Settlement patterns often reflect socio-economic condition of the area. It is one of the indicators of the physical and developmental status of the region. There are varied types of settlement patterns mirroring different aspects of natural and man-made features. Settlement geography is part and parcel of human geography which studies the interrelationship of earth and man. It is a vital branch of knowledge adapting to the needs of time.

Because of the vitality a large number scholars of different disciplines have contributed to the subject matter of settlement geography. Umpteen studies have been done on different aspects of the subject. The studies have their various focuses and intentions.

The extent of studies done on different aspects of settlements is so vast that they can not be recorded because of spatial-temporal scarcity. Therefore, an attempt has been made to review some of the important works concerned with settlements. A large number of studies are done on individual settlements and analyse the impact of various factors on them. A lot of work has been done on
different great centres of urban settlements throughout the world.

Singh, R.B. (1969) has dealt with the distributional pattern and siting of rural settlement in Varanasi district with reference to physical environmental factors such as relief: source of water supply; drainage lines etc. and with socio-economic conditions in his work.

Mukerji, A.B. (1969) in his work has traced the history of settlements from Jataka period. He has pointed out the geometrical pattern of individual houses. In those periods, he says wood and grass were the major building material.

Mukherjee, M. (1969) analysed the correlation between the number and specialization of different transport towns and district wise distribution of taxed vehicles in Bihar.

Pal, S.K (1970) has analysed the growth and performed role of urbanization in the greater urban context of the country. According to study, cities located on the coast are more mature with an already developed urban sprawl, while that located inland are much younger.

Singh, S. (1973) has shown that the settlement structure and the roof plan of the houses reflect the physical and social conditions and specify standards of living. He
goes on to describe in detail the village layout and the commuter’s zone of Varanasi city. According to him most of the houses confirm to the layouts laid down by the sacred literature and show adaptation to the geographical conditions.

Ganathan, V.S. (1973) has discussed existing conditions of road transport system in India. The discussion highlights the fact that road development has been slow, uneven and unsatisfactory due to lack of coordination in sector based planning.

Mann, R.S. (1974) has attempted a discussion on the need of the consensus regarding the aim and meaning of settlement geography. He attempts to deal with the conceptual aspect of the subject and defines the aim of the subject to be the study of settlement characteristics of process, form, structure, function and environment, equating a rural settlement to an organism.

Pandey, J.N. (1975) has given a detailed account of the settlement history of the village Paras Rampur on the Faizabad- Allahabad Road and an analysis of house types in the village.

Singh, R.P.B. (1975) in his work on Indian villages has discussed the concept of village settlements as revealed in ancient literature, Vedic and Post- Vedic, and the concept as
it is interpreted today. According to him, the Indian villages as a physical entity represents a unit of settlement as well as forming a distinctive entity of larger socio-politico-religious economic and settlement systems in its own territorial frame.

Dutta, G. (1975) analyses and correlates the network of National Highways to the development of cities in India and goes at length to describe the city development in India in reference to different major routes of India as Delhi-Dindigul, path via Nagpur-Hyderabad-Salem, path from Delhi to Calcutta and Delhi to Mumbai are also described in detail.

Terra, J. P. (1976) in 'Human Settlements and Another Development' discussed about meaning of the term human settlement and also analysed other concerned developments.

Raza, M. & Habeeb, A. (1976) has attempted to bring into focus the matrix of specific factors responsible for and accompanying, the process of urbanization in a colonial set up. The work analyses and derives generalisations about the 'primate' cities, with special reference to Calcutta.

Singh, C. P. (1977) has analysed the characteristics and growth patterns of the towns of National Capital Region and Delhi. He has emphasised the fact that the rapid
industrialisation is not associated with appropriate development of the tertiary sector.

Dixit, R. S. (1977) reviews some previous approaches to the delimitation of the umland of Kanpur and attempts to resolve the problem by considering the inflow and outflow of certain goods and services as parameters to measure the extent to the empirical umland of Kanpur, and tests his approach quantitatively.

Misra, H.N. (1977) analysed the gravity potential model to test the boundary of the city of Allahabad demarcated on the basis of the empirical data including both rural and urban parameters. Besides, he also applied the Reill's breaking point equation to delineate the umlands of the towns within the umland of Allahabad.

Kumar, Y. (1977) goes on to discuss the nature of the housing problem of rural migrants in cities. He suggests that rural living patterns should not be destroyed but should be adopted to solve the urban housing problems of the rural migrants.

Singh, L. (1978) has analysed the morphological structure of the villages of Patna district. The term 'village' and its variants have been discussed in the paper.

Halder, D. K. (1978) has correlated transportation system with locational advantage to city growth. He states
that the rural push factor have been more powerful than the urban pull factor in generating the migration streams that lead to the growth of cities.

Prasad, L. (1979) analysed in his work the spatial pattern of rural central places in vicinity of different big settlement centres of the state.

Alam, S. M. (1980) has explained the historical and political factors which have influenced urbanization and settlement systems leading to hypertrophy of metropolitan centres. He states that the contrasts in the level of economic development between the metropolitan hinterlands call for dynamic policies on settlement development in India.

Chakraborty, S. C. (1980) in his work has presented the overview of the areas of research in the functioning of Indian Rail Road System as it has influenced the structure of the organisation of the territorial economy of India. He has correlated the rail-road system of the country with the development of the same.

Aziz, A. (1982) has attempted to analyse the decadal growth rates of population of towns of Uttar Pradesh from 1931 to 1971. The study highlights the fact that the pattern of growth is not always linear and the towns between
themselves differ a great deal as for as rate of growth is concerned.

Raju, S. (1982) has discussed the interrelationship of social order and its attributes as caste, role of family etc. and residential pattern in urban milieu of India. He also discussed the impact of direct and indirect tax structure.

Jha, H. & Gopal, S. (1982) has attempted the typology of the villages on the basis of an analysis of data contained in village notes relating to one hundred villages belonging to Bikram Police Station in Patna District.

Sharma, A.K. (1984) has analysed the phenomenon of city primacy in developing countries with special reference to India. He has tried to explain the phenomenon with the help of independent variables such as urbanisation, migration and development.

Armstrong, Warwick McGee, T. G. et. al. (1985) in 'Theatres of accumulation: studies in Asian and Latin American urbanization' present an overview of urbanization in Latin America and Asia. The authors argue that the major cities "play a crucial role in the process of capital accumulation and of unequal exchange and dependency." They show how the flow of capital through the urban system brings net losses to rural areas and further exacerbates income inequalities among regions and classes. Theoretical
issues are also discussed, and projections of likely future developments in urbanization are offered.

Pathak, P. (1986) in 'Slow growing towns in India' addresses the question of "why some towns [in India] are not...able to sustain the population added due to natural increase in an overall rapidly urbanising environment....An analysis of slow growing towns...conducted at both macro- and micro-levels reveals that: (i) the slow growing towns are concentrated in a few states which are characterised by a high urbanisation level but a slow urban growth rate; (ii) practically all of them have suffered net out-migration...; and (iii) their slow growth is attributed to a low administrative status, poor transport connectivity, inadequate developmental efforts, and fast growth of some town(s) in close proximity." Data are from official Indian sources.

Malick, G. (1986) has dealt with the fringe growth in different cities of India. He brings out a common feature of big cities in developing countries being parasitic in nature. The three major problems of bordering the core city by the fringe population, chaotic land use pattern and congested transport routes are well brought out.

Dutt, A. K. and Amin, R. (1986) describe the typology of south Asian cities with special reference to India.
According to the study, no South Asian city can be designated exclusively as bazaar, colonial or planned types. Most of the South Asian cities can be described on the mixed city model.

Singh, J. & Gosal, R. P. S (1986) in 'Density of rural population in an Indian situation: a contemporary approach' measured the role of selected natural variables in determining the spatial patterns in the density of rural population in Punjab mean annual rainfall, quality of soil and availability of potable water have been considered relevant independent variables in explaining spatial variance in density of rural population in this study.

Gopal, K. (1986) in 'Is India over urbanised?' questions the frequently posed thesis of India being over urbanised. The diverse connotations of the term 'over urbanisation' have been taken into account and tested against the Indian reality." Consideration is given to the positive and negative effects of Indian urbanization in relation to economic growth.

Bourne, L. S. (1987), in 'Urbanization, migration and urban research in comparative context: an urban systems perspective' opined that the urbanization process is not only global in scale, and thus subject to universal principles, but intensely specific in time and place. The former calls for research which is both trans-national and comparative, the
latter for analyses set in the appropriate socioeconomic and political circumstances. This paper outlines a conceptual framework, based on the theory of urban systems that can accommodate both spatial scales as well as provide a bridge between research focusing on developed and developing countries. A developmental model of migration is introduced to illustrate the approach and the paper concludes with a series of challenges to future research.

Islam, S. (1987) in 'A stochastic model of urbanisation in India' presents a stochastic model of urbanization in India using data from official and other published sources. "The purpose of the present paper is to predict the future path of urbanization in India based on a diffusion process approximation assuming time and state space as continuous.

Bala, R. (1987) in her work on Urbanisation in India as observed during the decade 1971-81. She states that the Indian urbanisation process during the 1971-81 decade was marked by many peculiar features.

Pumain, D. (1988) in 'Application of a spatial dynamic model to urban populations' applies P. Allen's intra-urban model "to the post-war evolution of the spatial distribution of employment and resident active population in a few French urban agglomerations. She discussed the structure and of the main properties of this complex model. The results of the
calibrations and the residuals of the simulations are then analysed.

Sarkar, A. (1988) describes that the spectrum of urban settlement in West Bengal shows uneven pattern. The changing pattern of average size of urban settlement presents a picture typified by different growth rates.


Knox, P. L. & Taylor, P.J. (1995) goes on to discuss the globalisation of the world economy. According to them this globalisation of the world economy has been most prominently focussed upon specific cities around the world, termed world cities. The duo presents a vivid picture of the role of some selected world cities in the development of settlements around the world.

Roberts, B. K. (1996) has discussed the settlements in the context of history. According to the author rural settlements underlie today's towns and cities and still hold substantial portion of the world's population. He elaborates the changing forms and functions of these settlements.

discussed at length about the fast growing field of urban studies with the help of remote sensing and its mapping with the help of GIS soft wares.

John F. R. (2000) in his article 'The Multiplier in Urban Sprawl' discussed about factors promoting urbanism and new urbanism. According to him the New Urbanites have capably responded to urban-planning casualties with improved urban designs. But the multiplier has been ignored.

Udley, M. Q. (2001) in his paper on 'Sprawl as Strategy: City Planners Face the Bomb' discusses about the impact of nuclear threat on urban development. According to him the extent to which the nuclear arms race may have played a role in the development of post-war urban form in the United States is explored through an examination of planning literature and government documents from the 1940s and 1950s. The project to disperse the urban form for civil defence reasons is followed from its emergence in the literature to the adoption of these principles by both the American Institute of Planners and the U.S. federal government.

Dascher, K. (2002) in his paper 'Capital Cities: when do they stop growing?' discuss the interaction of those agglomeration diseconomy specific to the capital cities. Under certain conditions, a stable population distribution
between the capital city and its hinterland emerges where neither region captures the entire population.

Lindstrom, M. J., & Bartling, H. (Eds.), 2003 in their book titled 'Suburban Sprawl: Culture, Theory and Politics' dealt at length the phenomenon of suburban sprawl and impact of culture and politics on urban sprawl.

King, L. A. (2004) in his paper on 'Democracy and City Life' evaluated the claim that modern urban regions are desirable sites for inclusive forms of democratic governance. Although certain features of city life do hold such promise, he argues that these same features coincide with exclusionary attitudes and activities that undermine democratic hopes. He then goes on to clarify the necessary conditions for more inclusive urban democracy, distinguishing his account from prominent criticisms of suburban culture and urban sprawl advanced by, among others, advocates of the new urbanism.

Martin D.G. and Hallway S.R (2005) analysed the role of environment in planning and examined the role of governance in context of neighbourhood involvement and urban governance. They also analysed the impact of demographic change.

Hasse, A. (2005) in his paper on 'Topography of Values': Urban transformation in East Germany talks about a paradigm shift in urban transformation. The paper
presents a method to identify and situate such ‘topographies’ appropriate for present and future qualification of urban living and working under conditions of population ‘shrinkage’.

Moore A., Nolan J. and Segal G.F (2005) in their paper ‘Putting out the trash: Measuring municipal service efficiency in U.S cities’ has used Data Development Analysis (DEA) which has emerged as an effective tool for measuring the relative efficiency of public provision.


Karas, F. (2005) in ‘Urban development and vision in southeast Asia’ has discussed about the phenomenon of profound urbanization process since the beginning of accelerated economic growth two decades ago. This article aims at identifying essential topical developmental processes of south-eastern metropoles and subjecting to a critical analysis.

school in relation to improving the health and nutrition of school-age children, particularly low-income youth; strengthening the capacity of local farmers, particularly those engaged in sustainable practices; adding to the toolkit of strategies designed to contain and ultimately reduce sprawl-inducing developments by helping preserve farmland; and helping establish a community food system approach no longer entirely dependent on the global food system that has come to dominate food growing, processing, distribution, and consumption patterns around the world.

Handy, S. (2005) in 'Smart Growth and the Transportation-Land Use Connection: What Does the Research Tell Us' talks about smart urbanism. According to him the connection between transportation and land use lies at the centre of efforts in the United States to combat sprawl through smart growth strategies. Proponents of smart growth commonly make several specific propositions about the relationships between transportation and land use: (1) building more highways will contribute to more sprawl, (2) building more highways will lead to more driving, (3) investing in light rail transit systems will increase densities, and (4) adopting new urbanism design strategies will reduce automobile use.