

- In this type of village, the general living area is distinct and separated from the surrounding farms, barns and pastures.
- The **closely built-up area** and its intervening streets present some recognisable pattern or geometric shape
- Such settlements are **generally found in fertile alluvial plains and in the north eastern states**. Sometimes develop along river valleys.
- Communities are **closely knit and share common occupations**.



Clustered Settlements

Semi-Clustered (or fragmented) Settlements

- Semi-clustered or fragmented settlements may
- result from tendency of clustering in a
- restricted area of dispersed settlement.
- More often such a pattern may also result from
- segregation or fragmentation of a large compact village
- Such settlements are widespread in the **Gujarat plain and some parts of Rajasthan**.

Hamleted Settlements

- These units are locally called *panna, para, palli, nagla, dhani*, etc. in various parts of the country.
- This segmentation of a large village is often motivated by social and ethnic factors.

Dispersed (or isolated) Settlements

- Dispersed or isolated settlement pattern in India appears in the form of isolated huts or hamlets of few huts in remote jungles or on small hills with farms or pasture on the slopes.
- Many areas of **Meghalaya, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Kerala** have this type of settlement.
- A cultural feature such as a place of worship or a market, binds the settlement together.



Dispersed Settlement

Factors affecting the location of rural settlements are:

- **Land:** People choose to settle near fertile lands suitable for agriculture.
- **Upland:** Upland which is not prone to flooding was chosen to prevent damage to houses and loss of life.
- **Defense:** During the times of political instability, war, hostility of neighboring groups villages was built on defensive hills and islands.
- **Planned Settlements:** Sites that are not spontaneously chosen by villagers themselves, planned settlements are constructed by governments by providing shelter, water and other infrastructures on acquired lands. The **scheme of villagization in Ethiopia** and the canal colonies in Indira Gandhi canal command area in India are some of good examples.
- **Water Supply**
 - Usually rural settlements are located near water bodies such as rivers, lakes, and springs where water can be easily obtained.

