CHAPTER- 3

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF URBAN ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING

Geography can be variously defined as the science deals with the spatial organization, locational analysis, man environment relationships and areal differentiation. Geographers are professionally interested in how and why one piece of land identical from another with respect to both its physical environment and the activities of man (Smith 1973, p. 10). The city is not only the physical environment but there is another environment that some times more important than the physical conditions for the residents, that is social environment. So the analysts and planners must pay attention to the city social environment along with the physical environment.

Physical and Economic planning of cities has been an established part of the governmental scene since 1930s. But Social planning has been openly recognized only more recently, and then it has proceeded under a cover of confusion which has prevented public debate on its scope and intention (Smith 1973, p. 56). The industrial revolution led to the people organizes in abundance in specific areas and it commenced the urbanization throughout the world and the process is on the work.

It is the first time in the history of Humankind a majority of the world’s population lives in urban places and the number of urban dwellers and level of global urbanization are growing at an accelerated rate. The quality of the urban environment as a living space for the inhabitants, therefore, is an issue of fundamental concern for academic researchers, policy makers and citizens themselves (Pacione 2003a, p. 1)
Socio-spatial variations in urban environmental quality and human well-being are established characteristics of the city life. The problems of living in the contemporary city drew the national and international research attention to these socio-spatial divisions in urban environmental quality and human well-being (Pacione 2003a, p. 1). Even in the recent days due to manifold reasons the city and urban society on which the pulse of world is resting, persists as an enigma that to be tackled. Most of the sociological and technological transformations fire up from the urban areas and make ripples throughout the world’s society.

Cities are of greater complexity today than ever because of its size and population density. There is a more important reason for this urban complexity that is urbanism now dominates civilizations, and cities have assumed a commanding position in whole world. So the study of the city perforce has become the study of contemporary society. It is the urban societies that control the world’s destiny as the centres of decisions and the triggers for social change (Reissman 1964, p. 3)

As an important section of the modern society at whom rest of the world depends for the technology and even for ideology the urban population deserves the care of policy makers to tackle the internal problems of the cities especially in social context. ‘The development of humanistic welfare geography is catalysed the demands of public policy. Improving the well-being of specific neighbourhoods, cities, or regions requires some means of accurately describing spatial variation in well-being so that policies can be formulated and later assessed efficiently’ (Knox 1975, p.4)

The city is a relatively large, dense and permanent settlement of socially heterogeneous individuals (Nottridge 1972, p. 37). Heterogeneity is the life blood for the existence of mankind so that the symbiotic relation could be kept to fulfil the wants and needs of all sectors in a society. The heterogeneity leads to the conflicts if not managed it in a proper way by both the individuals of community and the political authority.


3.1 URBAN ENVIRONMENT

Urban environment understood as those entire external phenomenon prevail in the urban area that facilitate or malignant to the community or society present there. Generally the most of the people understand the word environment as only ecological or natural environment, but urban environment include ecological as well as social environment. ‘Environment is the aggregate of external conditions that influence the life of an individual or group, specifically the life of man; environment ultimately determines the quality and survival of human life’ (Detwyler et al. 1972)

Cities are open and dynamic ecosystems, which consume, transform and release materials and energy. They develop, adapt, and interact with other ecosystems. The quality of life in cities is a function of interactions with its different components such as social equity, income, housing, healthy environment, social relations and education (EEA 2009). The city must be treated as only one of many social institutions such as kinship, religion, and subsistence activity for cross-cultural comparisons and analyses of urban environment (Fox 1977, p. 17)

Urban geography greatly concerned with form in 1960s and 70s, and then the classical relationship between urban land use and morphology with emphasis on site, location, and physical conditions, is receded into the focus. Finally geographical investigations began to consider the internal features of the structure of an urban system, and these features which are powerful among the environmental forces conditioning urban life, belong to the ‘built environment’ of the place and the socioeconomic characteristics of the population (Harrison and Gibson 1976, p.14). But the scientific world not fully satisfied with this type of studies. The germination of humanistic and radical thoughts in geographical explanations brought the habitat and well-being factors in to the focus.

The new innovations in the geographical investigations such as Quality of urban environment came after 1970 when concern with human habitat became
subject of more focussed research within the older traditions of ‘quality of life’, ‘social indicators’, ‘human development’ etc. as a dissatisfaction from gross economic measures of production and consumption as true indicants of human well-being and it developed a new approach to the human well-being (Harrison and Gibson 1976, p. 19). These new indicants are more concerned with the residential environment and the land use system within the city space.

Residential environment is the outcome of several factors that not only related with natural environment but also with the social environment. The special interest on environmental quality has emerged as a key area for research in urban social geography, especially for research undertaken from an applied or problem oriented perspective. Accordingly, within urban social geography considerable efforts have been directed to assessing the quality of different residential environments (Pacione 2003b, pp. 19-20). Urban land use is also very important; the urban area with lot of industrial area will have a deteriorated physical environment and the concentration of residential land use may have an influence in social environment. There is a fairly direct relationship between the ‘natural’ environment and land use. ‘At the stage of urban expansion, residential sectors were moving into human landscape where the social values had replaced those of soil and site rather than that of physical landscapes’ (Harrison and Gibson 1976, p.14)

Moreover, it is very common that the direction of urban development and land use expansion have largely controlled by the physical presence of natural barriers like river, sea and mountain, and the pattern of settlement followed it. The study of the urban environment was evolving in rigid fashion along a line that increasingly subordinates the physical features of the milieu, either natural or manmade, lagging the social and cultural ends behind the economic and technological means (Harrison and Gibson 1976, p.16)

There is a paradigm shift in understanding of environment especially urban environment. Several scholarly discourses and researches have covered this issue.
In the recent years, the environment is a totality of quality of individual’s and society’s life along with the physical environment. After the huge social violent and social dilemmas of the previous decades the environment was seen as a mean to re-establish a sense of quality of urban life at community and individual levels, expressing both the practical concern and the intellectual optimism (Brand and Thomas 2005, p.1)

The geographer who perceives the urban community as bounded in certain area, or locality, or in an urban place uses a spatial approach to study the urban phenomenon. The ultimate reasons of this study is to understand the organization of the place in order to serve ultimately the general well-being of the society by considering the urban spatial aspect (Harrison and Gibson 1976, p. 19) According to Human ecologists the city is primarily a natural environment. Within it they expected to study the effect of ecological unit in which pattern and process could be notice by the same technique and from the same perspective as those in nature (Reissman 1964, p. 99)

Ecological environment is one of the main factors which have an effect on the way of life and economic activity in both rural and urban area. Nature of economic activity is controlled by natural resources, physical conditions and the relative location. As Sengupta’s opinion Human being depends on Ecological environment for their survival and development which includes an array of natural assets of minerals, sunlight, fossil fuels, soils, water, forests, water sheds, biodiversity, oceans, atmosphere etc. which provide support to human living including functioning of economic system’( Sengupta 2002, p. 4289)

Urban Community environment is not just a part of the urban environment, but it is also a concrete reflection of social, ethnic, cultural and material progress (Liu 2000). Urban man have several needs that to be fulfilled for their happy and well living. It may be mental or psychological as well as physical. Some needs are essential for their personnel happiness or quality of life and some other for the better living for their whole urban community. Two broad categories of human
needs may be noted, biological needs essential to survival of the urban population and cultural requirements necessary for city functioning and growth.

The biological needs of man in the city are essentially the same as he requires in any situation, such as food, energy resources, space, water and shelter materials which generally draws from an extensive hinterland due to the shortage by high population densities. Space might be the biological requirement which obtained little attention and the urban ecosystem most seriously failed to provide. The culture is the totality of man’s ways of living developed by human groups and transmitted from one generation or group to another which include political organisation, economic system, technology, transportation and communication, education and information, social and intellectual activities etc. It is very essential to the urban as a whole for their better development and competency (Detwyler et al. 1972, pp.14-17)

There is a divide between environmental quality specialists and development practitioners. In order to bring them together the environmental quality specialist must understand the functioning, language, tools and the conceptual elaborations of the development process. The former must assist the later to develop scenarios, particularly novel paths of action that could shift the development activity in preferred directions. The environmental quality input must not impede the processes that the development player currently uses (Brown 2003, pp. 87-88). This divide must be reduced to acquire a mutual understanding to become the planning effective and environmental friendly.

Environmental quality considered all the aspects of overall life satisfaction such as quality of housing, interaction with neighbours, public transportation, and health services (Raphael et al. 1996, p.78). Overcrowding, inadequate housing, inadequate access to clean water and sanitation, growing amounts of uncollected waste, and deteriorating air quality are serious problems in cities and there must be effective and timely action to tackle these. These phenomena will seriously affect and deteriorate the urban liveability and quality of life with varying multitudes.
One of the most obvious urban features, after size and congestion, is variety. The city is a place of contrasts, an environment of extremes. A good relation between urbanites and urban communities must be formed to get an improved social environment. Cities are communities only because they command allegiance, social consensus, and belief, and even, at times, a civic spirit (Reissman 1964, pp. 4-13)

Physically and socially cities are still an imperfect entity. It has never been a perfect environment. Yet we should not let our sensitive awareness of urban problems totally darkened. It seems likely that such imperfection is an inevitable feature of urban complexity. Throughout the history of urban society there have been recurrent crises, and probably never more than in the last hundred years, as we have realized that something could be done about those problems, that they were neither natural nor inevitable. (Reissman 1964, p.10-12)

3.1.1 Urbanization and Social Change

Urbanization associate with social and technological development and a better society to transmit the education and technology through it. Urbanization is Social Change on vast scale. In recent years the shift from an agrarian to an industrial society has altered most of the aspect of social life. The family reduced the limit of its allegiance and modified its relationships. The economy was drastically altered in style, purpose and demand. Education was remodelled to fit urban and industrial needs. Politics occupied a different arena than before, with new participants, rules and objectives. The motivation of urbanization upon society is such that society gives way to urban institution, urban values, and urban demands (Reissman 1964, p.154)

Urbanization in the perspective of social change means not only the transformation of rural, agricultural, or folk society, but also the continuous change within the industrial city itself. Urbanization does not stop but continuous to change the city into ever different form (Reissman 1964, p.156). People in cities
have restricted contact with others than those lived in a less crowded environment. To some extend loneliness is a problem in cities. Furthermore, the city increases the ease with which one can restrict our human contacts to people of his own kind. In cities very specialized subcultures develop whose sympathy and experience can be much more limited than those of the country dwellers (Harrison and Gibson 1976, p. 293).

In the same way the internal structure of towns and cities is modified by changing characteristics of size form and function. Generally the socioeconomic changes develop faster than the physical and built-up environment. The renewal of the environment attempts to catch up, but as a whole lags behind the needs; change has occurred quickly in last century. Size, form, and function concur to extend rapidly the space occupied by urban agglomeration (Harrison and Gibson 1976, p.15). ‘The quality of the environment is a key indicator of a successful city centre. For its part seduction was aimed at the city’s internal population. A revitalized and attractive city centre environment would not only edify a new collective image but also, it was argued, offer new opportunities for cultural consumption and urban social life’ (Brand and Thomas 2005, p.117-118)

Inter-personal relationships benefits people both emotionally and physically. The quality of a neighbourhood, including good quality public space, is important for motivating contacts and strong social ties among neighbours, which might be of greater importance for low-income people (Putnam 2000). There are considerable links between urbanization, the growth of cities, and increasing crime rate. Crime and delinquency have become regarded as urban phenomena because of the regular annual increase in crime rates, especially those for violent offences that became a feature of some societies. Crime remains one of the least understood social problems, particularly in the key context of causality and prevention (Herbert and Smith 1979, p.117). It is clear that urbanization leads to social changes at different scales in association with many other factors like economic development, educational awareness etc.
3.2 SOCIAL WELL-BEING

The study of social well-being is an outcome of deteriorating social environment due to the overcrowding and less social contact which came in existence because of the enhanced agglomeration of residential and industrial establishment or simply urbanization. Social well-being is associated with the total condition of individual and community life. The satisfaction with one's social or community environment is very important for his mental and physical development. ‘Well-being is a multidimensional concept that comprehends many criteria quality of life and many life domains’. (Andrews 1983)

Several definitions are came forth to conceptualize the social well-being, quality of life, level of living which are more or less resembles in nature but slightly differs in dimension. According to Paul Knox well-being is the satisfaction of the needs and wants of the population, and the needs associated with different elements of well-being may be resolve in different ways. The consumer needs may be determined through conventional supply and demand analysis, recreational needs through relative deprivation analysis, housing needs through statistical analysis and medical care needs through resolutions of expert’s opinion (Knox 1975, p. 6-7)

A well society is one in which people have adequate income for their basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, and a reasonable standard of living; people will not live in scarcity. For any individual his status and dignity will be respected, and will be socially and economically mobile. Decent education and health services will be accessible to all, and their use will be reflected in a high level of physical and mental health. People will live in suitable houses in decent neighbourhoods, and will enjoy a good quality of physical environment. They will have reasonable leisure time and access to recreational facilities, including culture and the arts. The populace will show a low degree of disorganization, with minimum personal social pathologies, little deviant behaviour, low crime incidents and high public order and safety. The family will be a stable institution. Individual will be able to participate
in social, economic, and political life without any discrimination based on the race, religion, ethnic origin or any other cause (Smith 1973, p. 69).

Quality of life can be termed as the sum of a variety of objectively measurable life conditions experienced by an individual. These may incorporate physical health, personal circumstances, social relationships, functional activities, and wider societal and economic influences. Subjective reply to such conditions is the domain of personal satisfaction with life (Felce and Perry 1995, p. 54). Raphael defines quality of life as: ‘The degree to which a person enjoys the important possibilities of his/her life. Enjoyment covers two meanings: experience of subjective satisfaction and the possession or achievement of some characteristic or state. Possibilities reflect the opportunities and limitations each person has’ (Raphael 1996, p. 80)

Those who concerned with well-being must be satisfied with comparative rather than absolute measures. Until we standardize collective preferences and priorities, such measures must be based on those categories of needs and wants that are seen by academics and administrators to constitute well-being (Knox 1975, p.7). Generally there are three types of well-being which are mutually related. They are Physical well-being, Social well-being and Emotional or Psychological well-being.

Physical well-being or material well-being subsumes the health, fitness, physical safety, finance or income, quality of the living environment, and privacy, possessions, meals or food, transport, neighbourhood, security, and stability or tenure. Social well-being includes the quality and breadth of interpersonal relationship with the family and relatives in the surrounding people and friends. Community activities and the level of community acceptance or support together reflect a similarly strong concern for community involvement. Development and activity is concerned with the possession and use of skills in relation to both self determination and the pursuit of functional activities (work, leisure, education) and productivity or contribution. Emotional well-being includes affect or mood,
satisfaction, or fulfilment, self-esteem, status/respect, and religious freedom and faith. (Felce and Perry 1995, p. 60)

The social well-being is largely depends on the level of material possessed or accessed as that supports all other parts of life and maintain social status. The quality of people of a society depends on the resource allocation mechanism which is characterised or determined by the institutions, motivation and culture of peoples of the society. Resource allocation mechanism is the management of assets of all kinds of capital stocks. It determines the inter-temporal flow of social well-being and the associated dynamic paths of the concerned stocks which describe the composition of wealth of a society (Sengupta 2002, p. 4289)

As many other phenomena the well-being can be studied or explained in several ways. It is differing from scholars to scholars and discipline to discipline. According to Chan ‘There are two distinct orientations to the study of well-being-the 'grass roots' approach and the 'ascriptive' model. The approach bank on people's judgments of needs and satisfactions according to individual life experiences and expectations is known as grass roots approach. Researchers analyses the collected public opinions, and construct a subjective framework on quality of life that focuses on individual subjective feelings like degrees of satisfaction. (Chan et.al 2005, pp.261)

There are several factors which influence or regulate the social well-being and the well-off of the society. The most important factor among them can be termed as the population characteristics. There is a strong and direct connection between levels of well-being and characteristics of populations. Changes in several population parameters are influence the levels of well-being, similarly, changes in levels of well-being affect various aspects of population. Even though demographers have developed an advanced discipline around concepts involving rates of fertility, mortality, migration, marriage, divorce, dependency, and the like, they given relatively little attention to link the data they developed to communicate about well-being. Social epidemiologists have explored how some aspect of well-
being like emotional and physical health correlate to certain population trends, but the range of well-being phenomena examined has been very limited. (Andrews 1983)

Being, Belonging, and Becoming are the three life domains. Being indicates "who one is" and has three sub-domains: Physical Being incorporates physical health, personal hygiene, nutrition, exercise, grooming, clothing, and general physical appearance. Psychological being covers the person's psychological health and adjustment, cognitions, feelings, and evaluations concerning the self such as self esteem, self-concept and self-control. Spiritual being contains the personal values, personal standards of conduct, and spiritual beliefs which one holds.

The Belonging domain be connected with the person's fit with his/her environments and also has three sub-domains. Physical Belonging involves the person's connections with his/her physical environments of home, workplace, neighbourhood and community. Social Belonging consist of links with social environments and involves acceptance by intimate others, family, friends, co-workers, and neighbourhood and community. Community belonging includes access to resources such as adequate income, health and social services, employment, educational and recreational programs, and community events and activities.

Becoming denotes the purposeful activities carried out to express oneself and to achieve personal goals, hopes, and aspirations. Practical Becoming describes day-to-day activities such as domestic activities, paid work, school or volunteer activities, and seeing to health or social needs. Leisure Becoming describes activities that promote relaxation and stress reduction. Growth Becoming activities promote the maintenance or improvement of knowledge and skills and adapting to modification (Raphael et al. 1996, pp.80-81).

Quality of life can be perceived as the quality of life conditions, satisfaction with life, and the combination of both, and it is an intangible concept approachable
at varying levels of generality from the assessment of societal or community well-being to the specific evaluation of the situations of individuals or groups (Felce and Perry 1995, p. 51). Lindstrom’s quality of life model considers four spheres—Personal sphere, interpersonal sphere, external sphere and the global sphere. The Personal sphere covers physical, mental, and spiritual resources. Interpersonal sphere includes family structure and function, intimate friends, and extended social networks. The External sphere includes aspects of work, income, and housing. The Global sphere includes the societal macro environment, specific cultural aspects, and human rights and social welfare policies. (Lindstrom and Spencer 1994)

Level of living is a fundamental concept for the assessment of the development and the development planning. The purpose of development is to improve the conditions in which people live, and the level of living is supposed to be a quantitative expression of these conditions. Only material wealth cannot bring well-being to the individual or society. But it is a totality of several factors of material, social, political, psychological, biological etc. ‘Quality of life is not necessarily a simple function of material wealth, but it includes other factors like social, political and environmental health of a nation. This realization has led to the search for indicators, other than those based on GNP, that will reflect more adequately the overall health of a nation and the well-being of its citizens’. (Pacione 2003b, p.19)

The living condition as mentioned above is not only the physical condition but include all the life domains. Knox explaining the living condition and social well-being much vastly and simply to understand the domains of life which influence the well-being. ‘The level of living of person or resident within a given geographical area is constituted by the over-all composition of housing, health, education, social status, employment, affluence, leisure, social security, and social stability aggregately exhibited in that area, together with those aspects of demographic structure, general physical environment, and democratic participation’ (Knox 1975, p. 31)
3.2.1 Religion and Well-being

Religion has been an important aspect of human activities and a way of life in most of the communities both rural and urban region. Religion is related with life and life’s various dimensions. It has an influence on the entire life of man as a person and a part of family and community. ‘Religion provides an important basis for ideas about well-being specifying through teaching and practice what it mean to live well, as an individual and as a community. It is also widely understood as a source of well-being for its adherents, providing comfort in times of trouble, offering a frame work of meaning to make sense of life’s variations, and providing a community that gives social support and confers identity through a sense of belonging’ (White et al. 2010, p.1)

Religions and spiritual traditions inevitably incorporate ideas concerning what the good life is, how one should live one’s life, and the rewards (and penalties) one can expect in this life or possible future lives. Almost all religions specify some ultimate or ideal state that their members aim for such as enlightenment or oneness with God. In a sense, this state provides the member with the ultimate of well-being, but since typically only a very small proportion of the religion’s members achieve the ideal, the most important thrust of a religion is its guidance on how to live one’s life, and thus, how to achieve a measure of increased well-being on the path (Tomer 2002, p. 34).

In the case of Hinduism, there are four basic aims in life that contribute to well-being. The ultimate aim of Hindus is self-liberation or self-realization (moksha). The other three are, enjoyment of the fullness of life or pleasure (kama), means of life, success, prosperity or wealth (artha), and virtuous living, righteousness, guide to action, or moral and ethical duty (dharma) (Koller 1985, pp. 42-46). Hindus can make significant progress along this path, and increase their well-being, by bringing artha, kama, and dharma into the right relationship.
With respect to well-being, the essence of Buddhism is quite similar to Hinduism. According to Buddhism, there are four factors contributing to happiness, wealth, worldly satisfaction, spirituality, and enlightenment. In regard to spirituality, “your state of mind is the key”. It is important to have the “right mental attitude” and maintain a “calm and peaceful state of mind”. Buddhists, similar to Hindus, seek to reach the ultimate state of enlightenment, through disciplined practices that remove the “dust from the lamp”, alleviate suffering, and allow the Buddha nature to shine through (Lama and Cutler 1998, pp. 24-25)

It is very easy to characterize the subject of well-being in Christianity. Christianity is distinguished by a strong belief in one God and by its adherents’ experience of God’s love. Christians are asked to reciprocate God’s love by loving all others. According to Christianity, people have only one life to determine whether in the afterlife they will go to heaven or hell. Christianity as a whole emphasizes loving, compassionate actions and not committing sins. The ultimate of well-being in Christianity is to experience oneness with God along with the love of God and the love of others. (Tomer 2002, p. 35)

Islam is very much interested in establishing a society that is pure, that is free from the filth of sin and crime, a society in which men and women would live in total freedom from fear of all kinds, including fear of crimes and violence. It, therefore, wishes to build that society on foundations of piety, fear of God, and absolute justice, in which each person would respect the rights of other people and would not trespass on them. Islam has laid down universal fundamental rights for humanity that to be observed and respected under all circumstances. These rights can be realized in one’s daily and social life as it provides both legal safeguards and a very effective moral system. In brief, whatever improves the well-being of an individual or a society is morally good, and whatever harms well-being is morally bad. A major goal of Islam is to provide mankind a practical and realistic system of life. It calls upon mankind not only to practice virtue but to establish it and to eradicate all that is harmful with the supremacy of God's conscience in all matters.
### 3.2.2 Subjective and Objective Well-being

General well-being comprises objective descriptions and subjective evaluations of physical, material, social, and emotional states together with the extent of personal development and purposeful activity, all weighted by a personal set of value. A definition of quality of life that disregards objective assessment of life conditions may not provide an adequate protection for the best interests of vulnerable and disadvantaged population. Expressions of satisfaction may simply reflect the difficulty of conditions commonly experienced by those with limited skills and little attachment to the mainstream society and its economy. For the objective assessment of Life domains we can use biological, material, social, behavioural, or psychological indicators. Subjective feelings about each area of life may be reflected in reports of satisfaction and well-being. (Felce and Perry 1995, p. 57-62)

Subjective well-being is the response provided by one about the quality of his/her lives, which includes both cognitive judgments of life satisfaction and affective (positive and negative) evaluations of moods and emotions. Subjective well-being can reflect temporary influences, so it is moderately stable over time and across many situations. Then we can say that subjective well-being is a viable concept with long-term validity (Tomer 2002, p. 28). Neither ideal conditions nor perfect satisfaction can be arranged for or achieved by every member of a society or societal subgroup as the conditions and satisfaction with life inevitably vary from person to person and society to society. Aggregated data for a distinct group of interest may be match up to those for the total population to establish the situations either in their favour or in inconvenience. An acceptable quality of life requires the both expressed satisfaction with various aspects of life and objective descriptions of those aspects for the society as a whole (Felce & Perry 1995, p. 59)

Simply subjective well-being is one’s perception about his/her life and the personnel satisfaction/dissatisfaction with the condition in which he/she lives.
According to Tomer a person’s well-being depends on the satisfaction of three basic kinds of needs: having (material and impersonal resources), relating (love, companionship and solidarity), and being (self-actualization and obverse of alienation). The relationship between the objective conditions and well-being is weak because the objective circumstances such as economic progress do not reliably satisfy all the above needs (Tomer 2002, p. 29-30).

Subjective well-being is not mutually exclusive with the objective condition prevailing in one’s society and locality, but they are interrelated and have an effect on each other. ‘Objective conditions like housing quality, level of pay, security on the street, economic stability and the services available are influence people’s attitude of life satisfaction or happiness. Different people in different classes and inhabiting different places can react differently to the same objective conditions. This effect is measurable, with respect to the existing situation as well as the impact of some change that might result from public policy or private action’ (Herbert and Smith 1979, p.15)

3.2.3 Measuring Well-being

Measuring well-being has four main issues. Should the focus be on objective indicators or subjective indicators of satisfaction, whether the data should collected from individuals or describe the functioning of systems, whether measures should be explicitly value-laden or value-neutral and the final issue is most apparent in the discussion of social indicator models, that is whether measures should be closely related to social policy and social change goals. For the collection of the data the method of objective measures of system functioning such as roles and social relations, income and consumption, and housing and safety, could be used. Individual-level measures could be employed in the form of subjective value-context measures like aspirations, expectations and distributive justice value or subjective well-being indices like life satisfaction, specific satisfaction and alienation (Raphael et al. 1996)
It is a very debatable topic that what should be given priority in the measurement. Several streams and methods are evolved a theoretical base for this, some relates and some differs. We can note the most important streams in this stream as population dynamics and urban ecology. Various factors like population dynamics, socio-political system, process of development, availability of resources and the existing level of living of people are affect the achievement of a desirable level of quality of life. Both objective and subjective dimensions of the quality of life are the functions of Population dynamics. Population dynamics affects all other factors and in turn is affected by them (Panda and Mishra 2001). Even though there are several variations in the methods, most of the modern urban ecologists believes that the only unique integrant to study urban social structure is urban ecology. Human spatial distribution in and around cities is the only major urban phenomena that remains sufficiently separable to provide a legitimate intellectual rationale. (Nottridge 1972, p.41)

### 3.2.4. Personal Capital and Social Capital

Personal capital and social capital are important in gaining insight regarding well-being. Social capital is anything that facilitates individual or collective action, generated by networks of relationships, reciprocity, trust, and social norms. According to Putnam ‘physical capital refers to physical objects and human capital refers to the properties of individuals, social capital refers to connections among individuals, social networks and the norms of reciprocity and trustworthiness. In that sense social capital is closely related to what some have called “civic virtue.” The difference is that “social capital” calls attention to the fact that civic virtue is most powerful when embedded in a sense network of reciprocal social relations. A society of many virtuous but isolated individuals is not necessarily rich in social capital’ (Putnam 2000, p. 19)

Personal capital is a kind of human capital that relates to an individual’s basic personal qualities and reflects the quality of an individual’s psychological,
physical, and spiritual functioning. A very important component of personal capital is the human capacity called emotional intelligence. The importance of personal capital is that as people grow, moving along the human development path, becoming more mature, more capable, and more conscious, a good part of this development can be characterized as personal capital formation. People are becoming more capable due to psychological or emotional, physical, and spiritual growth. These people are becoming more capable in all spheres of life, not just the work sphere and the personal sphere. If the investment in personal capital raises emotional intelligence, it may be because of greater social skills, increased motivation, or increased awareness and ability to regulate one’s emotions that people have more and better beings and doings. (Tomer 2002, p. 36-37)

Social capital is productive, making possible the achievement of certain ends that in its absence would not be possible. When people are successful at transforming their relationships for the better, i.e., when these relationships become more loving, compassionate, and joyful, this involves a well-being increasing investment. Societal, cultural and personality characteristics such as social stratification, isolation, reciprocity, materialism, altruism, rivalry and envy have negative influence in well being (Coleman 1988, p. 98)

### 3.2.5 Social Distance and Social Differences

One’s intimate sentiments and feeling may be shared only by a few or perhaps by none even the urban dweller is surrounded by crowded millions. The concept of social distance commonly employed to designate the degree of intimacy or understanding between individuals. It is highly important in analyzing social relationships in cities (Gist and Halbert 1954, p. 267).

Social differences do exists in towns. Patterns of physical separation and social differences linked in some way at least in larger towns. The kind and degree of segregation may fluctuate greatly but it will suggest a number of important considerations. It can see at community level rather than individual or personnel
level. People organize in the basis of social status in terms of ethnicity, religion, profession and economy. ‘People are separated because of social differences either voluntarily, compulsorily or accidentally and they want to remain separated at least in their housing’ (Nottridge 1972, p.53).

Despite this fact the urban community is a well established, highly intricate social, ecological and economic organization in another perspective. Social processes are at work in urban areas to establish social control through assimilation in to new forms of community organization (Nottridge 1972, p.61). The land value, settlement type and even the presence of municipal aided amenities are outcome of the socio political approach and affluence of the residents of particular locality. ‘The residential area of a city is distinctively a part of the city. The residential area, or address within the residential area, places a person within the context of a particular urban social structure’. (Beshers 1962)

The possibilities of urban environmental agendas are determined by the general conditions under which urban population are lived, rather than ecological rationale. Two fundamental shifts need to be taken in to account. First, urban environmentalism emerged and became institutionalized within the processes of neo-liberal urbanization and privatization .Second, both urban space and urban social life have become fragmented and individualized (Brand and Thomas 2005, p.58).

3.3 URBAN ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING

Urban environment and the well-being of the urban dwellers are related with each other in several perspectives. Quality of life and the quality of the environment are interdependent in ecological perspective. The well-being of individual and family are strongly bounded with the well-being of the whole ecosystem (Kathryn and Ronit 1999, p. 309). Quality of life is an outcome of relationship between people and their everyday urban environments.
Understanding the nature of the person–environment relationship is the ideal geographical question that lies at the core of the sub-discipline of social geography. In the context of the built environment, this can be interpreted as a concern with the degree of agreement or disagreement between city dwellers and their urban surroundings (Pacione 2003b, p. 19)

Environmental quality was consistently argued as the prime requirement of competitiveness and the ultimate measure of the everyday urban experience of citizens. A complex alliance of institutions ensured that environmental quality became the definitive feature of the urban development aspirations, urban management goals and urban evaluation criteria. The term environment includes all that which surrounds man: the natural, political, social elements, and the connection between them. It means the environment is the systematic reality which arises from the articulation of socially organized mankind with nature, through the process of development (Brand and Thomas 2005)

Healthy environment is important and essential part of quality of life. The objective environmental conditions, such as pollution levels, congestion may lead to illness and mental disorders under some disadvantageous conditions related to the individual characteristics of a person. Good air quality, low noise levels, clean and sufficient water, good urban design with sufficient and high-quality public and green spaces, an agreeable local climate or opportunities to adapt, and social equity are the environmental elements of a good quality of life. For biodiversity and population urban green infrastructure is very important. Urban ecosystems are artificial and providing specific habitats to the dwellers. It using the basic ecosystem services provided by nature and biodiversity for the survival and to deliver good quality of life. Nature and biodiversity originate from green areas within and outside cities (EEA 2010)

Human well-being is the extent to which individuals have the ability and the opportunity to live the kinds of lives they have reason to value, and is shaped by a wide range of instrumental freedoms. Human well-being encompasses personal
and environmental security, access to materials for a good life, good health and good social relations, all of which are closely related to each other, and underlie the freedom to make choices and take action.

Security relates to personal and environmental security. It includes access to natural and other resources, and freedom from violence, crime and wars, as well as security from natural and human-caused disasters. Material needs relate to access to ecosystem goods and services. The material basis for a good life includes secure and adequate livelihoods, income and assets, enough food and clean water at all times, shelter, clothing, access to energy to keep warm and cool, and access to other goods which support better life. Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or illness. Good health not only include being strong and feeling well, but also freedom from avoidable disease, a healthy physical environment, access to energy, safe water and clean air. Social relations refer to positive characteristics that define interactions among individuals, such as social cohesion, reciprocity, mutual respect, good gender and family relations, and the ability to help others and provide for children.

There are many other factors which partially important in the well-being of person and communities. Increasing the real opportunities that people have to improve their lives requires addressing all these components. This is closely linked to environmental quality and the sustainability of ecosystem services. Therefore, an assessment of the impact of the environment on individuals' well-being can be done by mapping the impact of the environment.

The environment in which the human beings live itself is the important factors contributing to social well-being. The shortage of an agreeable environment has an adverse effect on the development of the innovating ability, physical efficiency and productivity and thus on their earning capacity and their level of living (Ganguly and Gupta 1976, p. 108). Shelter and proper surroundings is considered as an important aspect of well-being of an individual and his family. Inadequate and improper housing affect adversely both health and productivity of
habitants.... Medical facilities reflect either directly or indirectly the condition of health in general and hence the quality of life. Health is closely related to the nutritional and environmental aspects of living and even a comparatively slight but generally improvement in medical facilities may have a great impact on it (Ganguly and Gupta 1976, p. 65-76).

The distinction between perceptions and evaluations of an environment and Subjective well-being is attained little attention of researchers. Persons may perceive particular qualities of their community. They may evaluate the quantity and quality of the public transportation facilities or the housing conditions of their community more or less favourably. They express their satisfaction or dissatisfaction with specific aspects of their community's quality of life and their personal well-being in the narrower sense (Walter-Bush 2000 pp. 2-3)

3.3.1 Social Area Analysis

Social Area Analysis is the technique for identifying segments within a city, or it is the process of identifying the urban sub-communities. The basic unit for social area analysis is the census tract, which is a group of contiguous blocks in a city, contains a definite number of people and intended to be a socially homogeneous as possible. Census information can be arranged in to three groups of economic, family, and ethnic characteristics. The index of economic status averages measures of rent, education and occupation. The index of family depends upon fertility ratio, women not in the labour force and ratio of single family dwellings. Finally the index of ethnic status can take from information on race, nativity, and surnames (Reissman 1964, pp. 86-87).

Social area analysis is a somewhat different scheme for classification. It contains its own particular advantages and disadvantages and like most other classification devices it has the arbitrary manner of defining categories, and lack of relevance for a broad theory. It also has the advantage of some statistical precision
and objective measurement as well as the ability to compress a great deal of data into a single composite score (Reissman 1964, p. 89).

3.3.2 Social Indicators Movement

The insufficiency of information relating to social well-being in academic and government circle in 1970s had led to what may be referred as the social indicators movement. As the social conditions are vary in time and space the development of social indicators involves the measurement of them. The healthy information about the nature and performance of the social system as well as the economic system is the intention of this movement. ‘Social indicators should ideally measures the state of and changes over time in major aspects of dimensions of social condition that can be judged normatively, as part of a comprehensive and inter related set of such measures embedded in a social model and their compilation and use should be related to public policy goals’. (Smith 1973, p. 54)

According to Knox Social indicators is ‘an aggregate or composite measures of well-being, or of some element of it, and are generally designed to facilitate concise and comprehensive judgement about levels of social welfare. In most cases they are aimed at improving information systems for decision- making: to assess what is happening, to pave the way for policy decisions, and to monitor the effect of policies’. The concepts of level of living, standard of living, social well-being, social welfare and level of satisfaction all symbolize the same general notion of well-being as the quality of life, but all may have different connotation or implications (Knox, 1975 pp 8-10)

The modern social indicators movement can be seen as a new approach to a very old and important concern through empirical social science concepts and methods. The modern social indicators movement get under way in the mid 1960s and has been in energetic worldwide development for the past fifteen years. The failure of traditional economic statistics do to provide the broad-based information needed for monitoring social change, evaluating social programs, guiding policy
development, and in general assessing quality of life or levels of well-being had bring forth the social indicators movement. Significant efforts have been devoted by social scientists, statisticians, government administrators, and others to laying the conceptual and operational foundations on which more broadly based social information systems can be built. At the national level, many of the more developed countries and also some of the developing countries have published some kind of social indicators report (Andrews 1983 pp.215-216)

The objective living-conditions and subjective satisfaction with them is the primary field of application of the social indicators concept of well-being, medical concept of quality of life emphasizes the health related subjective well-being of the individual. The social indicators concept is concerned both with objective resources and with their subjective perception, which make tensions between objective and subjective indicators. The concept was designed to have an immediate political impact and to be relevant to social planning, for which objective indicators such as quality of living conditions, environmental quality, quality of work conditions, of social services and of health care were mandatory. The subjectivist notion of quality of life is largely autonomous of changing social and cultural values. If the quality of life is analysed by objective characteristics, it’s applicability to specific cultural norms and ideals will deteriorates. Quality of life must focus on subjective well-being rather than on the nature of the objective conditions on which subjective well-being depends. (Dieter 1999, pp. 28-30)

Quality of life is something related to subject's own evaluation of his personal state. Quality of life, then, is more closely connected with preferences or attitudes than with the quality of subjective states judged from an impersonal point of view. ‘Quality of life cannot depend on how an individual evaluates certain objective events but only on how he evaluates his subjective states resulting from the event on the occasion of its happening. Equally, quality of life does not depend on how a future subjective state is evaluated before its occurrence but on how it is evaluated when it actually occurs’. (Dieter 1999 pp.31)
3.3.3 Territorial Social Indicators

Territorial social indicators are a necessary and logical extension of any realistic system of social reporting. People locally experience the prosperity stresses expectation and satisfaction of their locality. National social indicators are aggregates of these conditions and as such may cover important problems at local level (Knox 1975, p.11). A definition of social well-being can be set as the compilation of the data necessary to determine the degree and regularity of spatial variation, and to set down these observations in numerical and cartographic form. The outcome should be a set of “territorial social indicators” (Smith 1973, p. 7-8).

Two distinct types of social indicators are suitable for measuring societal and individual well-being. First one is the objective indicators that describe the environment within which people live and work. It includes the levels of health care provision, crime, education, leisure facilities and housing. The second one is subjective indicators aimed to describe the ways in which people perceive and evaluate conditions around them. (Pacione 2003a, p. 21)

Objective indicators are the commodities in human environments that promote to the good life and that represent the average conditions of a large population. Objective indicators are representing the conditions of people's lives and the environment in which they live, but not the subjective evaluation of a person whose life is being evaluated. The objective indicators usually refer to three aspects of public welfare: economic, physical/environmental, and social (Kathryn and Ronit 1999, pp. 309-310)

Subjective indicator (Perceptual indicators) of life quality attempt to quantify the experience of life rather than the conditions of life, and the individual is the unit of analysis. The studies using perceptual indicators concentrate on the definition of human needs and the satisfactory fulfilment of these needs. The researchers who employ the subjective indicators refer "well-being", rather than "welfare" as the unit of observation is not a large population and their conditions of
life, but an individual and his/her experiences of life. Family well-being can be
denoted by an individual’s perceptions of the extent to which his/her material and
emotional needs are satisfied. (Retting and Ronit 1999, pp. 310)

U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in 1969 defined social
indicator as a statistic of direct normative interest which facilitates concise,
comprehensive and balanced judgments about the conditions of major aspects of a
society. It is in all cases a direct measure of welfare and is subjected to the
interpretation that, if it changes in the correct direction, while other things remain
equal, things have gotten better or people are “better off”. Thus, statistics on the
number of doctors or policemen could not be social indicators, whereas figures on
health or crime rate could be.

Socioeconomic welfare, including population (composition, growth and
distribution), labour force and employment, income, knowledge and technology,
education, health, leisure, public safety and legal system, housing, transportation,
physical environment, social mobility and stratification are the major categories of
a social report using indicator systems. Social participation and isolation could also
be assessed with target upon: family, religion, politics, voluntary associations, and
alienation. (Raphael et al. 1996, p.76)

Geographers have initiated the concept of territorial social indicators to
identify and analyse socio-spatial variations in quality of life at different
geographic scales, varying from global to local. The objective measures of quality
of life, derived from primary field surveys have been employed in most of the
researches using territorial social indicators. This line of research has contributed
valuable insights into such questions as the extent and distribution of substandard
housing, and the differential incidence of deprivation within the city (Pacione
2003, p.20).

Urban liveability is a relative rather than absolute term whose precise
meaning relies on the place, time and purpose of the assessment, and on the value
system of the assessor. This view contends that quality is not an attribute inherent in the environment but is a behaviour-related function of the interaction of environmental and personal characteristics. In order to obtain a proper understanding of urban environmental quality it is essential to employ both objective and subjective evaluations. In other words, we must consider both the city on the ground and the city in the mind (Pacione 2003b, p.20).

UNO put forwarded a standard measure for level of living using the component of health including demographic conditions, food and nutrition, education including literacy and skills, conditions of work, employment situation, aggregate consumption and savings, transportation, housing including household facilities, clothing, recreation and entertainment, social security and human freedom. Drewnowski also established a level of living index using the components nutrition, clothing, shelter, health, education, leisure, security, social environment and physical environment and Smith bring about an index for social well-being in United States using income, wealth and employment, the living environment, health, education, social order, social belonging, recreation and leisure. There are many other indices put forwarded by several scholars, but owing to the different setting of site and manner of problem the investigators must be rearrange or establish the indicators for unbiased and relevant results.