

Sociology and Human Settlement Patterns

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Abstract:

The **settlement patterns** were greatly influenced by their **tradition** due to their beliefs, customs, culture and finding of their survival needs. The protection against war and wild animals greatly influence the settlement pattern. Settlement never challenge physical constraints that imposed by nature, particularly the climate or topography in a way that it was harmoniously merged with their surroundings.

Keywords: Tradition, Settlement pattern, Culture, Tribal settlement, Traditional settlement, Traditional beliefs.

Introduction:

A **tradition** is a belief or behaviour passed down within a group or society with symbolic meaning or special significance with origins in the past. The handing down of statements, beliefs, legends, customs, information, etc., from generation to generation.

Tradition exist mainly among tribal region. A tribe is a distinct people, dependent on their land for their livelihood, who are largely self-sufficient, and not integrated into the national society. So, tribal **settlement pattern** are mainly based on their **tradition** and cultures.

Discussions:

Marilyn Lewry: Rural **settlement patterns** in Saskatchewan have been greatly influenced by the policies and practices to promote the spread of agriculture. One way to lessen the resulting isolation was for neighbours to locate farmsteads on adjacent corners of land, creating a cluster of homes sometimes referred to as a four-corner hamlet. Not all rural settlement in the province is dispersed. Orientation of buildings is governed by tradition: housing and communal kitchen are typically arranged in a north-south direction, while secular buildings such as barns are oriented east-west. Rural settlement patterns today are greatly influenced by economic forces that have encouraged a steady increase in farm size and a reduction in the farm population. As more farmers depend on off-farm work for survival, many no longer reside on their land. At the same time, the attractions of rural living have encouraged the development of hobby-farms around larger urban centres. Rural settlement patterns, while still reflecting earlier influences, continue to respond to the shifting social and economic conditions.

Noor Aimran Samsudin: Typologies of the traditional can be classified in few forms based on the arrangement of the house, the location of the settlement, the way of settlement growing and the local economy. The settlement has been believed can fulfil social needs of residents by its unique

physical design attribute. It can enhance social relations among the settlers with it opened environment living concept. social characteristic like how settlers interact with neighbours, where they children plays and how they optimise their surrounding spaces in this arrangement, were a result from a certain physical design attribute concept that exist in the settlement pattern. The orientation of the houses, house compound and boundaries, the communal space and roads and informal trail networking in this settlement encouraged high possibility and opportunity for local community interact to each other's freely supported by socio-cultural element like norms, believe and others non-written laws. Concentrated forms or cluster were an ideal arrangement in the traditional settlement pattern which believe can enhance social relations within the neighbours. Houses that arranged facing to each other encourage public surveillance indirectly create a safe living environment and a sense of belonging. This totally will enhance the awareness upon the surroundings among the neighbourhood.

Respati Wikantiyoso: The biggest challenge of the settlements today is in creating an environment which can be accommodate social interaction and social activities of the communities. The concept of harmony in settlement planning is important with respect to anticipation of urban social problems such as; social disintegration, social congestion, social crimes etc. Traditional settlements have specific pattern and unique city structures. Physically, the spatial pattern of traditional settlement (harmony pattern) is one that can be stimulate the social interaction activities of community. It is a potential concept that can be adapted as a new approach for the

sustainable development of the future liveable cities.

Negi Mohita: Pattern of settlement is defined as the relationship between one house or building to another. It can be identified by reading and observing a local scale map. The patterns of settlement deals with compact and semi-compact only, as dispersed has its own shape. The socio cultural factors like caste structure or a functional need of people has a close bearing on its shape and size.

The rural settlements are classified under following patterns: Rectangular, Linear, Circular, Semi-circular, Star-like, Triangular, and Nebular Pattern. The settlements is linear in valleys and mountainous areas, rectangular in fertile plains, circular near the lakes and ponds, triangular at cross roads and in exceptional cases it resembles the nebular form and on river terraces it is star-type.

David J Wishart: The pioneer settlement process divided the grasslands of North America into a vast checkerboard where squares were separated by section lines, which became roads, field divisions, county lines, and even state lines. The homesteaders flowed into the Great Plains from a wide variety of origins. Native born Americans moved in generally latitudinal directions from former homes in the eastern United States into the Plains. The population geography was diversified by settlers from Europe. In most areas, homesteaders in the nineteenth century located on dispersed farms of a quarter-section. There were occasional interspersed

rural schools, churches, and post offices. Initial building construction often utilized native sod, since lumber was not available. Barbed wire fences were used to divide fields because rails were not available either. Sod homes were often replaced by relatively expensive lumber construction as soon as railroads and improved finances made it possible.

The initial village pattern consisted of service centres at critical stream fords and at the intersections of wagon and horse trails. As railroad expansion spread a vast web of iron rails across the Plains, new sites emerged, since steam locomotives required water every eight to ten miles. These watering spots became the nuclei from which permanent villages, towns, or cities emerged. Here sprouted railroad depots, water towers, grain elevators, stockyards, stores, schools, and churches— facilities to enable the dispersed homestead farmers to obtain their supplies, market their products, and provide for their basic living needs. Early communities vied with each other for the right to be the county seat, and occasionally heated battles occurred. Such a role was perceived as essential if a place was to become dominant in the future urban hierarchy. As the twentieth century progressed, depression and dust bowl conditions modified the settlement pattern, initiating significant changes that continue to the present. Rural free mail delivery led to the discontinuance of many of the open-country post offices. Farm consolidation led to the abandonment of many section-line roads, and operations that were originally farms became ranches. Removal of much of the rural population led to the consolidation of rural schools and churches. The advent of larger railroad steam engines, and then of diesel engines, decreased the need for water-tower villages—only the

grain elevator survives in many diminished places. Additionally, improved highways and the use of trucks doomed many of the branch railroads and the villages they served. The present settlement pattern of the Great Plains reflects this consolidation process and some unique situations. As the farm population consolidated, the need for service centres declined and a few strategically located centres emerged as the dominant centres. This pattern reflects to some extent the division of the Plains into irrigated and non-irrigated areas, with denser settlement patterns in the irrigated oases of the river valleys and High Plains Aquifer.

Mohan N. Shrestha: The Kathmandu Valley is the cultural hearth of Nepal. The cultural landscape that developed here during the past 2100 years remained unique in many respects from that found in neighbouring Asian countries. The scale and arrangement of open space, the distribution of temples and houses and the location of cremation sites and rest houses all indicated an understanding of visual response to settlement design and the importance of social interaction. The continuous facade of lavishly carved wooden windows on backgrounds of red brick walls provided unique pictures of streets and remained as visual testimony of the high level of artistic skill and of the affluent economic conditions reached by the people of the Kathmandu Valley during the Malla Period. Much of this cultural development slowed down with the beginning of the present Shaha dynasty. Traditional buildings have been replaced by incongruous tall buildings with little emphasis on artistic taste. Some work on historical preservation has been underway.

But, in view of the fast demographic changes and pseudo-modernization of the valley, how much of these architectural treasures can be preserved is still a matter of conjecture.

Mohammed Abdullah Eben Saleh:

Settlements such as Alckas were not characterized by major institutional structures, and because there existed no detailed written record of planning decisions and policies related to them, that there was not much to be gained from the study of their urban form. In fact, the situation is quite the reverse. As Alckas reveals, such traditional Muslim settlements were characterized by highly developed systems of physical form, governed by well-developed institutions for managing both the built and natural environments. Ironically, it is the very crystalline nature of this system that has created problems today. Saudi Arabia's political unification and economic modernization have cut away the basis from this highly elaborated system, and the inability to adapt to this discontinuity has rendered obsolete age-old physical development patterns. The resulting vacuum in local planning and design may be filled only with the development of a new, inclusive form of cultural ideal. Fortunately, Muslim urbanism offers hope that such an outcome will emerge, because it is based largely on efforts at reconciliation with historical antecedents.

A survey of several settlements of the southwest of Saudi Arabia was undertaken, looking at the irregular built forms of several traditional settlements in order to extract an urban pattern or a rationale from what may appear as capricious disorder.

The investigation revealed that these built forms emerged from a complex mix of considerations, including climate, security, economic, political, socio-cultural factors and religious precepts. The study begins with an examination of the arrangement of the settlements and shows that this evolves largely from traditions which provide a foundation for the underlying structure of the built environment. By understanding this foundation, one can observe how the transformation adapts or assimilates change in the various physical components. In order to maintain a built environment which is responsive to the needs of its residents in a rapidly changing society like Saudi Arabia, a balance between modernization and traditional values is required. The examples in the survey hold valuable lessons for contemporary planners, urban designers and architects hoping to achieve a similar balance.

Catherine Linard: The spatial distribution of populations and settlements across a country and their interconnectivity and accessibility from urban areas are important for delivering healthcare, distributing resources and economic development. However, existing spatially explicit population data across Africa are generally based on outdated, low resolution input demographic data, and provide insufficient detail to quantify rural settlement patterns and, thus, accurately measure population concentration and accessibility. Here we outline approaches to developing a new high resolution population distribution dataset for Africa and analyse rural accessibility to population centers. Contemporary population count data were combined with detailed satellite-derived settlement extents to map population

distributions across Africa at a finer spatial resolution than ever before. Substantial heterogeneity in settlement patterns, population concentration and spatial accessibility to major population centres is exhibited across the continent.

Agnieszka Nowak and Natalia Tokarczyk:

The traditional character of Hutsul villages and their spatial development has been changing slowly but inevitably over the course of time. Historically, single farmsteads were built separately and were mostly self-sufficient, the distance between them being considerable. Nowadays, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the economic transformation brought along many changes, among these the fact that depopulation is taking place and alterations in spatial development are occurring again. The localisation of secluded farmsteads, situated far away from each other is no longer as important as it used to be. Reasons for the abandonment of farmsteads were examined, and factors such as altitude, distance from the village centre and the administration affiliation were taken into account. Land use changes were analysed in relation to the slope inclination. Some of the most important factors influencing the intensity and direction of these processes are high prices of land, improvement in living conditions, better access to services and the general 'westernisation' of lifestyles. The depopulation rate has been seen to increase in correlation with the rising altitude and distance from the village centre. On the other hand, there was no unambiguous link between the abandonment of farmsteads and administration affiliation. Mowed areas were localised on the slopes with the smallest inclination. Animal breeding has

become unprofitable due to a lack in demand and low product prices, which has led to an increasing number of meadows and pastures lying fallow.

Conclusion:

The **settlement patterns** are varied from different places to different traditions and cultures. Most of the settlement patterns are formed to meet the requirements of the survival. Traditions and culture plays an important role in settling to a new place. The geographically informed person must understand the varying forms of human settlements in terms of their size, composition, location, arrangement, organization, function, and history. People seldom live in isolation. Instead, they live in clusters ranging from small villages with hundreds of people to megacities with tens of millions of people. The organized groupings of human habitation are the intense focus of most aspects of human life: economic activities, transportation systems, communications media, political and administrative systems, education, culture, and entertainment.

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