Chapter VI

Rural Dwelling and House Types
RURAL DWELLINGS AND HOUSE TYPES

Rural dwellings constitute the basic and universal element of cultural landscape, and occupy a significant place in the geographical analysis of human settlements. They represent human imprints upon the physical landscape and provide a clear evidence of the complex relationship between man and his environment.\(^1\) Houses are, thus, products of cultural traditions and natural conditions, and form a universal element of cultural landscape as well.

The term 'rural dwelling' includes not only residential houses ranging from the humblest huts of the poor to the most elaborate and massive city mansions, but all other human structures as well, where people congregate or where their goods are stored, such as schools, factories, warehouses, churches, etc.\(^2\) A house may be defined as a structure or part of a structure, inhabited or vacant, a shop or a shop-cum-dwelling or a place of business, workshop, school etc. with a separate entrance.

Housing is one of the three basic human needs i.e. food, cloth and shelter. A house is used by man as a resting


place to recoup his lost energy and also to protect himself from the vagaries of weather and wild animals. Though houses differ in their physical appearance and in the cultural attainment of their inhabitants, their basic purpose remains more or less the same.

Agglomeration of houses marks the origin of settlements and reflects the nature of a region, since their character is related to the environment and the cultural heritage of a people.¹ Rural dwellings are well adapted to the environment of a region which determines the nature of building material used in their structure on the one hand and the form of the roofs on the other. As such, a peasant's house is of great geographical interest since it is a reflection of the direct influence of the environment. Peasants' dwelling are rather simple in their structure and layout. Geographical factors and social needs combine to produce an architecture in which fashion or style plays little or no part. The peasant, with most meagre resources at his disposal constructs a simple structure, using locally available building material. Therefore, it is obvious that rural dwellings reflect the cultural heritage, functional needs and positive and negative aspects of non-cultural environment.

The Aligarh District is an almost homogeneous level plain. It is a part of the Ganga-Yamuna doab, drained by two

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major rivers in the east and west, Ganga and Yamuna respectively, and a number of minor rivers in between. Although it is a uniform plain, there exist diversities at micro-level in physio-cultural and socio-economic conditions. Similarly, variations in religious rituals and caste structure are also found throughout the region. These factors influence the form, layout, architectural design and building material of the rural dwellings of the District. An attempt has been made here to study the role of physio-cultural environment on distribution, building materials and layout of the rural dwellings in Aligarh.

It has been said earlier that the physical environment and culture of the people largely influence the form, function and structure (both internal and external) of houses. Rural house types in the District clearly indicate the role of such factors. For example, available building material points to the micro regional characteristics of geology, soil and vegetal cover. The size and height of houses and use of different materials indicate the economic condition of the people. Two or three storeyed houses of the Rajputs speak of the relatively better economic condition of their families in contrast to one or two room dwellings of the Jatau (scheduled caste) population. The climatic elements, particularly temperature, wind direction and rainfall, influence the orientation and structure of rural
dwellings. Flat mud roofs, a salient feature of the rural houses of the District, distinguish these houses from those in other parts of the upper Ganga plain. This type of roof effectively keeps off internal heat and, if well-laid, may last up to 20 years under normal conditions. Climate remains the main consideration of the people while building their houses facing the east instead of the west. The former are better ventilated and receive sun rays of early morning, while the latter are subjected to the scorching afternoon sun, as well as westerly dust storms in the summer season. An open courtyard is an inseparable feature of rural houses because it provides ample sunshine and heat to the inhabitants during the winter and a comparatively cool place for sleeping during summer nights. Rural houses not only provide shelter, but also serve as work places for handicraft and cottage industries and retail shops to sustain the rural economy. Different mode of activities of the people result in differences in the structures, styles, sizes and plans of the houses of tradesmen, blacksmiths, carpenters and shopkeepers etc. Similarly institutions such as schools, banks, hospitals, post offices, panchayat buildings etc. are designed to meet their specific needs. A marked contrast between the houses of the rich and the poor people may also be seen in the region. Prosperous sections of the population have better houses, mostly made of brick but the houses of the poor sections are made of mud.
1. Evolution of Rural Dwellings

Historical and archaeological evidence clearly reveals that rural dwellings in the study area go back to 1500 B.C. This is borne out by the legends and folk-lore of the area, by the presence of a large number of mounds, and more, convincingly, by the archaeological excavations in different parts of the District. The present form of rural dwellings is the outcome of thousand of years of cultural and economic progress in the study area. They have passed through different stages of development in their sizes, layouts, morphology, architectural styles etc. It is known that settled life began with the onset of the neolithic age. It is generally believed that the earliest form of human dwelling was the cave.¹ Then people started living in man-made dwellings, i.e., thatched huts, along the tributaries of major rivers or near other water bodies. The shape of the huts, in all probability, must have been circular or oval. It is presumed that the pre-historic men, taking their cue from shady trees like the banyan, constructed their first circular huts consisting of reed, twigs, tree leaves etc. in the forests of the region to lead a more sedentary life.² These


types of houses are still seen along the Yamuna, Ganga and Kali rivers of the District. In due course, these huts were clustered together and the whole settlement was protected with fencing of tree trunks and bamboo etc. Some of these huts were arranged in rectangular or square shape. Thereafter, as a result of the development of economy and improvement of skills, an addition of courtyard was made to each of them which provided protection for the cattle besides having other functions.\(^1\) Brown bricks and stone were the predominant building materials during the Buddhist period.\(^2\) Archaeological remains of the Gupta and the Harsha Vardhana period suggests that the arts flourished in the District.\(^3\) During the ascendancy of the Meos, Kols and Bhars, a change took place in the pattern of the dwellings of the region. Their houses were generally made of clay and wood with circular and rectangular structures using reeds or thatching grasses to construct conical roofs on wooden poles.\(^4\)


\(^4\) Ibid., pp.22-25.
It is clear from the historical sources that the Aligarh District was covered with dhak (butea frondosa) jungles and the Khadar of Ganga and Yamuna were full of Jhau (tamarisk).\(^1\) A narrow belt of jahu in the Jamuna Khadar can still be seen, followed by broad stretches of plains covered with thatching grass.\(^2\) These materials which were locally available must have been used in the construction of rural dwellings when people first settled in this region. There is a gap and a lack of conformity between the ancient and the medieval periods. Nothing definite is known about the dwellings of the region till the twelfth century.\(^3\) During the Mughal period most of the tombs, mosques and buildings built by the rulers show magnificent blending of Indian and Persian architecture in the District. The minar (tower) at Koil, the fortress and the mosque at Jalali, the fort at Koil, the mosque of Sikandra Rao, the gates of the fortress at Balai Qila such as the Delhi Gate, the Madar Gate, the Turkman Gate and the Sasni Gate, some monuments of Akbar's period found in Bagh-i-Gesu Khan, now a general graveyards in Koil are good examples of this blend. Stone seems to be the most common building material used during this period.

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Similarly, during the British period, new types of building materials like cement, brick, lime and iron-bars gained wide popularity, especially in the construction of government buildings. But the rural dwellings were deprived of such material. Only the mansions of the affluent people like zamindars, jagirdars and public buildings used this material. In post-independence period, certain changes in the structure and plan of the rural dwellings have taken place due to improvement in the socio-economic condition of the people. Burnt brick, cement, mortar, iron bars, stone slabs which were earlier used only by affluent people or in public buildings, are now being used even by the people belonging to the middle income group in the District. The majority of the rural houses in the region continue to be built with available local materials like mud, wood, thatching grasses and so on. Such houses are quite common along the rivers Yamuna, Ganga and Kali.

2. Distribution of Rural Dwellings:

The distributional pattern of rural dwellings generally follows the pattern of rural population distribution and is determined by the physio-cultural and socio-economic condition of the region. However, minor variations do exist in the distribution and characteristics of rural dwellings between one parts of the region and another. The density of the rural houses has been calculated, taking into account all
the revenue areas of the village including agricultural lands, orchards and waste-lands, since data of the built-up area of village settlement is not available. For calculating density, only the actual area under settlement should have been taken into consideration. But due to non-availability of relevant data, the density of rural houses/sq. km. has been calculated on the basis of the number of occupied residential houses of a block/area of the block.

The distribution of rural dwellings and their plans are, to a great extent, influenced by socio-economic status of persons inhabiting them. According to 1981 census, there are 3,32,513 rural houses in the District, with an average density of 68.87 houses per square kilometre.

Table 6.1 shows the density of rural dwellings per square kilometre of the District at the block level. The maximum and minimum densities 84.20 houses/km$^2$ and 58.60 houses/km$^2$ are found in Sasni and Tappal blocks respectively. Most of the blocks having density of more than 70 houses/km$^2$, lie in the Ganga Khadar and in the central part of the region. Densities ranging from 58 houses/km$^2$ to 65 are found in Akrabad (62.94), Sikandra Rao (63.84), Gonda (64.07), Hasayan (64.17) and Iglas (65.50). Higher density of houses is due to fertile soil, better means of irrigation and transport etc, while lower density is due to usar lands and poor means of irrigation and transport. Figure No.6.1 shows the density of rural dwellings in the district.
TABLE 6.1
DISTRIBUTION OF RURAL HOUSES AND DENSITY AT BLOCK LEVEL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blocks</th>
<th>Area sq. km.</th>
<th>Occupied residential houses</th>
<th>Density</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Akrabad</td>
<td>278.0</td>
<td>17497</td>
<td>62.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atrauli</td>
<td>283.9</td>
<td>20705</td>
<td>72.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bijauli</td>
<td>250.6</td>
<td>17651</td>
<td>70.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chandaus</td>
<td>329.7</td>
<td>19689</td>
<td>59.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dhanipur</td>
<td>237.8</td>
<td>21054</td>
<td>73.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gangeri</td>
<td>345.3</td>
<td>26048</td>
<td>78.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonda</td>
<td>286.4</td>
<td>18327</td>
<td>64.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hasayan</td>
<td>234.1</td>
<td>18272</td>
<td>64.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hathras</td>
<td>237.3</td>
<td>18470</td>
<td>77.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iglas</td>
<td>256.6</td>
<td>16832</td>
<td>65.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jawan</td>
<td>293.2</td>
<td>21759</td>
<td>74.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khair</td>
<td>320.4</td>
<td>19075</td>
<td>59.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lodha</td>
<td>267.7</td>
<td>17923</td>
<td>66.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mursan</td>
<td>226.3</td>
<td>17688</td>
<td>78.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sasni</td>
<td>268.6</td>
<td>22617</td>
<td>84.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sikandara Rao</td>
<td>257.5</td>
<td>16439</td>
<td>63.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tappal</td>
<td>360.7</td>
<td>21607</td>
<td>58.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total of the District</td>
<td>4842.1</td>
<td>332513</td>
<td>68.67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


3. Morphology of Rural Dwellings

The analysis of rural dwellings involves considerations of natural environment and socio-economic condition of the region which are responsible for variations in architectural styles, ground plans, sizes and shapes and building materials of the houses. However, certain features such as courtyard
(angan, anganai) and verandah (osara or osari) have been found to be common in most of the north Indian rural dwellings. In spite of the physio-cultural and socio-economic variations at micro level certain features such as courtyard, verandah and raised platform are common in the rural dwellings throughout the Aligarh District.

3.1 Courtyard (Angan)

The most important feature of rural dwellings in the study area is the courtyard or angan, which is a rectangular or square open space occupying the centre, front, or back of the houses Fig. 6.2. It is often enclosed by rooms on all sides or on two or three sides by rooms and remaining sides by walls of about 1.5 to 2 metre in height. The courtyards in the houses of upper and middle class people are used for maintaining family privacy, while poor people consider it as the best source of relief from congested accommodation and a place where they can keep their cattle and agricultural implements. Besides, it is also used for sleeping purposes for women and children during the summer and sun-basking during the winter. Other uses include drying, grinding, threshing, cooking and various social and religious activities.

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3.2 Verandah

The second important feature of rural dwellings in the region is the roofed or thatched verandah. Usually there are two verandahs in a dwelling inner and outer. While almost every house is provided with a verandah, its size varies according to the nature and size of a house. A single-roomed house usually has a small verandah in front of it extending a metre ahead of the front wall, which is most useful as poor people do most of their domestic work in it during the day time. It is also used for sleeping during the night, because a single roomed house is usually not properly ventilated. In the houses of upper and middle class people, such a verandah is known as baithak and (parlour). Sometimes it is also converted into a shop for selling small items of daily need (Plate No 61). It is also used as a work place by village craftsmen like carpenters, blacksmiths, and weavers (Plate No 62). The verandah in the inner side of the house surrounding the entire courtyard is mostly used as a sitting and sleeping place for the female in mates and children. Part of it is sometimes used as cow-shed, or for storing foodgrains and fodder etc. These verandahs are supported by walls of mud, or burnt or unburnt bricks or wooden pillars and are open enough to permit sunlight and air get into the adjoining rooms. Inner verandahs all around the courtyard not only protect the walls and floor during the rains but
also serve as a covered passage to rooms during hot summers and the rainy season.

3.3 Raised Platform

A raised platform or chabutra in front of the main entrance is an integral part of the rural houses of the area. It is used by the males as a meeting place in the evening. Since this platform faces a lane or street the women belonging to the upper and middle class families rarely use it because they are supposed to remain secluded from the male members outside. However, the women of the weaker section of the society do not have such a restriction imposed upon them and therefore it is used for different purposes by both men and women from the poorer classes. The chabutra is connected to a 'dubari' (entrance room) (Fig.6.2) which runs from the main entrance to the inner courtyard. It has a simple or stylish wooden door, depending upon the status of the residents.

An interesting associated feature of rural habitation is the place outside the houses, where the droppings of the cowdung are collected, dried, and heaped into a miniature hut shaped structure called bitorah (Plate No63). They are covered with straw or plastered with liquid dung mixed with straw to preserve them from rains. It is the daily duty of the village women to form during cakes of different shapes and piled them up after drying them. Generally these bitorahs are to be found on the outskirts of a settlement?
The morphological characteristics and sizes of rural dwellings of the area are shown in Fig.6.2, which clearly reveals that the basic unit of an average rural house is a rectangular room which forms the dwelling place of poor families. This one-room house usually has a raised platform in front of it thatched or unthatched which varies from 4 to 8 metre in length and 2 to 4 metre in breadth. A two-room house is usually an extension of one room to meet the growing need of more accommodation. Such type of dwellings form an I-shape. A three room house usually has an L-shape, in which the third room is generally used by the males as a baithak (parlour). A house of four rooms generally has a U-shape, which provides for a courtyard (angan) and the main entrance (dubari). Dwellings of five or more rooms rectangular or square shape generally have angan, a varandah, a kitchen and a store room. Rooms, having two doors - the inner one which opens into the courtyard and the outer one forming main entrance of the house, are the biggest of all the rooms of a house. The outer door or the main entrance is not exactly opposite to the inner door so that privacy of the courtyard may be maintained. Sometimes in the dwellings of the upper class people there is also a back door. The front doors of the houses are found generally located toward the east for getting the benefit of mild sunrays in the morning and pleasant shade in the afternoon.
4. House Types And Their Regional Distribution:

The physico-cultural environment and the socio-economic condition of the people influence the form, function, structure and layout of their houses. Building materials and architectural forms are expressive of the physical factors of a region whereas the ground plan is related to the socio-economic conditions of the resident. The Aligarh District has different types of dwellings within settlement units, variation from one area to another, depending upon the building materials available and the socio-economic conditions of the people. This leads to the classification of house types of the region into two main categories.

1. Based on Building materials
2. Based on size and shape

4.1 Based on Building Materials

The building material used for making the wall and the roof generally indicates the economic condition of the inhabitants. Majority of the rural houses use the building material which is available locally. The rich build houses of burnt bricks, cement, concrete and iron sheets while the poor and middle peasants build mud-walls and flat clayey roofs of sun-dried unburnt bricks and cover it with tiles or thatch. Mud, wood, bamboo, sugarcane leaves and stalks of plants such as arhar etc., form the basic local materials for the
construction of rural houses in the District. Mud or clay, the most universal of all the building materials, is widely used in the rural houses of the study area because it is a part of level plain wherein plenty of cheap clay is available to construct walls and roofs which can easily be formed into different shapes even without the help of skilled workers and hence the houses built with such materials are simple and economical. The construction of mud walls is simple. Heaps of damp mud ('lūda') are piled up to form a layer of 30 to 50 centimetre in height (called 'råddā'), and, when it is dried and has become compact a fresh layer is added to obtain the required height (4 to 5 metres). The roof is covered in the same way.

Table 6.2 shows various types of wall and roof materials used in the rural houses of the study area. It has been found that 51.49 per cent of rural houses use mud and unburnt bricks as wall material. Similarly, mud and thatch roofing materials contribute 69.62 per cent of the total rural houses. On the basis of the building materials, rural house in the District may be put into the the following four distinct categories:

1. Grass, Reed and Bamboo Walled Houses with Thatched Roofs

This is a common feature of the rural houses of the poor people. Though the quality of thatch depends on the availability of local vegetation and crops, its use is
### Table 6.2

**Distribution of Rural Houses by Predominant Materials of Roof and Wall**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material of Wall</th>
<th>Total Households</th>
<th>Thatch &amp; Brick, Mud roof, Stone, tiles</th>
<th>Metal Sheet</th>
<th>Asbestos cement sheet</th>
<th>Tiles</th>
<th>R.C.C.</th>
<th>All other material</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Material</td>
<td>335425 (100.00)</td>
<td>233535 (69.62)</td>
<td>3075 (0.92)</td>
<td>1075 (0.32)</td>
<td>4200</td>
<td>5500</td>
<td>2630 (0.78)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grass, leaves, reeds or bamboo</td>
<td>17315 (5.16)</td>
<td>16790 (5.00)</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>80 (0.02)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>440 (0.13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mud &amp; Unburnt Bricks</td>
<td>72705 (51.4)</td>
<td>169385 (50.49)</td>
<td>545 (0.162)</td>
<td>60 (0.18)</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>265 (0.80)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burnt bricks</td>
<td>143645 (42.82)</td>
<td>46970 (14.00)</td>
<td>2425 (0.72)</td>
<td>980 (0.292)</td>
<td>2065</td>
<td>5310</td>
<td>1815 (0.54)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>1760 (0.52)</td>
<td>390 (0.11)</td>
<td>25 (0.07)</td>
<td>30 (0.008)</td>
<td>645</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>110 (0.03)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Note: Figure in the brackets shows the percentage of the total rural houses of the district.
determined by the income level of the dwellers. People of lower castes and poor people find it cheaper and more convenient to make thatched roofs of phuna, kane or leaves by fastening them with moist branches of arhar or strings in a rectangular framework of bamboo. This readymade cover is placed over ridge poles of logs or bamboo. Such kind of houses account for about 5 per cent of the total number of rural dwellings of the District. They are found in the western margin of Tappal Block and in the eastern margin of Atrauli Block, particularly along the flood prone areas of Yamuna and Ganga rivers. Such a type of houses may also be seen in some areas of Sikandra Rao tehsil and at some places along the bank of Kali river. Such houses generally have one or two rooms with 3 to 5 metre in length and 2 to 3 metre in width. The inner part of the wall is plastered or smoothened with a mixture of clay and cowdung. They are very susceptible to damage caused by fire, floods and storms.

1. Mud and Unburnt Brick Walled Houses with Thatched and Mud Roofs

A Majority of the rural people, especially cultivators and agricultural labourers live in mud walled houses with flat clay and mud roof dwellings. Mud walls are constructed with unsorted clay or unburnt bricks and have mud roofs. Poor farmers and landless labourers have thatched roofs in the houses. Unburnt brick as wall material is very popular in
Tappal, Chandaus, Gonda, Akrabad, Sikandra Rao, Biajuli and Atrauli blocks. Such houses are found in almost all parts of the study area. They account for nearly 50% of the total rural dwellings of the District. The thatched (chappar) verandah is a common feature of these dwellings. Such a chhappars in front of the main entrance is a typical feature all over the region. The poor man's house generally has no inner courtyard, but a chhapar in front of the single roof dwelling which provides additional space for cooking, receiving guests or keeping the cattle during the night (Plate No.6.4).

III. Burnt Brick Walled Houses with Thatched, Mud and Tiles Roofs

The burnt brick walled houses with thatched or mud roof dwellings cover about 14 per cent of the total rural dwellings of the District. Tiled roof houses constitute only 0-61 per cent of the total number of houses in the study area. They may be seen in Atrauli, Koil and Sikandra Rao tehsils and particularly in the areas of clayey loam soils, i.e., in the vicinity of Kali Nadi. These roofs are more durable than those of thatched and mud and are cheaper than brick or stone roofs. Tiles are manufactured locally by village potters and baked in ordinary fire wood. These tiles are placed systematically on a framework of wood obtained from local trees which rests on the gable of the wall supported by transversely fixed beams. The roof may be over hanging on one
or both sides, having very gentle slope. Mud roofs are made by spreading a thick layer of mud over a network of straw or pieces of wood or stalks of arhar, which rest upon closely spaced wooden beams or crooked branches of local trees such as mango and neem etc.

IV. Burnt Bricks Walled Houses with Burnt Brick, Stone and Lime Roof Dwellings (Pucca Dwellings)

These kind of houses cover about 25 per cent of the total number of rural dwellings of the District. Such houses reflect the prosperity of the area and the higher socio-economic status of the people residing in them. Members of the higher castes and rich people prefer to use burnt bricks in the construction of walls and use stone slabs and burnt bricks in making their roofs. The highest concentration of such houses is seen in Atrauli Roil, Hathras and Iglas tehsils, where there is a dominance of people of high castes ie. Rajputs Brahmins, Lodhas, and big land holders. Although such houses are unevenly distributed over the entire area, they are more larger in numbers in rural service centres and in areas nearer to urban centres. These are mainly single storeyed structures consisting of brick walls and pucca roofs. The height of their ceilings is usually between 3 and 4 metre while their plan is rectangular in shape. These houses have facilities of latrines, bathrooms and brick or
stone stairs. Roofs are used for sleeping purposes in summer and for drying food grains and other materials in sunshine (Plate No. 6:5).

4.2 Dwelling Types Based on Size and Shape:

The size of a dwelling reflects the economic conditions of the dweller and the size of household. Sizes of the houses in the Aligarh District vary from palatial buildings to single room huts, which mark the difference between the rich and the poor. It was observed during field surveys that one or two room houses were inhabited by the poor, while the middle class people lived in three to four rooms dwellings and the rich lived in houses having five or more rooms.

Table 6.3 reveals that one and two room dwellings together constitute more than two third of the total number of rural houses of the District and offer shelter to 71.81 per cent of the total rural population. Such houses are very small in size and represent a rudimentary form of compact structures, where men and cattle find shelter under the same roof. Such houses are cheap to construct, but are uncomfortable and unhygienic because the same room is used for sleeping, receiving guests, and as kitchen and store and for keeping cattle (Plate No.6:4). The three and four room dwellings, which are nearly 20 per cent of the total rural houses, provide accommodation to over one-fifth of the total
PLATE NO. 6.4 Poor man's Multi-purpose Dwellings

PLATE NO. 6.5 Rich man's Dwelling
### TABLE 6.3

**CLASSIFICATION OF RURAL HOUSES ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF ROOMS AND RURAL POPULATION LIVING IN VARIOUS SIZE OF HOUSES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of House</th>
<th>Percentage of the total number of house</th>
<th>Per cent of the total rural population living</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One-room</td>
<td>43.78</td>
<td>38.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-room</td>
<td>32.35</td>
<td>33.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three-room</td>
<td>13.40</td>
<td>15.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four-room</td>
<td>5.94</td>
<td>7.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five-room</td>
<td>2.21</td>
<td>2.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With 6 or more rooms</td>
<td>2.31</td>
<td>2.89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sources:** Compiled from Census of India, 1981, Series 21, Uttar Pradesh, Part IV, Housing Report and Tables, Allahabad.

Rural population. Such houses are found mostly in Hathras, Iglas, Koil and Atrauli tehsils. Five and six room dwellings account for nearly 2.5 per cent of the total number of rural houses and accommodate 2.73 per cent of the total rural people of the District while dwellings with six room and more accommodate 2.89 per cent of its rural population.

The arrangement of rooms influences the shape of a house. One or two room dwellings usually have an I-shape,
while L-shape is found in cases of three room dwellings. U-shape dwellings, consisting of 3 limbs, with three or four rooms, are common in the District. Houses with five rooms or more are vary very greatly in form and structure.

The socio-economic status of the owner has a direct impact over the size and shape of the rural dwellings. The sample village studies reveal that people belonging to high castes and rich people like Rajputs, Brahmans, landlords, and business men, who own larger share of the village land and have accumulated wealth, generally live in well-built and spacious houses with well-knit plans. Such houses have separate kitchens, store rooms, bathrooms, cattle sheds, fodder stores, chaupals or baithakas (Plate No.6.6). Middle class people live in houses with 3-5 rooms with burnt or sun-dried brick walls and mud, burnt brick, tiled or stone slab roofs. They have outer and inner verandahs, courtyards, cattle sheds etc. Agrarian castes like Lodhas, Kurmis, Yadav (Ahirs), Muslims, etc. generally live in such middle class dwellings. The houses of the poor and lower caste people like Chamars, Pais, Koris, Dheemars, Barbhujwas, Jataus etc. are comparatively smaller in size and shape. They mainly consist of one or two rooms with mud walls and mud and thatched roofs (Plate No.6.7). Front varandahs in such houses are multi-functional in nature, used as kitchen, parlour and cattle shed. Smaller size of families and lack of purdah system enable them to live in small houses. Pig rearing is common
PLATE NO. 6.6 Form House of a Richman

PLATE NO. 6.7 Schedule Caste’s (Jatasi) Dwellings.
among Pasis and Chamars etc. who build their pigsties adjacent to their houses.

As regards the general village morphology and environment, field studies have shown that the condition of rural houses is far from satisfactory. A large number of them are one to three room units built of mud and unburnt bricks. They are constructed in close proximity to each other, allowing little ventilation. The dwelling complexes have narrow meandering lanes and are overcrowded. There are many small and big pits full of contaminated water near the inhabited sites, emitting foul smell. Stagnant water in the pits invites mosquitoes and other obnoxious insects, which poses health hazard. Generally lavatory and toilet facilities are lacking. So open fields around the inhabited site are used as open-air lavatories. This unhygienic practice pollutes the village environment and one has to experience the unbearably foul smell while approaching it. Due to lack of proper drainage facilities village foot-paths and lanes remains dirty and uncleaned during the rainy seasons. Bad housing and lack of planning leads to unhealthy social habits, insanitary conditions, and pollution which increase the risk of diseases and infections.

In order to improve the housing conditions the houses should be simple in design and locally available material ought to be used in their construction. Such a
design suggested by the National Housing Board for the poor and middle income group, has been given in Fig. 6.3. It is a design for single roomed houses, suitable for the low income group. It provides for a multi-purposes varandah and a courtyard. The verandah can be easily converted into a room at a nominal cost. The two roomed house plan, as shown in Fig. 6.3 B, is suitable for medium and low income groups of people. The special feature of this type of house is the maintenance of the privacy of the women-folk. Fig. 6.3 C represents the structure of a three roomed house for people of this class. It consists of three rooms, a kitchen, a store and a bath room. Provision has also been made for a separate cattle shed and a fodder store. The inner courtyard affords enough privacy for women and can be used for various other purposes.