



Are these large villages or small urban centres?

Tanzania

Sakasaka village in Meatu district has been given as an example of a village that developed a sound low-cost way to improve provision for water; its 784 households were served by 17 shallow wells, each owned by a single autonomous water user group, each with its own governance process. This decentralized system has the advantage that when one breaks down, the households affected can buy water from a neighbouring group until they repair their own. But in many nations a concentration of 784 households (or around 4000 people) would be considered a small urban centre.

Madagascar

A water supply scheme in which the Sandandrano Company manages 25 tap stands from which water supplied by the utility is sold to the 25,000 inhabitants of Sabotsy Namehana is considered 'rural' because this is a rural commune – but Sabotsy Namehana is on the outskirts of the national capital and the largest city, Antananarivo.

Benin

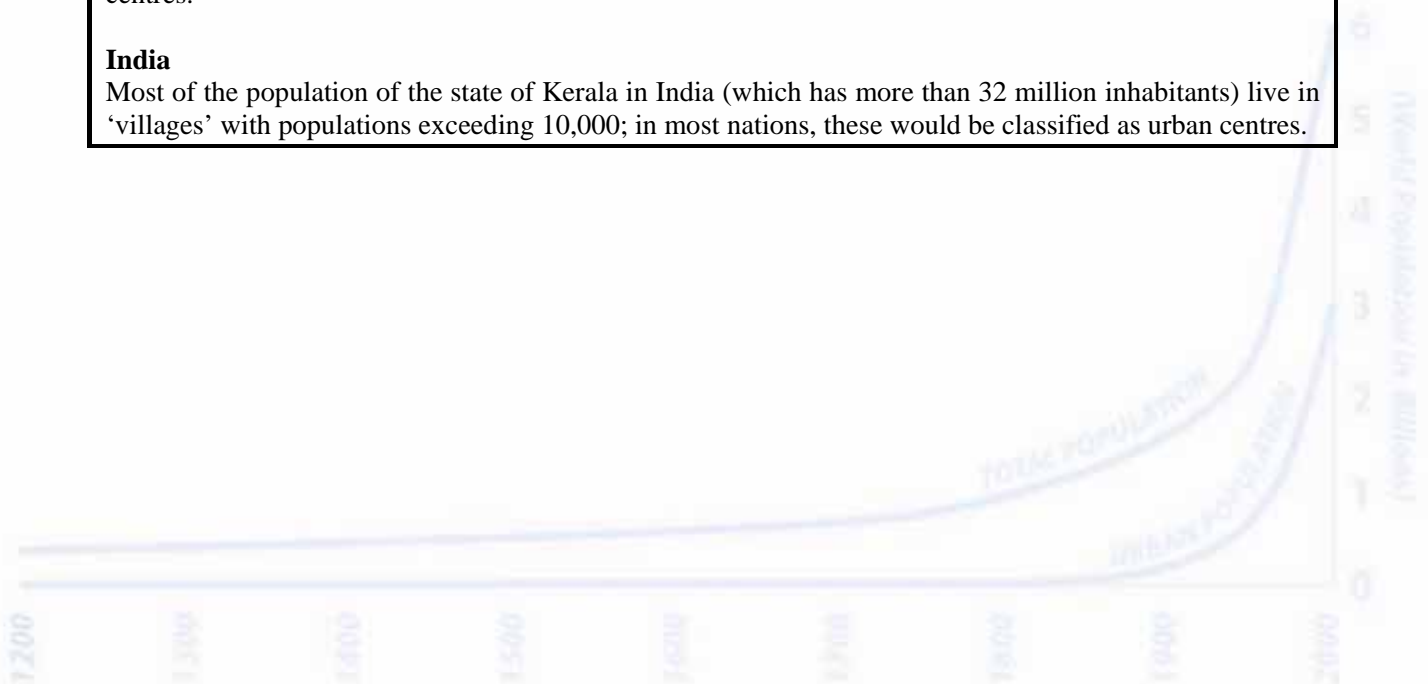
Béroubouay with 5000 inhabitants and So-Zouanko, a lakeside settlement of 8750 inhabitants dependent on fishing and trade are considered villages.

Pakistan

In 1998, a very considerable proportion of the rural population lived in over 1000 settlements with more than 5000 inhabitants, which in most nations would have been classified as urban centres – including many that were considered urban in the 1972 census. In the 1981 and 1998 censuses, such settlements were not considered as urban centres unless they had a municipal government. This changed the status of 1483 settlements with more than 5000 inhabitants that, in the 1972 census, had been classed as urban centres.

India

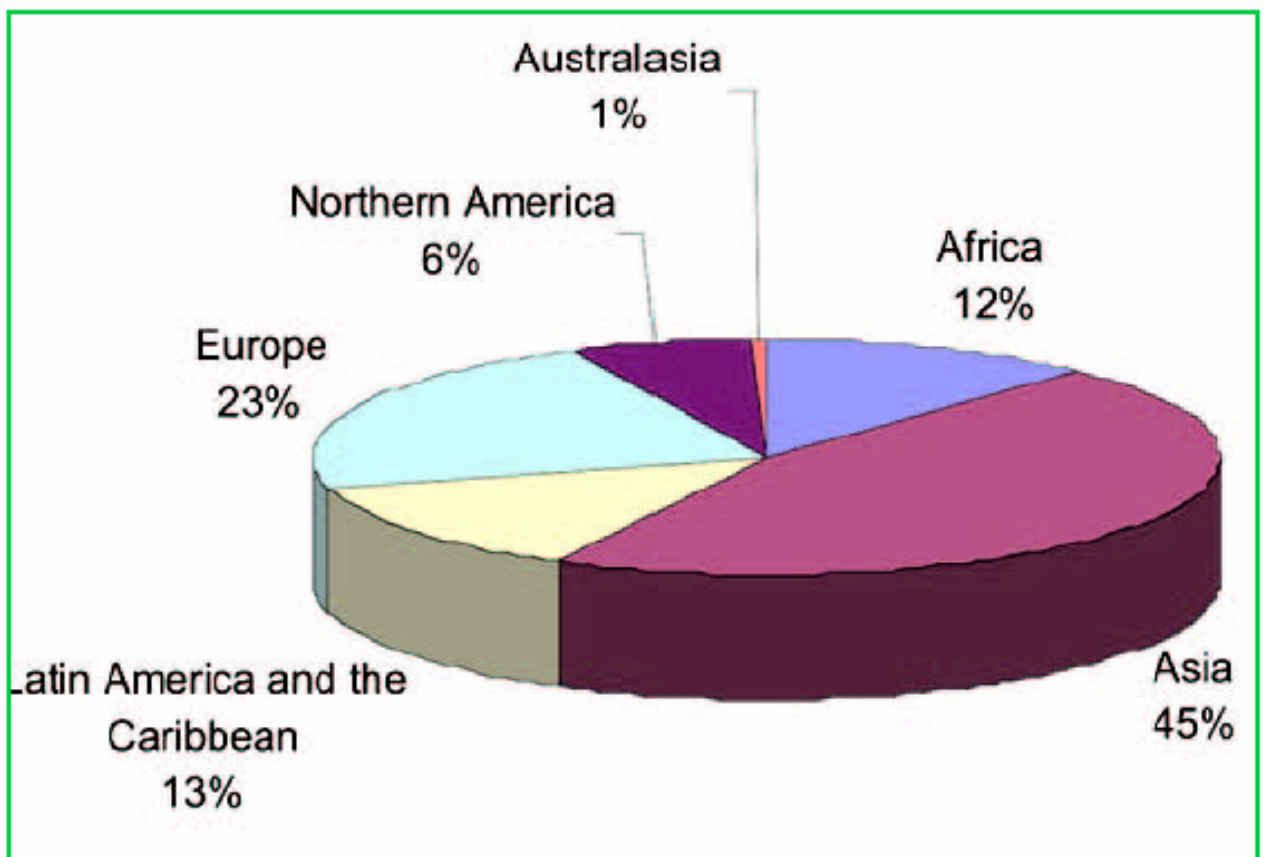
Most of the population of the state of Kerala in India (which has more than 32 million inhabitants) live in 'villages' with populations exceeding 10,000; in most nations, these would be classified as urban centres.





Regional distribution of the World's Population living in urban centres with less than half a million inhabitants in 2000

source: UN 2004, World Urbanisation Prospects



WATSAN/2006/Box 1

