The present research work deals with the problems of Calcutta city that are of varied in nature but similar in the basic characteristic that they are all detrimental to the environment of the Calcutta Megapolis. Metropolitan problems are thus deeprooted and their process of elimination need coordinated efforts from different urban management. The present work is an effort to focus its attention on these intertwined environmental problems. Therefore, basic facts and data required for the evaluation of the present situation are collected from different urban management centres and published works of eminent researchers (Government and Non-Government Organisations). This work throws light on overall growth of the megapolis and some of its very peculiar and inherent problems that seem to have turned into its basic characteristics.

The root of all the problems lies in the fact of haphazard, unsystematic and unplanned growth of Calcutta city. Calcutta which is a river city like London and Paris
had a different growth pattern. The other two mentioned cities radiated outwards in all direction from a strong and long-established business centre. In the case of Calcutta growth took a linear, constricted pattern due to its geographical location between a river in the West and marshes in the east. A narrow confined corridor of 5 km on east bank with the exceptional bulge at Calcutta was only available for the layout of the megacity.

The land on which Calcutta has grown up is yet young and not fully developed. The land is not yet firmly consolidated as it is evolved from the sediments poured into a tectonic basin. Therefore proper planning in future growth becomes absolutely essential in all aspects of Calcutta city. Planning is a method of decision making that proposes or identifies goals or ends, determines the means for the achievements of defined ends. Therefore application of analytical techniques to discover the ends and means or alternative ends can pull Calcutta through the present day crisis. The utmost necessity of Calcutta today is "Urban development" in truest and most sincere term bringing deliberate, definite changes in the spatial form and in civic infrastructural facilities such as water supply, drainage and sewage, road network, housing and so on.
Although planners pose themselves as major planning decision makers, metropolitan planning is basically political in character. People are not accepted as a factor in decision making though civic life gets most vitally affected by metropolitan planning. Urban planning and public policy are organically linked to each other and that should be respected all along the strategies undertaken.

It seems reasonable to present some hints on the ten chapters included in this study. Chapter one deals with general introduction like objectives, methodology, previous literature and importance of the study. Chapter two includes significance of structural and lithological characteristics, climate, natural vegetation along with occurrences of groundwater relating to the importance of underlying structure (endogenic processes) and the processes specially the climate-vegetation-soil climax systems (exogenetic processes) in the work of fashioning the landscape of Calcutta city area. Chapter three reveals the importance of morphological analysis in relation to drainage status and brings out the salient features of the wetland in and around the study area and their importance in relation to metropolitan environment. Chapter four specially emphasises the drainage status, both underground
and surface, while digging deep into the historical background of drainage system. Changes in demographic pattern together with the economic status, occupational structure and composition of the population is the subject matter of chapter five, chapter six brings out the changing landuse pattern of Calcutta and its impact on the metropolitan environment. Salient features of city environment and associated problems like air, water, noise, and drainage pollution are discussed in the chapter seven, Drainage problems are given special attention and are sorted out in the eighth chapter and remedies with suggestions are put forward in the ninth chapter.

Thus the present thesis work tries to explain the metropolitan environmental problems from a geographical view point and offers changes in urban planning strategies so as to overcome the historical drainage problems associated with the study area.