CONCLUSION

The present study of the urban environment and social well-being in Calicut city despite its limitations have implications in bring forth certain important features of the city space and the general urban environment and social well-being in the context of developing countries. We can draw some specific findings, conclusions and broad generalizations from the observations and analysis.

The historical background of the origin and development has influenced the specific culture and spatial organization of the residential and commercial land use of Calicut city. Historically the city has been the commercial and cultural capital of the Malabar region and the communal harmony and social relations are preserved from the beginning to the present. The historical background also influenced on the layout and the residential pattern of the city.

The old city region have two segregated residential areas one of which is Muslim dominated region of Kuttichira and surrounding area in the centre portion of the coastal low land area and other is of Hindu domination Thiruvannur and adjoining areas on the south eastern corner of the city. The older settlements of these two sections resembles in their architecture, and even the family organization practicing joint family system. The cast Hindu population more advancing towards nuclear family set up but the Muslim in this region is almost consistence practicing the joint family system and the matriarchal system of succession. It is very interesting that the oldest mosque (Mishkal mosque in Kuttichira) and temple (Tali Temple) also resembling in their architecture and moreover both of them have large ponds in their vicinity.

The modern urbanization is somewhat complex in its features. Most of the urbanization followed the main roads connecting the city to outer region. The settlements of the Civil Station, Malaparamba and Silver Hills are originated in the administrative purpose and have maximum number of government employs and professionals. The recent extension of the city is towards the peripheral region in
eastern and north eastern side and along the coastal line towards both northern and southern side. Overall Calicut city is not a congested city. Inter house spacing and open spaces are very much in comparison to other equally populated Indian cities because of the unique keralite’s housing culture that a house must carry open spaces in all sides. The modern residential pattern under the neo socio-political and economic organization, following the economic, employment and social status features rather than the cast and creed.

The coastal area, a considerable share of which represent the old city nothing to say modernization and this part is comparatively congested and resided by comparatively poor sections of the population including fishermen. The under developed and deteriorated social and physical environment is prominent in this region. This state of under development is partially because of the congestion along with the ignorance of the municipal authorities and government. Even the primary human needs like sanitation and drinking water facilities are not so satisfactory in this region. Moreover the education and employment facilities are also very limited and they commuting to the core city and other area for their livelihood, education and even for marketing. All these problems may also be linked with the deteriorated man-land ratio and underdevelopment which caused heavy congestion and overcrowding of residential establishment. Consequently these areas developed a low class residential area which represents the old city. Many households in this region keep extra families in their houses in rent for their economic profit. Labours, clerks, shop keepers, shop workers, vegetable sellers, auto drivers and porters are seeking residence in this region because the low paying capacity.

The city centre is also overcrowded with market places and business establishments. The working population from outside city are residing in this region for rent due to the vicinity of their work places. This result an insecurity feeling in this region because of the people are not familiar to each other due to their busy schedule and dynamic nature of residences due to shifting of their work place and non permanency in works. But some areas in inner city is kept only for
residential purpose like Eranchippalam, Puthiyara, Azhchavattom which not so deteriorated and some areas of which have only elite class residents. The outer or peripheral region can be termed as only residential region which have much open space and generally well maintained roads and drains. The social environment of this region is also very good since a village culture is prevailing in the region with self help groups and residential associations.

The spatial analysis conducted in this study denotes an important connection between the urban physical environment and urban social environment or social well-being. Those areas having high physical environmental condition with open spaces, housing structure, infrastructure and facilities like sanitation, water supply, indoor space and the availability of other electronic and information medias are also have better condition in the social factors like small household size, type of family, education, income and security feeling. For example the wards like Silver Hills, Civil Station, Kottoli, Chevayur which have high prosperity in physical environment also have a better condition in the social environmental features like education, family structure and economic viability. On the other hand those areas having deteriorated physical environment in terms of structural and facility perspectives have deteriorated social environment with less security feeling low demographic status and educational and economic backwardness. For example the wards like Chakkumkadavu, Koyavalappu, Pallikkandi have less feasibility in the housing structure especially in open space and per capita indoor space and the facility factors like sanitation and drinking water are also lags in the education, security feeling, family status and the economic prosperity.

The present analysis of the urban environment and social well-being in Calicut city suggest that the existing status of urban environment and the social well-being is high in comparison with the other Indian cities of same class and population. Even though we can compare the demographic aspects like literacy rate, population growth rate, sex ratio and life expectancy with the cities of developed countries, the infrastructure status like water supply, housing etc. are not up to the mark at least in some parts of the city. The intra-city variations in the
urban environment and the social well-being are also exists which is not a good sign in the development of a prosperous city environment.

The present study is carried out in mainly at two different scales that is city level and ward level. The smallest unit of analysis used in this study is wards which seem to be not perfect because the intra-ward variations in several features among different mohallas of the same wards are easily quantifiable. So if the unit of analysis is taken as mohallas the result will be more dependable for the planning purpose and further analysis. It is therefore suggests that any further study should be in mohalla wise considering the difficulty of availing data in this level. Another problem, which were faced due to the small number of units of analysis including the selection limited number of variables which could more meaningful with a large number of variables. This was not attempted because of the limitation of the computer programme employed for the analysis i.e. the number of variables must be less than that of the number of observations.

Even though the slum population is very less as compared to the same class Indian cities, Calicut have some slum sites majority of which concentrated in the coastal line. The hygienic conditions in those areas are not fair with congestion of houses, absence of drains, scarcity of clean domestic water and with insufficiency of the building materials. There should be a better housing plan to accommodate them from the side of government and NGOs.

There is a close association between proper environment in terms of shelter and the well-being of an individual and family. Inadequate and congenial housing adversely affect both the health and productivity of individual and his family. There are regional disparities in the urban infrastructure and other facilities which is not a good sign for healthy city environment in both physical and social perspectives. The municipal and other government authorities should give their first preference to bring down such huge gap of urban infrastructure and facilities between the low class residential areas of coastal region and the high class residential areas of peripheral region by
allocating special funds and innovative housing programmes to the low class region.

Despite of all its limitations, the present study has highlighted the urban physical and social environment of the Calicut city along with the well-being and the factors which led to the specific condition prevailing there. But there are certain problems which should be addressed in any future research in the urban environment and social well-being of the cities in general and Indian cities in particular. Can the findings of this analysis generalized to the whole medium sized cities or at least to Indian cities? Are there any fundamental differences among cities on which the evolution of the specific characteristics and functions are associated? or if associated can a generalized degree or ratio formulate which can be mathematically represented?