CHAPTER-3
AREA OF STUDY

3.1. Location

Meerut is one of the important districts of Uttar Pradesh in the region of Ganga- Yamuna Upper Doab. Geographically, on the north-east Ganga forms the boundary along with Bijnore and J.P. Nagar districts of western U.P. In the west river Yamuna forms the boundary alongwith Baghpat, which was till some year ago was part of district Meerut. On the north, Muzaffarnagar district and on the south and east Ghaziabad district forms the boundary. Meerut is the nerve agricultural centre, industrially developed in western U.P. It is situated about 65 Kms. north-east of the national capital town, Delhi. It is well connected with the state capital Lucknow and with the adjoining states of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab. Geographically, it lies between latitudes 28° 47’ and 29° 18’ north and longitudes 77° 0’/ and 78° 7’ east. It is broadly a balanced rectangular in shape and is spread from east to west and from north to south. Administratively it is divided into three tehsils, 12 blocks with 15 towns 676 villages.

3.2. Mythological Significance

Ravana's wife Mandodari (in Ramayana) hailed from Meerut. The town may have derived its name from "Maya Rashtra", the capital of the kingdom owned by Mandodari's father Mayadanava.
3.3. Area and Population

Meerut district has an area of 2,590 sq. kilometer. According to 2001 Census, its total population is 29,97,361 and total male population in Meerut, 16,01,578, while total female population is 13,95,783. Population density of the district is 1190 per sq. Km. and sex ratio in Meerut is 871 (http://meerut.nic.in).

3.4. History of Meerut

Meerut is famously associated with the Indian Revolution of 1857 against the British East India Company, when chants of popular Hindi slogan "Dilli chalo" ("Let's march to Delhi!") were first raised here. Meerut cantonment is the place where the rebellion started when Hindu and Muslim soldiers were given rifle cartridges with a coating made of animal fat. The bullet wrapping was to be opened by mouth before use, which affected religious sensibilities of both Muslims and Hindus as the animal coating was alleged to be composed of pork and beef. Meerut leapt into international prominence during the revolution of 1857, when on 24 April, 1857, eighty- five troopers out of ninety of the third cavalry refused to touch the cartridges and after court martial, were sentenced to ten years imprisonment. This marked the beginning of a general movement of freedom from the British yoke, with the support of the civilian populace. The Indian Rebellion of 1857 began as a mutiny of sepoys of British East India Company's army on the 10th of may 1857, in the town of Meerut. The rebellion posed a considerable threat to company
power in that region, and it was contained only with the fall of Gwalior on 20th June 1858. The rebellion is also known as India's First War of Independence, the great rebellion, the Indian Mutiny, the Revolt of 1857, and the Sepoy Mutiny.

Meerut was also the venue of the controversial Meerut Conspiracy Case in March 1929, in which several trade unionists, including three Englishmen, were arrested for organizing Indian-rail strike. This immediately caught attention back in England, inspired the 1932 play titled Meerut Prisoners, by Manchester street theater group, the 'Red Megaphones', highlighting the detrimental effects of colonization and industrialization.

The city and district also suffered from communal (Hindu-Sikh) riots in 1984 and (Hindu-Muslim) riots in 1982 and 1987. In 2006, a fire at a consumer electronics "Brand India" fair in Victoria Park Stadium killed over 50 (official counting) people. But, according to some unofficial sources, the number of affected people is pegged at more than 200.

3.5 Education in Meerut (Literacy)

Education is one of the important factor for formation of attitudes. Low percentage and high percentage of literacy affect the consciousness level of the people. It gives an attitude to think over the social, economic, political, cultural matters. More educated person has high level of consciousness than an illiterate person. Meerut is situated near national
capital Delhi and it comes under the prosperous area of the state. The literacy structure of Meerut is shown in the table given below.

**Table-1: The Literacy Structure of Meerut**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>Total Literacy (2001)</th>
<th>Male Literacy</th>
<th>Female Literacy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meerut City</td>
<td>16,06,469</td>
<td>9,92,005</td>
<td>6,14,464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>7,86,410</td>
<td>5,07,416</td>
<td>2,78,994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>8,20,059</td>
<td>4,84,589</td>
<td>3,35,470</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: District Primary Census Abstract of Total population-2001

**3.6. Higher Education in Meerut**

Meerut is becoming a big education hub in western U.P. students from all over U.P. and other states come to Meerut to study BCA, MCA, MBBS, BDS, MBA, B.Ed courses. Meerut is having a large number of government and private institutes providing education in these fields. There are 4 Universities, 50 Engineering Colleges, 27 other colleges and countless institutions and schools. The city is home to the Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel University of Agriculture & Technology and Chaudhary Charan Singh University (earlier known as Meerut University). Swami Vivekanand Subharti University, and Shobhit University, have recently acquired the status of universities. The city currently has two Medical
colleges, namely Subharti Medical College and premier Lala Lajpat Rai Memorial Medical College.

3.7. History of Higher Education in Meerut City

At present there are 07 major government, aided academic colleges, which are imparting higher education for quite sometime in the Meerut city area. There are also a number of private colleges of professional education and academic education which got started in the recent years. These are colleges without any financial assistance from the government. A government degree college has also come up during the last few years.

According to E.B. Joshi (1965: 275-76), Meerut college is the oldest college in the city and it was started in 1892, degree classes, got introduced from 1894. The other, Nanak Chand Anglo Sanskrit College, was started in 1909 as a middle school and from 1952 it was recognized as a degree college. Dev Nagri College, was started in 1882 as a pathshala for the propagation of Hindi and from 1958 it was granted recognition for B.Sc. Classes. Raghunath Girls' College, was established in 1929 as a high school and from 1939 it was raised to the status of a degree college, Ismail National Girls' (P.G.) College was established in 1909 as a primary school and from 1962 it was recognized as a degree college.

All these colleges are affiliated to Ch. Charan Singh University, Meerut which estabilised in 1966. Thus among the major known old
aided colleges and a government college, four are exclusively girls colleges situated in the area of Meerut city.

3.7.1. Location of the Selected Colleges

The Raghunath Girls' P.G. College, Meerut is the famous girls' college in Meerut city. It is situated at Chippi Tank, on Western Kutchari Road. Ismail National Girls' P.G. College is situated near Budhana Gate in Meerut. Kanohar Lal Snatakottar Mahila Mahavidyalaya is situated on Sharda Road near Old Delhi Chungi in Meerut. Shahid Mangal Pandey Government Girls' College is the only government college in Meerut and situated in Madhave Puram, Delhi Road Meerut. These four colleges have selected for the study.

3.7.2. Educational Groups in the Selected Colleges

There are four groups of under graduate courses in Raghunath Girls' P.G. College. Arts, Science, Commerce and Education but Arts, Science and Commerce groups also have post graduate courses. Arts, Commerce and Education groups are of under graduate courses in Ismail National Girls' P.G. College. Arts and Commerce groups also has post graduate courses. There are Arts and Commerce groups of under graduate and post graduate courses in Kanohar Lal Snatakottar Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Meerut. There are Arts, Science and Commerce groups
of under graduate courses in Shahid Mangal Pandey Government Girls' College here Arts group also has post graduate courses.

3.7.3. Students of the Selected Colleges

According to the office register of college (2007) the total students of Raghunath Girls' College, Meerut are 5879 approximately, out of this total under graduate girls are 4550 and post graduate girls are 1329 approximately.

According to the office register of college (2007) the total students of Ismail National Girls' (P.G.) College, Meerut are 2710 approximately out of this total under graduate girls are 2020 approximately and post graduate girls are 690 approximately.

According to the office register of college (2007) the total students of Kanohar Lal Snatakottar Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Meerut are 2694 approximately out of this total undergraduate girls are 2297 approximately and post graduate girls are 397 approximately.

According to the office register of college (2007) the total students of Shahid Mangal Pandey Government Girls' College are 305 approximately, out of this total under graduate girls are 259 and post graduate girls are 46 approximately.
Table -2:  Total Number of Students in Four Girls' Colleges in Meerut 2007-08

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Name of College</th>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Post Graduate</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>R.G. College</td>
<td>Students</td>
<td>4550</td>
<td>1329</td>
<td>5879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>I.N. College</td>
<td>Students</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>690</td>
<td>2710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>K.L. College</td>
<td>Students</td>
<td>2297</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>2694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>S.M.P. College</td>
<td>Students</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Students</td>
<td>9126</td>
<td>2462</td>
<td>11588</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>