Urbanisation has been a global phenomenon. It is not confined to metropolis only. Cities are continuously expanding. Nels Anderson believes that at the present rate of urbanisation within two or three decades, half of the world will be urban. The study of urbanisation, therefore, is assuming increasing importance all over the world, and especially in the developing countries where the urban population is growing rapidly. In India also, urbanisation has tremendously increased during last two decades. Obviously, it has become a matter of attention for civil administrators, demographers and social scientists. An understanding of the causes and consequences of urbanisation and its relationship with economic growth and social change is essential for economic planning and policy making.

Sociological studies on urbanisation in India are few. There may be two reasons for it. Initially such studies are usually handicapped on account of the paucity of data on individual cities as well as on the urban population as a whole. Secondly, Indian sociologists, as Clinard and Elder observed, tend to study villages rather than cities. Some of the pioneers of sociology in India like Dr. D.N. Majumdar, Prof. Radha Kamal Mukerjee, and Prof. G.S. Ghurye had of course initiated some explorations on urban life but the tradition could not be 'inherited vigorously by the coming generations of Indian
sociologists. The present thesis "Trends of Urbanization in India : A Comparative Analysis" is a modest attempt to analyse the nature of urban growth in India from 1981 to 1991. The analysis is based on secondary data collected from Census reports, National Sample Survey, Techno-economic Survey and earlier urban studies, etc.

The first chapter is introductory chapter, devoted to conceptual explanation of urbanisation and urbanism and their interplay with other processes like industrialization, westernisation and modernisation. The old 'Rural-urban dichotomy' has also been discussed in this chapter in its contemporary perspective. Chapter II deals with the methodology, the explanation of the problem, hypotheses, and data collection. Chapter III 'Social Demography of urban community' takes into account a demographic view of the problem of urbanisation in India. Variables like size, density, sex ratio and literacy have been examined. Comparison of 1981 and 1991 data on these characteristics, provides us with some emerging trends. Chapter IV deals urbanisation from socio-economic view point. It elaborates the economic structure of urban community, covering occupational diversification, position of urban workers in different occupations, their income expenditure pattern. It also analytically provides the female work participation in all categories of economic activities. These have been analysed and a trend in these aspects has been located.
Chapter V provides explanation regarding the emergence of new cities and towns and the pace of urbanization in India since 1951. It also covers the social aspects of urbanization taking the variables like family size, housing, literacy, etc. And in Chapter VI finally came the main crux of the work undertaken—the conclusion, which is having an overall picture of the work done.