of people).

Whilst rural settlements perform agricultural, lumbering, fishing, petty trading, and religious functions; urban settlements perform industrial, administrative, commercial, and socio-cultural functions.