CHAPTER-1

INTRODUCTION

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1.1 INTRODUCTORY

Empowerment of women is a burning issue and has got worldwide attention. No society and democracy can be called developed unless and until women who constitute about 50 percent population is given equal chance to develop their personality by granting them equal power and equal right and freedom. Everybody is talking of the new millennium and related issues; the most crucial issue is the empowerment of the women, inviting worldwide attention. If women are given power and get enlightenment, the universe would become a much better place to live in. In the course of history the role of women has changed from time to time depending upon the economic conditions and political structure of society. Their past has been dark but today the time has changed. Their future seems to be bright if women continue to struggle for their rights. New hope has
Women seldom shirk from their duties which start at the grassroots level of home-building and work as building blocks for nation-building. Their sense of rights does not match their sense of duty. They are ignorant and under-privileged in all aspects of life and are neglected to the status of unpaid and bonded labour. Women have been playing pivotal role in the progress and prosperity of the nation but their contribution is inadequately accounted for.

Relatively man has controlled the means and resources of production. It is stated in 20 point programme in the country for the equality for women. According to the then Union Minister Sri A.B.A. Gani Khan Chaudhary in parliament on August 20, 1986. “We shall raise the status of women, enhance awareness of the problem of the women, create mass consciousness about women’s right, implement in a national programme of training and employment for women, enable women to participate with equality in socio-economic development and nation building, arouse public opinion against dowry and ensure effective implementation of anti-dowry legislation.” But the fact is that not only the enactment but also the implementation of the social legislation will have to face many hurdles at all levels and at all hands.

Long working hours besides full responsibility of house hold work, bring up children and caring the sick and the aged in the families, the growing adverse sex ratio, declining political participation, declining economic participation rate and growing gaps
in life expectancy and mortality rate between men and women, women’s position has worsened considerably almost in every sphere with the exception of some gains in education and employment for middle class women. What is worst? There has been growing violence against women.

This appears to be normative practice of exploiting the weaker sections of the society and using them as tools for economic advancement. However the country’s constitution provides the guarantee of equality irrespective of sex and prohibits discrimination on the basis of religion, race, caste and creed, sex or place of birth. Therefore, it is very necessary that all citizens of the country are involved in the national development process. There cannot be any discrimination on the basis of sex as women form 48.3% of the India’s population. Therefore, it is imperative that with a view to ensuring social justice and providing them equal opportunities for employment, they must be involved in all the activities connected with national development. Nevertheless different research studies indicate that women fall in the category of the exploited ones. This shows its roots in the pre-civilization era. Women have always diligently, willingly and patiently been working at home and outside.

Men have always been better equipped with technical know-how, expertise, new technologies and awareness; this has given them an edge over women labour force because their instrumentalisation of technological advancement has made them more productive. Women have continued to work on the least
productive land with the poorest inputs. As a result, women lost income and status relative to men. Economic situation of women in cities is also grim due to the low level of education.

A woman’s status in the family would be definitely related to whether she is engaged in gainful economic activity or not. Exclusion of women from economic activity and restriction on conjugal relationship are the two most important elements of the traditional family system which put women in a subordinate position. So their participation in the economic activity of the society tends to modify the relational system within the family and to influence their status in a positive manner.

The participation of women in work force has been universally recognized to be an important element in the adoption of the small family norms, essential for the achievement of the twin goals of economic development and population planning. Such recognition, however presupposes not only the existence of a conflict between the economic employment of women and child rearing but also an association between employment of women and their socio-economic status. As such, enhancing the participation of women in the economic activity of the nation and thereby improving their status is seen not only as a possible means of reducing birth rates but as a goal in itself regarding its demographic achievements.

Now days, the situation of women has changed. Now they are sharing in economic development of the country at par with men.
They are working in various economic activities. Number of working women is constantly increasing in India with a view to earn their livelihood and raise standard of living. The story does not end here but they utilize also their leisure time in various activities. Their pattern of leisure is determined by many factors such as occupation, income and many other factors. Hence, there is a need to study the impact of these factors on the patterns of leisure of working women. The present study is an attempt in this direction.

Before analyzing the impact of income, occupation and many other determinants, first of all let us study the meaning and definition of leisure.

1.2 MEANING AND DEFINITION OF LEISURE

Before defining the word ‘leisure’ it is essential to understand the meaning of ‘work’. According to the Concise Oxford Dictionary ‘work’ refers to the engagement of a person in physical or mental activity for earning his/her livelihood.

‘Leisure’ word is derived from the Latin word ‘Leisure’ which means ‘be allowed’. As per this Dictionary Leisure is the free time, time at one’s disposal. Gross\(^1\) defined it as the free time, free that is from the need to be concerned about maintenance. Vickers\(^2\) defined

\begin{enumerate}
  \item Vickers, Quoted by Rojek, C., Capitalism and Leisure Theory, New York, 1985
\end{enumerate}
leisure as roughly equivalent to free time, the time left to one after meeting commitments to work and such essential human capital needs as sleeping, eating and personal hygiene etc. According to Mirskii leisure refers to the portion of time not devoted to work that is left to meeting essential non-productive duties going to and from work, sleep, eating and other domestic forms of work. Fairchild defined leisure that it is the free time after practical necessities of life have been attended to.

Giddens defined leisure in a residual fashion that it is the free time of one's life which is not occupied in working, traveling to work and sleeping. Lundberg, Komarovasky and McInerny defined leisure as the time when one is free from obvious and formal duties which are a paid work or other obligatory occupation imposed upon him/her.

Thus, leisure is a free time left after work, sleeping, eating, personal hygiene and other necessities of life. It is the time which one uses as per one's wishes. One chooses to use one's leisure hours without compulsions and restrictions. Ways of spending are conditioned by age, sex, qualification, occupation, income and social and cultural background etc.

Though, there is a vast difference between the work and leisure as work is associated with the engagement of a person with earning activities while leisure is a free time after work, sleep and other necessities which he/she uses as per his/her own wishes. But at certain times it becomes quite difficult to distinguish leisure from work. For example, if a boy is playing games and sports activities, now, the question arises whether these activities are associated with work or with leisure. These activities can be regarded as work if games and sports activities are a part of his job activities and as leisure time activity if he is playing only just to pass his time. Thus, the boundary between the work and leisure cannot be sharply defined at all the times.

Difference between Leisure and Recreation:

‘Leisure’ and ‘recreation’ words are simultaneously used in one and the same sense but there is a difference between the two. ‘Leisure’ is associated with the time element. It simply denotes the amount of free time that one possesses; while, ‘recreation’ refers to one of the ways in which the leisure time is spent. It is a leisure time activity which denotes a way how one passes one’s leisure time. Thus, a leisure time activity (which is in short usually called leisure) implies time and freedom of choice and ways of spending leisure are conditioned by age, sex, occupation, income, education and cultural background etc. A leisure time activity (in short leisure) is a wider phenomenon than recreation. It encompasses not only recreation but also many serious aspects of life. In the context of
leisure, recreation at the best may be termed as an ideal way of spending leisure but not the only activity of leisure.

1.3 REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Before embarking upon a research project it is essential to review the literature on the same or similar subject. A brief review of the same is as follows:

Heer, D.M. (1958) studied working class women in Greater Boston and concluded that working class women exercises more decision making power than middle class non-working women. Families in which the women had greater influence had a little number of children. The association between the women’s work, status and relative influence was maintained but in a reduced amount when the number of the children was held constant.

Sengupta, Padmini, (1960) studied educated and semi-educated women working in various spheres examined the conditions of work and the problems in each sphere of employment. Ross, A.D. (1961) studied the educated women and their interpersonal relations in the family in Bangalore city and concluded that many wives are now getting more authority but the concept of authority between the husband and wife is not known to the newly married couples.

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Nye F.I. and Hoffman L.W. (1963)\textsuperscript{39} studied the employed women in America and concluded that due to industrialization there is a continuous shift from family centre to factory centre production. Women have left family located tasks for factory, office, class-rooms and service establishments. The wives role has been minimized and they can be more useful to the society by taking up out side employment as the production in the factories has become much more economical than the individual's home.

They have also examined the factors involved and concluded that personality development, monetary factors and husband's attitude are the main factors involved in the women's decision to work. Commitment to work is determined by the amount of time which a woman can provide. According to them commitment depends on three factors viz., enabling conditions, facilitating conditions and precipitating conditions. They also concluded employment of wives raises marital conflict and told if the income of the wife is equal or more than the husband's income which is generally not tolerable to the husband, then the employment of the wife becomes the cause of conflict between the husband and wife.

Blood, R.D.J. (1963)\textsuperscript{7} studied husband-wife relationship in dual career families and concluded that dual income group couples expect more interaction and joint activity in their leisure time. The reduction in the amount of leisure time available when house work must confine to off work hours interferes with the more times consuming uses of leisure.
Gore M.S. (1968)\textsuperscript{19} studied the working women in Bombay city of India and concluded women's lower status in the family is related to her exclusion from economic activity. He also concluded that for lower caste women the problem of inherited property is almost non-existent and they usually participate in gainful activities and enjoy considerable amount of freedom as compared to the upper caste women who do not participate in gainful activities or are excluded from economic activities.

Orden, R. and Bradburn, (1968-69)\textsuperscript{40} N.M. studied the working women and concluded that there is less happiness in married life if the wife participates in the labour market out of economic necessity than if she participates by choice. Among the less educated, the strain leads to an increase in tension for both husbands and wives. There is a decline in scalability for wives. Among better educated husbands and wives both experience an increase in tension and decrease in sociability.

Hate C.A. (1969)\textsuperscript{21} studies the changing status of women in post independence India with special reference to Bombay city and concluded that modern Indian women have to play a complex role. The right given by the law, the freedom she is enjoying and the education that she is receiving should prompt her to make the best of chances open to her and thus contribute her share to the welfare of humanity and suggested the provision of crutches, better transport facilities from place of residence to place of work and building up of organizations etc. She also stressed the fact that
educated women on their part must help this process of change through a series of compromises.

Sullerot, E. (1971) studied women in the changing society and concluded that by working the women can have better social standing. This is the reason for which the women continue to be in employment even after the marriage. This attitude is mainly due to the economic and technological change. The researcher also concluded that there is an increase in the divorce rate of the working women especially who perform better at school.

Fogarty, M.P., Rapoport, R. and Rapoport, R.N. (1971) studied the working women in U.K. and concluded that highly qualified women developed different kinds of orientations to their careers. This is specially so in the early family stage when there are small children. For women work is more usually viewed as an option and if a particular women finds herself working against her personal wishes because of an incompetent, disabled or disagreeable husband, her disgruntlement may be greater that that of a man in a similar situation. In some other instances, the husband's encouragement of his wife's employment would seem to have had an element of insurance against economic difficulties as well as the wish for expediting high standard of living in the family.

Bhatty, I. and Bhatty, Z. (1971) studied the problems of educated working women in India and concluded that these women have to leave the children at home in the care of another person
when they go out for the work. Generally, this work of caring the children is performed either by the mother-in-law or the servant. Thus, the care and basic education of the children is lowered in the quality as educated mother is replaced by the old and uneducated mother-in-law and servant. This problem becomes more difficult when family is joint and living with bother-in-laws family where the love and care to the children is purely artificial.

Singh, K.P. (1972)\(^{51}\) studied the working women in Punjab and concluded that 25% working women were fully satisfied by devoting time to their families while 75% felt that they could not devote any time to their families as a large portion of the time was spent outside the house. Among women who were working out of sheer economic necessity, the majority was largely dissatisfied with the time they devoted to their children and family.

Kelshall, R.K., Poole, A. and Kuhn, A. (1972)\(^{29}\) studied the graduate women in U.K. and concluded that marriage, sociability and arrival of children each had adversely affected career opportunities of these women. The talents of the highly qualified women are completely wasted if they concentrate only on the domestic aspects of their lives at the expense of wider interest. When both partners are intensively involved in a career while raising a family, there should be more flexible arrangement particularly at home and if possible at work to ease the strain on married partners.
Rathore, M.S. (1985)\textsuperscript{43} studied the working class in Jodhpur city and suggested as to how the leisure of labourers is to be spent in order to ensure efficiency and all sided-both individual and collective-development of working class.

Modi, I. (1985)\textsuperscript{36} studied nature and various types of leisure in different socio-economic sub-structure of urban and rural communities of Rajasthan state and found the various aspects of social-economic structure which are responsible for determining the nature and patterns of leisure and discovered how new modes of leisure generate new forms of social interaction, interrelationships and institutional structures.

Monika, (2002)\textsuperscript{37} studied status and problems of working women in Muzaffarnagar district of U.P. in India and concluded that employment contributes significantly in raising the status of working women in the family and employed women have a higher status in the family than an unemployed woman. She also discussed many problems of working women. Main problems discussed by her are: problem of working mother, problem related to domestic life, problem related to their work and profession and physical, psychological and emotional problems.

Gaur, Parul (2003)\textsuperscript{17} made an empirical study of social awareness, independence and decision making as factors of empowerment among educated working and non-working women in Indore city of Madhaya Pradesh in India and concluded that
(1) there is a difference with regard of social awareness between working and non-working women. Working women have been found to be more socially aware in comparison of non-working women.

(2) there is a difference with regard of independence between working and non-working women. Working women have been found to be more independent in comparison of non-working women.

(3) there is a difference with regard of decision making between working and non-working women. Working women have been found to be more effective in decision making in comparison of non-working women.

It is evidently clear from the brief review of literature, both on studies on women as well as working women and studies on leisure, that women’s leisure time activities remain by and large neglected in India and need to be studied empirically in the light of growing number of women taking up jobs and thus changing the traditional structure of family and society. The present study is a humble attempt in this direction.

1.4 SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Scope: Our study is confined only to India with special reference to Muzaffarnagar city of Muzaffarnagar district in Western Uttar Pradesh.

Objectives: Following are the main objectives of our study.
1. To analyze the patterns of leisure among the working women in the study area.

2. To study the co-existence of traditional and modern patterns of leisure and also interplay/association between various leisure activities among the working women in the study area.

3. To study the relationship between occupation, income and patterns of leisure among working women in the study area.

4. To study the impact of various determinants - education, age, religion, size of family and type of family on broad patterns of leisure among working women in the study area.

1.5 HYPOTHESIS

1. Extent of participation in a particular leisure time activity is influenced by the caste of the respondent.

2. Majority of the working women are satisfied with their leisure time activities.

3. Leisure time activities accelerate occupation of the working women.

4. Leisure time activities have positive impact on family.

5. Traditional and modern leisure time activities co-exist in India and there is a close interplay between all the leisure activities.
6. Occupation and level of income of the respondents determine the extent of their participation in various leisure time activities.

7. Patterns of leisure are also determined by age, educational level, religion, type of family and size of family.

1.6 METHODOLOGY

Universe of the Study, Sample and its Major Characteristics:

The present study relates to Muzaffarnagar city of Muzaffarnagar district. The Universe of the study is working women of Muzaffarnagar in various Government, private and autonomous departments/bodies. 300 working women are selected on the basis of quota sampling as the list of working women of Muzaffarnagar is not available. Also the nature of present study requires a sample of working women of different age groups, occupations, incomes, family types and sizes, castes and religions. Quota sampling is the most suitable method of sampling for such a study. Quota sampling is almost like a stratified random sampling and the essential difference lies in the selection of the final sampling units, the working women in different offices/departments in this case. The individual working women thus selected constitute the sample and the units of the study.
Tools, Data Collection and Data Processing:

The data are collected by administering a pre-tested and pre-coded interview schedule. On the substantial sides, the schedule is an effort at getting responses of selected working women regarding their demographic and socio-economic variables and pattern of leisure. The schedule contains 40 questions.

The primary data collected through schedules are processed through computer. The secondary data required about the locale, traditional character of Indian socio-economic structure vis-à-vis leisure time activities etc. are manually handled. Chi-square method is used for the purpose of analysis.

The Conceptual Framework:

Following concepts have been used in the thesis.

1. Leisure:

   It is the free time which is left after the commitments to work and human capital needs such as sleeping, eating and personal hygiene etc. It is the time which one uses as per one’s wishes. One chooses to use one’s leisure time without compulsion and restrictions.

2. Traditional and Modern Leisure Time Activities:

   There are two types of leisure time activities traditional and modern. There a large number of traditional and modern activities
but for the purpose of analysis we have taken three traditional activities and nine modern activities as per details given below:

A. Traditional Activities:
   (i) Religious Activities
   (ii) Family-oriented Activities
   (iii) Group-oriented Activities

B. Modern Activities:
   (i) Study-oriented Activities
   (ii) Intellectual Activities
   (iii) Artistic and Cultural Activities
   (iv) Audio-visual Activities
   (v) Excursion-oriented Activities
   (vi) Hobby-oriented Activities
   (vii) Association-oriented Activities
   (viii) Self-employment Activities
   (ix) Games and Sports-oriented Activities

3. Working Women:

   Working women are those who are serving any where in the study area. In the present study all the working women have been classified mainly into four categories- (i) teaching, (ii) government service (iii) private service, and (iv) professionals. Women engaged in self-employment and business have not been included in this category.
4. Income:

In chapter 5 when analyzing the impact of income on the pattern of leisure, 'income' word refers to the monthly income of the respondents and not their yearly income.

5. Patterns:

Patterns are determined with reference to the responses of the sample women to the following:

(i) the amount and specificity of leisure time,
(ii) type of activities performed during the leisure time,
(iii) satisfaction with leisure time activities,
(iv) impact of leisure time activities on occupation, and
(v) impact of leisure time activities on family.

6. Categorization of Participation:

In order to analyze the pattern of leisure of working women, their participation has been categorized into 4 categories as follows. These categories are based on the degree of their participation.

1. Frequent participation or frequently: If a respondent participated in a particular activity for 20 or more days in a month, her participation is kept under this category.

2. Occasional participation or occasionally: If a respondent participated in a particular activity at least for 10 days and not more than 19 days in a month her participation is kept under this category.

3. Rare participation or rarely: If a respondent participated in a particular activity is not more than 9 days in a month, her participation is kept under this category.
4. Never participation: If a respondent never participated in a particular category, her participation is kept under this category.

1.7 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The present study has yielded rich dividends. The study shows that the urban working women have developed specific patterns of leisure and that the traditional and modern leisure patterns co-exist in urban India.

Leisure activities are determined by socio-economic structure of India. Modern leisure activities, especially audio-visual activities, have started assuming more and vital proportion in the country.

It is hoped that this study of patterns of leisure behaviour among working women in urban setting will be helpful in understanding of the process of socio-economic change.

Indian socio-economic transformation today presents a scenario of growth and opportunities co-existing with blockade of prospects, fatalism and resentment. Within this setting of socio-economic change and socio-economic contradictions the role of mass media, institutions of leisure and leisure activities would necessarily come under heavier multi-directional pulls and pressures. It is time now that economists and social scientists pay increasingly more attention to studying this process to elicit a systematic perspective on socio-economic change in India.
1.8 ABOUT THE STUDY AREA

The locale of the present study is Muzaffarnagar in Muzaffarnagar district of Uttar Pradesh. Muzaffarnagar is one of the important districts of north-western Uttar Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh is the largest state of India with a population of 16,61,97,921 consisting of 8,75,65,369 males and 7,86,32,552 females (Census of India 2001). This population is nearly one sixth (16.2%) of the country's population of 1,02,87,37,436. Uttar Pradesh, thus, has the first rank in the country from the population point of view. The sex ratio i.e. the number of females per 1000 males is 898 and density of population 689 persons per square kilometer. The literacy rate is 57.3 per cent (For males: 70.23% and for females: 42.98%).

The two most important incarnations of Hindu Gods, Lord Rama and Lord Krishana, took birth and enacted their 'leelas' here in Uttar Pradesh laying down the foundation of great culture traditions. It has also contributed it its valuable share towards the struggle for independence of the country. In post-independence era, it has contributed in shaping the destiny of the nation though India's Prime Ministers- Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Smt. Indira Gandhi, Chaudhary Charan Singh, Rajeev Gandhi, Vishavnath Pratap Singh and Atal Behari Vajpay who all hailed from Uttar Pradesh.
Muzaffarnagar - The District Focus:

The district of Muzaffarnagar is located in the north-western part of Uttar Pradesh. It forms a portion of the Saharanpur Division and is situated in the Doab of the Ganges and the Jamuna, between the districts of Meerut in the south and Saharanpur in the north. In the west, the Jamuna separates it from the Panipat (Hariyana) and in the east the river Ganges forms the boundary between this district and Bijnor district. It is roughly rectangular in shape, lying between north latitude 29° 11' 30" and 29° 45' 15" and the east longitude 77° 3' 45" and 78° 7'.

The greatest length of the district from east to west is 61 miles, and its greatest breadth from north to south is 36 miles. The average length and breadth are about 53 and 31 miles, respectively. The total area in 1991 amounted to 19,63,662 acres or 1683 square miles and in 2000 amounted to 4049 square kms.

According to 2001 Census, population of Muzaffarnagar district is 35.43 lakh. (16.50 lakh females and 18.93 lakh males). Thus, the ratio of females and males is 871:1000. There are 14 Community Development Blocks and 6 tehsils namely Muzaffarnagar, Shamli, Khatauli, Budhana, Kairana and Jansath in the district. Blockwise population of the district is as follows:
### Table 1.1
Block-wise Population in Muzaffarnagar District (2001)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Block</th>
<th>Population in Lakhs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Muzaffarnagar</td>
<td>5.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Baghra</td>
<td>1.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Purkaji</td>
<td>1.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Charthawal</td>
<td>2.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Kairana</td>
<td>2.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Shamli</td>
<td>2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Thanabhawan</td>
<td>2.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Un</td>
<td>2.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Jansath</td>
<td>2.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Khatauli</td>
<td>3.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Morna</td>
<td>2.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Budhana</td>
<td>2.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Shahpur</td>
<td>1.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Kandhla</td>
<td>2.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Muzaffarnagar Distt. as a whole</td>
<td>35.43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** National Informatic Centre

Economically, on the whole Muzaffarnagar district is one of the richest and the most prosperous districts of not only U.P. but also of India. This is not primarily because of big industries but because of its rich agriculture. As mentioned earlier, Muzaffarnagar district is situated in the Ganga-Jamuna Doab, having rich and fertile
alluvial soil and about 56 percent of which cultivated area is artificially irrigated by canals, wells and tube wells. The climate of the district is also very good. In addition to these natural and other advantages of fertile soil and plenty of water, Muzaffarnagar district is also lucky in having a sturdy, hard-working and comparatively progressive agricultural population. The jats and gujaras of this district, who form the bulk of its peasantry, are famous for their hard work as agriculturists. This combined effect of these factors is that the agricultural output of the district is sufficiently high. The two main agricultural crops of the district are sugar cane and wheat, sugarcane being more important and paying of the two. In fact, the agricultural prosperity of the districts is primarily due to this rich cash crop. A cultivator who has say, even 5 acres of good sugarcane crop in the season, earns a net income of about Rs. 2000/- and so can have a comfortable life. This comparative prosperity of the people we can judge, when we pass through any village in this district and compare its houses and the goods and equipment available in these houses with the houses and their equipment in any village in some eastern district of U.P. or in some South Indian village.

Muzaffarnagar does not lack in Industries also though it is not as much industrially developed as Kanpur or Agra in U.P. are. However, it has its own share of sugar factories. There are four big sugar factories in the district, located at Rohana Kalan, Mansoorpur, Khatauli and Shamli, producing white sugar on large scale. There
are also smaller factories in the district manufacturing sweets, alcohol, foddercutters and agricultural implements. Khandsari industry is another important small scale industry. Among the cottage industries, gur making is the most important and Muzaffarnagar district is one of the main producers of gur in U.P. and India both. There are certain other cottage industries also viz blanket making, cloth printing, brasswares, knives and blades, basket making, etc. which give employment to a large number of people in the district.

In the field of trade and commerce also Muzaffarnagar in not backward as compared to other districts of U.P. on the other hands Muzaffarnagar is counted as one of the biggest mandies of gur in India. Khatauli (the second biggest gur mandi of the district) is also another important gur mandi in northern India. These mandies trade practically with every part of India. The chief exports of the district are gur (jaggery), wheat, cotton, oil-seeds. Khansari sugar, white sugar and gur being the most important items of export from here.

Muzaffarnagar-The Exact Locale:

Muzaffarnagar is situated in the midway of Delhi-Roorkee-Dehradun Highway. National Highway-58 passes through it. It is well connected by road and railway network. It is hardly at a distance of 100 Kms. from Delhi. The historical cities of Meerut and Hastinapur are close by. Important cites like Roorkee, Dehradun and Hardwar are also in proximity.
The city has many residential colonies. Major colonies are: Adarsh Colony, Anand Puri, Civil Lines, Gandhi Colony, Garhi Godwan, Khalapar, Krishnapuri, Laddhawala, Munim Colony, Mallupara, Patal Nagar, Prem Puri, Ram Puri, Rehmat Nagar, Nai Mandi, Bhartia Colony, Saraswat Gate, Shahabuddinpur Chowk etc.

Salient features of Muzaffarnagar are as follows:

1. Historical Outline:

In pages of history and revenue records Sarvat was known as pargana which was given as Jagir to one of the chieftains named Saiyed Muzaffar Khan by emperor Shahjhan. He founded the city of Muzaffarnagar in 1933 with lands of Khera & Sujru. His project was completed by his son Munawar Lashkar Khan who in turn named the city after his father Muzaffar Khan. But recent findings of archeological site at village Mandi (Tehsil Sadar) in the west of river Kali takes the roots of the city to Harappa civilization. Hordes of Gold rings and other precious stones prove that site was the part of matured Harappa culture and also important centre of trade during ancient times. Pots and pans and other objects of that era are also seen occasionally still in use in Muzaffarnagar itself and its many neighbouring villages.

Also, according to a local tradition, the legendary Mahabharata war-between the Kauravas and the Pandaeas was fought in the fields of the present village of Pachenda and their army
camps were located respectively at the sites now famous as Kaurawali and Pandavli.

In 1901, during the British raj, it was made head quarter of Muzaffarnagar district.

2. Demographic Features:

According to Census of 2001, Muzaffarnagar city has a population of 3,31,403 (Male: 1,74,877 and Female: 1,56,526). Thus, the ratio of male and female in the city is 52.8: 47.2. The city has 62% Hindus, 35% Muslims, 1% Christians, 0.5% Jains and 0.5 Sikhs.

3. Administration and Offices:

From the perspective of administration, Muzaffarnagar city is the district headquarter of Muzaffarnagar district. As such it has a Collectorate, Treasury, Court of District Judge, Office of SSP Police, Income Tax Office, Sales Tax Office. Beside these, there are several offices/departments related to development and public welfare. Some important of them are as follows:

(i) Offices Related to Development: District Development Office, District Rural Development Agency, District Urban Development Agency, District Economic and Statistical Office, District Panchayat Raj Office, Bal Vikas, Muzaffarnagar Development Authority (MDA), Public Works Department
(ii) Offices Related to Agriculture: District Agriculture Office, District Forest Office, District Horticulture Office and District Bhoomi Sanrakshan Office etc.

(iii) Office Related to Industries: District Industry Centre (DIC).

(iv) Offices Related to Irrigation: District Ganga Canal Office, District Yamuna Canal Office, District Drainage Office, Yamuna Pollution Control Authority and District Jal Nigam Office etc.

(v) Offices Related to Sugar: District Cane Office, Cane Research Centre and Ganna Kisan Training Sansthan.


(viii) Offices Related to Health: Chief Medical Office and District Homeopathic Department.

(ix) Offices Related to Welfare: District Probation Office (Widow Pension), District Social Welfare Office, District Minority

(x) Offices Related to Co-operative: Office of A.R.Co-operative, District Co-operation Dairy Federation and District Co-operative Bank etc.

4. Educational Development:

The literacy rate of Muzaffarnagar city is 50.3% (for Male: 59.5% and for female 39.7%). The city is a good centre for education. A large number of students from different corners of the district and also from nearby districts come here for their studies and after completing their education they enjoy the key posts in central and state government services, in MNCs of well repute and also in private services and fields. There are over two dozen High School and Intermediate colleges in the city. Famous Intermediate colleges in the city are: S.D. Inter College, D.A.V. Inter College, Jain Inter College, Jain Girls Inter College, National Islamia Inter College and Nagar Palika Inter College. There are also over two dozen public schools / English medium schools in the city. Out of them schools of well repute are: Holy Angel Convent School, S.D. Public School, M.G. Public School, Stepping Step Public School, Dehradun Public School, Shardan Public School, Girdhari Lal Public School, Guru Ram Rai Public School and Kendriya Vidalaya. There are eight Degree and Postgraduate Colleges in the city namely S.D. (P.G.) College, D.A.V. (P.G.) College, Ch. Chhotu Ram (P.G.) College,
Jain Kanya Pathshala (P.G.) College, Fateh Chand Degree College, N.A. Ali Khan Girls Degree College, Tara Chand Vedic Putri Degree College, Muzaffarnagar Mahavidyalaya. The City also has a medical College namely Muzaffarnagar medical College. There are nearly one dozen technical and professional institutions, which mainly include: Gandhi Poly Technique College, S.D. College of Engineering and Technology, S.D. College of Management Studies, Deen Dayal College, Shri Ram College, The Skylark College of Technical Education & Management, College of Management and Information Science (CMIS) and Hind College of Management and Information Science.

5. Economic Structure:

From the economic structure point of view, Muzaffarnagar city is a very prosperous city. The occupational data are not available separately for the city itself yet it can be said that population of the city is occupationally divided mainly into four categories- businessmen, industrialists, servicemen and agriculturalists. The businessmen have their business mostly in the city. The industrialists are running their units established in the city itself or in its nearby villages. Service people are employed in the offices/departments established in the city itself or in its nearby towns or villages like Khatauli, Budhana, Shamli and Jansath etc. In this occupational category both men and women are working at par with each other. The population engaged in agriculture has their agricultural farms mainly in its nearby villages. Being economically
well off, a large number of population of the city enjoy sufficiently a high standard of living having well furnished Kothies, car, coloured T.V. and computer set and many amenities of life. To support the economic structure there is a sizeable section of unskilled labour of domestic servants, rickshaw pullers, road hawkers, maid servants and casual unskilled labour etc. Muzaffarnagar has big branches of all the nationalized banks.


Muzaffarnagar is the largest mandi of Jaggery (gur) of Asia. The city supplies gur to different corners of the country.

* Internet, Brief History of Muzaffarnagar
Political Awareness:

Muzaffarnagar is not behind in political field. It is the district headquarter of all national parties like Congress (I), BJP, Rastriya Lok Dal, Samajvadi Party and B.S.P. Obviously, they have their mass bases here and each party tries to capture civic institutions for gaining strength.

7. Prominent Personalities:

Swami Kalyandev ji Maharaj (Padam Shree 1982), Prof. B.Raman Known as Shiksha-rishi-Guruji, Verindra Verma, Ex-Governor of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab and Administrator of Chandigarh Union Territory and Mahendra Singh Tikait, founder of Bhartiya Kisan Union are the prominent personalities of Muzaffarnagar.

8. Guinness Honour:

Remesh Chand Dhiman of Yusufpur village near Muzaffarnagar has entered his name in Guinness Book of world record for making the world's smallest scissors (3.12 mm) and razor (4.5mm) without using any magnifying glass or machine. Mr. Amanda Huks, editor of Guinness Book of world record issued him a certificate for the purpose.
9. Worth Seeing Places:

There are many worth seeing places in the city. Some important worth seeing places are as follows:

(i) Bhairo Ka Mandir: It is situated in the heart of the city on Ansari Road and looked after by a Paliwal Family (Brahmin Family). It is a very quiet and spiritual place to spend some time. It is most visited during festival season. The temple has got special significance for its Ekadash shivalinga (Eleven Shivalingas).

(ii) Balaji ka Mandir: It is situated in the New Mandi area of the city. It is a famous temple for Sankat Haran of the people.

(iii) Kamla Nehru Vatika: It is situated on G.T. Road of the city. People come here for relaxation.

(iv) Service Club: There is a beautiful service club having swimming pool, lawn tennis court, badminton court and mahila tournament arrangements etc. The people of the city visit here and enjoy a lot.

(v) Vehelna: 4 Km away from the city, vehelna is the holy place for Jains. It is an excellent example of Hindu, Muslim and Jain brotherhood as the walls of Mosque, Shiv Mandir and Jain Mandir touch each other.
(vi) Shukralal: Located at a distance of 30 Kms. from the city on the bank of Ganga, Shukralal is a famous Hindu holy place. It is said that at this place Maharishi Shukhdew Ji narrated the Bhagwatgeeta before Raja Parikshat, son of Abhimanyu and grand son of Arjuna. A temple was built near the Vat- vrikash under which Shukhdew Ji narrated the story. There is 35 feet high statue of Ganesh Ji and 72 feet high statue of Hanuman Ji.

(vii) Commercial Places: There are many worth seeing commercial places in the city. Some important of them are as follows: Shiv Chowk (Heart of the city), Bhagat Singh Road, Main Market, Ansari Road Market, Jhansi-Ki-Rani Chowk, S.D. College Market (Cloth Wholesalers), Sadar Bazar (Pharmaceuticals wholesalers & Stock Brokers etc.), New Mandi (Famous for Gur) and Roorkee Road Market.

10. Media and Publication:

Muzaffarnagar is a rich centre of mass media. At present Muzaffarnagar has got more two dozen dailies weeklies, monthlies and other literary journals which are registered but all of them are not regular. The main dailies are: Amar Ujala, Dainik Jagran, Muzaffarnagar Bulletin and Royal Bulletin. Facilities of U.P. channel and national channel media are also available in the city.