

Settlement pattern of the scheduled castes

Kumar Madhusudan

NET, Research Scholar
Department of Geography,
J.P.U Chapra, Bihar.

Settlement geography forms an integral part of human geography. The term settlement means in geography to settle down in a particular place with an occupied residential facility to stop wandering meaning thereby to stop nomadism and start a new life style with other member of the family on a particular chunk of land in a specific definite occupied human dwelling. This permanent and occupied human dwelling is must for a settlement.

Evolution of the scheduled caste settlement

Concrete and authentic information regarding settlements based on caste and classes are not available on the basis of some historical evidences like legends and some description in Epics and religious books, however the ideas about the evaluation and types of settlement of early period have been provided. Thus the concept of settlement has taken thousand and thousand of years for its growth and development and is the result of a long span of time.

A Pre-Historic Account :-

The pre-historic period has been divided into two major parts :-

- (a) Paleolithic age (Old stone age)
- (b) Neolithic age (New stone age)

The basis of such division is the tools and weapons used by the them or contemporary primitive tribes of the pre-historic people. It was not until the Paleolithic age that we have any trace and concept of a settlement. The primitives then used to live in a cave and subsisted on fruit, nuts and meat of the animals of the jungle or forest resource collected by them during the Neolithic age however some traces of them

settlement are found the primitives were scattered all over India except only the southern part of the present Kaveri river. These people were fully accounted with the concept of settlement and are of constructing houses and cort tracks. They used above cave as well as artificial habitation made with twinges and leaves of the trees and other types and wood for their protection from natural calamities as well as from danger of wild animals. The Paleolithic primitives thus were not acquainted with the concept and art of settlements.

There was no trace of Verna and caste before the Rig-Vedic period. Before advent of the Aryans the entire region comprising the present India, Pakistan, Bangladesh was under the control of the non Aryans there non-Aryans were the original in habitants of the regions and how they called themselves as DRAVIRAS meaning hereby as son of the land or Dhartiputra, But after lapse of certain time the Aryans captured most of the areas and made their settlement near the important rivers of the regions as for example the settlement. The Aryans were far distinguished in their complexion, made of life, culture, and diolects. They were fair in complexion compared to non-Aryans who were original in habitants of the regions and were dark in complexion the Aryans at last defeated non-Aryans and established their sovereignty over the entire region and spared their culture. The non-anyone were made servants or Das and treated badly by the Aryans. They were also compelled to live away from Aryan's settlement. In this way the concept of settlement of the non-Aryans for away from the main village come into being.

Historic Period :-

The Vedic period is divided in two major divisions Rig Vedic and later Vedic period. A lot of examples have been given in Vedic literature regarding the settlement history of the shudra's settlement and their socio economic condition are clearly mentioned in Vedic literature. Thousands of slokas and verses Justify not only their poor and degraded socio economic conditions, But also their poor settlement patterns outside the Aryan's settlements.

Purus – Shukte is the last or 10th Mandal of the Rig-Veda in which there is mention of four Varma this the first Vedic literature in which we find that the non Aryans of the Pre-Vedic period are later on known as shudras or Das, Dasyu, Asur, Pichash and Rakshas, Chandelles etc. The traces of their settlement ants are also found located outside the main habitation of the other there Varna (DWIYAS) MANUSMRITI apparently shows that the settlement of the chandels and swapachas would be out of the village and their health would be dog, pig and donkeys. The shudras has no right to visit frequently the settlements occupied by the upper varnas, virtually their entry was prohibited in the villages of the three varnas.

Thus it is obvious that Manu while framing and formulating Hindu laws fabricated thousand or rules separating the way of life and settlements of the shudras within the main settlements or in the interior Part of the village the shudras were supposed to live under the trees in Graveyard in hilly areas and in gardens.

In the medieval period no aberious changes took place in the pattern of settlement of the shudras. In modern period some exception are found, specially in urban areas here the concept of cast does not play and important role, But even in the modern period these is hold of Manu Smriti and other religious texts in rural areas, some scheduled casted settlement like Chamar are found in different forms. In certain areas settlements of the Chamars are found near the settlement of the upper castes but in the most of cases the Chamar occupy areas outside the village. The first category of the Chamar settlement is found very rarely with some exceptions. The second category gives a twin-village character to the rural areas, such settlements are also named after the dominating cast like Dusadh Tola, Chamar Tola, Dhobi Tola, Pasi Tola, Dom Tola etc. However we know about the Aryans went they brought their slaves also with them. They had two types of Slaves :-

- (a) Dometic Slaves and
- (b) Non-Domestic Slaves

The settlement of domestic servants was near the settlement of the Aryans. Non-domestic servants were those who come from the untouchable groups, engaged in degraded occupation. In all the sample village the settlement of the SC is in the form of hamlet known as Tola. These are found on any one side of the main village. The bamer of being the SC Tola in the south of the main village is not an important fact in this region, the upper caste people do not allow the SC to construct their house adjacent to formers houses.

Growth Diffusion and Distribution of Settlements :-

The growth and expansion or diffusion of any settlement depends on the characteristics of the site for example any settlement situated by site of a railway line rives bank and road, expands in a linear way almost parallel to the road railway or the river such a diffusion takes place in natural form, But in course of time settlements also expand in relatively less suitable area by artificial development of site conditions, there fire concerns two aspects :-

- (a) Physical features of site and
- (b) Cultural features of site

In physical features mainly the natural aspects of topography is considered. It varies depending upon the terrain characteristics like the mountainous areas or plain areas or coastal areas or other topographic areas. Among cultural features the role of road, railways, canals, wells, temples, forts, churches, masques etc or settlement patterns is analysed. In addition to physical and cultural features the role of water supply, climate natural vegetation, fertility of soil, political factor etc we also taken into accounts.

References

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