ABSTRACT

In this study an attempt is made to examine the urban and residential characteristics of Bhagalpur city. The main thrust of present study is to appraise the residential variation in association with social amenities and public facilities. This study in spite of its certain limitations has succeeded in disclosing many specific features of urban-residential structure of small towns in India. It has shown that urban-residential structure varies not only in their morphological patterns but also in social patterns. Urban population is increasing all over the world. Same is the case with India where it has increased manifold during last few decades. According to the census of 1991 one-fourth of total population are living in urban India. While it is estimated that it will become more than one-third of total population by the end of 2001 A.D. And a United Nations projection show that there would be over 45 per cent population living in urban area by the end of 2010 A.D. Further it is studied that over 60 per cent urban population are residing in first class towns and small cities of the country. At the same time the greatest lacunae associated with this alarming growth of urban population is the prevalent scarcities of urban amenities and public facilities in these towns. Another significant thing in this realm is the proposition of government and planners to seek
these towns helpful in checking the massive movement of the migrating body towards the major metropolitan cities. However, other side of the same approach is to diversify the economic development and industrial development with a view to eliminate the backwardness of remote areas. But it is almost proved fact that in the absence of basic necessities urban areas remain just the repositories of houses and loosens its economic inertia. Thus the practice of urban growth in the absence of basic amenities and infrastructure show a more gloomy picture of urban areas.

Sustainable development in twenty first century to a large extent will depend upon how cities and towns grow in harmony with the environment. The Earth Summit Agenda 21st program of action will fail if the cities environmental agenda of pollution, inadequate sanitation, drinking water supply and inaccessibility are not addressed.

Having all the above mentioned things in mind, it is presumed that whatever efforts may be made to curb the growth of urban population and if the environmental conditions can not be improved for over 220 million urban people of India then at least they have to be provided with basic necessities of drinking water, accessibility and other public facilities.

The main objective of this study is to analyze certain questions relating to: how is population organized over urban space?, what are the bases of these residential differentiation?, what are the spatial pattern of the
imbalances of basic infrastructure and amenities?, how these inequalities are related with the residential patterns and population characteristics?, and what are the principal residential dimensions and the typology of residential area?

Bhagalpur is a city, situated in the state of Bihar. Its location is in between the industrial south and agricultural north of the state. No city in actual sense be claimed to be a representative in its totality. But being in the middle of the two distinct regions and because of having the symptoms of both the features, this city is chosen for this study. Secondly, small towns below 5 lakh population is the main target of this analysis. Thirdly, Bhagalpur has been selected for study because of the familiarity of the author with the city.

This study is mainly organized into the five main chapters. Chapter first deals with the origin and existence of the city in historic past. While second part of the same chapter explains the demographic characteristics of the city during last 100 years and the third part of the chapter discusses about the economic strengths of the city.

Second chapter of this study is divided into three sections - first one mainly concerns with the design of urban land use, second part is the detailed description of residential congregation found within the urban limit of the Bhagalpur city where high class, medium class and low class
residential areas have been delineated. In this section a detailed account of four different type of slums has also been made. The third part of this chapter is associated with the changes in urban land-use during last few decades.

Third chapter of this work is devoted to the conceptual and theoretical part of this research work, which is divided into two main parts. Part one is a detailed description of the origin and development of social welfare approaches. Here basis of the concept of residential environment is sought and various approaches of social and territorial well-being made by Indian as well as non-Indian scholars are discussed. Second part of this chapter deals with the inevitable need of factor analysis technique which is applied in this research work is explained.

Fourth chapter, which is the core of this research work deals with the residential variation and residential environment of the city. First part of this chapter is concerned with the variable selection where 1 per cent data from 37 wards of Bhagalpur city relating to the income, housing standard, amenities, infrastructure, population characteristics and educational levels are collected by the author adopting stratified random sampling technique are processed and correlation established. In second part of this chapter correlation of different variables is discussed in detail and correlation matrix is shown. While in third part, dimensions of factor structures are described. This part highlights the
comprehensive description of residential differentiation throughout the city. Using factor analysis technique, the variables are correlated and five factors are extracted from the rotated factor matrix which explains more than 72 per cent of the total variance. Rest all the four factors show 9 per cent of the variance in average. Factor first contributes almost half of the total variance. Residential types are shown by this factor which is generally recognized by high level of education, high income and availability of infrastructure and amenities. Second factor shows low quality of residential areas which is totally devoid of infrastructural facilities where houses made up of sub-standard materials. Third factor shows medium quality of residential areas or mixed type of residential areas dominated by RBC type of houses consuming coal as kitchen fuel. Rest of the two factors showing crowding and congestion and owner occupancy of the houses, when applied against the above mentioned three factors, develops residential quality as well as residential typology. Thus it is found that on qualitative basis there are four main types of residential areas in the city.

Last chapter is the concluding one where residential types and quality of habitat with their recognizing features as a result of which these patterns have developed are discussed and an attempt to integrate the various findings is made. At the end certain remedial measures have been suggested.