

## **Quadrant II –Notes**

**Programme: Bachelor of Arts (Third Year)**

**Subject: Geography**

**Course Code: GED111**

**Course Title: Geography of Urban Settlement.**

**Unit: I –: Urban Settlements- Origin and Evolution.**

**Module Name: Functional classification of towns.**

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### **Notes:**

#### **❖ Town :**

- A town is a residential area that is smaller than a city and larger than a village. The 2011 Census of India defines towns of two types: statutory town and census town.
- 1. Statutory town is defined as all places with a municipality, corporation, cantonment board or notified town area committee.
- 2. Census towns are defined as places that satisfy the following criteria:
  1. Minimum population of 5,000
  2. At least 75% of male working population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits and
  3. Density of population at least 400/km<sup>2</sup>

#### **❖ Functions of Towns:**

- The structure and functions of any region varies in terms of function, history of development as well as the age of the town.
- On the basis of functions, Indian cities and towns can be broadly into - Administrative towns and cities, Industrial towns, Transport Cities, Commercial towns, Mining towns, Educational towns, Religious and cultural towns, and Tourist towns.

- **Administrative Towns:** These towns are headquarters of administrative departments of central or state governments such as New Delhi or Panaji, Washington D.C. and Tokyo. The main function is to administer the state, country or specific territory.
- **Industrial towns:** Industries constitute prime motive force of these towns such as Mumbai, Salem, Coimbatore, Modinagar, Jamshedpur, Hugli, Bhilai, etc.
- **Commercial towns:** Towns and cities specializing in trade and commerce are kept in this class. Kolkata, Saharanpur, Satna, etc. are some examples.
- **Mining towns:** These towns have developed in mineral rich areas such as Raniganj, Jharia, Digboi, Ankeleshwar, Singrauli, etc.
- **Educational towns:** Starting as centres of education, some of the towns have grown into major campus towns such as Roorki, Varanasi, Aligarh, Pilani, Allahabad etc.
- **Religious and cultural towns:** Varanasi, Mathura, Amritsar, Madurai, Puri, Ajmer, Pushkar, Tirupati, Kurukshetra, Haridwar, Ujjain came to prominence due to their religious/cultural significance.
- **Tourist towns:** Nainital, Mussoorie, Shimla, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Udagamandalam (Ooty), Mount Abu are some of the tourist destinations.

#### ❖ **Classification of Town by Auroousseau:**

- In 1921, M. Auroousseau classified towns into six classes: administrative, defence, culture, production-towns, communication and recreation.
- His classification is simple one but suffers a defect due to over-generalization.
- To classify a town into one major category, neglects the role of other classes. The cut-off point of one-class is decided by the arbitrary percentage, and therefore it is subjective.
- Economic activities too are neglected. These are important in the sense that a town also caters for the need of people residing outside its municipal limits.

- Various classes of functions as suggested by Auroousseau create confusion in the sense that both functional and locational characteristics are mixed.
- But Auroousseau classification marks a significant stage and provides a springboard for sophisticated methods.

#### ❖ **Harris's Classification:**

- Chauncy D. Harris remedied the deficiencies of the former subjective and common-sense-judgement-based classifications.
- He was able to identify quantitatively dominant function out of multifunctional character of cities.
- He used employment as well as occupational figures reduced to percentages to indicate cut-off points for urban activities varying in importance.
- His classification is based on the fact that some activity-groups employ many more persons than others do.
- For e.g. USA's 27 % employed persons of the total urban employment are in manufacturing, while wholesale trade has about 4 %.
- Harris's classification suffers with some grave defects and cannot be universally viable. He used metropolitan districts as functional units. Consequently, number of cities which were too small to have metropolitan districts was left unclassified.

#### ❖ **Howard Nelson's Classification:**

- Nelson further removed the shortcomings of the classifications of those of Harris and others by using a stated procedure.
- He decided to base his method of classification entirely upon major industry groups as listed in the 1950 Census of Population for standard metropolitan areas, urbanized areas and urban places of 10,000 or more population.
- He omitted the little significance groups like agriculture and construction.

- The problem of city specialization, and also the degree of specialization above the average was solved by giving margins of different degree to different size classes.
- He did find a definite tendency for the percentages employed in some activities vary with city size.