There is a strong link between settlement pattern and economic activity. If an area undergoes economic development the settlement pattern of that area will be liable to undergo structural alteration. Thus, in this increasingly complex society of human settlements and economic activities, a number of problems has been created on the habitat space, which needs solution. Prior to cure the defects of this habitat world, understanding of the anatomy of the society is essential. Individual studies of these innumerable settlements is beyond man's capacity. Hence to facilitate the study, these are classified into groups.

Basically there are two main types of settlement pattern. Firstly, they are either isolated or dispersed, i.e., scattered about countryside. A farmstead is the fine example of this class. Secondly, they are either concentrated or nucleated together into fairly compact groups. Most commonly these agglomerated settlements are designated by various names according to their size and complexity of their functions, i.e., village, town, city and so on. The theme of the thesis is the concept of the nucleated settlement, whether village, town or city, as a focus of
human activity and organization in the service of an area around it.

Taxonomical studies of settlements particularly of cities and towns is an old phenomenon. They have been classified on the basis of age, population, origin and functions. On the basis of age - ancient town, medieval town, modern town; on the basis of population - small town, big town, town below 5,000, town between 5,000-10,000 etc.; on the basis of origin - river town (which developed on river banks), gap town, defence town, centre of highland and plain junction, centre of fertile lowland and basins, route foci, mining centre and so on. Functions are the driving force in the life of town (Carter, 1975). It is the function, through which the location or position of a town can be understood. Thus, functional classification of towns is of utmost importance. Several attempts have been made to classify towns by virtue of the functions they perform. Initial attempts were qualitative. Classes were put in descriptive modes only and towns were allocated a class on subjective basis. For instance, Auzousseau (1921) recognized the following classes: Administration, Defence, Culture, Production, Communication, and Recreation. This sort of classification was non-statistical and was, therefore,
much criticised. With the passage of time, more refined statistical classification on the basis of functional specialization, appeared on the taxonomical scene. Among such methods, a more fully developed and more logical schemes are that of Harris (1943) and Nelson (1955). These functional classifications are no doubt statistical in nature but do not play any significant role in plannings by doing the treatment of the defects of society. Except that the purpose of these classification is to determine the intensity of specialization of various functions of a city or they attempt to identify spatial regularities in the distributional structure of urban functions. Studies of functional classification of towns abound in geographic literature, and apparently are accepted as a legitimate part of the field of urban geography (Smith, 1965). However, the purpose for which functional classifications are designed are seldom made explicit, and often times little is done with them after they are furnished (Smith, 1965).

Not only on the basis of different models, rural and urban settlements are also classified by census authorities to facilitate their study. Village, town, city and urban agglomeration are such terms (Census of India, 1971). Villages and towns have been further divided into sub-classes
on the basis of population size. This classification is merely based on the size of population hence it is vague and rough.

Functional classifications are based upon an estimate of total functions taking into account the gamut of economy. The settlement particularly urban, however, owes much of its essential character to the needs of the area around it and the functions performed by it. It is the duty of the big settlement to cater the satellite settlements. Thus, attention has now been given to the hierarchical classification of settlements, based on the assessment of centralized or regional functions. Here region does not mean a physical entity but an area of common living or a social unit. The basic notion in this case is that a central settlement be a source of goods and services for an area larger than itself. The centre comes into existence because of the necessity of providing goods and services for an area around it. This classification is purely based upon the relation of centre with its orbit. The analysis of the functions of such centres and the areas which they serve, provides the framework for the study of the regionalisation of society. A region as defined or conceived on this basis is an area of interrelated activities, kindred interest and
common organisations, brought into being through the medium of routes which bind it to the urban centres (Dickinson, 1964). Through the knowledge of the anatomy of society, treatment of its defect is possible.

At the times of the earliest civilization due to the absence of quick transport, population and other institutions were concentrated in small areas within which all demands were met. Conversely, modern quick means of transportation has necessiated the dispersion of population over wide space and the service institutions formerly concentrated within the town are now widely distributed and this has resulted into the spatial interaction between the locations of functions and populations. The modern town is no longer a compact settlement unit. Now it is a focus of a group of settlements around it. There is constant intercourse of socio-economic activities between the centre and the complementary region. This spatial process has also necessitated some institutions to be concentrated at fewer centres. To remove the disparities, therefore, the question of equality - social and spatial has now become important in planning policies of a nation. It is now recognized that planning has to be responsive to the emerging problems of society.
The study of spatial structure of society deals with a wide range of topics which encompasses pattern in the location of such diverse phenomena as places of residence, commercial establishments, transportation lines, manufacturing places, hospitals and other social services to optimize the efficiency of each. It also sets certain limits on the ways in which their social relations and interaction with physical environment can be patterned (Wibbs, 1961). With the increasing interest in the study of spatial dispersion of social and economic activities by geographers, economists, sociologists and others, it has now become inevitable to make a thorough study of the location of social services. Attempts have been made to organize the space in such a way that maximum exploitation of resources, utmost degree of human welfare, and high ecological balance may be achieved. Consequently, this will lead to the fullest development of human personality and flowering of human culture.

Several models have been put forward for organizing the space. Von Thunen (1826) was the forerunner of the theorists who has attempted to explain the organisation of space through a workable model. On certain assumptions, he tried to explain land utilization with a number of concentric belts around each town. According to him, the
perishable bulky and heavy products would be produced in the belts near the town. The more distant belt would specialize in products, less in volume and high in market price, as they could afford to bear relatively higher transportation costs. Alfred Weber (1909) explained the location of industry to the factors of transportation, labour and agglomeration. Christaller (1933) attempted to explain the entire economic system, which was spatially oriented, co-ordinated and located. Von Thunen's organisation of space is centred around a single city. It is not relevant to a multitown economy, which is rendered extremely complex by functional diversities, size variations, and inter-connections of an order which makes the 'interdependence' of a town and a peripheral area around it. Major criticism of Christaller's theory is directed against its applicability only to the service sector, which is only a part of the total economy. Losch (1944), taking Christaller's theory as a basis, constructed his model incorporating non-service activities in functions. One group of persons takes Christaller's theory at its point of departure and attempts to explain spatial development process while the other takes Losch at its point of departure and attempts to explain the clustering of human activities at given locations and direct spatial development process. Later on, concept of growth pole was introduced by Perroux (1955). He tried to
explain the phenomenon of economic space. The forces which he conceived were essentially economic and generators of these forces were basically commercial firms and industries. With the basic notion of all these models, they speak for the same basic goal of attainment of balanced growth and its equitable distribution regionally and socially.

Underlying the spatial and location dimensions of activities is the concept of regional development which states that the regional economy is organized around a system of settlements called nodes or centres and they altogether exhibit a hierarchy. These centres range from a market centre serving a group of villages to a major metropolitan city. Because of the interdependence of regions and centres, the spatial organisation of the economy should be carried out at different regional levels ranging from micro to macro levels. Due to the differences in available services and functions among settlements, regional development as a process of functional organisation can be examined in a hierarchical process as benefits of planned development percolate through a system. A system is a net of interlocked elements, each element may be called as a sub-system formed by still smaller parts with the nation at the apex and at the bottom the village.
India has about 575,840 villages of different shapes and sizes, scattered and diffused in various patterns and forms. They tragically suffer from lack of adequate means of transportation and communication along with essential social services like education, health, finance, market and so on. It is also a developing country experiencing a phase of transition from traditional agricultural with feudal socio-economic structure to a modern industrial one. Consequently there is a deterioration in the standard of social facilities due to the attendant process of rapid urbanization (Bulsara, 1964). Moreover, some regions or some areas within a region tend to develop at the cost of other regions or other areas within a region. Further, the system of exchange of social services and goods is done through periodic markets in most of the parts of the country. The town and country relations are far from integrated. The strategy of spatial organization best suited to the Indian condition for eliminating the distortion in the spatial organization and make it amenable to tackle the problems of space economy needs attention. In view of ecological differences from area to area the task of regional planning in India, in spatial context is most urgently needed. It requires a methodology involving hierarchy
of centres and functions so that gaps may be filled. In foreign countries much work has been done but in India little work seems to have appeared on these lines.

Trans-Chaghara Plain is one of the most backward regions of India which could not keep pace with the national progress. Hence an attempt has been made to evolve a strategy for the equitable and just distribution of social and economic services in this region.