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Settlement pattern of urban and rural area A case study of Saran District

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A settlement is an organised human habitation. It is divided into two groups one is rural and another is urban. Rural population is fully engaged in agricultural work direct and indirect way, where as urban population is engaged in secondary and tertiary work.

A settlement pattern is the distribution of human activities across the landscape and the spatial relationship between human activities.

Settlement can be permanent or temporary. Settlement which are occupied for a short time are called temporary settlements. The people living in deep forests, hot and cold desert maintains. They practice hunting, gathering, shifting cultivation and transhumance, while permanent settlement have fixed and pucca house to live in.

Evolution of settlement

Concrete and authentic information regarding settlement based on caste and classes are not available on the basis of some historical evidences like legends and some description in epics and religions books, how ever the ideas about the evolution and types of settlement of early period have been provided. Thus the concept of settlement has taken thousands and thousands of year for its growth and development, it is the result of a long span of time.

Historical period of settlement:-

The Vedic period is divided into two major divisions.

- (a) RIG-VEDIC (In which only Rigveda was composed)
- (b) Later Vedic period (When the other three Vedic sutras, epics and Dharam Shastra were composed)

A lot of examples have been given in Vedic literature regarding the settlement of the history of Shudras settlement and their socio-economic condition are clearly mentioned in Vedic literature has been divided into four major ages which are as follows:-

- (a) The age of Samhitas (All the four Vedas)
- (b) The age of sutras (Ashtadhyayi of Panini's Grihya and Dharmasutra etc.)
- (c) The age of Epics (The Ramayan and Mahabharata) and
- (d) The age of Dharmashastra (Manusmriti, Yagnalkya Smriti, Vishnu smriti and Narada smriti)

The Shudras have no right to visit frequently the settlement occupied by the three upper varnas virtually their entry was prohibited in the villages of the three varnas" *3

According to Ram Charitra Manas of Tulsī, The Teli, The Kumhar, The Swapach, The Koli, The Kalwar, The Ahir, The Yavan and The Khas are Shudras and their appearance is sin" *4

About study area:-

The area of study is basically Gandak, Ghaghra, Doab bounded by river Ganga in southern boundary beyond lies Bhojpur and Patna district respectively. In the north of this district lies Siwan, Vaishali and Muzaffarpur in the east to west of district lies the district of Siwan and Ballia of Uttar Pradesh.

The river Ghaghara constitutes the boundary between Saran and Ballia. The length of the study area is 122km and varies from 65km in the east and 44km in the

west. It extends over an area of 2641km and contains a population of 3943098 persons according to the census 2011 with 20 community Development Blocks.

As per 2011 census 91.06% population of Saran District lives in rural areas of villages.

Census Report of Saran District

Description	Rural	Urban
Population (%)	91.06%	8.94%
Total population	3,598,660	353,202
Male population	1,838,119	184,702
Female population	1,760,541	168,500

Source – Census Report of Bihar (India)

This data shows that most of the people live in rural areas and their earning source is dependent on their local resources because there is no more option to do a job in factories and other work. Only a few people are engaged in secondary and tertiary work.

There are some ancient villages in the study area also, this region is an old fertile plain famous for cultivation of various crops. The ancient villages include a number of villages settled along the river Ganga, Gandak, Suryug and Ghaghara. The settlement of villages in the western part of the district is older than the eastern part of the district because the eastern part is lower level land subject to inundation during the rainy season. Hence the development of agriculture occurred in the eastern part of the district later on some of the older villages have turned into smaller towns. The ancient villages have Bastees of scheduled caste near them because whenever the Aryans went, they brought their slaves also with them.

The word 'site' is an important aspect of the settlement it is necessary to investigate in detail the site of the settlement while making a study of settlement of any area.

Conclusion :-

- Saran is an old district of Bihar.
- Its soil is alluvial and fertile.
- Mostly people lived in rural area.
- Their livelihood is depended on agriculture and agricultural work.
- Their are few industries like Sugar, Leather, Wooden, Rice and Floor Mill which provide additional job for local people.
- The literacy rate is high in urban area compare of rural area.

Suggestion:-

1. It needs to improve quality based education.
2. It needs to improve training centre of additional skill.
3. This area required more agricultural based industries.
4. This area needs to practice agriculture with scientific method.
5. We should try to improve utility of local resource like soil, Land, Water, Forest etc.
6. This area required more medical colleges and hospital for better sanitation.
7. Social awaness is also important for upliftment of study area.

References

1. Census report of Bihar.
2. Saran Gazeteer.
3. Ibid.
4. Varna Dharna (Manas) of Goswami Tulsi Das.