LESSON NOTE FOR WEEK 6  
TOPIC: SETTLEMENT

SUB TOPIC: **TYPES OF SETTLEMENT**  
MAIN OBJECTIVES: By the end of this lesson, student should be able to

**(a) define settlement**

**(b) state favourable conditions necessary for siting a settlement**

**(c) state factors affecting growth of settlements**

**(d) list the types of settlement**

STEP I:

MEANING OF SETTLEMENT

*Settlemen*t is a collection of buildings with people living in them. It is centre of human activities and it consists of houses, communication network, roads, tracks, railways etc. It could be one house, a village, a town or a city.

Favourable Conditions for Siting A Settlement

1. There must be adequate and dependable water supply for man use
2. The soil must be fertile to produce agricultural activities
3. Such lands must be lowland and well drained for easy erection of buildings
4. The presence of good roads, railways, airport etc
5. The area should be well protected against invading enemies

Factors Affecting the Growth of Settlement

1. People are likely to settle in areas that are easily accessible by roads, rails etc and these tend to increase the growth of settlement
2. Absence of both natural and man made disasters in a place tends to attracts people to such areas, hence the growth of such settlement
3. Favourable climate also tends to attract people to an area which equally leads to the growth of a settlement
4. The presence of low relief or low lands favours settlement unlike rugged relief and highlands which repel settlement of people
5. People also settled in places which are seats of government as social amenities and other facilities are often provided in such areas.

STEP II:

TYPES OF SETTLEMENT

There are two types of settlements. These are: (a) Rural settlements (b) Urban settlements

(a)          Rural Settlement

i. A rural settlement is a relatively small area with socially homogenous people that know one another

ii. It could be nucleated, dispersed or linear

iii. They have people with the same cultural background and language

iv. They have few social amenities and the life style is important

v. They are normally involved in primary activities such as farming, fishing and lumbering

Types of Rural Settlement

There are three types of rural settlement. These are:

1. *Homestead*: this is one family residence. These are disperse settlement which are separated from one another by bushes or by geographical barriers and contain few people with little opportunity for social gathering
2. *Hamlet*: this settlement may be nucleated with few houses, usually less than hundred with many people living in them
3. *Village*: this is a large nucleated rural settlement formed from the combination of several hamlets. It contains several hundred or thousands of people with limited services

Functions of Rural Settlement

1. Agriculture is usually the main occupation of rural dwellers, leading o the production of abundant food
2. Most rural areas with forest engage in lumbering activities
3. There are few commercial activities, mostly in petty trades, using their small shops and local markets
4. Most rural areas with rivers are also involved in fishing
5. Rural areas with churches and mosques are involved in religious activities.

(b)    Urban Settlement

i. An urban settlement is relatively large, densely populated settlement with socially heterogeneous people who do not know one another

ii. They are usually compact in nature

iii. They have nucleated settlement

Iv.There is presence of developed infrastructure

v. They are usually well built areas

vi. They have centers of innovation and ideas

Vii.They are made of many building; thousands of people live in them

Types of urban settlement

There are four main types of urban settlement and these are:

1. Town: it has several thousands of people
2. City: this is a large town with greater number of people than town
3. Conurbation: this is made up of several towns joined together but, each town still maintains its identity
4. Megalopolis: this is the largest type of urban settlement made up of large cities with several millions of people

Functions of urban settlement

1. Urban centers are involved in the manufacturing of finished goods
2. The presence of markets and banks enables urban dwellers t engage in commercial activities
3. Most urban centers are the seats of government
4. Urban settlements are centers for the establishment of universities, polytechnic, schools, churches, mosques and hotels
5. Where minerals are present in some towns, the inhabitant tend to perform mining function

STEPIII

CLASSIFICATION OF SETTLEMENT ACCORDING TO PATTERN OR SHAPE.

The pattern or shape of settlement refers to the arrangement of buildings. There are three main patterns of settlement. These are dispersed, nucleated linear and isolated settlements

1. Dispersed (Scattered) Settlements

Characteristics

1. The buildings are scattered or far from each other
2. t has few social amenities
3. It has a feature of rural settlement
4. Distinct boundaries separate one family land from another
5. Behind the buildings, there are family parcels of land
6. Individual compounds are widely spread from one another.

Reasons for Dispersed settlement

1. The quest for a quiet environment
2. Distinctiveness of family land
3. Reduction in the level of conflict
4. The need to have enough land

2. Linear Settlement

Characteristics

1. The buildings are located along the routes
2. Where two or more routes e.g roads, railways, a sub-linear settlement called nodal settlement is formed
3. Gardens are located behind houses
4. Farmlands are also located behind houses
5. It could be several kilometers in length

Reasons for linear settlements

1. There is need to be near transport network
2. For easy accessibility to other areas
3. The need to transport farm produce to markets
4. Reduction in transport cost due to nearness to road
5. Nucleated or Dense settlement

Characteristics

1. The building are very close to each other
2. It has social amenities
3. It has feature of urban settlement
4. There is an obvious center called nucleus
5. Farmland are located outside the settlement
6. The level of interaction between the inhabitants is very high

Reasons for Nucleated settlement

1. There is need to maintain social ties
2. There is easy communication
3. The need for defense
4. There is commercial development
5. There is highly developed organization with well defined leadership structure.

3. Isolated Settlement

Characteristics

1. It consists of a single house or few houses
2. The level of interaction is very low
3. Farmlands are high
4. The houses are very far from each other
5. The area is poorly connected with roads

Reasons for isolated settlements

1. Availability of vast agriculture
2. Absence of social cohesion
3. Presence of wealthy landlords
4. There is special pattern of agriculture

ASSESSMENT

1. Define settlement.
2. What are some of the favourable conditions for siting a settlement?
3. What are the factors affecting the growth of a settlement?
4. What are the types of settlement?
5. What are the properties of rural settlements?
6. What are the types of rural settlements?
7. What are the functions of rural settlements?
8. What are the properties of urban settlements?
9. What are the reasons for nucleated settlements?
10. What are the three main patterns of settlements?