**Introduction**

The division of geography into two main fields is directly associated with settlements. The Human geography could be shown as a fields of subjects that got divided and separated because of the settlements built on biophysical geography linked to the surface and interior of the earth. Under biophysical geography there are many physical geographical subjects like Eco-Systems, Biological Conservation, Bio- Geography, Oceanology, Climatology, Soil Science, Geomorphology, and Processes on the earth. Many important subjects like Transport Geography, Economic Geography, Population Geography, Agricultural Geography, Tourism Geography, Environmental pollution, Cultural Geography, Urban Geography, Social Geography were created parallel to the human settlements. Therefore settlement geography not only build the creative subject in a subject field, but also builds the necessary foundation for the various subjects built on it.

When considering about the validity of a settlement there can see several important factors. Such as; how the settlements have been developed globally and how the settlements are categorized. Here the attention should be paid on functions of settlements, nature of settlements, way of locating settlements, and settlements’ hierarchy. Also the external and internal dynamism existing in a settlement should be understood. The settlement geography also includes the identification and studying the problems in settlement which were built and developed in the manner.

Man has attempted from ancient times to win over the natural environment and to procure his requirement. Man who made great efforts to escape from the harshness of the environment and to secure his protection and existence; mostly achieved his objectives by marking use of his brain power.

The man who existed exposed to the natural environment had to face the environmental harshness that from time to time. To escape from such influences that were caused by the sunshine rain and severe cold. His attention was diverted towards shelters. As a result of this he made use of naturally forced caves and places were in tree burrows for existence and he confirmed the protection while protection his kind. Similarly the man who so few lived through hunting paid attention to collect and store food and confirmed his future existence, with the efforts he made live in a house even temporarily. Further important factor about settlement were man engaging in
cultivation work to fulfil his requirements by residing at a certain place and building a stable position making use of tamed animals and technical instruments.

There after man went beyond the naturally created environmental protection and built houses even on a temporary basis using the timber and balks from trees and his abilities. The progressed from their towards constructions permanent houses. Then he departed from the savage life style in the jumble and was targeting advanced economic and social goals. The individual houses which were them built developed into a brood social activity because of various economic and social needs and cultural bonds.

So it is clear that a home is not only a physical thing but there are many other things connected to that. This situation is further clarified by the various definitions used related to settlement. Simply it can be said that a settlement is a visual records made on the earth by man. The basic meanings of their definition are escaping from the harshness of the environment, getting a shade and protection. They include not only houses but also all the other things used by men such as stores, roads and fences. The classification of settlement is very important. Geographers have done settlement classification in many ways.

Why settlements are formed in other areas is also considered have and these factors are used in classifications. The settlements are clarified not only using a single criterion but many criteria and their advantages and disadvantages are taken into consideration. Considered here are the following things.

1. The site and Situation location “The world area qualitatively in introduces settlements being concentrated to certain areas. Example - availability of water resources and less disaster risks

By the term ‘place’ the resources and facilities in those places had been taken into consideration

2. Form
(This means the shape of the settlements)

3. The Functions
(The function of a settlement is a very important criteria. It differs among rural and urban settlements. Among the functions market, transport, security, resources, trade, cultural affairs, recreational activities, political and administrative functions could be seen.
4. **Hierarchy**
A line up is done here according to the magnitude and importance.

Eg. Hamlet → Village → Township or small town → large town →

City → Cornurbasing → Megalopolis → Megacities

5. **Rural and Urban**
Though there is simple classification. It is a classification having an important power.

2. **Definition of Settlement**

A settlement is a process based on the connection of two main sections.

1. Physical Environment and 2. Man and Society the relationship could be shown on a created one thought it appears at first sight as having 2 parts a lot of facts are included in it. They are **Defined the settlement**

1. Natures
2. Man
3. Shelters
4. Society
5. Network

A relationship is evident among these sections. Therefore it could be recognized as a procedure built up on the interconnection among these sections. Shelters are formed though man building up houses according to their requirements by overcoming the obstacle existing in the nature.
A Society is created and by the build-up of inter-relations among settlements is formed. Again that society uninterruptedly uses the nature for their requirements. On inter-relationship of the above factors is formed in this manner and there is a great dynamism in this. Similarly settlements get subjected to various changes every moment and as the result of this the process of getting various kinds of settlements created happens continuously.

Therefore it is very clear that a settlement is a thing which includes a span from an isolated single house up to all settlement extending up to heavily populated large urban areas (figure 01). Here 3 settlement have a primary importance and they are rural urban and special type of intermediate settlements.

Among there a rural settlement could be basically defined in a simple manner as a settlement established for agricultural or other primary requirement. A few basic elements could be clearly understood is such a rural settlement.

Farmland (Homogeneous)

This is an area where there are homogenous features. This includes the agricultural land or natural environmental parts.

Centre

The area where the houses are located. In a rural settlement building of houses centered on the highlands is mostly seen. The residential region could be recognized separately and it shows a direct relationship to the infrastructure facilities.

Circulation

The system of roads is helpful to go here and there to get various services. This system of roads was built joining the settlement and a distribution of houses is seen parallel to them.

Special
There are located separately. They include a thing like a school which is situated far away. This means that there is a common place in the village and such a good place could be school, temple, or a church on a similar common thing.

The definition or defining rural settlement for rural settlements differs from country to country. In some countries the areas defined by the government considered as rural. But the common usage in the world is that villages, hamlets and farmers are inclusive here. Taken traditionally settlements where a certain population based on agriculture, fishers, mining and forestry live are called rural settlement a rural population engaged in non-agricultural activities can also be seen.([www.en.wikipeia.org/rural_settlements](http://www.en.wikipeia.org/rural_settlements)).

Taken very simply urban settlements could be defined as places where non-agricultural activities are concentrated and houses, business places, road systems and many specially concentrated activities can be seen there. Here it is very important to separately identify the settlements that are built in this manner. The definitions presented for this very useful for this.

**Figure 01**

![Diagram of settlement types](image-url)

- **Man**
- **Family**
- **House/Farm**
- **Hamlet**
- **Village**
- **Rurban**
- **City**
- **Primary**
- **Secondary**
- **Tertiary**
- **Activities**
- **Cornurbasining**
- **Megalopolis**
- **Megacities**
Agansky shows that a rural settlement is a place where people engaged in a lot of activities are living. Similarly rural areas are areas where people live making use of plants and animals and getting food and the necessary things for clothes.

Schworz has shown in his book rural urban fringe and Rurban settlements that in addition to this the commercial strips spreading from urban settlements up to rural settlements as well as the rural urban settlement around cities belong to what is called settlements.

Trewartha has given the meaning that a settlement is “Large number of human setting together”. By this he that all the settlement from an isolated settlement up to megalopolis as well as houses, other buildings and roads belong to this. Explaining his views further he has shown that all the parts from temporary settlement up to permanent settlement are included in this.

Dickinson points out that a settlement is a residential area build-up by man on the earth. According to real urban situations are not reflected as per administrative situations and his definition includes the fact that there are various settlements in the world.

Ratzel shows that city is a large areas spread area the surface of the earth and is at the hub of roads and has a large population and the environment is artificial as various activities are being conducted. His words reflect the urban settlement which are the main kind of settlement. The specialty there well explained in certain features he has presented.
Social Scientists idea are presented by scientific about settlement. According to the social scientist Luwis Worth, a settlement is a place where people of various nationalities live and they have different social features. He shows by further showing his ideas that a city has a special life style and secondary relations are built instead of primary relationships. According to all the above the settlements in the world are not only primarily separated at rural and urban levels on physical factors and it should be clearly understood that the following factors also contribute to it.

1. Demographical and economic criteria. (various ranges according to the country)
2. Deciding urban boundaries.
3. Separating the borders between towns and village.

Though the settlements in the world are primarily separated as rural and urban settlement it could be shown that there is another kind of settlement called rural urban settlement and there are some special commercial strips in the transformation of settlement from rural to urban status. Therefore a settlement includes all the settlement from and isolated settlement to mega cities that can cause global level influences in a complicated socio economic structure.