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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

MUNIRKA - A HISTORY OF THE URBAN VILLAGE

The image of primitive man becomes merged with that of 'man in general' who, in the end, looks suspiciously similar to the goal oriented pragmatist of capitalist society. Leach E.R. 1957. The epistemological background to Malinowski's empiricism in Raymond Firth edited, Man and Culture, London: Routledge & Kegal Paul.

Munirka is a fast changing urban village. No longer is Munirka today what it was even a few decades ago. There are principally two related factors that are responsible for this dynamism in Munirka. One is the overpowering nature of capitalism, and the other, the interactions with the urban metropolis of Delhi, within which it is now situated. Equally important are the interventionist policies of the state, namely those of planning and development. Caught in a dilemma, much as the juxtaposed order reveals, Munirka