



Simplified Settlement Geography



SIMPLIFIED SETTLEMENT GEOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHY OPTIONAL SPECIAL

A COMPREHENSIVE WORK
FOR UPSC CSE
AND OTHER COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS

 **TheGeoecologist**

BASED ON YOUTUBE LECTURES BY
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Krishnanand, Founder and Director at ‘TheGeoecologist’ is highly proficient scholar in the field of research and academics in Geography and environment. He graduated from Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, University of Delhi. He was awarded **“best student of the college across all disciplines”** in 2009 and **“Gold medal”** in 2010. He completed his Ph.D from Department of Geography, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi. **He has a teaching experience of over a decade in the field of Geography for UPSC, State PCS , UGC NET and other competitive examinations.**

He is an avid field researcher and photographer with two Geographical Documentaries on YouTube Channel- TheGeoecologist, to his credit - **Exploring Ladakh- A Geoecological Perspective and Spiti Valley Project.** His areas of interest include Geomorphology, Geoecology, Geotourism, Environmental Geography, Geodiversity, Geomorphosites, Fossil park, Geoparks, Field Work and Documentary Making in Geography, Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS) and GPS. **He has published three books and six articles at National and International levels.**

This E-book by Dr. Krishnanand is a Simplified Compilation on Settlement Geography along with detailed explanations available through his YouTube lectures of the same.



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Settlement Geography is the branch of Human Geography i.e. is the study of human land, water and resource use, population density patterns, and settlement growth. It is essential to urban planning and urban landscape. Group of people living together forms a settlement. Settlement geography studies these villages, towns, etc. and also the types of relationships they generate.

Settlement clusters or agglomerations may vary in size from a small hamlet and village to metropolis , mega city and megalopolis , and in occupational structure and functional mix from predominantly agricultural and other primary productions to secondary, tertiary and quaternary activities and in their sphere of influence from a village and locality to macro regions, sometimes of supra - national dimension. In other words it can be understood as, the branch of geographical knowledge concerned with the study of patterns and variation in the spatial distribution of settlement features and their groupings on all scales in the present as well as in the past and future to come.

This E-book aims to facilitate the young and budding **UPSC CSE aspirants** as well as geographers and research scholars especially in the field of geographical studies to understand the conceptual framework of the subject matter of ***Settlement Geography***.

Dr. Krishnanand

Chapter 1

Nature and Scope of Settlement Geography

INTRODUCTION TO SETTLEMENT GEOGRAPHY

A **human settlement** can be defined as a **collection** (collective perspective or systems approach) of human-made structures, put up with the intention of habitation or social/economic use, which forms a spatial unit for human interaction.

In order to study any settlement we need to consider following:

- ❖ **Morphology**
- ❖ **Network system**
- ❖ **Vertical view**
- ❖ **Plan outlay**
- ❖ **Individual components(buildings)**
- ❖ **Architecture**
- ❖ **Socio-economic condition**
- ❖ **Physical location**

Hence its an interdisciplinary discipline, that integrates Economics, Sociology and Architecture (**synthesis approach**)

A Geographer adds spatial dimension to it-- “SPACE” (location, area, region)

Hence, making it **Settlement Geography**.



SETTLEMENT GEOGRAPHY

THE STUDY OF SETTLEMENTS DEMAND BASIC KNOWLEDGE OF **GEOGRAPHY, ECONOMIC PRINCIPLES, SOCIOLOGY AND HISTORY.**

FOR EXAMPLE,

- ✓ A **sociologist identifies** ethnic segregation within a city, **geographers map it**
- ✓ An **economist talks about market size**, hinterland or urban land values, but a **geographer physically identifies the location and locational advantage**

EVOLUTION OF SETTLEMENT GEOGRAPHY

In **Classical Period** (Humboldt and Ritter's era.... 19th Century)...

emphasis was on :

- **Mathematical geography**
- **Physical Geography**
- **Historical- Political Geography**

No micro level study was done...In 20th Century **new definitions came like..**

...Geography as study of human ecology....

...Geography as science of relation...etc

In first half of 20th Century, **the French , Scottish, Germans and American** school of thought contributed towards development of the concepts of settlement geography...

- ❖ *Vidal de la blache* “Genere di vie.... milieu”. (1916)
- ❖ Jean Brunhes book “ *Human Geography*” there was a section on settlements called “ **the unproductive occupation of soil**”
- ❖ Patrick Geddes in his 1915 book *Cities in Evolution* , coined the term **Megalopolis** in 1916. He also introduced the concept of "region" to architecture and planning and coined the term "**Conurbation**"
- ❖ Later **Christaller’s Central Place Theory** and **Lochian** Model paved way for further studies along side **Burgess, Homer Hoyt, Ullman, Chauncy D Harris** and others

1960s – QUANTITATIVE REVOLUTION IN GEOGRAPHY, brought the usage of advance statistics in the study of settlements.

Referring to **Stone (1960)**, settlement geography is the description and analysis of the distribution of buildings by which people attach themselves to the land

Jordan (1966) emphasizes that settlement geography not exclusively investigates the distributions, but even more the structures, processes and interactions between settlements and its environment (such as soil, geomorphology, economy or society), which produce them.

LOCATIONAL ANALYSIS AND SETTLEMENT GEOGRAPHY (1960s)

- Locational Analysis is an approach to human geography that **focuses on the spatial arrangement of the phenomenon**. e.g. **Weber's Industrial Location Model** for profit maximization, **Von Thunen's agricultural location**, **Central Place theory** etc
- According to **Bunge**, Geography is the '**Science of Locations**' as described in his book **Theoretical Geography (1966)**.
- **Haggett** in his book, **Locational Analysis in Human Geography (1965)**, appealed to adopt the geometrical tradition to explain the order, location order, and patterns in Human Geography
e.g. **Locational Triangle Model** uses a Geometrical approach



Peter Haggett

Other Geographers – Morril, Col, Chorley, Cox, Harvey, Johnston, etc

Morril in his book, **The Spatial Organization of Society**, argued that **people seek to maximize spatial interaction at minimum cost** and so bring related activities into proximity, and the result is that human society is surprisingly alike from one place to another.