Urbanization has been a global phenomenon. It is not confined to metropolises only. Cities are continuously expanding. Nels Anderson believes that at the present rate of urbanisation within three or four decades, half of the world will be urban. The study of urbanisation, therefore, is assuming increasing importance all over the world, and specially in the developing countries where the urban population is growing rapidly. In India also, urbanisation has tremendously increased during last two decades. Obviously, it has become a matter of attention for civil administrators, demographers and social scientists. An understanding of the causes and consequences of urbanisation and its relationship with economic growth and social change is essential for economic planning and policy-making.

Sociological studies on urbanisation in India are few. There may be two reasons for it. Initially such studies are usually handicapped on account of the paucity of data on individual cities as well as on the urban
population as a whole. Secondly, Indian sociologists, as Glazier and Eldor observed, tend to study villages rather than cities. Some of the pioneers of sociology in India like Dr. D.N. Majumdar, Prof. Radha Kamal Mukerjee, and Prof. G.S. Ghurye had of course initiated some explorations on urban life but the tradition could not be inherited vigorously by the coming generations of Indian sociologists. The present thesis 'Trends of Urbanisation in Uttar Pradesh', is a modest attempt to analyse the nature of urban growth in the state of Uttar Pradesh from 1961 to 1971. The analysis is based on secondary data collected from Census reports, National Sample Survey, Techno-economic survey and earlier urban studies, etc.

The first and the introductory chapter has been devoted to the explanation of the concepts of urbanisation and urbanism and their interplay with the processes of industrialisation, westernisation and modernisation. The old 'Rural-Urban dichotomy' has also been discussed in this chapter in its present perspectives. Chapter II deals with the methodology — the explanation of the problem, hypotheses and data collection. The III chapter has been devoted to the description of the field. In this chapter the physiography, urban growth and urban morphology of Uttar Pradesh has been explained.
Chapter IV 'The population growth and Composition' has taken a demographic view of the problem of urbanisation in the State. Variables like size, density, sex ratio and literacy have been examined and by comparing 1961 and 1971 data on these characteristics, some emerging trends have been traced. Chapters V and VI are focussing the problem of urbanisation from socio-economic view point. In these chapters the occupational structure, position of urban workers in different occupations, migration of population, size of household and facilities of education, recreation and transport etc. have been analysed and a trend in these aspects has been located.

Chapter VII in the form of conclusions deals with the inferences which have been derived out of the whole exercise and advances certain suggestions pertaining to the nature of secondary data on urban places and the stress to deal with some emerging issues in the scientific study of urban social life. Throughout this exercise the urban places (According to 1971 Census definition) have been taken into account and many times the focus of the study is on the big cities of Uttar Pradesh. As mentioned earlier, the present study is restricted to the analysis of data till 1971 since the 1981 census was not taken up at the time of the proposal of the present work.

Aligarh