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## STATE OF URBANISATION IN PUNJAB: A GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS

### Doctoral Dissertation Abstract (2011)

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The focus of this study is to analyze geographically the state of urbanization in terms of quality of living conditions in urban areas of Punjab in 2001 as well as to highlight the change in quality of urban living in the state during 1991-2001. This study also reveals inter-town and inter-district spatial variations among various components of quality of urban living like civic amenities, infrastructural facilities, social and financial status in the state. Thus, the major objectives of the study are- to analyze the spatial distribution of urban amenities, utilities and facilities in Punjab; to understand the financial health of local bodies and to find out the levels of quality of life in urban Punjab.

The present study is primarily based on secondary data provided in the Town Directories of Punjab for the years of 1991 and 2001 published by the Census of India. Apart from this, Municipal Statistics, Punjab for years 1991 and 2001, and the secondary publications of the Government of Punjab were also scrutinized. In addition, wherever the study demanded, some field queries were also carried out to supplement the data. The processed data are presented cartographically through choropleth maps. To study the relationship between different variables, the co-efficient of correlation was calculated. 'Z' Values were also

calculated to find out the level of significance of relationship and testing the hypotheses.

The present research task has been accomplished by organizing its material into VII chapters. The first chapter deals with introduction of the problem, stated objectives, the study area, review of literature and the methodology applied to study the problem. The second chapter highlights the status of civic amenities like sewerage and toilets facilities, disposal services, water supply, street light and sanitary manpower in towns and cities of Punjab under this study. It is observed that 72.32 per cent of the total urban population of the state is being served with high level of civic amenities. Six districts namely Ludhiana, Nawanshahr, Muktsar, Jalandhar, Kapurthala and Gurdaspur emerged to be the districts witnessed high quality of civic amenities in their towns.

Chapter third is focused on infrastructural status like roads, medical services, educational services, banking services, recreational facilities and other facilities. A perfect negative co-efficient of correlation (-1.00) between size and class of the towns and levels of infrastructural facilities suggests that the smaller the town, the higher is the level of infrastructural facilities and vice-versa. Four districts namely Hoshiarpur ,

Nawanshahr, Kapurthala and Ludhiana emerged to be the districts having high quality of urban infrastructural facilities in their towns.

In chapter fourth, data related to agricultural workers, scheduled castes, illiterate and slum population have been taken up to analyze the social status of the urban areas which acts as a key factor in the determining the quality of life as well as state of urbanization. A perfect positive co-efficient of correlation (+ 1.00) between size and class of the towns and levels of social status indicates that the smaller the town, the lower is the level of social status and vice-versa. Five districts namely Bathinda, Sangrur, Moga, Muktsar and Amritsar registered low social status in their towns.

Taking net receipts, grants, loans and advances received and expenditure incurred by the local bodies on the provision of utility services in the towns, as significant indicators of the quality of life chapter fifth deals with financial status of the towns. The levels of per capita net receipt and expenditure is found to be higher in class-I cities and class-IV towns as compared to all other class and size of towns in the state. While the smaller towns witnessed high levels of grants/loans/advances as compared to the bigger ones. Four districts namely Hoshirpur, Rupnagar, Paitala and

Muktsar have witnessed high status of financial revenue in their towns.

In chapter sixth, levels of civic amenities, infrastructural facilities, social status and financial status are clubbed together to find out the quality of living conditions in towns and cities of Punjab. High quality of urban living conditions are largely confined to the bigger towns as compared the medium and smaller towns in the state. The districts like Hoshiarpur, Ludhiana, Nawanshahr, Rupnagar and Jalandhar emerged to be the districts having high quality of living conditions in their urban areas.

This chapter also presents the changes in the quality of urban living during 1991-2001. A very mild positive change (+0.57 index points) in the quality of urban living suggests that the state as a whole witnessed slight improvement in the quality of urban living in 2001 than during 1991.

Finally, chapter seventh presents findings, suggestions and summary and conclusions of the study. For improvement of quality of living in urban areas of the state, this study presents district-wise, town-wise and amenities-wise levels of priority for effective planning by administration, planners and social scientists.