

Difference Between Urban and Rural

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Based on the density of population, development, amenities, employment opportunities, education, etc. human settlement is majorly divided into two categories i.e. Urban and Rural. Urban refers to a human settlement where the rate of urbanization and industrialisation is high. On the other hand, in a rural settlement, is one where the rate of urbanization is quite slow.

Another important difference between the two human settlements is that while urban areas are highly populated, rural areas have comparatively less population than the urban ones.

Comparison Chart

BASIS FOR COMPARISON	URBAN	RURAL
Meaning	A settlement where the population is very high and has the features of a built environment, is known as urban.	An area located in the outskirts, is known as rural.
Includes	Cities and towns	Villages and hamlet
Life	Fast and complicated	Simple and relaxed
Environment	Greater isolation from nature.	Direct contact with nature.
Associated with	Non-agricultural work, i.e. trade, commerce or provision of services.	Agriculture and livestock.
Population size	Densely populated	Sparsely populated

Development	Planned settlement exists in urban areas, that are developed according to the process of urbanization and industrialization.	Developed randomly, based on availability of natural vegetation and animals in the area.
Social mobility	Highly intensive	Less intensive

Key Differences Between Urban and Rural

The fundamental differences between urban and rural are discussed in the following points:

1. A settlement where the population is very high and has the features of a built environment (an environment that provides basic facilities for human activity), is known as urban. Rural is the geographical region located in the outer parts of the cities or towns.
2. The life in urban areas is fast and complicated, whereas rural life is simple and relaxed.
3. The Urban settlement includes cities and towns. On the other hand, the rural settlement includes villages and hamlets.
4. There is greater isolation from nature in urban areas, due to the existence of the built environment. Conversely, rural areas are in direct contact with nature, as natural elements influence them.
5. Urban people are engaged in non-agricultural work, i.e. trade, commerce or service industry. In contrast, the primary occupation of rural people is agriculture and animal husbandry.
6. Population wise, urban areas are densely populated, which is based on the urbanisation, i.e. the higher the urbanisation, the higher is the population. On the contrary, the rural population is sparse, which has an inverse relationship with agriculturism.

7. Urban areas are developed in a planned and systematic way, according to the process of urbanisation and industrialisation. Development in rural areas is seldom, based on the availability of natural vegetation and fauna in the region.
8. When it comes to social mobilisation, urban people are highly intensive as they change their occupation or residence frequently in search of better opportunities. However, in rural areas occupational or territorial mobility of the people is relatively less intensive.
9. Division of labour and specialization is always present in the urban settlement at the time of job allotment. As opposed to rural areas, there is no division of labour.

Population - the number of people in a single area.

Industrialisation - the development of industries in a country or region on a wide scale.

Hamlet - a small settlement, generally one smaller than a village.

Densely - closely compacted or crowded manner.

Sparsely - thinly dispersed manner.

Social mobility - movement of individuals, families, or groups