Chapter - VII

RURAL HOUSE TYPES AND BUILDING MATERIALS OF RURAL SETTLEMENTS

Chapter - VII

RURAL HOUSE TYPES AND BUILDING MATERIALS OF RURAL SETTLEMENTS

7.1 Introduction :

In the previous chapter an attempt has been made to study the types and pattern of rural settlements. The present chapter mainly aims to study the house types and building materials. Materials used for the construction of buildings are considered for the study of house types.

The village lay out is often irregular, although there is central street in each of the villages and with many rough and narrow lanes. Mostly the arrangement of the houses inside a village is very often confusing as they have resulted from a process of accretion in which the ideas of individuals and the availability of the land were the main factors taken into consideration.

Main occupations of the villagers are agriculture and related activities. The people practicing different occupations conform to respective castes i.e. distinct groups according to professions. The lower caste groups such as Mang, Mahar, and Chambhar etc. are located outside the village, often towards the south of the village. The high caste people such as Brahmin, Lingayat, Maratha, and Yelam etc. live in the central part of the village. The lower and the higher caste people have separate temples in their respective areas. Social and religious segregation is the dominant feature of the Indian village and such segregation is observed with local traits in the study region. The villages generally have open drains along the roads. Insanitation, caused due to drainage facility and filth is usual feature of every village.

7.2. House Types and Building Material :

Census of India (2001), defines a house as a building or part of a

building having part main entrance from the road or common courtyard or staircase etc. used or familiar as a separate unit. It may be occupied or vacant. It may be used for a residential or non-residential purpose or both.

Human beings entail houses as the fundamental need. Houses provide shelter and protection from intense of climate. Houses are the universal elements of the cultural landscape. The agglomeration of houses is responsible for cause of human settlements. Their character is related to the natural and cultural environment and to the cultural heritage of the people.

The Indian village bounded by agricultural lands have a typical type of morphology and functional setting. Spate and Learmonth (1967), while studying the Indian village from south India has stated that the aspects of village varies not only with the general regional setting with building materials and house types, but also with social factors and further pointed out that a geographical study of Indian house types would be a work vast in scope and rich in teaching. Social factors are not less important than environmental factors.

In Indian lots of geographers have worked on house types in different parts of the country. U. Singh (1955) correlated the number of plots, population, land owners and area under different crops and their affiliation with the house types. Roy (1961) followed Singh's ideology and studied the nature of soil, changes in land use and occupational characteristics infusing house types of the area. Bose (1967) worked on tribal villages. Mandal (1979), Kyastha (1972), Singh (1965), Sharma and Singh (1974), Tamaskar (1972) are the important persons, who have worked on various aspects of rural house types in India.

House types are governed by habit and cultural element of the time and form important aspects of cultural landscape. As such 'House' as a geographic element includes not only the dwelling house, ranging from

the small thatched hut to the most complicated massive mansions, but all other human structure, where people agglomerate, where their belonging and material goods are stored, where their social and cultural needs are fulfilled, all such places are included in the definition of house (Kumbhar, 1986).

Rural dwelling is one of the most basic elements in the cultural landscape and hold a significant place in the geographical analysis of settlements. They provide the evidence of multifaceted relations between man and his environment of the region which determines the nature of building material, roof and layout of house as pointed out by Bache (1926), Man has always tried to build his house with the nearest material at the hand. House is a symbol of the regionalism representing social, cultural and economical organization of its people. Man use cheapest local material for the construction of houses.

7.3 Impact of Physical Factors :

Physiography, forest, drainage pattern, soil and climate are the important factors which determine the nature and types of rural houses. Climate is significant factor touching the types of houses and building materials. Amount of rainfall, direction of wind, sunny sides of the house are other important factors which control the architecture and plans of rural houses. The amount of the rainfall indicates significant impact on the type of houses and building materials. The chief building material available in Latur District is soils, stone, grasses, reeds and limber. Houses are generally built on stony ground and, as near as possible, to the source of potable water.

Generally speaking the prevailing material of wall and roof in northern half of Latur and Ausa is mud and in southern half, the dominant material of wall is stone. The material of roof varies considerably. In Nilanga and Ahmedpur, chakur, Udgir, shirul Anantpal Tahsil the

dominant materials of wall and roof are leaves, grasses, reeds and bomboo. This is due to dense forest of Janwal .

The weather plays a significant role in the variation of house types. Houses are built considering the thermal regime, amount of rainfall and dominant direction of winds. The intensity of the hot summer in the entire region is responsible for the 'Dhaba type' of houses. They are characterized by mud walls and flat mud roof, which occur profusely in almost all part of the region. Since the amount of rainfall is moderate all over the region, therefore, normally sloping roofs are observed in the region. As the easterly and westerly workings are important in the consideration of the wind directions, windows and doors are essentially provided in these two directions.

7.4 Impact of Cultural Factors :

The socio economic conditions determine the regional difference in house types. There is a marked contrast between the houses of the upper and lower classes. In all parts of economically advanced rural societies houses are well built but the poor rural societies build only poor structures. The floor and wall of houses of poor people are plastered with cow dung and mud.

The houses are also on behalf of the cultural heritage of the past and survival of the tradition. This may be seen not only in the general wood. Houses are generally built on stony ground and, as near as possible, to the source of potable water.

Generally speaking the dominant material of wall and roof in northem half of Nilanga,Latur and Ausa is mud and in southern half, the dominant material of wall is stone. The material of roof varies considerably. In Deoni and Jalkot tahsil the dominant materials of wall and roof are leaves, grasses, reeds and bamboo. This is due to dense

forest of janwal. The weather plays a significant role in the variation of houses types. Houses are built considering the thermal regime, amount of rainfall and dominant direction of winds. The intensity of the hot summer in the entire region is responsible for the 'Dhaba type' of houses. They are characterized by mud walls and flat mud roof, which occur profusely in almost all part of the region. Since the amount of rainfall is moderate all over the region, therefore, normally sloping roofs are observed in the region. As the easterly and westerly components are important in the consideration of the wind directions, windows and doors are essentially provided in these two directions.

7.5 House Types According to Building Materials :

The availability of local building material is of great importance in the construction of houses. The use of clay, sand, bamboo, grass, reeds, timber, and stone are usually made for the construction of wall and roof of the houses. In respect of building material there is little variation in the area, since the type of building material available in the area is common.

This study is based on census of India, housing report and field visit. There are certain materials which are in universal use but some regional differences can still be noticed. On the basis of building materials, houses can be classified as follows.

a) Hosue built in grasses, leaves, reeds, wood and bamboos :

These types of houses are predominant in the forested area of Janwal, Laman Tanda, Ekambi Tanda, Dhangar wadi. Grasses, leaves, reeds, bamboo, and timber are available in plenty in this area and therefore, these materials are used as building material of wall and roof. The materials are used for the construction of more than 30 percent houses in Chakur, Ausa, Nilanga, Ahmedpur, Deoni, etc Tahsil. In Latur and Udgir Tahsil the proportion of such houses is some what less than in Chakur, Ausa, & Nilanga Tahsils. These types of houses are required to be rebuilt

Grasses, Leaves, Reeds and Wood Houses

Photo Plate No. 7.1

before every monsoon. The entire repairing / construction work is accomplished within a period of two or three days.

b) Mud wall and flat mud roof :

Such types of houses are found generally in all circles of the region. However, it is predominant in Jalkot, Deoni, Shirul Anatpal. The walls are about 3 meters in height. The chief characteristics of such dwelling are cheapness of material and suitability for regional climatic-conditions.

Mud and Flat Mud Roof House

Photo Plate No. 7.2 A

Photo Plate No. 7.2 B

c) Stone – in – mud walls and tiles, slates, shingle roof :

This house type is common in Latur District. More than 50% of houses are built out of these locally available building materials. Such houses are found in Borgaon (BK), Ausa Road, Hadolti, Makni, Shivankhed,Babhulgaon & Janwal. These materials are also used for the construction of houses in the regin. But less than 50 percent houses are made by these materials.

Stone in Mud Walls House

Photo Plate No. 7.3 A

Photo Plate No. 7.3 B

Such houses have walls built of bricks in mud or lime and roofs of tiles or C.I. sheets. Only in large villages rich people are able to build such houses as they are expensive. Therefore, the percentage of such houses in rural areas is insignificant.

Bricks House

Photo Plate No. 7.4 A

Photo Plate No. 7.4 B

e) Stone houses :

This is a common house type of the region is representing its regional character. The walls of the houses are built in dressed stone blocks and mud masonry. The roofs of these houses are made up of C.I. sheets, tiles or mud. Stone is cheap and available everywhere, therefore, many houses are built in stone.

Stone House

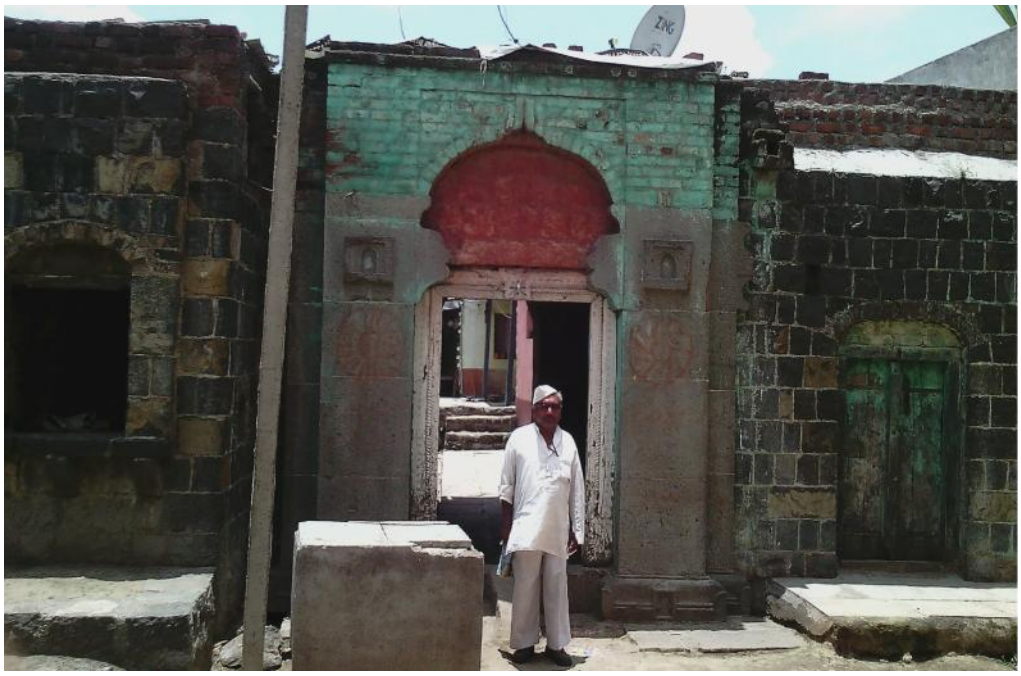

Photo Plate No. 7.5 [A]

Photo Plate No. 7.5 [B]

7.6 House Plans :

In Latur most common house plan is rectangular or square, besides these, L. shaped, U shaped and circular houses are also found in some areas.

a) Rectangular House :

The rectangular shape of the houses is a common feature of this region. Most of the houses used for residential purposes. Schools, hostels, and public buildings are of this shape. A rectangular house plan consists usually 3 to 4 rooms with an open courtyard in front of the building and a little shed at the rear. In some plans such houses have attached varandhas which serve the purpose of a cowshed, kitchen, or guest room. They are provided with a few small windows.

b) Square houses :

This type is generally preferred by rich people who build their houses in brick and cement. They have a courtyard in the middle and are surrounded by rooms on all sides. The doors of each room open in the courtyard.

Square houses

Photo Plate No. 7.6

c) Circular houses :

This type of house is predominant in the forested area of Chakur, Renapur, Shirul Anantpal, Ahmedpur, Udgir, Nilanga, Ausa, Deoni, Latur tahsils. They are generally made of grasses, leaves, reeds and bamboos. This is a very simple and least expensive type of houses.

Circular Houses

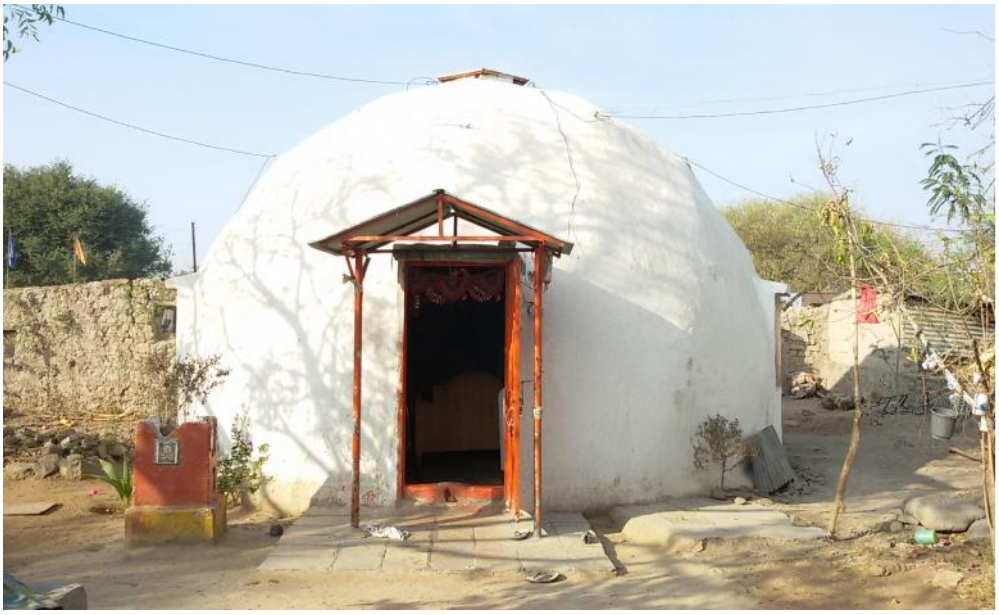

Photo Plate No. 7.7

7.6 Density of Occupied Residential Houses :

Circle wise density of occupied residential houses has been calculated considering number of occupied residential houses and geographical area for 2011 census years in Latur District.

Low density of residential houses are observed in jalkot, Deoni, Shirul Anatpal, Udgir. In this group the density of occupied residential houses ranges between below 40 per km^2. In hilly and forested areas the density of occupied residential houses are comparatively less.

Circle wise density of occupied residential houses has been calculated considering number of occupied residential houses and geographical area for 2011 census years in Latur district.

The density of occupied residential houses for the year 2011 clearly shows that relatively highes density of occupied residential houses is found in Madalmohi circle. In this group of 'Very high density' the number of occupied residential houses per km^2 ranges between above 40. Under the category of 'High density', Nilanga,Ausa and Latur taluka. In this group the density of occupied residential houses ranges between 35 to 40 per sq. km. Agriculture is main occupation in these circles with fertile soils and irrigation facilities. Therefore, density of residential houses are observed more.

Low density of residential houses are observed in Deoni and jalkot. In this group the density of occupied residential houses ranges between below 35 per km^2. In hilly and forested areas the density of occupied residential houses are comparatively less.

7.7 Reference Books :

1.) **Blache, Vidal-de-La. (1926) :** 'Principals of Human Geography' New York, pp. 299-300.

2.) **Bose, S. (1967) :** 'Carrying capacity of land under shifing cultivation', Asiatic society monograph-XII.

3.) **Kankure, K.B. (1986) :**'Marathwada : A Study in Settlement Geography' unpublished Ph.D. Thesis, University of Poona, Pune. P.82.

4.) **Kayastha, S.R. (1972) :** A Note on Rural House in Himachal Pradesh Rural Settlements in Monsoon Asia. Ed. R.L. Singh.

5.) **Kumbhar A. (1986) :** A Study of Rural Habitat in Nira Valley. P. 115.

6.) **Mandal, R.B. (1979) :** An Introduction to Rural Settlements' Concept Publishing, New Delhi.

7.) **Roy, B.K. (1961) :** 'A Sample Study in Land Utilization of Five Villages of Ballia.

8.) **Sharma, J.P. and Singh K. (1974) :** 'Rural House Types in the CisSiwalikzone' the Deccan geographical society. Vol. XII p. 85.

9.) **Singh, K.N. (1968) :** The Territorial Basis of Medieval Town and Village Settlement in Eastern U.P. India', Annual of Association of American Geographers, Vol. 58. No. 2. Pp. 203-229.

10.) **Singh, L.R. (1965):** The Tarai Region of U.P. A Study in Human Geography' Allahabad – p. 38.

11.) **Singh, N.K. (1975) :** " An Approach to the Study of The Morphology of The Indian village," Published in Readings in Rural Settlement G, Ed. By R.L. Singh Varanasi, p. 285.

12.) **Singh, R.L. (1957) :** " Typical Rural Dwellings in the Umland of Banaras N.G.J.I. vol. III. Part 2. p.52.

13.) **Singh, U. (1955) :** A Sample Study in Land Utilization Near Sarnath (Banaras). N.G.J.I. Vol. I pp. 47-58.

14.) **Tamaskar, B.G. (1972) :** Rural House Types in Sagar Damoh Paltean, Rural Settlements in Monsoon Asia Ed. R.L. Singh N.G. J.I. Varanasi. Pp.386-392.

****