

Distribution of Houses and Residents in the Central Settlement of Chiraigaon

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チライガオン村中心集落の家屋と居住者の分布特性

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I. Introduction

Chiraigaon is one of typical villages located in urban fringe with a population (according to 1981 Census) of 1969 situated about 15 kilometers to the north-east from the heart of the city of Varanasi, which is the third biggest city in the State of Uttar Pradesh. Varanasi is the headquarter of the district of the same name, and is known all over the country as an important center of Hinduism.

The settlement in Chiraigaon follows an agglomerated pattern, with 60 percent of all the households lying in the central settlement. Some settlements are situated to the south-west (Scheduled caste settlement), to the south-east (*Katik* settlement) from the central settlement which dominated by *Maurya*, and along the Baluwa Road which lies on the south limit of the village (Fig.1).

Seventy-three percent of households in the central settlement of Chiraigaon is *Maurya*, which is the most ascendant *jati* in the village. The reason why the dominant *jati* live in the location of the present central settlement is that the residents could get

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water more easily in the central settlement than the circumference because the level of ground water was higher (Yonekura, 1973). The location of Scheduled caste and *Katik* settlements was associated with the prevailing wind with direction of northeast to east. That is to say, minor *jati* could not live in the windward (Yonekura, 1973). But the segregation inside the central settlement has not been mentioned. The intent of this study is to elucidate the distribution of houses and residents, and to find micro segregation in the central settlement in Chiraigaon.

The base map of the central settlement was made by means of measurement with compass and pacing. The house structure was observed from field study. House facility and economic condition of households were obtained by interview survey. Field study was carried out during September 28 to October 20, 1991.

II. Distribution of houses and residents in the central settlement

1. Characteristics of houses

1) Structure and age of construction

Traditional house in Ganges Plain is characterized by mud wall with tiled roof, which is called *kaccha* in Hindu language. *kaccha* house is usually single structure, and mud wall of *kaccha* house is fifty to sixty centimeters in thickness. In the central settlement of Chiraigaon, 31 percent of households live in *kaccha* house.

Recently, the structure of houses has been changing to concreted brick wall with horizontal roof, which is called *pucca* in Hindu language. *Pucca* house include many types in story, largeness and quality. In the central settlement of Chiraigaon, 68 percent of households live in *pucca* house. Another type of structure is straw thatched house, but it is very seldom in this village.

Pucca houses are mainly distributed along the E-W main street and in the densely built-up area which lies at the south of a jam factory. On the other hand, *kaccha* houses are located at the northwest of north pond and at the periphery of the densely built-up area (Fig.2).

Seventy percent of households live in the single story house, and 28 percent live in the double story house. Only 2 percent of household live in the triple story house. Double story houses are mainly located at the north of north pond and along the N-S street which goes through the densely built-up area. Triple story houses lie in the core of the

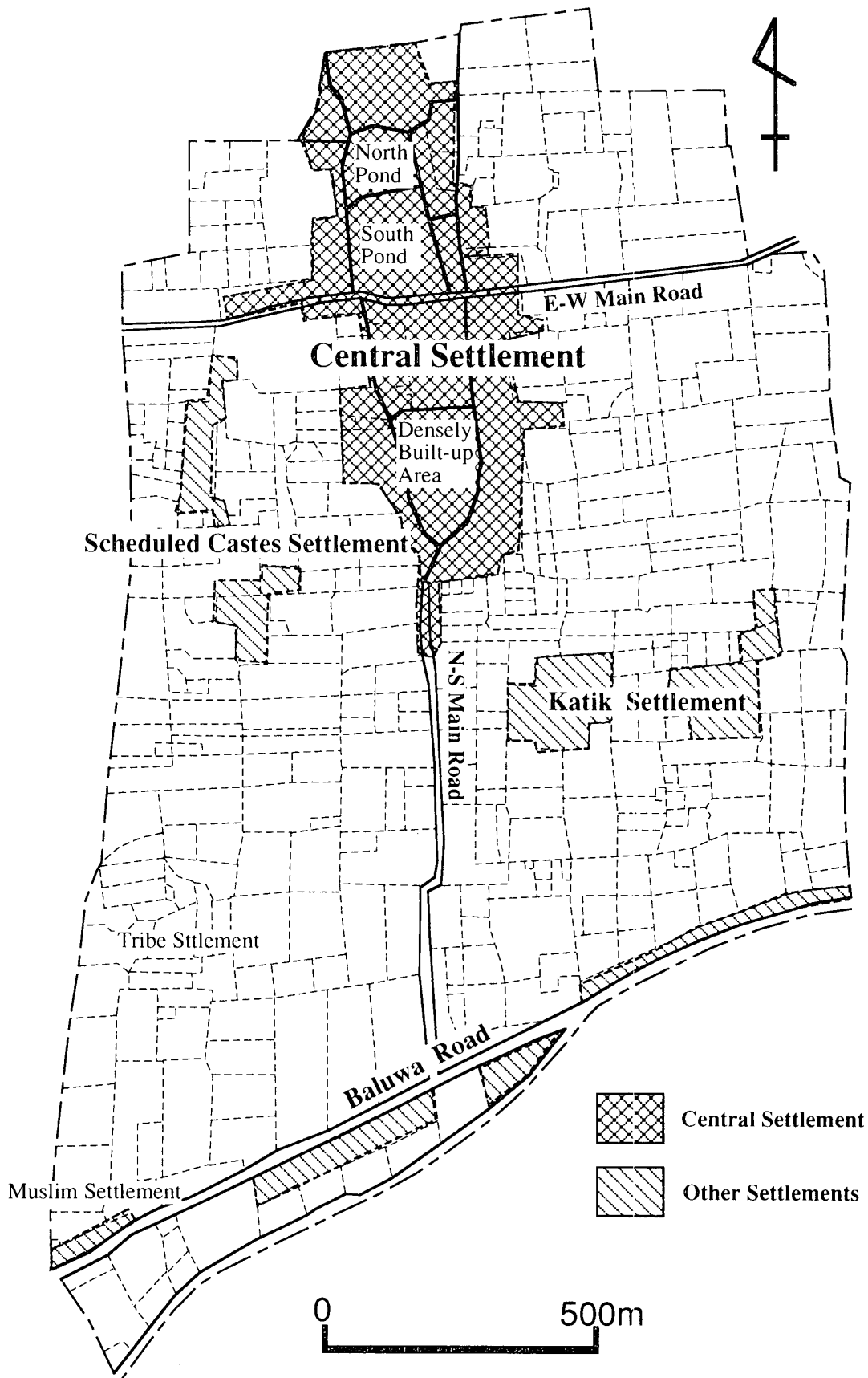


Fig.1 Settlements and their location in Chiraigaon

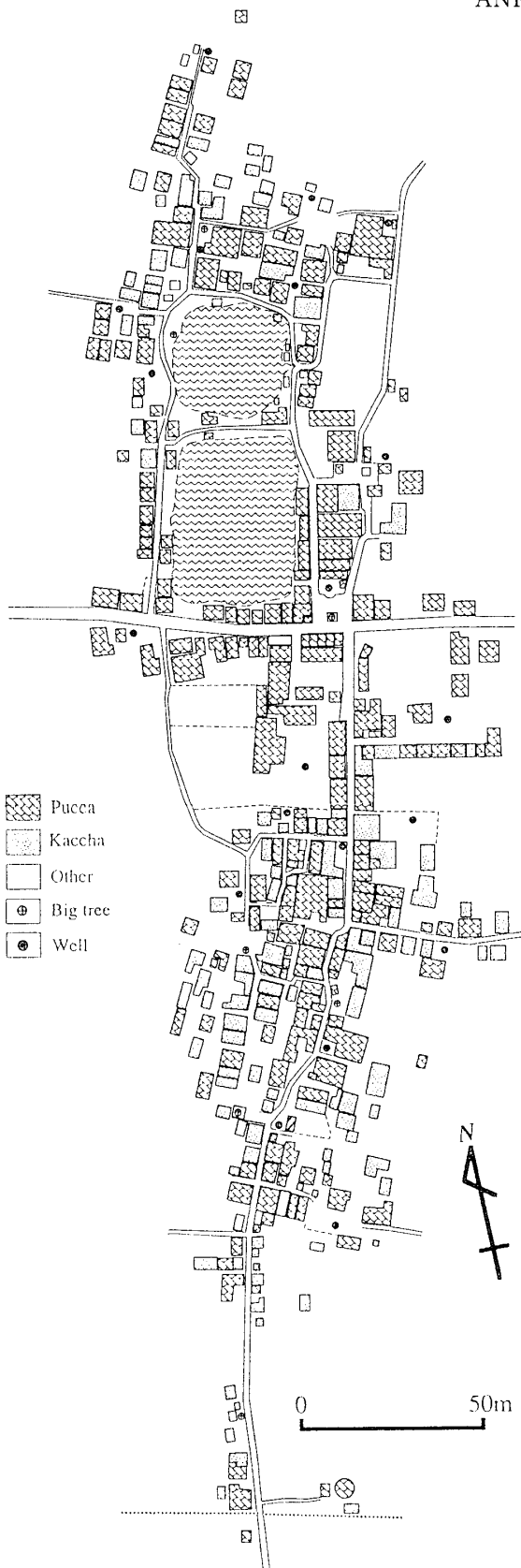


Fig.2 Spacial distribution of house according to its structure in the central settlement

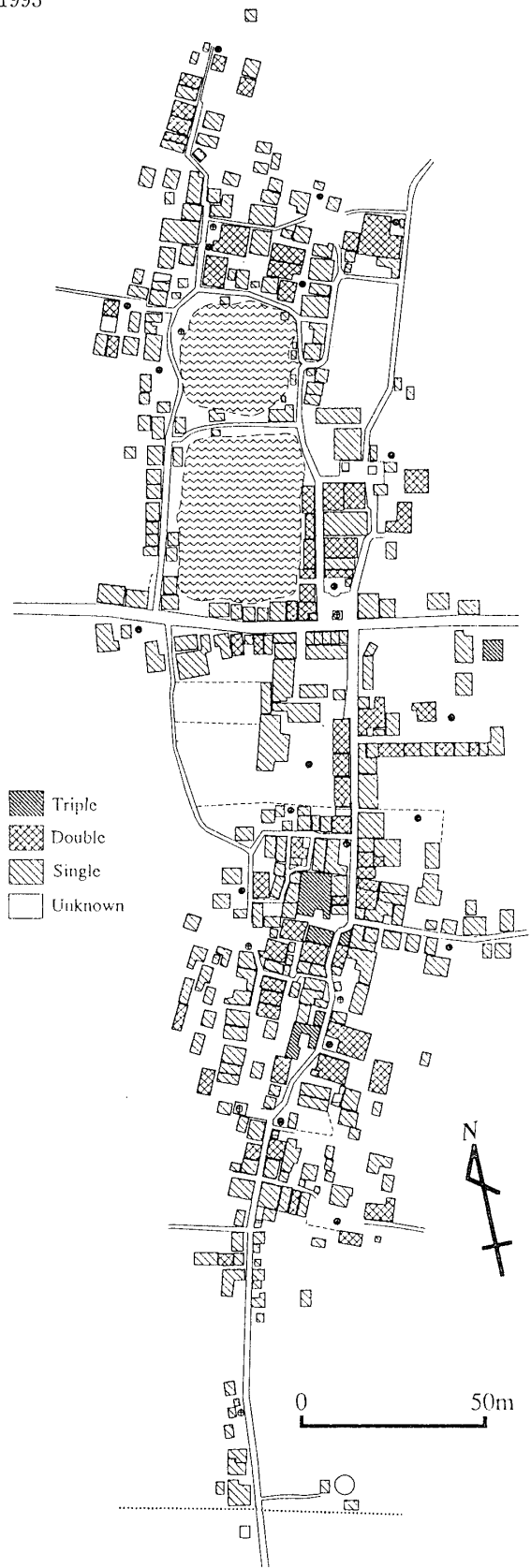


Fig.3 Spacial distribution of house according to its story in the central settlement

densely built-up area (Fig.3).

Houses which were constructed before 1919 are 7.3 percent, from 1920 to 1939 are 4 percent, from 1940 to 1959 are 18.3 percent, from 1960 to 1979 are 40.5 percent, and after 1980 are 29.9 percent. Number of construction or reconstruction of houses have increased since the Independence of India. Houses which were constructed before the Independence are left only in the circumference. In the densely built-up area, the percentage of houses which constructed after 1980 is considerably high. In the area which is adjacent to the densely built-up area, almost all houses were built soon after the Independence. In the periphery of the central settlement, both old houses before the Independence and newly constructed houses after 1980 are distributed coexistingly. It may be said that new houses in the densely built-up area must be reconstructed ones, and in the periphery of the central settlement must be newly constructed ones with increase of households of this village (Fig.4).

2) Facility of houses

Some facilities attached to houses can be considered as important indicators for family living standard. Guest room, toilet, bath room and handpump are very good indicators for economic standard. In this section, the author describes distributions of facilities as mentioned above, and clarify the characteristic segregation of the central settlement.

Guest room includes *bitaka* in Hindu language, which is a traditional separate room and sometimes used by male members of family in order to have private time. In the central settlement, 58 percent of households have guest room including *bitaka*. Ratio of possessing guest rooms is little higher in the densely built-up area (Fig.5).

In India, toilet has not been popularized especially in the rural area. In the central settlement, only 17 percent of households have private toilet in their own house. Households possessing toilet concentrate in the north of north pond, the east of south pond and the densely built-up area (Fig.6).

In India, the custom of bathing is very popular, but private bath room is not so diffused in the rural area. The diffusion of bath room may be related to water supply to each house. In the central settlement, only 22 percent of households have private bath room in their own house. The distribution of households possessing bath room is very

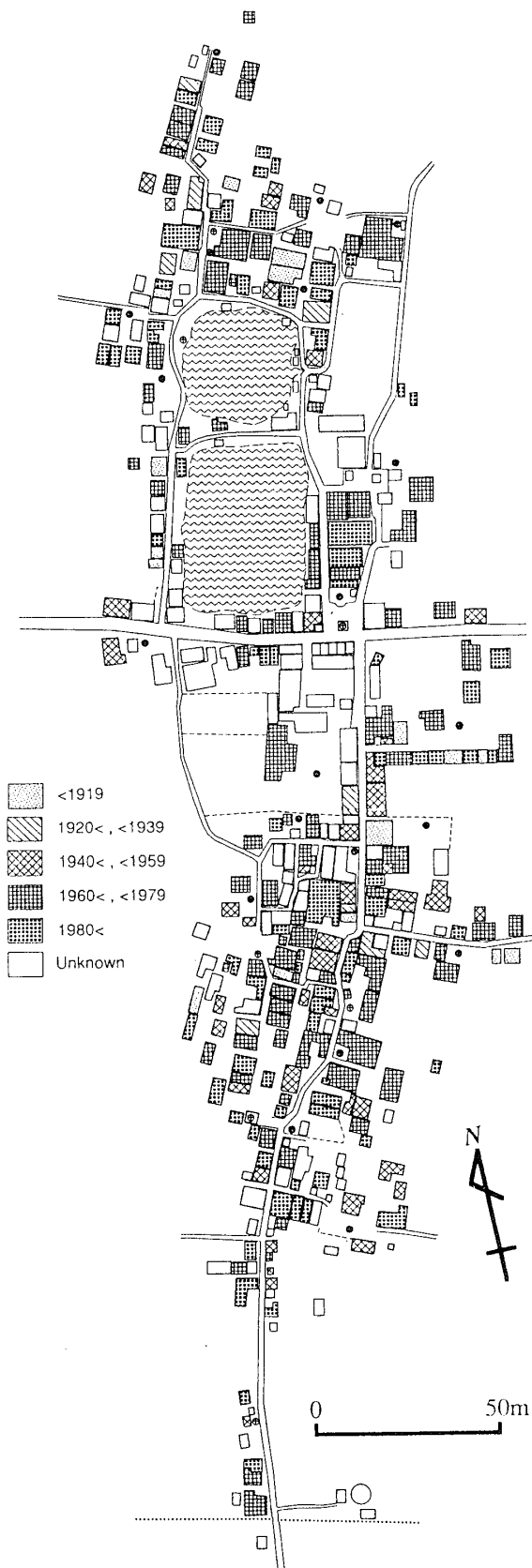


Fig.4 Spacial distribution of house according to its built year in the central settlement

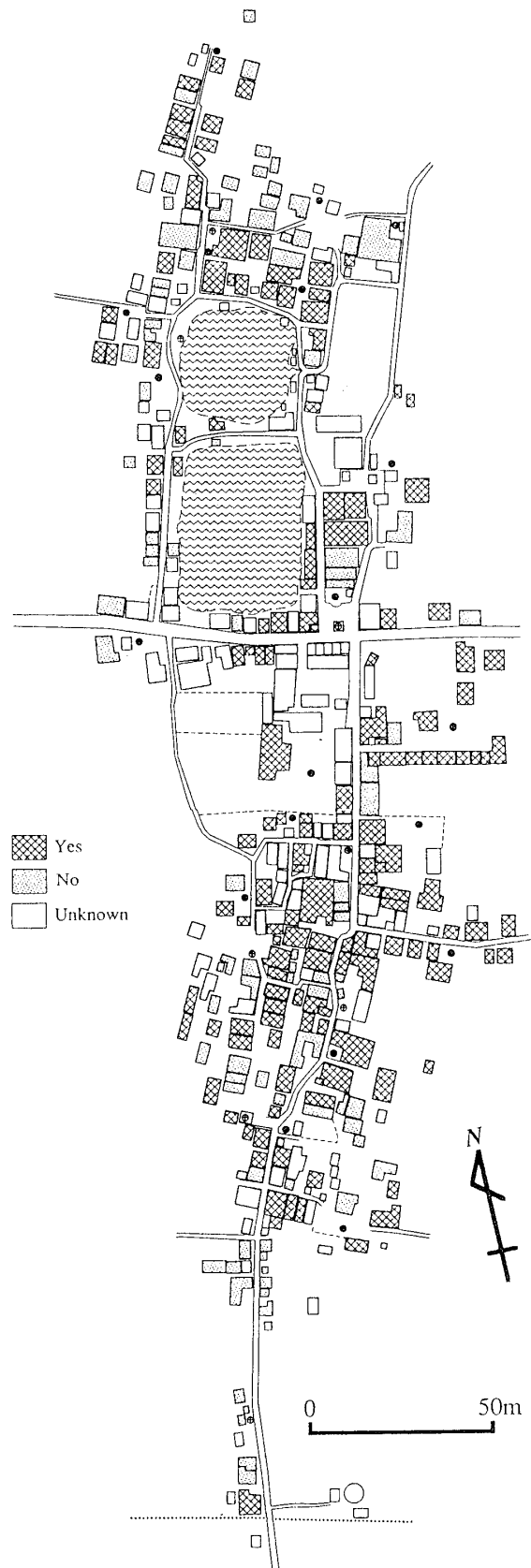


Fig.5 Spacial distribution of house to which guest room is attached in the central settlement

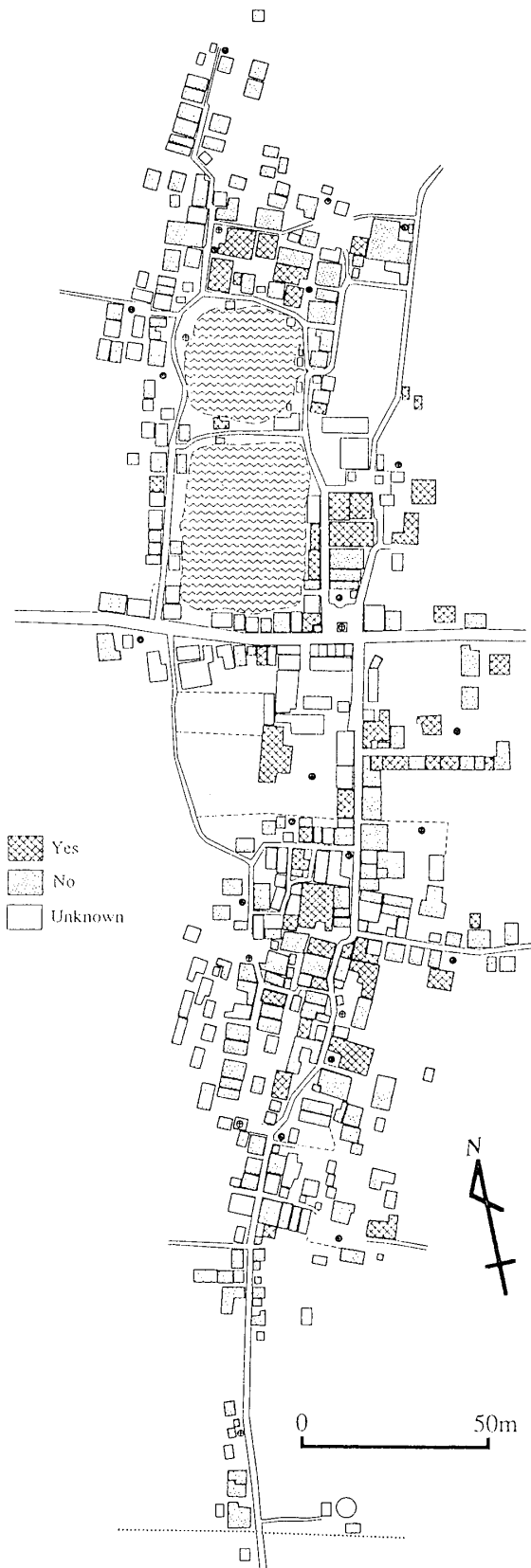


Fig.6 Spacial distribution of house to which toliet is attached in the central settlement

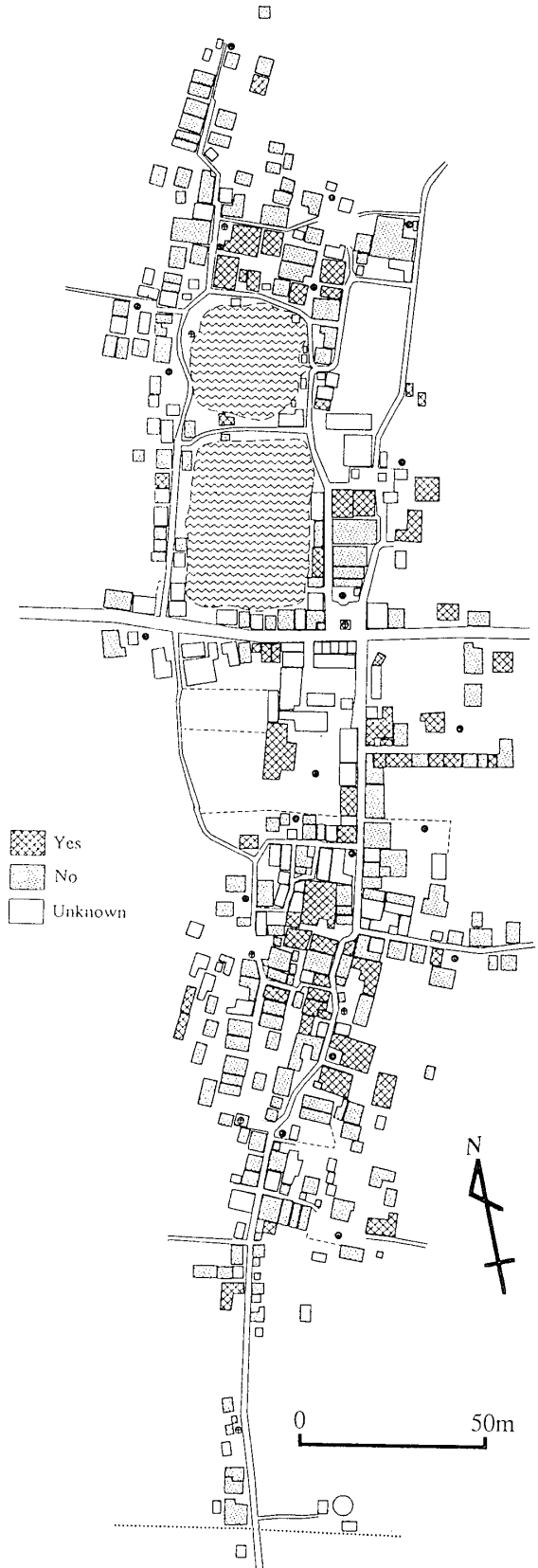


Fig.7 Spacial distribution of house to which bath room is attached in the central settlement

similar to the case of toilet (Fig.7).

In Chiraigaon, tap water service has not been established yet, so the water supply depends on ground water drawn from well. Twenty-three percent of households have private well of handpump in the central settlement. The distribution pattern is very similar to the case of bath room (Fig.8).

2. Characteristics of residents

In the central settlement, most dominant *jati* is *Maurya* including *Koiri* and *Kuswaha*, which occupies 73 percent of households (Tab-

Table 1 Ratio of households according to *jati* in the settlement

JATI	Percentage
Maurya	72.79
Rajbahr	11.30
Yadav	3.99
Prajapati	2.33
Kumhrar	1.66
Nai	1.66
Muslim	1.66
Lohar	1.33
Dobi	0.66
Thatera	0.66
Bharadwaj	0.66
Kohar	0.33
Gorh	0.33
Gonda	0.33
Sharma	0.33

le 1). The second dominant *jati* is *Rajbhar* which is 11 percent of households, and next *jati* is *Yadav* which is only 4 percent of households. More 13 kinds of *jati* are observed in the central settlement of Chiraigaon, but each *jati* occupies less than 2 percent of all households. These families of minor *jati* usually live close to same *jati*, so minor segregation can be recognized even in the central settlement (Fig.9).

In the northwest of north pond, *Yadav* and *Muslim* live in concentration. *Prajapati* and *Kumhrar* families live in the west of south pond. Both *jati* belong to traditional artisan which make pottery, so we could consider these two *jati* as same ones. *Rajbahr*, which is second dominant *jati* in the central settlement, concentrate in the western part of the densely built-up area. *Lohar* or *Nai*, which belongs to artisan *jati*, live in the south of the *Rajibahr* settlement. Other very minor *jati* such as *Dobi* live inside the *Maurya* settlement.

Almost all households which belong to minor *jati* are located in the west or south of the *Maurya* settlement except very minor *jati*. The reason why the dominant *jati* live in the location of the present central settlement is that the residents could get water more easily in the central settlement than the circumference because of high ground water level as mentioned above (Yonekura, 1973). But inside the central settlement, significant difference in ground water level can not be observed. The location of minor *jati*'s settlements was associated with the prevailing wind with direction of northeast to east

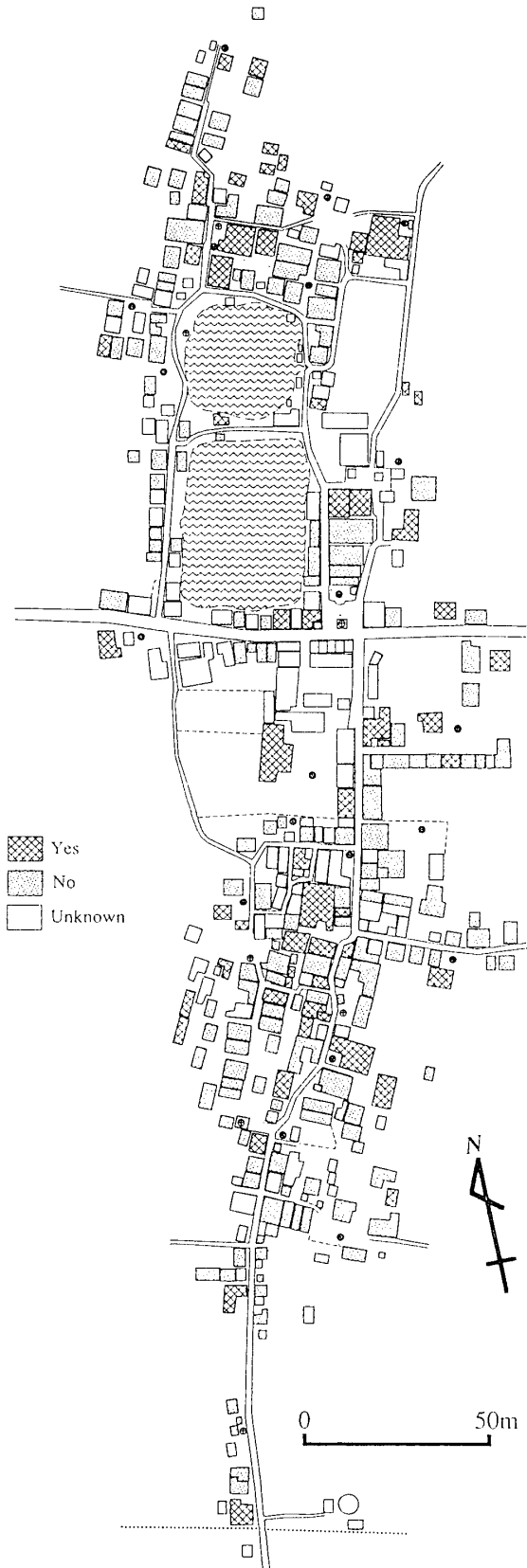


Fig.8 Spacial distribution of house to which private well is attached in the central settlement

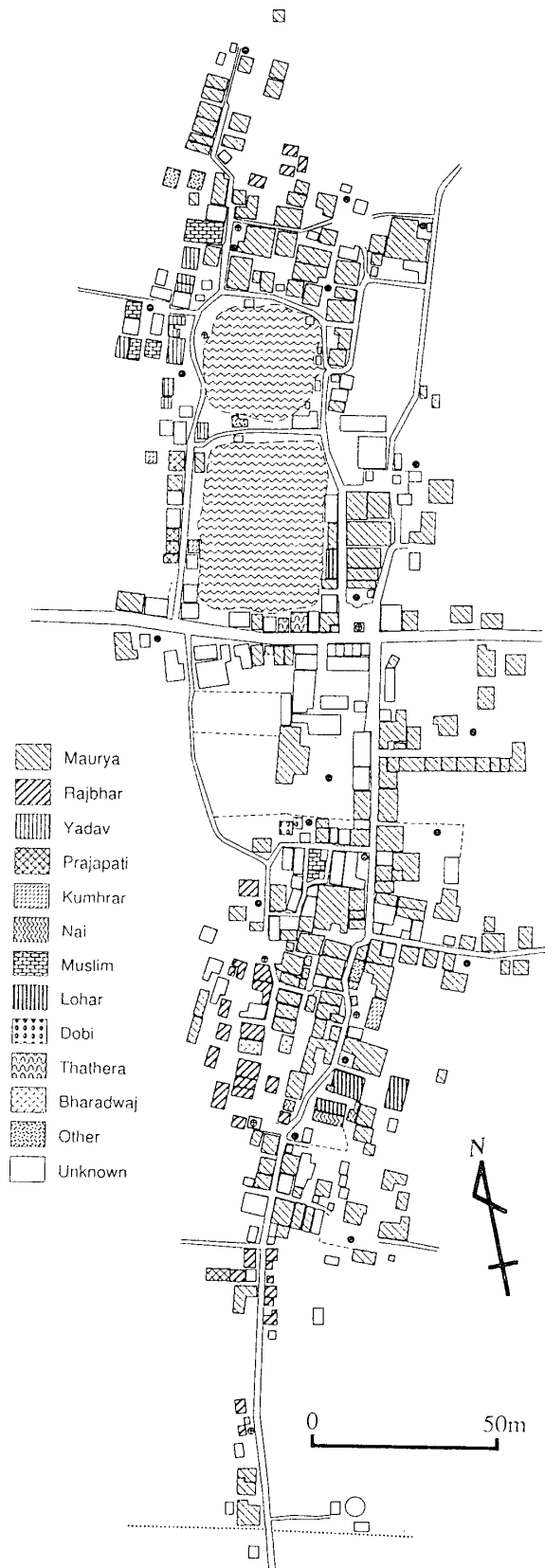


Fig.9 Spacial distribution of household according to its jati in the central settlement

(Yonekura, 1973). Minor segregation by *jati* inside the central settlement may be explained also by the same point of view.

III. Discussion

The increase of houses in the central settlement has begun since the Independence of India, i.e. after World War II. After 1960's, *pucca* house has begun to be built distinctively (Table 2). At the same time, many double or triple story houses also started to be built with popularization of *pucca* house.

The ratio of diffusion of some facilities of house is higher in the order of guest room, well or handpump, bathroom and toilet. Ninety-two percent of family having toilet possesses guest room. Ninety-two percent of family having bath room possesses guest room. And sixty-eight percent of family having private well or handpump possesses guest room. It can be said that most households which has toilet, bathroom or well possess guest room.

Fifty-four percent of family having well possesses bath room or toilet (Fig.10). Seventy-four percent of family having bath room possesses private well or toilet (Fig.11). Eighty-six percent of family having toilet possesses bath room or well (Fig.12). Therefore it can be pointed out that a family which has any kind of facility is possible to possess another facility together.

Amount of average consumption per month of a family which has any kind of facility is considerably more than other family (Table 3). And the amount of average

Table 2 The increase of houses in the central settlement

year	total	structure			stories		
		<i>pucca</i>	<i>kaccha</i>	<i>bustee</i>	single	double	triple
-1899	7	0	7	0	7	0	0
1900-1909	8	1	7	0	6	2	0
1910-1919	7	3	4	0	5	2	0
1920-1929	6	1	5	0	4	2	0
1930-1939	6	3	3	0	3	3	0
1940-1949	27	13	14	0	23	4	0
1950-1959	28	13	15	1	21	6	1
1960-1969	58	46	12	0	29	29	0
1970-1979	64	55	9	0	43	18	3
1980-1989	78	63	15	0	60	18	0
1990-	12	9	3	0	0	1	1
total	301	207	94	1	211	85	5

consumption of a family which has every facility is more than two times of a family without any facilities. Amount of average consumption per month of a family which has guest room is as same as average value of all household in the central settlement. Therefore it can be said that the adoption of *pucca*, multi story or any kind of facilities of houses do not depend on the cultural or social status of household, but on the economical condition of household.

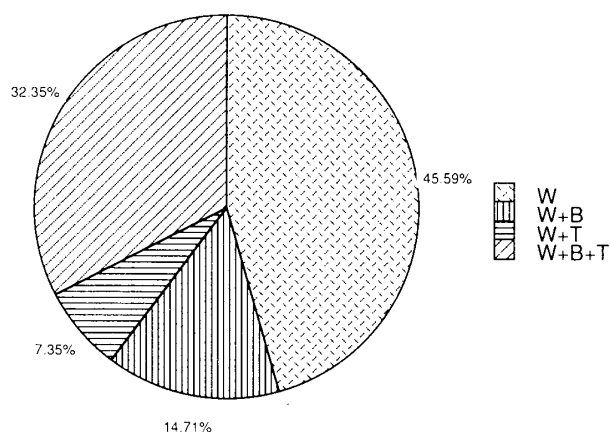


Fig.10 Possession ratio of other facilities among private well owners
W:Well T:Toilet B:Bath room

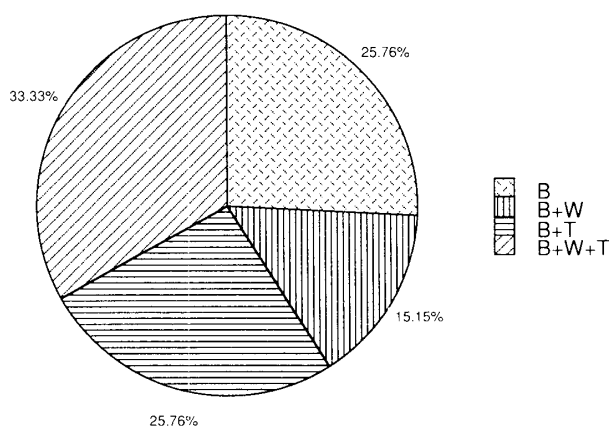


Fig.11 Possession ratio of other facilities among bath room owners
W:Well T:Toilet B:Bath room

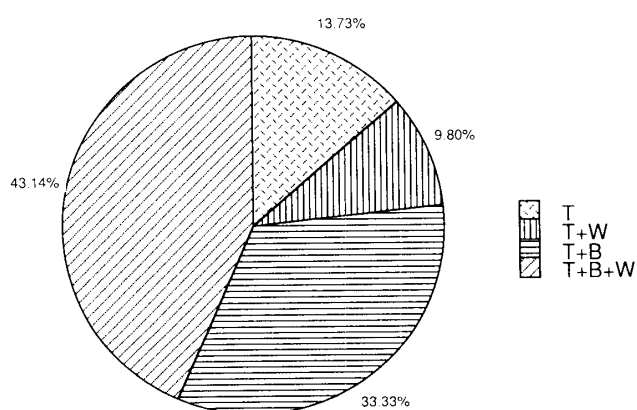


Fig.12 Possession ratio of other facilities among toilet owners
W:Well T:Toilet B:Bath room

Facility	Rs/m
Guest Room	1534
Well	2138
Bath	2097
Toilet	1833
All	2114
Nothing	1037
Average	1444

Table 3 Amount of average consumption per month of a family according to possession of facility

After the Independence, the population of this village has increased very much. *Pucca* house or multi story house, and facilities like bathroom, toilet or private well has popularized with response to population increase. The adoption of them has been penetrated from families of which financial condition was better.

IV. Conclusion

1) Families of minor *jati* usually live close to same *jati*, so minor segregation can be recognized even in the central settlement of Chiraigaon. Almost all households which belong to minor *jati* are located in the west or south of the *Maurya* settlement except very minor *jati*. Minor segregation inside the central settlement could be explained by the point of view that minor *jati* could not live in the windward.

2) The ratio of diffusion of some facilities of house is higher in the order of guest room, well or handpump, bathroom and toilet. Average amount of consumption per a month of households which have any facility is higher than that of others. Financial status of household has relation to the facility of house significantly.

3) Number of construction or reconstruction of houses have increased since the Independence of India. Especially *pucca* house has increased because of its structural toughness. Double or Triple story house has increased since 1960's.

4) Many households which have facilities such as well, bathroom or toilet live in the north of north pond, the east of south pond, the densely built-up area which is located in the southern part of central settlement, because relatively rich families live in those places. In those three areas, multi-story, recently reconstructed, and *pucca* house can be seen distinctively.

Acknowledgements

The cooperation of the research workers and staffs of Banaras Hindu University during collection of data in India should be gratefully acknowledged.

References

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