INTRODUCTION

Urbanization in the developing countries is taking place at a rapid rate. It has imbibed certain characteristics from the colonial phase of urban development. The development and dominance of primate cities has been the basic trait of such development and all the politico-economic processes further give rise to selected urban centres of a country and the remaining urban centres remain weak and often assume the appearance of shanty towns. Urbanization in the developing world seems to be greatly marooned in the vast pool of population, and the poverty stricken masses.

Urbanization is characterised by movement of people from villages to the towns, whose activities are primarily centred in administration, manufacturing trade or allied interests. In other words, urbanisation implies professional transformation from agricultural to industrial or such other activities either through migration from rural to urban areas or through transformation of villages into townships.

Urbanization in People's Democratic Republic of Yemen is characteristic of the colonial period, which was epitomised in Greater Aden. It was mainly due to exogenous forces rather than endogenous forces. In the countryside during
colonial period, no developmental activity took place. The efforts were mostly in Aden. Migration became an instrument in developing Aden's primacy both in terms of population as well as modernisation. The countryside further languished. Greater Aden is the product of spatial processes, which is typical of a developing nation. It became an unwieldy mass of humanity with many socio-economic disparities and inadequacies of urban facilities. Greater Aden presents a typical case of urbanisation of the Third World Realm.

Greater Aden being a product of history and colonial development requires both evolutionary and functional approach to comprehend its personality for a better designed urban development strategy. Naturally, it requires specific data and information which is hidden in archives both in Yemen, India and United Kingdom. This study is therefore primarily based on the author's field work, his observation, and analysis of topographical maps. The maps are not systematically stored at one place and therefore there were difficulties in identifying urban morphological details and their functional attributes. The problem was further complicated because of the fact that Greater Aden is a multinucleated city with overlapping functions and varying
socio and economic characteristics. Most of them are the legacies of 130 years of British rule. It is necessary to emphasise here that lack of quantitative data could not allow use of specific statistical tools and techniques used presently in urban geography. Even the application of well tested urban models both in the field of urban sociology and geography could not be used in this study.

The study is based on field work and survey of available literature from different sources. During this field survey, literature has been taken into consideration which was available from various organisations. About the city as a whole, the literature is limited and one has to depend upon the manuscripts and limited data available from primary sources.

Maps and diagrams have been made in order to bring out a clear picture of the urban morphology and urban landscape. Little information is available concerning the problem of the city. The main source of information and data has been the National Archives of India in New Delhi and Bombay and Yemeni Centre for Research in Aden.

The first chapter deals with the geographical framework of Greater Aden, in which location along with physiography has been discussed.
The second chapter examines the evolutionary phases of Greater Aden and their spatial connotations and manifestations, highlighting the characteristics of the early phase, the colonial phase and the post-independent phase. They have been knit together to bring co-relation between the structure and the function.

The third chapter considers the demographic aspect of Greater Aden focussing attention on urban population growth, composition and distribution.

Chapter Four lays stress on growth of Aden in which the early stage of growth and pre-occupational period has been fully taken into consideration and also including the post-independence period.

In the fifth chapter the focus is on the structural and morphological aspects of the city and its functional correlation. All these aspects have been taken into consideration from the early occupational period upto the present time.

Chapters Sixth and Seventh deals with functional aspects of the city and analyses the linkage between the metropolis and the supporting regions. It places sufficient
emphasis on the level of symbiosis between the various segments of the city. These chapters study the nature, quality and magnitude of urban services and facilities, which are evenly or unevenly distributed throughout the length and breadth of the metropolis. Areas deficient in facilities, characterised by congestion and crowding and the effect of pollution have also been critically examined.

Chapter Six deals with general description of built-up area and non-built-up area of Aden governorate including agricultural zone, sand dunes and hilly areas. Residential and trade and commercial functions have been detailed in this chapter.

Chapter Seven lays stress on the educational, industrial, transport and communication, cultural administrative and medical services. A critical appraisal has been made of these functions including the role of the British.

Chapter Eight examines the characteristic of the harbour and the function of the port. Chapter Nine deals with urban services. The chapter has taken into consideration all urban needs, and their distributional problems. It deals with water supply, drainage, electricity and their future prospects.
with respect to increase of population.

Chapter Ten examines Greater Aden beyond 2000 A.D. It emphasises the physical and social growth attributes and associated constraints, problems and plans. The chapter has taken into consideration all these problems in the context of Greater Aden with its future prospects.

The conclusion deals with the identification of problems and problem areas and their future shapes and magnitude in the case of Aden metropolis and its region especially in the beginning of the 21st century. It helps in making an assessment of planned targets under the Master Plan of Greater Aden in 2010 A.D. and the possible achievements in accordance with the country's infrastructural support and resources.

Greater Aden is unique in many respects as it has characteristics which separate and isolate it from other West Asian metropolises, but has many things in common with other colonial powers in various colonies. This trait is well reflected in the city structure and functions.
It is hoped that the present study of Greater Aden will help in understanding the metropolis and its structure and functions. It will also help in developing a correct approach to further improve the city life through planned efforts and strategy.