Chapter 3
RESEARCH SETTING

Of the four megalopolises namely Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta and Madras, Delhi has always remained a city of great upheavals. Not only it has been a centre of political attraction but has also, ever drawn a large number of cross-sectional people from all over the country and even abroad. Consequently, it has over-grown during the past two centuries or so and has expanded much beyond the Delhi Union Territory. Since the last two decades or so it has not been possible to accommodate the influx of population, numerous government offices and industries. As a result, it has stretched its national jurisdictional boundaries to a number of towns and cities located in the neighbouring states. Nevertheless, the Delhi Union Territory (now a state) is broadly divided into 5-North, South, East, West and Central zones accommodating several districts in each zone. The present chapter provides a brief historical profile of the city including South Delhi where the present study is located. It also gives a brief description of the spatio-social structures of the three localities or areas covered under this study.

Growth and Development of Delhi

Historically speaking, one of the legends says that
the sons of Pandu of the Mahabharata Epic founded the city of Indraprastha which was later called Delhi. Their seat was located on the site of the Purana Quila (Old Fort). Another legend narrates that a long time after decline of the Indraprastha founded in about the 1st B.C, there arose another city in the vicinity of Qutab Minar built by a prince called 'Dilli' or Delu after his name. Another version is that it was not Delu but one of his lieutenants called Sarup Data who founded this city.  

In any case, the sovereign face of Delhi was revived in the middle of the 11th century by Anang Pall II, a Tomar King of Kanauj in U.P. who, on account of the sack of Kanauj by Mahmud of Ghazhi, founded his new capital on the site of Qutab Minar. After defeat of the famous Prithvi Raj Chauhan by Mohmmad Gori of Afgan, Delhi was held by as many as 49 monarchs. After Humayun's death (1956 AD), Delhi ceased to be capital of the Mughal empire. Then in 1638, Shahjahan started construction of the Red Fort and the walled city of Shahjahanabad. He moved from Agra to Delhi and made it his capital. Since then, the city remained the capital for about 209 years. Its zenith was reached during Aurangzeb's rule when was formed the 'Greater Delhi' consisting of Shahjahanabad, Firozabad, Delhi of Shershah Suri and Humayun's Din

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Panah. With the death of Aurangzeb in 1707, the city declined by following a series of sad events leading to reduction in its population. Then, in 1912 Delhi once again became the capital city during the British rule. In 1947, the Independence of the country accompanied by partition led to the addition of already increasing population in Delhi city.

According to the census of 1951, the Delhi Union Territory enumerated a total population of 1,744,072 persons. The population of the present Greater Delhi consisting of 11 towns, according to 1961 census, is give below:

Table 3.1: Towns and Population of Delhi Union Territory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Towns</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Old Delhi</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Fort</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Delhi</td>
<td>261,545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Lines</td>
<td>362,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Delhi</td>
<td>115,577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Delhi</td>
<td>171,596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shahdara</td>
<td>150,674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cantonment</td>
<td>36,105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mehrauli</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Najafgarh</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narela</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1097,673</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Enumeration was not done for these towns.

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3 Referred in the Census of India, 1971, Series - 27 Delhi, Part II-A, General Population Tables, p. 17.

4 Census of India, 1961, Vol. XIX, Delhi, Part II-C, Cultural and Migration Tables, p. 21.
According to 1961 census, Delhi Union Territory covered a total area of 577.6 sq-miles and the density of population was 1,792 persons per square km. More specifically, there were 258 persons living in per sq km in the rural and 7,224 persons in the urban areas. The sex-ratio was 768 females per 1000 males. There were 837 females in the rural and 754 females per 1000 males in the urban areas. The 1961 census also enumerated the religious composition of the population living in greater Delhi-both rural and urban, according to which the Hindus constituted 84.05, Sikhs 6.67, Muslims 5.85, Jains 1.11, Christians 1.10, Buddhist 0.21, and other religious groups 0.01 percent of the total population in the city.

Since 1951, growth and development of the Red Fort and Cantonment areas has remained under rigid control of the military authorities contrary to the planned growth and development of the Civil Lines and other parts of the city under the MCD and the New Delhi Municipal Corporation. In the trans-Yamuna locality of Shahdara, the population has been as concentrated as that in the Old Delhi due to large number of displaced persons who were accommodated here after partition. In the west and south Delhi too there are several older habitations of larger concentration of the people but their proportionate number

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5 Ibid, p. 7.
is much smaller than that in Shahdara and old Delhi. However, the localities of Patparganj and Mayur Vihar across the river Yamuna and Rohini in the north Delhi have come up recently to house the growing population in the city.

Delhi is essentially an administrative urban centre. It is surrounded by a number of cities like commercially known Kanpur, Agra, Meerut and Ghaziabad in UP and Panipat, Sonipat, Gurgaon, etc in Haryana. Most of the union government offices are located within the jurisdiction of New Delhi. It also includes the Parliament House, Central Secretariat with Krishi Bhavan, Udyog Bhavan, Rail Bhavan, Shashtri Bhavan, Air Headquarters and so on. The Supreme Court besides the Delhi High Court is also located here. The market-cum-commercial centre of the Cannaught Place is located in this central place. The University of Delhi with many of its affiliated colleges is located in the north whereas the Delhi University South Campus, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Jamia Millia Islamia IIT, AIIMS and many other educational institutions are situated in the South Delhi.

Delhi has three railway junctions namely Old Delhi Railway Station, New Delhi Railway Station and Nizammuddin Railway Station. These railway junctions link the city to
all parts of the country. Delhi is also well-connected domestically and with the rest of the world through air which makes it one of the centrally located cities of the world. Besides, there are two inter-state bus terminal-one located in the north-east of the city and the other one is recently set up in the south east Delhi from where the bus transport is spread to many of the nearby states like UP, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh etc. The Delhi Transport Corporation is one of the major sources of interaction of commuters for work and services to and from the city. Also, there are fly-overs to facilitate the over-congested road traffic.

Between Old Delhi and the Red Fort are located the famous Chandni-Chowk, Khari Baoli, Chawri Bazaar, the Kinari Bazaar and the Nai Sarak. The general wares of Sadar Bazar, fruits and vegetables in Sabji-Mandi, Slaughter House, etc are located in Delhi Municipality area. Also, there are many small and medium size manufacturing units found particularly in Paharganj locality. On the whole, Old Delhi is known for commerce and industry. Both west and south Delhi are mainly residential in character and the Delhi Development Authority, private houses and housing societies have greatly added to this.

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Of Mehrauli and Najajgarh, the two trading centres, the Mehrauli town caters largely to the tourist traffic drawn by the Qutab Minar, while Najafgarh has a wholesale grain and vegetable market for the produce of surrounding rural areas. Narela, the third of the outlying town, has also a wholesale grain market. Thus administrative, commercial and industrial activities are in the order of importance in the city.

To accommodate the growing population and to relocate and decentralize the administrative activities and the residential accommodation, the National Capital Region (NCR) is being developed. Today, more people may be eager to shift to these new emerging centres due to problems such as housing, transportation, civic services, environmental pollution and so on. The shape of Delhi in 2001 AD would depend upon the planning and development of the N.C.R. which covers a total area of 30242 sq.km. Besides Delhi, it covers the regions of the neighbouring states consisting of districts of Rohtak, Sonepat, Panipat and Rewari in Haryana, Meerut and Bulandshahar in UP, and Behroor, Mandawar, Kishangarh, Tijara and Alwar in Rajasthan.

Delhi at present may be rightly called the city of

parks, play grounds, posh colonies, semi-urban pockets and slums. Besides numerous residential localities and trading centres, Delhi accommodates a number of refugee colonies like Rajendra Nagar, Lajpat Nagar, Kalkaji, etc in the south. Urban villages which are primarily residential colonies built on the agricultural lands are located in Nizamuddin, Lajpat Nagar, Kalkaji and Malavia Nagar, Garhi, Zamerdpur and Hauz Rani in the South Delhi. New colonies housing the government employees also have come up in these localities. A number of colonies like Vinay Nagar, Shan Nagar, Man Nagar, Kaka Nagar, and Moti Bagh have been built on the agricultural lands of the group of erstwhile six villages including Mohamadpur for urban use. A new set of houses with modern civic amenities came in 1982 in the name of Khelgaon in south Delhi initially to house the sports personnel assembled to participate in the Asian Games. Later, these houses have been allotted to government officials for residential purpose, besides locating a number of government offices. The Defence colony, South Extension I and II also developed on Kotla Mubarakpur and other villages. The government colony of Seva Nagar also came up in this area to accommodate group D employees. The resettlement colony of Seelampur is situated along the

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main G.T. road near Shahdara. Besides Motia Khan-a Basti Colony located in between Pahar Ganj and Karol Bagh, the Katra Neel one of the oldest Katras is situated in the main Chandni Chowk Bazar in old Delhi, a semi-urban Pocket situated is one of the oldest Katras.

According to the census 1991\(^9\), urban Delhi with 89.93 percent population of Delhi State is the most urbanised area among the union territories in the country. It has a total population of 9,420,644 persons. The density of population is 6,352 persons per sq.km. The literacy rate is 75.29 percent of which the males are 82.01 percent and females are 66.99 percent.

At the time of 1991 census\(^10\), the Delhi Union Territory urban area comprised of 3 statutory towns and 29 census towns. These statutory towns are: New Delhi Municipal Corporation, Delhi Cantonment and Delhi Municipal Corporation. The census towns are Alipur, Bawana, Poothkhurd, Pehlad Pur, Bangar, Kanjhawala, Bhalowa Jahangir Pur, Gokul Pur, Babar Pura, Jaffarabad, Gharonda Neemka Bangar (Patparganj), Roshan Pura, Mundka, Sultan Pur Majra, Nangloi Jat, Binda Pur, Nasir Pur, Sultan Pur Majra, Nangloi Jat, Binda Pur, Nasir Pur,

\(^9\) Census of India, 1991, Series 31, Part XII A and B, District Delhi, District Census Handbook, Village and town-wise Primary census abstract, P. XVII.

\(^10\) Ibid, pp. 49-51.
Palam, Nangal Dewat, Malik Pur Kohi (Rang Puri), Rajokri, Ghitorni, Yahya Nagar, Sultan Pur Tigri, Deoli, Pul Pehlad, Taj Pul, Molar Band and Asola. Besides, there are 209 villages in the Delhi Union Territory distributed among Delhi and Mehrauli tehsils. In Delhi Tehsils there are 134 villages and the remaining 75 villages fall in the Mehrauli Tehsil.

People migrate to the metropolitan centres in large numbers due to the "push back" effect of the rapid population growth as mentioned in chapter 1. The "push" in the rural areas is due to the rural under-employment and this same push is also seen in the urban areas due to urban un-employment which encourages reverse migration.\footnote{Bose, A. "Six Decades of Urbansiation in India, 1901-1961" in Rao, M.S.A. (ed.), Urban Sociology in India, 1974, p.160.}

In many cities, the peripheral areas play an important role in their growth and development. They are a source of supply of products like milk, vegetables and poultry items and also with their labour services. As found in the case of expanding metropolitan city of Delhi, new economic opportunities were made available to the villagers. During 1911-1921, the growing population created larger demands for commodities like vegetables, dairy and poultry products. Delhi in its expansion absorbed the fringe
villages and the hinterland was shifted further.\textsuperscript{12} The Ahirs of Yadavpur who were initially associated with dairy farming began to grow vegetables for the urban market which was economically more beneficial. On the other hand, the city opened employment opportunities for buying urban manufactured goods and services and on the other the villages retained many of their rural characteristics.

Urbanisation in India is a direct result of the neighbouring rural population trying to find escape from the prevailing unfavourable rural conditions and converging in cities like Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Bombay, Madras, etc. To provide a cleaner and healthier atmosphere for its residents, Delhi has taken some impressive steps. For meeting its programme of land-development, housing and other welfare schemes, the DDA set in 1991 the target of mobilising funds to the sum of Rs 487.46 crore from internal and Rs 185 crore from external sources. The development of Delhi is being promoted along the guidelines given in the Delhi Master Plan as part of development of new areas. To satisfy the growing demands for residential, industrial, commercial, institutional and recreational purpose, the DDA has undertaken the task of

developing new areas\(^1\) consisting obviously a number of ridges and surrounding agricultural land. For beautification of the city and maintenance of its ecological balance, a number of parks, gardens, city forests, woodlands and lakes have been developed. Basic amenities like water, sewerage, storm water drains, community halls and other facilities have also been provided in the resettlement colonies.

In its growth Delhi has included in itself many suburb villages, thus, creating urban villages within its boundaries. The Plan Scheme of Delhi administration intends to provide amenities like roads, paths, drains, water, sewer lines, etc. in the urban villages. The development of a number of regularised un-authorised colonies, of townships, construction of transit camps and tenements for landless labourers and construction of integrated freight complex under the mass transportation system are also in the offing.

**A Social Profile of the Localities or Areas**

The selected areas or localities for this study, as stated in the previous chapter, are R.K. Puram (Sectors

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III and IV) Safdarjung Enclave and Mehrauli. Besides what has been stated in the earlier chapter, the area of R.K.Puram Sectors III and IV is bounded by the Ring Roads—both inner and outer. As stated in the previous chapter, R.K.Puram is entirely a government residential colony housing the senior middle-class government officials, the groups III and IV government employees. It consists of type I to type V houses accommodating all the four groups of government employees drawn from the different socio-economic backgrounds. All the sectors in this area are located in such a way that usually a road divides each of them. Each of the sectors is a self-sufficient unit with the availability of basic necessities like Provisional Store, Vegetable-market, Dispensary, School, Community Centre, Police Station, etc. Houses are designed in such a manner that they form a square and a playground automatically comes up in between the square.

Sector III is surrounded by the Delhi Lawn Tennis Stadium in the north-east and Sector IV in the west. In between the houses are located coal Depot, Dispensary, Gurudwara, Ravidas-Mandir, Balaji Mandir, Buddha Vihar and a Mosque. The Sector IV is just opposite the Munirka DDA flats and the Market. It stretches almost upto the Sector I crossing. It has a Park, Pump House, Employment Exchange, Family-Planning Centre, Baba Seheb Ambedkar
The Second area of study is Safdarjung Enclave which is a posh private residential locality inhabited by relatively affluent people. This area is bounded by Africa Avenue road in the west from its junction with a nala dividing Nauroji Nagar and Safdarjung Enclave upto parallel ring roads. Towards the east of the area is located the Safdarjung Hospital with its staff quarters. In its south is located the famous Dear Park of South Delhi. Apart from the private residential houses, the DDA flats are also located here. This area includes a Park, DESU office, Kamal Cinema Theatre, DDA Market, Mother Dairy, Kali Bari Mandir, Punjab-National Bank, etc.

The third area of study is Mehrauli which is surrounded by Vasant Kunj in the south and south-west and Saket in the east. The monumental structure of Qutab Minar has made Mehrauli a tourist spot. The place is resided by people of different castes and religions with the exception of Ward III which is inhabited mostly by the people belonging to the scheduled castes as stated in Chapter 2. Next to this ward is situated the Balmiki Mandir where the scheduled castes are in prominence and there is the Islamic colony in ward I with a Dargah next to it. Here, the Muslims are in majority. In this region,
the displaced or refugees of the post 1947 period are in great number. The whole place is highly congested with a very few spacious and richly built houses. There are many narrow bylanes between the houses, and in these lanes we can see shops of various kinds. Some of the houses are so close-by that if the window-pane of a house is opened, the wall of the next house can be easily touched. Street lights are visible all along the lanes but these are of no use as the connections are often out of order. Drainage and sewage system is worst. During the rains, the drains overflow as they have no coverings. With no concern shown by the MCD and the local MLA, the people themselves have to clean and pull water out of the drains. There are no play grounds for the children. Houses of the lower economic strata lack the facilities of latrine, tap water, etc.

There is a main bus terminal located near Qutab Minar. Ward I houses many Sikh families besides a Gurudwara and an Arya Samaj Mandir situated between ward I and the main market. Apart from the Delhi Administration and Municipal Corporation schools, there is a St. John's (Registered) Convent School also. Near ward I is a Church and adjacent to it is the Christian Colony which houses many Christian families. Most of these families are related to each other on the kinship basis. Here, most
Kutcha houses lack the provision of tap-water. In absence of regular electricity connection, the residents often bribe the officials, for using the electricity illegally. Since it is still a non-registered area, the house numbers are not properly maintained.

Apart from the 7 wards of Mehrauli, the adjacent Kishangardh village is located in its west. Since it is an urbanised village, there is no pradhan (head). The natives are very few here as land has been bought and inhabited by the outsiders. Labourers or the servicing class people form the major part of the tenants in the village. People belonging to the Jat caste are in majority. The other castes found in this area are Brahmins, Rajputs, Potters, Goldsmiths, Balmikis, etc. The major religious groups found in the entire areas of Mehrauli and Kishagarh villages are Hindus and Muslims.

Social background of the respondents

Taking all the three localities under study together, it is necessary to have a brief look at the socio-personal characteristics of the respondents. Their such background is relevant in knowing their location and adjustment in the given spatio-social structures of the localities and their role, if any, in changing the nature of such structures.
Religion and Caste

Taking individually the areas or localities under study it has been found that of the total number of respondents interviewed from the area of R.K. Puram, 53.5 percent were head of the family and the rest (46.5 percent) were dependent members. While majority of the respondents (86 percent) were followers of Hinduism, 9.3 percent were Sikhs. Next were the followers of Islam and Christianity with 2.3 percent each. Similarly, of the total number of respondents from Safdarjung Enclave, 39.5 percent were head of the family and 60.5 percent were dependent members. Here, 95.3 percent were followers of Hinduism and the remaining were Sikhs, Muslims and Christians. Lastly in Mehrauli, 48.8 percent of the respondents were head of the family and the rest 58.2 percent were dependent members. While majority (81.4 percent) were Hindus, the rest were Christians (9.3 percent), Muslims (7 percent) and Sikhs (2.3 percent).

Although caste apparently is not important in the urban social milieu as general impression runs, it still plays significant role in close interaction and social relationships of the people. It is held that caste in urban areas is confined to the personal or private domain of life of the people, whereas class or socio-economic
status overrides the public domain. Without going into caste versus class as dominant structure of urban society at this stage, we simply wish to suggest that the people living in urban areas are in the dual state of mind wherein they deny in public the relevance of caste, but live with this reality in their private lives as is evident from the caste background of the respondents from the three localities.

Table 3.2: Caste-wise distribution of respondents in the localities (in percentage)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Localities</th>
<th>Upper Castes</th>
<th>Middle Castes</th>
<th>Lower Caste</th>
<th>Not Mentioned</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R.K. Puram</td>
<td>55.8</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safdarjung Enclave</td>
<td>70.4</td>
<td>18.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mehrauli</td>
<td>60.2</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The upper castes include Brahmins, Rajputs and the Baniyas. The middle castes include Jats, Yadavs and Kumhars and the lower castes consist of Jatavs, Balmikis and Dhobis and the Kumhar’s from this category. Majority of the lower caste are the scheduled castes.

It appears from the table, all the respondents from Mehrauli and Safdarjung Enclave and R.K. Puram, had mentioned their castes 11.6 percent respondents from R.K. Puram, Safdarjung Enclave with 6.6 percent and Mehrauli 8
percent had not mentioned their caste background as either they did not believe in caste or they shied away from disclosing it to the visitor.

The above table also shows that the three localities are mix of various caste groups. No locality is solely inhabited by members of just one caste group. It is also evident that majority of the respondents from all the three localities belong to the upper castes though a large number of them live in locality of Safdarjung Enclave and Mehrauli followed by R.K. Puram. The percentage of respondents belonging to the middle level castes living in the locality of R.K. Puram, is also quite appreciable.

**Educational and Occupational backgrounds**

Education is looked upon as one of the most important aspects of the present day life especially in cities. It is also associated with the socio-economic milieu of an urban area or locality. Looking at the educational background of the respondents it was found that majority (62.8 percent) of those from R.K. Puram were graduates. It may be so as the locality is inhabited by the government employees, as stated earlier, and for their employment the minimum required educational qualification happens to be at least graduation. A few respondents younger in age had
achieved education upto post-graduate level. Similarly, in the case of a few respondents their wives or children had achieved professional education.

With regard to employment position, 58.1 percent respondents were government employees and the rest were housewives and college going children. The employed respondents were government lawyers in Supreme Court, Joint and Deputy Directors in Doordarshan Kendras, in the various miniseries like agriculture, Defence, Planning, Central Intelligence Bureau, etc. A couple of respondents were also employed as upper and lower level ministerial staff in the above mentioned ministries of the Central Government. Further, majority (88.4 percent) of the respondents were employed in Delhi itself and the rest were working at the adjacent places like Faridabad, Gaziabad, Noida, Gurgoan, etc.

A majority of the respondents from the locality of Safdarjung Enclave were also graduates against 18.6 percent Post-graduates. Whereas 2.3 percent respondents had cleared Higher Secondary Examination, 16.3 percent had obtained the professional qualifications. In this locality, the respondents were usually involved both in petty and big businesses like running the motor-parts factories, car-servicing shops, petrol pumps, laundry
shops, provisional stores, saree shops in places like Sarojini Nagar and Karol Bagh markets. A few of them were engaged in multi-national firms and various types of exports and imports businesses. A very small number of the respondents employed in the government jobs were residing in own houses here. Whereas 37.2 percent respondents were employed in government jobs, 9.3 percent were professionals like medical doctors who run private clinics in their own houses. Others were engaged in the various type of skilled jobs. It is also interesting to note that majority of the respondents from this locality worked in Delhi though those engaged in business often used to go on business tours outside Delhi.

In the last locality of Mehrauli also 39.5 percent respondents were literates or had the basic education. One of the striking points was that 23.3 percent respondents from this locality were totally illiterates unlike those in R.K. Puram and Safdarjung Enclave where not a single respondent belonged to this category. Going by their occupation, 30.2 percent respondents from this locality were engaged in small and big businesses and the same percentage of respondents was employed in government jobs. A very small percentage represented the categories of professionals and unskilled workers (4.7 percent each). Here also, majority of the respondents
(48.8 percent) worked in Delhi itself and 14 percent of the respondents worked in places like Noida, Gaziabad, Faridabad, etc.

Table 3.3: Educational background of the respondents (in percentage)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>Illiterate</th>
<th>Literate (Basic)</th>
<th>Hr. Sec.</th>
<th>Grts</th>
<th>Post Grts</th>
<th>Professionals</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R.K. Puram</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>62.8</td>
<td>22.9</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safdarjung Enclave</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>46.5</td>
<td>18.6</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mehrauli</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>39.5</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Family structure

Generally speaking, joint family is regarded as predominatly found in rural and nuclear family in urban areas in Indian society. Desai\textsuperscript{14} has, however, found the jointness in family equally prevalent in urban areas. This

\textsuperscript{14} Desai, I.P. Some Aspects of Jointness in Family in Mahuva: A Sociological Study of Jointness in a Small Town, 1964.
has also been supported by Saroj Kapoor\textsuperscript{15} in her study of Khatris in Delhi. Yet, it is a fact that urbanisation has greatly influenced both the structure or structural organisation and, to some extent, functions of family in urban India as has been pointed out by Kolenda\textsuperscript{16}, Ross\textsuperscript{17} and Majumdar.\textsuperscript{18} In other words, these studies have concluded that the family structure in urban area is changing more towards the nuclear type. The reasons for such change are varied. For instance, role expectations in the traditional form of family have changed and new social institutions have come up which perform the functions of the traditional family.

Notwithstanding such changes in the structure and functions of urban family, we wish to simply record here the types of family of the respondents in the present study. It is evident from the data that majority of the respondents drawn from all the three localities live in


\textsuperscript{17} Ross, A.D., \textit{Hindu Family in its Urban Setting}, 1961.

\textsuperscript{18} Majumdar, T.K. The Urban Poor and Social Change in De'Souza, A (ed.), \textit{Indian City, Poverty, Ecology and Urban development}, 1978, p. 57.
the nuclear family consisting of their spouse and unmarried children. More specifically, 93 percent of the respondents from R.K. Puram live in the nuclear family against merely 7 percent of those living in joint family. In Safdarjung Enclave, the number of respondents living in joint families was larger (51.2 percent) than those in the nuclear families (44.2 percent). The rest 4.7 percent respondents lived in the extended families consisting of members of nuclear family plus a few relatives of either of the spouses. Finally, in Mehrauli as expected majority of the respondents lived in the joint family. This was so as in both the localities of Mehrauli and Safdarjung Enclave people including respondents are engaged in small and big businesses and members of their joint family both emotional and man-power supports in their such enterprises.

Helping hand is a necessity in urban life especially in those families where both husband and wife work outside. Such helping hands on part-time or full-time basis are needed to handle the domestic chores like cleaning utensils, sweeping the house, washing clothes, etc. They not only help in the household works but also act as status symbols. They are usually illiterate and migrant people who do not have a regular source of employment in the city. They are thus dependent on this
type of unskilled job for which they receive meagre payment ranging from Rs.150 to Rs.1000 per month plus food, clothing and shelter depending on nature of works and number of members in the family.

A majority (86 percent) of the respondents from R.K. Puram had either full or part-time helping hands for sweeping the house, cooking, gardening, bringing children from school and fetching vegetables from the market. Similarly, almost all the respondents from Safdarjung Enclave maintained helping hands for cooking, cleaning utensils, washing cloths, sweeping the house and cleaning cars. But unlike R.K. Puram and Safdarjung Enclave, not a single respondent from Mehrauli had hired helping hand. This was so as the socio-economic condition of the respondents from the locality was relatively low and hence not conducive to enable them to hire the helping hands. Moreover, the area is such where the traditional social ethos still overrides in which people in general do not depend on others for getting the household chores done. Also, there is a general lack of attitudes among the people to keep some one as part or full-time servant to render the domestic services which are otherwise easily done by the women-folk at home.
**Duration of stay**

As mentioned earlier, there has been influx of migrants in Delhi over a period of time. We have also stated that all the three localities under study have been inhabited by the people who have migrated there at different points in time. The period of their migration to Delhi is given below.

Table 3.4: Decades of respondents, migration to Delhi (in percentage)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>Decades</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R.K. Puram</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>25.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safdarjung Enclave</td>
<td>65.1</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mehrauli</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>50.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As the locality of R.K. Puram is inhabited by the government employees, a very less number of respondents had come to Delhi in 1947-1957. Delhi being a capital city, provides many avenues and facilities and, therefore, the reasons for migration of people here are varied but the foremost being transfer of job and education of the children. In contrast to R.K. Puram, majority of the
respondents drawn from Safdarjung Enclave had migrated to Delhi in between 1947-1957. This was due to the migration of the displaced people from West-Pakistan during the Partition period. Majority of the respondents from this locality had been staying here for more than six years. Most of them have had shifted here due to their own houses. Finally, in the locality of Mehrauli most of the respondents had come to Delhi in search of employment opportunities. Unlike in the other two localities, the duration of stay of the respondents in the locality of Mehrauli is relatively shorter as the people engaged in unskilled labour keep on shifting for place to place depending on the demand of their labour and also availability of better job opportunity.

Table 3.5: Period of stay in locality (percentage)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>Duration of stay in the locality (in years)</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0-2</td>
<td>2-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R.K. Puram</td>
<td>34.9</td>
<td>34.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safdarjung Enclave</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>17.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mehrauli</td>
<td>23.8</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The locality of Mehrauli is largely inhabited by the Punjabi families migrated from West-Pakistan during the Post-partition period. As seen in table 3.4, almost half
of the respondents from this locality migrated in the 60’s and 12.5 percent even in the 50’s. Therefore, one may see many displaced Hindu and Muslim families, here who have numerous tales of woes of the 1947 partition period to tell as already mentioned earlier.

Conclusion

In sum, we have discussed in this chapter the characteristics of Delhi city as it stands today. Though it has passed through many phases, nothing authentic is known about its origin. Prior to independence, Delhi had always remained though inconsistently the seat of power. But it gained its real strength in 1912 when the Britishers made it their capital.

After Independence, Greater Delhi consisted of 11 towns. The development of the city was centered around these towns which were famous for something or the other. More profoundly, the residential colonies were established to relocate the displaced persons or the refugees coming from West Pakistan. There is also a non-stop migration of skilled and unskilled workers into the city. Today, we can see that Delhi has expanded itself to almost all the corners of the neighbouring states. To decentralize and redistribute the population, the N.C.R. is also in the
offing. Lastly, this chapter briefly provides a brief socio-economic profile the nature of the three localities or areas under study and also the socio-personal background of the respondents.