

Rural Settlement Pattern of Shrigonda Tahsil: A Geographical Study

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Abstract:

As a rural settlement is primarily an agricultural workshop, any change in the agricultural landscape is bound to radiate modifications in the character and distribution of settlements. The shape and arrangement are often in conformity with the nature of work and agricultural techniques. The evolution of rural settlements in Shrigonda tahsil can be traced back to the earliest organized settlement of men in the region. But the first settlers have hardly left any actual record of their habitation. The relics of the implements used by them at some places can be helpful in forming rudimentary ideas of their lives. Many villages in Shrigonda tahsil grew up along the network of the communications system. The opening of railway stations and creation of cross roads gave rise to new hamlets, which developed with the advancement of time and needs of the inhabitants. Shops were attracted to such centres and they gradually developed into rural trading centres. Kasti settlement in Kasti circle is fast developing into an important urban center is an example of this type. During recent periods, the caste factor has given rise to some of the villages in Shrigonda tahsil. Initially the persons of one caste settled at a place and accordingly the people of that specific caste are larger in population size. Kolgaon and Mundhekarwadi are the settlements of this type.

Keywords: Rural Settlement, Pattern.

Introduction:

Wherever in rural areas the land is suitable having adequate water supply, relatively higher and slopy ground free from floods, and a fertile agricultural land surrounding this site, settlements such as a hamlet or village are attracted to it. The origin of several villages in Shrigonda tahsil is due to this reason. These factors also determine the morphometric development of rural settlements in the region.

The present structure and character of a rural settlement can be properly comprehended by knowing the complex cultural background evolved with the origin of settlement. The process of early settling led to the union of families into villages. The fields once cleared laboriously were to be kept cleared. This demarcation of fields from habitation developed a sense of integrated community life comprising several families (Ahmad 1954:33). The idea of collective security and defense against different kinds of adverse and inclement forces further strengthened the process of cohesion among families.

The settling of men in the clearings of dense forests may be regarded as the precursor of rural settlements. These early habitants were constantly exposed to the hazards of life and belongings from the plundering hordes of tribes and from wild animals too. The instinct to combat the danger from surrounding tribes and the need of collectivity and cooperation in the construction of building, village wells, and tanks for irrigation, etc. brought people closer and closer. In the areas where wandering tribes had settled down, the mere tribal instinct of association induced stimulus to form compact settlements (Mandal 1979: 91).

These settlements originated relatively on high sites amid fertile agricultural areas where water supply was plentiful and life could be secure. They were, however, unplanned village with poor transport facilities. For this reason, they were often close to river courses. Thus, settlements with the emergence of permanent agriculture were established.

The process of division of labour between different classes of inhabitants according to their capabilities led to the division of the village on the basis of *Varnas*. Thus came into existence the professional settlements as distinct from the ones inhabited by general agricultural communities. As the time went by the *Varnas* were established into castes. The caste system bred intolerance of people gradually came to be settled in separate *wadis* or *vastis*. These *wadis* or *vastis* are the origin of cluster or hamlet type settlements (*Ibid*).

Study Area:

Ahmednagar district has 14 Talukas. The district has 1581 villages out of which 2 villages are deserted. In Ahmednagar district Shrigonda tahsil is selected as a study region. Shrigonda is located south west part of district. It lies between $18^{\circ} 21' 18''$ N to $18^{\circ} 54' 07''$ N latitude and $74^{\circ} 23' 11''$ E to $74^{\circ} 56' 40''$ E longitude. The total geographical area of tahsil is 1605.61 sq. Km which contributes 9.22 per cent of the district. According to 2011 census, the total population of tahsil was 284841 and it consist 114 villages.

Aims and Objectives:

The following are the aims and objectives of the present research work.

- i) To study the pattern of rural settlements.

Hypothesis:

The present study proceeds to examine the following hypothesis:

1. The rural settlements of Shrigonda tahsil depend upon the physical and human factors in respect to pattern.

Database and Methodology:

For the present research work data has been collected through both the sources primary and secondary. Primary data has been collected through questionnaires, interview methods, and observations. Secondary data has been collected from district census hand book, district statistical abstract, Gram Panchayat Office, Tahsil, Panchayat Samiti Office, Zilla Parishad Office different books, journals, internet and topographical sheets. The primary and secondary data thus collected has been processed. The processed data has been presented in the form of table, graphs, diagrams and maps.

Patterns of Rural Settlement:

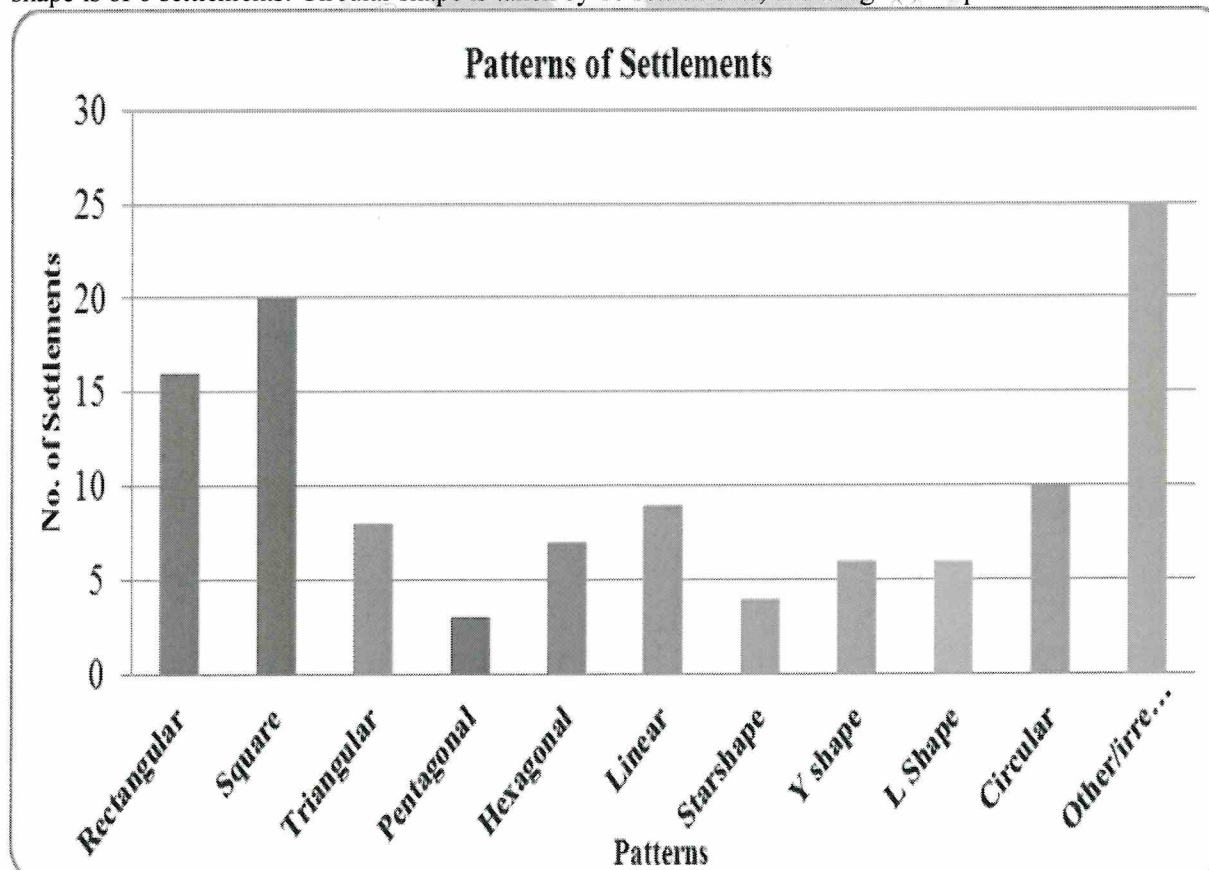
Rural Settlements in Shrigonda tahsil are studied with the help of patterns they are shaped with. The settlements are of 11 different patterns. They are – rectangular, square, triangular, pentagonal, hexagonal, linear, starshape, Y shape, L shape, circular and irregular.

Table No. 1: Patterns of Rural Settlements

Sr. No	Patterns of Settlements	No of Settlements	Percentage
1	Rectangular	16	14.06
2	Square	20	17.53
3	Triangular	8	7.08
4	Pentagonal	3	2.63
5	Hexagonal	7	6.14
6	Linear	9	7.87
7	Starshape	4	3.5
8	Y shape	6	5.26
9	L Shape	6	5.26
10	Circular	10	8.77
11	Other/irregular	25	21.9
Total		114	100

Source: Compiled by the Researcher.

It is observed that in Shrigonda 16 settlements are of rectangular shape, 20 settlements are of square shape. Triangular shape is of 8 settlements. 3 settlements are of pentagonal type. 7 settlements are of hexagonal shape. 9 settlements are of linear shape. Starshape is of 4 settlements. Y shape is of 6 settlements. L shape is of 6 settlements. Circular shape is taken by 10 settlements, and irregular shape is of 25 settlements.



Circlewise Patterns of Rural Settlements

There are sixteen patterns of settlements observed in Shrigonda tahsil. Their circlewise distribution is as follows:

Table No. 2: Circle wise Patterns of Rural Settlements

Sr. No	Circle	Patterns of Rural Settlements											Total
		Rect angular	Square	Tri angular	Pentagonal	Hexagonal	Linear	Star shape	Y Shape	L Shape	Circular	Irregular	
1	Shrigonda	2	4	1	2	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	19
2	Pedgaon	2	2	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	0	3	15
3	Kasti	1	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	4	12
4	Chimbhale	3	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	4	12
5	Belwandi	0	2	1	0	1	3	0	0	1	2	1	11
6	Deodaithan	7	3	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	16
7	Mandavgan	0	4	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	2	2	13
8	Kolgaon	1	3	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	3	5	16
Total		16	20	8	3	7	9	4	6	6	10	25	114

Source: Compiled by the researcher.

In Pedgaon circle out of 15 settlements, 2 settlements Kansewadi and Arvi are of rectangular shape. 2 settlements namely Shedgaon and Kavtha are square in its structure. 2 settlements – Pedgaon and Mundhekarwadi are linear shaped. Settlements Hiradgaon and Taklikadevalit are of starshaped. Ajnuj and Chikhalthanwadi are of Y shaped. Anandwadi and Angare are of L shaped whereas Shipalkarwadi, Chandgaon and Adhorewadi are of irregular pattern.

Kasti circle has total 12 settlements out of which Janglewadi settlement is of rectangular pattern. 2 settlements Dokraimala and Gar are of square type. Triangular shaped settlements are Wangdari and Nimgaon Khalu. Limpangaon settlement is of circular in its shape and Kasti settlement is hexagonal in its pattern. Domalewadi settlement is of linear in its pattern. 4 settlements – Sangvi Dumala, Masalwadi, Mhatarpimpri and Chormalewadi are of irregular structure.

Chimbhale circle includes 12 settlements. These settlements differ in their pattern. 3 settlements namely Hangewadi, Loni Vyanknath are Yelpane rectangular in its structure. Madhewadgaon is the square shaped settlement. Mahadeowadi and Poliwadi are triangular shaped settlements. Bori and Shirasgaon Bodkha are of hexagonal and linear shaped settlements respectively. Chimbhale, Parvatwadi, Pisore Bk and Baburdi are the settlements of irregular type.

Belwandi circle has total 11 settlements. Two of them are square in its shape. They are Pimpri Kolandar and Pimpalgaon Pisa. Kondegavhan settlement is triangular in its structure. Ghargaon settlement is of hexagonal type. Erandoli, Kharatwadi and Ghotvi are linear in its shape. Ukkadgaon settlement is L shaped, Belwandi Bk and Pargaon Sudrik are circular in its pattern and Khetmalaswadi is of irregular pattern.

Deodaithan circle has total 16 settlements. 7 of them are rectangular in its shape. They are – Gavhanewadi, Arangaon Dumala, Dhawalgaon, Sarola Somwanshi, Mhase, Wadgaon Shindodi and Deodaithan. 3 settlements Nimbvi, Koregavhan and Raygavhan are square shaped and Math settlement is of triangular in its structure. 2 settlements – Mengalwadi and Yevati are Y shaped. Danewadi and Rajapur settlements are circular in its structure. Hingni Dumala settlement is irregular in its pattern.

Mandavgan circle has 13 settlements. 4 of them namely Taradgavhan, Chavarsangvi, Thitesangvi and Ruikhel are of square shaped. Khandgaon is triangular in its structure. Banpimpri, Ghogargaon, Mandavgan and Wadghul settlements are pentagonal, hexagonal, linear and L shaped in their shape respectively. Mahandulwadi and Kamthi settlements are circular in its structure and 2 settlements – Pisore Khand and Bangarde are irregular in its pattern.

Kolgaon circle has 16 settlements. Suregaon settlement is rectangular in its arrangement. Ukkalgaon, Ghutewadi and Chikhali are of square pattern. Pandharewadi, Kothul, Lagadwadi and Bhapkarwadi are linear, starshaped L shaped, Y shaped settlements respectively. 3 settlements Kolgaon, Chamburdi and Koregaon are circular in their patterns. 5 settlements namely Vithekarwadi, Mungusgaon, Visapur, Bhangaon and Dorje are of irregular pattern.

Conclusions:

In Shrigonda circle among 19 settlements, 2 settlements Kokangaon and Velu are of rectangular figure. 4 settlements namely Bhingankhalsa, Bhingan Dumala, Ghugalwadgaon and Takli Lonar are square in its shape. 1 settlement, Mahadeowadi, is of triangular pattern. 2 settlements Wadali and Kosegavan are of

pentagonal in its structure. 3 settlements - Tandli Dumala, Deulgaon, Ghodegaon are of hexagonal type. 2 settlements Dokewadi and Gavhanewadi are of linear shaped. And the settlements Adhalgaon, Mahadeowadi, Bhavadi, Belwandi Kothar and Chorachiwadi are of starshaped, Y shaped, L shaped, circular and irregular pattern respectively.

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