

An Outlook of Rural Planning and Development in Malihabad, India in Perspectives of Settlement and Allied Amenities

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Abstract: Settlement is one among some most basic needs of the men; related with the socialization of humans. The need of the permanent settlement arises mainly, due to the growth and development of agriculture itself. It is the one; among the trio of “roti, kapda and makaan” (bread, clothes and house). Human life revolves around these three and remains miserable without them; as adequate availability of housing facilities is as valuable as others for civilized population. Men in all the times and all around the world remain engaged in fulfilling the demands of food, clothes and residence. Dwelling availability, most specifically depicts the developmental stages of the societies and it can be easily guessed whether, the society is in the stage of developed, developing or in underdeveloped state with a single expression of settlements. Huge size of population on this earth is still waiting for the adequate place of residence. Increasing population in leaps and bounds is making conditions more awful. Purpose of the present study is to focus on the availability of settlements, adequacy and efficiency of basic associated amenities and anxieties.

Keywords: Cultured men, habitat, permanent settlements, roti, kapada and makaan, socialization of humans.

INTRODUCTION

Geography and economy are the two important factors; decide the nature of human settlement; its need, pattern and types, layouts, building material used, and various related features of these in space and time. The study of settlement has evolved into the interaction of humans with the physical and ecological world [1]. According to the Merriam-Webster’ Dictionary [2] ‘habitat is the place or environment where a plant or animal naturally or normally lives and grows or the typical place of residence of a person or a group’. Dwelling and their types are the most important cultural expressions of the humans. Here, we start with the assumption that man is a product of the earth’s surface [3] and need for the permanent settlements rises due to the settled agriculture as, man prefers to live nearer to their agricultural fields with their families, so that proper investigations and care of crops can be done without difficulty. Physio-cultural, socio-economic and climatic conditions of the regions remain linked with settlement. Any settlement can be studied in either a world or a regional context, but any settlement if it is to be adequately appreciated must be correlated with other facts of geography e.g. relief, climate, geology and social and economic conditions [4]. Any interaction of man to its natural environment leads to the development of manmade ecosystem and settlements are the one among all the ecosystems created by men. Geography is

integrating concepts and processes concern the worldwide ecosystem of which man is the dominant part [5] thus, we can conceive world as a large manmade ecosystem as no part of the known earth is without the influence and interfere of man. Geography in this regard is an important branch of scientific study; explores the associations, interrelations and interactions of man to the natural environs in integrity.

Settlement geography in this sense is valuable as it studies the changing natural environment by the men and men’s adaptation to the environment and generated processes in consequence. Settlement studies are mainly grouped into two groups; one is the study of urban settlements and another one is the study of rural settlements. Here divisions are mainly due to the fact that there are huge differences in the settlement types, patterns, densities, and also in building material used and perceptions of the population towards the use of settlements. Urban settlements have to deal with the urban environment and ecosystem whereas rural settlement interacts with rural environment, ecosystem and with different socio-cultural and economic activities. Urban areas are specialized in secondary, tertiary and other higher levels of economic activities while rural places deal much with primary economic activities thus the needs of both urban and rural areas differ much. Urban areas are struggling for space,

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adequate and efficient road networks and transportation systems, slums, garbage disposal, drainage and drinking water and many more on the other side villages in the country are facing the deficiency of basic amenities.

The present study also covers the domain of rural development and the available basic rural amenities decide the developmental stages of a village. Rural amenities are the things crucial to make the life of rural population easier and more satisfying. Government always tries to and also bound to provide basic amenities, such as roads, drinking water, housing, toiletry and sanitation facilities to the rural areas. All these basic facilities enhance the quality of life in rural areas. The processes of improving the quality of life of rural peoples and their economic welfare; living in rural areas, often in relatively isolated and sparsely populated areas are known as rural development [6]. The need for rural communities and their increasing willingness to move toward development with an extensive outlook has created more focus on a wider range of developmental goals. Agricultural and resource-based production in the rural areas is changing swiftly. Education, private enterprise, physical infrastructure, and available social infrastructure in rural areas play a significant role in the development of rural regions. Spatial plans and policy implementations are must for rural development. In comparison to urban areas, where there are many similarities, rural areas are extremely distinctive from one another. Therefore, there is a large variety of rural development approaches are in use globally [7]. The focus of rural development, traditionally is on the utilization of natural resources mainly land, water, and forest. Due to the changes in global production networks and with the increased urbanization, temperament of rural areas has been changed totally. Rural development is also distinguished by its stress on locally produced economic developmental strategies [6]. Rural development should concern with the social as well as economic development of the rural areas and rural communities. Rural development is a comprehensive concept. One should think of what type of rural development is needed in the country since transformations of village lead to the urbanization and village environment will disappear for sure. The rural development aims at finding the ways to improve the rural lives with the help of and with active participation of rural population themselves, so as to meet the required needs of the rural communities [8]. It is actually difficult for an outsider to understand the physical and culture settings, language and other things prevalent in the local rural areas. Thus, rural people themselves have to participate in their sustainable rural development programmes. When the farmer i.e. rural populations are neglected, the long-term sustainability of the country is threatened [9]. Availability and accessibility to basic amenities and further integrated

rural developmental approaches are boon to the rural community; many approaches and concept have been developed and are in practice, for example, bottom-up approach, Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA), Community Development Programme (CDP), etc. are in follow nowadays among rural Indian communities.

The government has decided and directed to the Gram Panchayats and local administrative bodies to provide 15 basic amenities essential for rural areas. Providing drinking water, rural roads, burial ground, playground, animal shelters, individual toilets, community harvesting ground, skill development centre, public service centres, public libraries, village tank/ponds, self-employment facilities and roads to farm and water harvesting are such amenities must be facilitated in each and every village in India. Many rural areas in the country are continuously experiencing depopulation and economic decline whereas various rural areas are also facing rapid in-migration, as well as continuous employment generation and economic growth. Much of this growth is the result of occurrence and exploitation of basic amenity resources, i.e. some regions have some specific qualities that make it a pretty space to live and work with ample scope for pleasure and leisure. These rural areas are extracting their natural resources for external markets; these communities have begun to build economies based on promoting environmental quality, peace and bliss for life. Presently rural development explores the paradigm shift and the perceptions about the land, water and vegetation are changing now we view land resources and the potential for development in amenity-rich rural regions in the eyes of sustainability.

Problems of rural areas are of appropriate and efficient lightening means, scarcity of electricity, cooking fuel, drinking water, proper and hygienic cooking place, building materials and toiletry problems etc. There is a huge misunderstanding about environmental issues in rural areas. Rural population lives nearer to the environment as compared to urban population and interactions are also diversified but perceptions in the minds of the rural population about the environmental interactions and relations are not clear. Geography in this regard is an important branch of scientific study; explore the associations, interrelations and interactions of man to the natural environs in integrity and is also valuable as it studies the changing natural environment by the men for habitat and livelihood and also men's adaptation to the environment and generated processes in consequence.

STUDY AREA

Geographically Malihabad has its extent in 26° 52' 11" North to 27° 6' 40" North latitudes and in 80° 33' 40" East to 80° 50' 57" East longitudes (See Fig-1). The whole area is spread in about 478.01 sq km of area. Administratively, Malihabad is a *tehsil* of district Lucknow, comprising 2 blocks, namely Malihabad and Mal. The entire tehsil is divided into 22 *Nyay Panchayats* and one *Nagar Panchayat (NP)*, having 187

villages with the population of 368453 persons in which, 193230 persons are males and 175223 persons are females [10]. The relief of Malihabad tehsil varies between 109m to 130m above mean sea level (msl). The average elevation of region is about 129m above mean sea level (msl) and general slope is towards north-west to south-east following the slope of the Great Plains.

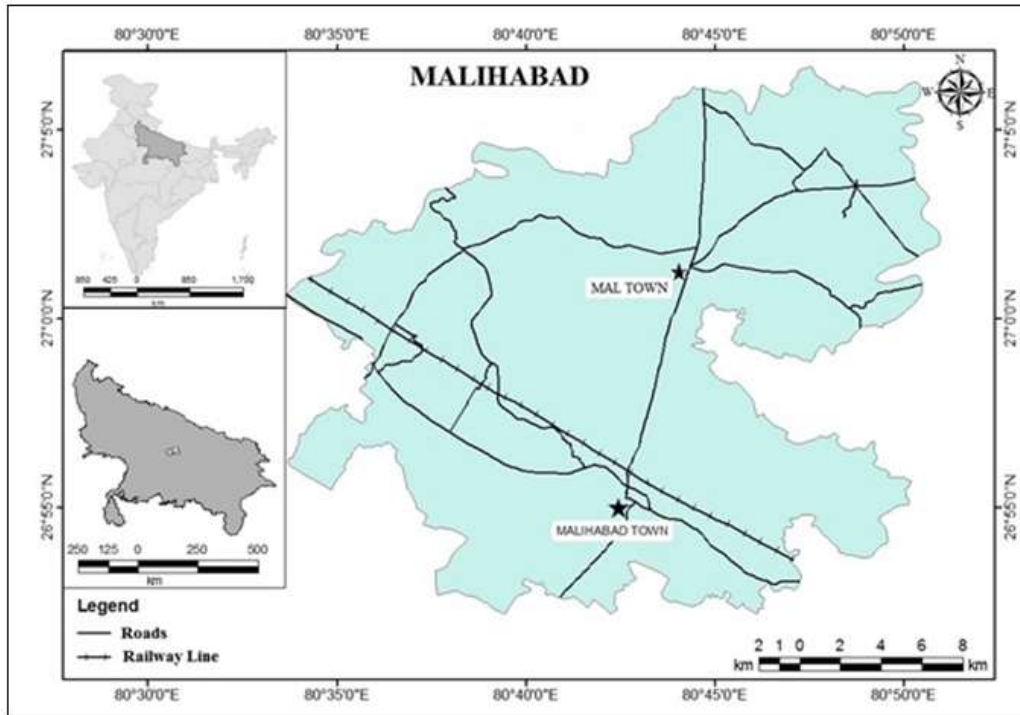


Fig-1: Location map of the study area

OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

Main objectives of the study are to study and analyze the settlement availability and efficiency, their types, the building material used, and also settings of fundamental housing amenities available to the population of the Malihabad. The study also focuses on the factors responsible for altering rural settlements; their types, layouts, and also on materials used with related problems and suggestions to short and solve the habitat problems in the region. The present study is based on both primary and secondary data. Primary data have been collected and compiled with the help of questionnaire schedules among 475 respondents; selected with the help of stratified random sampling and secondary data relevant for the study were collected from the revenue office, census, sankhiki patrika and various other sources. Based on the acquired data further analyses have been carried out and conclusions and suggestions have been made, accordingly.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Population and Households in Malihabad

From Table-1 it can be witnessed that study area Malihabad has 368453 persons with the 65863 households i.e., on an average each house has 5.59 members in it. Total numbers of households in Malihabad were 52,358 in the year 2001, which increased to 65,863 in the year 2011. Out of the 23 units, the highest numbers of households are located in *kasmandi khurd* whereas the lowest in *kahala* with 4248 and 1693 households respectively. Distribution/categorization of total households shows that only one unit has below 2000 households and maximum numbers of households fall into the category of 2001-2500 and the number goes to 8. While only 3 units have 4001-4500 households (See Table-2 & Fig-3).

Table-1: Population and Households in Malihabad

Nyay/Nagar Panchayat	Population	No. of Household	Person per Household
Jindaur	23587	4058	5.81
Jauria	14925	2652	5.63
Kasmandi Khurd	24779	4248	5.83
Mahmood Nagar	14173	2454	5.78
GarhiSanjar Khan	12783	2113	6.05
GaudaMuajjam Nagar	17214	2987	5.76
Dheremau	13417	2510	5.35
Bakhtiyar Nagar	13555	2512	5.40
Sahilamau	14915	2531	5.89
Kasmandi Kalan	20286	3644	5.57
Kahala	10039	1693	5.93
Mal	17195	3308	5.20
Amlauli	12884	2325	5.54
Nabi Panah	16223	2943	5.51
Aumau	13889	2513	5.53
Atari	16822	3023	5.56
Siswara	12397	2287	5.42
Saspan	19513	3533	5.52
Shankarpur	15987	2940	5.44
Badaiya	11705	2136	5.48
Madwana	12957	2347	5.52
Thari	21390	4074	5.25
Malihabad (NP)	17818	3032	5.88
Total	368453	65863	5.59

Source: Census, 2011.

Table-2: Distributions of Households

No. of Households	No. of Nyay/Nagar Panchayats
Below 2000	1
2001 - 2500	8
2501 - 3000	6
3001 - 3500	3
3501 - 4000	2
4001 - 4500	3
Total	23

Source: Census, 2011.

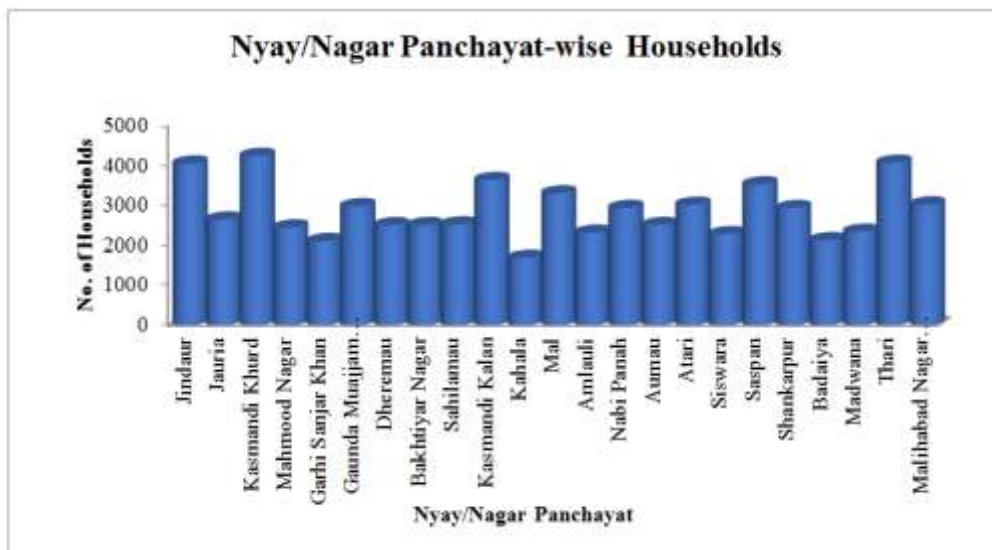


Fig-2: Nyay/Nagar Panchayat-wise Households



Fig-3: Categorization of Households

Conditions and Availability of Housing Amenities in Malihabad

Table-3: Type of Material used in House Making

Housing Material	Wall		Roof		Floor	
	No. of Respondents	%tage	No. of Respondents	%tage	No. of Respondents	%tage
Thatch/ Bamboo/ Wood/Grass	48	10.11	97	20.42	0	0
Mud and Mud Bricks	189	39.79	121	25.47	379	79.79
Burnt Brick/ Concrete	204	42.95	201	42.32	86	18.11
Other	34	7.16	56	11.79	10	2.11
Total	475	100	475	100	475	100

Source: Field Survey, 2014

House Types and Building Materials

Total 475 respondents have been surveyed for the purpose of sample study. Out of the 475 respondents 48 (10.11%) respondents have house walls made up of thatch/ bamboo/ wood/grasses, 189 (39.79%) respondents' house walls are of mud and mud bricks while 42.95% i.e. 204 respondents have house walls of burnt bricks and concrete and only 34 (7.16%) respondents use other materials, whereas 97 (20.42%) respondent accepted that their roofs of the houses are made up of thatch/ bamboo/ wood/grasses, 121

(25.47%) respondents' roofs are of mud and 201 (42.32%) respondents roofs are of burnt bricks, remaining 56 (11.79%) respondents use miscellaneous materials for roof.

Floors of the houses are highly diversified in material used as, 79.79% i.e. 379 respondents have used mud, 18.11% i.e. 86 respondents' houses are of cemented floors (made up of concrete or burnt bricks), while 10 (2.11%) respondents use other materials available and accessible for flooring (See Table-3).

Table-4: Rooms Availability

No. of Respondents	%tage	Average No. of Rooms Available
44	9.27	3
275	57.89	2.5
156	32.84	2
Total- 475	100	2.5

Source: Field Survey, 2014

Table-5: Conditions of Houses

(Residence+ Residence-cum-Other use)			
Good	Livable	Dilapidate	Total
203	251	22	100
(42.70%)	(52.80%)	(4.60%)	(100%)

Source: Field Survey, 2014

From Table-5 it is clear that every respondent has its own house in the Malihabad region but the number of rooms and their availability differs on a large. Out of the 475 respondents 52.8% have livable houses, houses of the good condition are occupied by 42.7% respondents, only 4.6% houses are in dilapidate conditions; mostly belong to SC population (See Table-5). Average number of available rooms in study area is limited only to 2.5 rooms per house viz. only 44

(9.27%) samples have 3 rooms in their house, 275 (57.89%) respondents have 2.5 rooms in single house, whereas 156 (32.84%) respondents keep 2 rooms per household (Table-4). Availability of rooms in the houses very much confined to the socio-economic conditions of the population. On an average per household have six persons in them with only 2.5 rooms per house causing different social constraints (See Table-4).

Table-6: Availability and Dependency on Water Sources

Source of Drinking Water	No. of Respondents	%tage
Hand Pump	402	84.63
Tap	4	0.84
Well	34	7.16
Others	35	7.37
Total	475	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2014

Table-7: Location of Water Sources from Household

Location of Drinking Water	No. of Respondents	%tage
Within Premise	67	14.11
Near Premise	341	71.78
Away	67	14.11
Total	475	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2014

Drinking water, lightning facilities, available kitchen, and adequate and environment friendly cooking fuel, lavatory facilities are the basic needs of the civilized and developed societies; and are helpful in judging the socio-cultural and socio-economic status of the societies. From Table-6, it is easily understood that among 475 respondents, 84.63% respondents depend on hand pumps for drinking water and water for domestic uses, only 0.84% respondents have tap facilities, whereas 7.16% samples fetch drinking water from wells and 7.37% depends on miscellaneous sources of water.

Location of the source of drinking water is also important for rural population as in general they don't have water sources nearby their houses causing huge time and labour waste. In Malihabad 14.11% respondents have drinking water source within their premise and also the same percentage of respondents have sources of drinking water very away from their premises whereas, 71.78% respondents fetch water from nearby sources (See Table-7).

Kerosene and electricity are the major sources of lightning in Malihabad as most of the study area is rural. Among 475 respondents 24 respondents use only kerosene for lightening and 451 respondents use both kerosene and electricity (See Table-8).

Table-9 shows that firewood, LPG, cow dung cake and crop residues are the major fuel for cooking in Malihabad. Among 475 respondents, 73.47% use firewood, 14.53% cow dung cake and 2.95% respondents reside on crop residues thus, total 85.47% respondents use firewood, cow dung cake and crop residues for cooking and only 43 respondents i.e. 9.05% use LPG for cooking on daily basis.

Table-8: Lightning Sources

Source of Lighting	No. of Respondents
Kerosene only	24
Electricity only	0
Both	451

Source: Field Survey, 2014

Table-9: Cooking Fuel used in Malihabad

Fuel for Cooking	No. of Respondents	% tage
Fire wood	349	73.47
Gas	43	9.05
Cow dung cake	69	14.53
Crop residue	14	2.95
Total	475	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2014

Table-10: Availability of Kitchen, Bathrooms and Toilets

Facility/Amenity	Have	Don't Have	Total
Kitchen Availability	205 (43.15%)	270 (56.85%)	475 (100%)
Availability of Bathrooms and Toilets	179 (37.68%)	296 (62.32%)	475 (100%)

Source: Field Survey, 2014

Table-10 makes clear that out of 475 respondents; 43.15% have established kitchen facilities whereas, 56.85% respondents don't have well-furnished kitchen facilities i.e. they cook food in open area within the home or on the rooftop or below *chappars* or *barandah*. Bathrooms and toilet are other important basic amenities to the peoples most prominently to the females and children for their security and self-respect, but from table it is clear that these facilities are not in very satisfactory in Malihabad, as only 37.68% respondents avail bathrooms and toilets in their houses or in its vicinity while, a huge amount i.e. 62.32% respondents lack such facilities (See Table-10).

CONCLUSION

The settlement is one among few basic needs of the population to live on this earth all around the world. From above results and discussions, it is evident that every person has housing facility in the study area Malihabad. But, the availability of rooms per person and per house is very low, which is causing various social constraints in the rural areas of Malihabad. Traces of poor room availability and accessibility can be found in the economic conditions and cultural setups of the population of Malihabad. Alterations in housing material are at high and traditional houses of the *kachhi mitti* (mud) mostly have been replaced by the burnt brick houses; which are favourable in rainy and winter seasons but seldom in hot and sticky summers. The reasons behind changed housing material are mainly; economic rather climatic as economic conditions of the rural population are better as compared to past and advancement is more. The durability of brick houses is more as compared to mud houses which need seasonal maintenance.

When we come on the family structure, the concept of nuclear family is popularizing in Malihabad with changing aspirations and modernization of the rural population, continuously growing population and family size is also a major cause of nuclear and fragmented families thus; the demand of more houses is increasing day by day. Growing population and increasing nuclear families are pressurizing population to use each and every fragment of available land, so that very compact houses are now in emergence and peoples are encroaching and moving towards productive farming land for housing, in result agricultural and

pasture lands are decreasing continuously with shrinking culturable and complementary spaces.

House types of the areas are usually the result of physical and cultural factors operational there; square and rectangular layouts of the houses are common in the Malihabad. Earlier, a house contains rooms, kitchen; open or covered, *verandah* and open space locally called *aangan* for cultural and domestic purposes, and each and every house kept, joint or separate space for domestic animals, as the rural economy was depended heavily on them. But transformations are in abundance with the technological advancements, the progression of socio-economic conditions and changing demands of the rural population everywhere in Malihabad. Open spaces are falling in size, the concept of *verandah* is vanishing, burnt brick houses are taking place of mud and thatched houses, with closed and compact structure without proper ventilation and sunshine.

In past, most of the houses of the study area were made up of mud and thatch, but accessibility to technological advancements and socio-economic expansions have altered the overall scenario; now a large number of settlements are mettled and semi-mettled. Earlier houses in the study region were made-up of *kachhi mitti* (mud) and thatch, walls of the rooms locally called *kothari* of *kachhi mitti* (mud) and roofs also of same material supported by bamboo and wooden pillars called *dhannis* locally. Poor people were used to, to make their houses with grass and bamboo with the cementing of soil mixed with cow dung. *Chhapper*; temporary roofs one side supported by the wall and remaining three sides open were the common phenomenon of each and every house. Now burnt bricks and cemented houses are common throughout the Malihabad.

Housing conditions are on an average condition in Malihabad; impacts of caste are eminent as houses of SC population' are not in good and livable conditions in general. Conditions of drinking water are satisfactory in the sense, as a high number of populations is depended on hand pumps whether, self-owned or facilitated by the government, but due care is needed, of available water sources. Kerosene is the major source of lightning with electricity; the need of the time is the proper and continuous supply of electricity in Malihabad, so that dependency on

kerosene oil can be reduced as intense use of kerosene oil causes various respiratory and eye diseases. Use of wood, cow dung cake, and crop residue for cooking is prevalent throughout the Malihabad causing severe threats to the population; women and children are more prone to dangerous impacts of smoke from cooking fuel. Availability of space for the separate kitchen is also not frequent, thus there are severe chances of contaminated diseases prevalent in the study region. The whole study area is in the transitional phases of development and modernization. Huge rural transformations are taking place in Malihabad and their impacts, both positive and negative are in abundance and are spread everywhere in the region. Development of the rural settlements should be in accordance with the geographical site and situations.

Development is a continuous process; can't be stopped and it will not be appropriate also to condemn the developmental processes in rural areas anywhere, as well as in the study area Malihabad, as they have equal rights to prosper as cities but need of the time is to develop environment friendly housing facilities, provide basic amenities and upgrade tools and technique which are helpful in rural development. The need of the recent is to discard the wrong concepts, tools and techniques and, modify and upgrade the older ones with developing the newer ones for rural development and rural habitat. Adequate use of locally available resources, as sunshine, water, reasonable use of land resource and vegetation are must, identifying the potentials of the rural environment is also important for better planning and management of rural areas.

Awareness of rural population is also important as their future is directly linked with these rural areas and their resources. They should understand and develop their villages on the basis of sustainable spatio-temporal feasibilities and distinguished demands of each and every rural settlement separately and collectively. The focus must be on the appropriate use of available local resources and eyes on the potentials of each and every village.

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