"Urban geography is a study on the boarder lands of Geography and Sociology." Much of its studies specially site, growth of town, its social and economic problems, its varied functions etc., are mainly done by the town-planners and sociologists. Only a few of its aspects has so far been studied by the students of geography. There are, as a matter of fact, enough scope such as its study in regard of identification of site, location factors, relation of growth of town to terrain etc. which can be readily taken up by the students of geography. Of recent intensive and extensive study of urban geography has been carried out by the celebrated geographers of the west like Griffith Taylor, Robert E.Dickinson and many others. These studies indicate clearly that urban geography has well-established scope and technique and it is rapidly gaining ground as an applied social science.

The town-planners study a town or a city in detail from an angle of co-ordinated plans for major streets, transportation facilities, parks, recreational facilities, schools, housing, public buildings, industrial and commercial areas, etc. but a geographer studies these mainly in relation to space and physiography and if necessary he makes suggestions for their location and development.

A geographer also study the urban settlement from the point of view of culture, commerce, industry, administration and residence and his conception of urban settlement
is different from that of his rural settlement. The problem of a geographer is to determine not only the varied functions of an urban settlement but also how these elements are arranged in relation to each other and to interpret his groupings in relation to historical development and physical conditions.

The author studies the varied urban characteristics of Gauhati town from a geographical point of view. The different problems such as space problem, housing problem, unusual growth of population and other socio-economic problems and human activities of Gauhati, the premier town of Assam have been analysed.

The thesis is divided into two parts. Part I includes a historical background and a geographical account of the town. Part II deals with the general functions and organizations of the urban habitat and other problems of the town and suggestions for their improvement.

The author will record a deep sense of satisfaction if his study of Gauhati town helps in proper planning of the town thus enabling the planners to remove at least some of its burning problems specially in regard of future development, sanitation, free flow of traffic, water supply, urban organizations etc.

The materials are drawn from a variety of sources involving extensive and intensive field work, visits to every nook and corner of the city covering number of months. The author was faced with many difficulties in presenting a thorough account of the town due to non-availability of some
of the most important data and also due to his own immature geographical knowledge.

The author has received valuable help from the Govt. Town Planner's Office, Gauhati; Gauhati Municipal's Office, Sub-employment Office, and other Provincial, District and Sub-divisional Offices of different branches to whose kind authorities, he will remain ever grateful.

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