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ANALYSIS OF RURAL SETTLEMENTS IN BEED DISTRICT: A GEOGRAPHICAL REVIEW

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ABSTRACT:

Settlement Geography is a recent branch of human geography. Geographic thoughts have spread and spanned around the different settlements over the globe. Early geographers like Thucydides, Ptolemy and Strabo were not mistaken in observing ancient cities as the symbol and explicit evidence of a superior civilization. They have also pointed out the contrasts presented by the people living in the towns and villages. The systematic development of settlement as a scientific discipline started after the First World War. In this study total rural population, total rural area and number of

rural settlements are considered for the classification of rural settlements.

KEYWORDS: *Settlement, spatio-temporal study, types of settlement dispersal Index.*

INTRODUCTION

Settlement is an establishment way of life, an abode, a shelter or dwelling where man retires from his days work to sojourn and sleep. This place is fixed and a definite location and identity. The term refers to 'the characteristic grouping of population into occupational units together with the facilities in the form of houses and streets which serve the inhabitants'. The arrangement of rural settlements as geographical entities express the grouping of developing and their inter-relationship, makes the different types of rural settlements (Auroussele, 1920). There are different ways to classify rural settlements. Some

have considered the site as an important criteria of where; some have considered the number of dwelling and number of sites as criteria for the classification of rural settlements.

STUDY AREA:

Bid district is selected as the region for present study. It lies between 18°27' and 19°27' north latitudes and 74°49' and 76°44' east longitudes. It is surrounded by Aurangabad and Jalana district to the north, Parbhani district to the north-east, Latur district to the south-east and Osmanabad district to the west. It has an area of 10,692 square km. which constitutes 3.47 percent of the total area of the state. The total population of the study region is 21.61 lakh. The density of population in Bid district is 202 persons per sq.km.

The district is divided into two revenue divisions i.e. BEED and Ambajogai. Beed district includes 11 tahsils of Maharashtra i.e. Beed, Georai, Patoda, Ashti, Shirur kasar, Ambajogai, Mahjalgaon, Kaij, Dharur, Parali and Wadwani. There are 1365 villages in the study region.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To find out the rural settlement types in the study region.
2. To study the factors affecting on the distribution of types of rural settlement, in Bid district.

DATA BASE AND METHODOLOGY:

The study entirely based on secondary data. The data regarding population, area and number of rural settlements have been obtained from district

census handbook of Bid.

A statistical model has been applied for the classification and results have been presented through a table. Dispersal index is calculated using following formulas.

$$\text{Index of dispersal} = \frac{\text{Average of population size of settlement (a)}}{\text{Average Spacing of settlement (b)}}$$

$$a = \frac{\text{Total Rural Population}}{\text{No. of Settlements}}$$

$$b = \frac{\text{Total Rural Population}}{\text{No. of Settlements}}$$

SETTLEMENTS FORMS:

In this part of the study region are located on higher river terraces. They are away from the river channel and low fertile land is used for cultivation. Considering to medium and quartile, values of dispersal index have been grouped. Compact settlement is indicated by higher values and lower values indicate sprinkled settlements. The dispersal value ranges from 72.85 to 1295.

The tahsilwise value of dispersal index is presented in following table.

Types of Rural Settlements Based on Dispersal Index

Sr. No.	Tahsil	Average Population size of settlements	Average Spacing of Settlements	Dispersal Value
1	Ashti	4.92	0.03	164
2	Patoda	4.93	0.04	123.25
3	Shirur (Ka)	5.21	0.02	260.5
4	Georai	5.05	0.03	168.33
5	Majlegaon	5.27	0.02	263.5
6	Wadwani	5.18	0.004	1295
7	Bid	2.19	0.02	259.5
8	Kaij	5.19	0.02	259.5
9	Dharur	5.10	0.07	72.85
10	Parli	5.19	0.02	259.5
11	Ambejogai	5.15	0.04	128.75
District		5.12	0.03	170.66

Source: Compiled by Researcher.

Compact Settlement:

Compact settlement mainly in Bid and Wadwani tahsils. The rainfall is a major factor influencing settlement types. Compact settlements are found built around ponds and wells. The areas where ponds are not frequent, the wells constructed and compact settlements located around these wells.

In the medieval period of Muslim rule the need of defense from external lawless elements was of most important. Therefore, most of the settlements are compact.

Semi-Compact Settlement:

It is inter mediate type between the zones of compact and sprinkled. Settlements are very common in the extensive fertile areas where the water table is high and wells are full of water. Such settlements are found in the areas of dense drainage texture eg. Settlements of Bid and Kaij tahsils.

Semi-Sprinkled Settlement:

The areas of adverse physical conditions such as rugged topography with low rainfall has semi-sprinkled settlements. Wadis or sub-hamlets inhabited by artisans and low cast people surrounding the major settlement is or semi-sprinkled type such settlements are notices in Patoda, Georai and Asthi tahsils.

Sprinkled Settlement:

These types of settlements are observed in the areas of drier and poor soils. Sprinkled settlements are found mainly in Wadwani, Dharur tahsils.

- i. So far as the caste system is considered, especially in relations to the untouchable which brings fragmentations of the rural community. Upper caste people do not like to settle in separate hamlets around the main village.
- ii. Transportation facilities increased the web of roads and rails and disturbed old set up of the settlements.
- iii. Development activities in the rural areas like construction of dams, percolation tanks canals have started and consequently, labors came from outsides and settled away from village even though the work is over.
- iv. Backward class people are given free lands and houses by the government in rural areas and new wadis or hamates are situated at some distance from the village.

CONCLUSION:

Considering medium and quartiles, values of dispersal index have been grouped into four categories to identify the types of rural settlements. The dispersal values recorded low for Dharur (72.85) and high for Wadwani tahsil (1295). Compact types of settlements are observed in fertile tahsils mainly in Bid and Wadwani, where as semi-compact settlements are found in Bid and Kaij tahsils. Sprinkled and semi-sprinkled settlements are noticed mainly in the area where physical conditions are not suitable. Sprinkled settlements are found in Wadwani, Dharur settlements. These tahsils are characterized by adverse physical conditions.

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