Chapter-1
CHAPTER 1

GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL SETTING OF THE STUDY AREA:

Barabanki is a city in the state of Uttar Pradesh in India. It is the administrative headquarter of Barabanki district. It is situated 29 kms east of Lucknow which is the capital of Uttar Pradesh state. This city is largest town in the district Barabanki. This city is an agriculture market, cotton weaving, and handloom industry center.

1.1 Physical Setting:

Barabanki district is a component of the Faizabad division and lies in the very heart of Avadh. It occupies a central position in relation to at least seven other districts that surrounds it. It is situated between the parallels of 26°33' to 27°22' north latitude and 80°56' to 81°52' east longitude and, with the exception of two parganas which extend south of the Gomati; it lies between Gomati and the Ghaghra. With its most northern point it about upon the Sitapur district, while its north-eastern boundary is formed by the Ghaghra, beyond which lies the district of Gonda and Bahraich. Its eastern frontier marches with the districts of Faizabad and Sultanpur, the latter, with Rae Bareli, forming the boundary on the south. The old natural boundary, in the south defined by the Gomati, was shifted further southward with the addition of the parganas.
Figure 1.1: Location of Barabanki District in India.

**Source:** Census Of India
of Haidergarh and Subeha in 1870 at the close of the first regular Settlement. On the west of Barabanki adjoins the district of Lucknow.

1.1.1 Natural Divisions:

The district is almost a level plain with slight variations in relief. Broadly speaking; the whole district can be divided into five physical regions, the Ghaghara-Chauka (Sarda) doab, the Ghaghara flood plain (terai), the central upland, the trans-Gomati tract and the Gomati flood plain (terai).

The Ghaghara-Chauka (Sarda) Doab -- This is the alluvial flood plain of the twin Rivers Ghaghra and Chauka and comprises the whole of pargana Bhaituli and the northeastern and eastern portions of pargana Mohammadpur. The whole of this tract lie below the high ridge, which marks the old bed of the Ghaghra. The water level is very close to the surface, and during the rains almost whole tract is submerged with the waters of the Ghaghra, the Chauka and their tributaries.

The Ghaghra Flood Plain or Terai -- This tract is just a continuation of the Ghaghra-Chauka flood plain. The only difference is that it is narrower and tapers down towards the southeast. It includes portions of the parganas of Ramnagar, Bhado Sarai, Daryabad and Rudauli and extends inland as far as the high ridge that marks the load bed of the Ghaghra.

The Central Uplands -- This tract extends from the old high bank of the Ghaghra to the southern drainage line of the Gomati, and comprises the major
portion of the district. It is generally known as the uparha or upland, to
distinguish it from the terai or flood plain. In general the soil of the upland is
rich loam with occasional patches of sand and it is easily irrigated from the
tanks and jhils which are abound in the area. The extreme northern portion of
this tract comprises the major part of Mohammadpur pargana. The central
portion includes the parganas of Nawabganji, Pratapganj and those parts of
Satrikh and sidhaur that lie between the Kalyani and the Gomati. This is a
well-drained stretch of country with uniform, good level land. The remaining
portion of the upland comprises the parganas of Fatehpur and Basurhi Rudauli.

The whole tract is of remarkably uniform character, its level being broken only
by the Kalyani and the Reth and by a few minor tributaries of the Gomati, in
the neighbourhood of which there is a certain amount of poor sandy land.

**The Trans-Gomati Tract** – This tract covers the parganas of Haidergarh and
Subeha, which lie to the south of the Gomati and differs to some extent from
the rest of the district. There are three distinct sub-regions of Haidergarh that
may be called the northern, central and southern belts. The northernmost lies
along the Gomati and contains a considerable proportion of precarious land.
the high bank of the Gomati being scoured by numerous ravines. The central
belt contains the best-cultivated villages of the pargana. This portion is drained
by two watercourses, both known as the Loni (because of their rich salt
production), which flow in a northern and unite before joining the Gomati. The
third or southern belt contains a chain of jhils running along the borders of the districts of Sultanpur, Rae Bareli and Lucknow.

The Gomati Flood Plain – This plain is not very extensive and covers only parts of the parganas of Satrikh, Sidhaur, Surajpur and Mawai. Conditions here are also precarious and the plain is constantly in danger of damage by floods, which either bring down a deposit of sand or else leave the land water-logged for a considerable period. Beyond the narrow strip of this tract rises the high bank of the river, which is broken by numerous ravines and drainage channels and is crowned by a belt of poor sandy soil in which only inferior crops can be grown. Similar type of land is also found in the vicinity of Kalyani.

1.1.2 Drainage systems:

The district is well fed by rivers Ghaghra, Gomti and Kalyani and with their tributaries for major part of the year. Although some of them dry out during summers and create havoc during rainy season by flooding.

Ghaghra-Ghaghra is the most important river of the district. It, being a mountain river, is the main resource of water round the year. Ghaghra flows from the northern boundary of the district to the South East. Some portion of Tehsil Fatehpur and some portion of Tehsil Ram Sanehi Ghat fall on its banks. Ghaghra forms the northern boundary separating Barabanki from Bahraich and Gonda.
**Gomti**-This is the second important river in the district; being a river with its origin in the plains itself flows, throughout the year. Gomti flows from Lucknow into this district and covers the northern part of Tehsil Haidergarh and some portions of the Tehsil Ram Sanehi Ghat.

**Kalyani**-Kalyani is a small river of local origin. It flows through the district along with it tributaries, covering most of central portion of the district. Kalyani creates havoc during the rains, flooding considerable part of the district. Though during summers there is hardly any water in certain sections of the river. It is an important source of water for major period of the year, with banks precipitous at a number of places.

**Reth**-Another important tributary of the Gomati is the Reth, which is confined to the Nawabganj tahsil. It rises in a chain of jhils in the Mahona pargana of district Lucknow and flows past Kursi. From there onwards it forms (for some distance) the western boundary of the district and then turns south-east, flowing through the parganas of Dewa, Nawabganj and Satrikh, ultimately joining the Gomati at Karimabad is pargana Satrikh. It is fed by a noteworthy stream known as the Jamuria which rises in some jhils, a few miles to the north-east of Nawabganj, and flows past Nawabganj between the town and the Civil Lines of Bara Banki, joins the Reth about a mile below the Lucknow-Faizabad road.
1.1.3 Geology - The district is not very significant from the geological point of view. It is a part of the Gangetic plain, which is of recent origin in geological chronology and exposes ordinary Gangetic alluvium.

The district being a part of the plains conforms to the same geological sequence as the plain itself. The soil structure of the district is composed of alluvial soil, the soil brought in by the rivers. The upper belt is called 'Uparhar' and the soil texture is yellowish clay. The basin land of the rivers is mostly sandy soil, and the land adjacent to the rivers is sandy loam. The only mineral of any note found in the district is sand, which is available in sufficient quantity on riverbanks, and is used in construction works. The district is also noted for its deposits of brick earth.

1.1.4 Climate:

The district lies in the plains of the State, and hence its climatic conditions are quite similar to average climatic condition of the plains. Hot to very hot in summers, cold to quite cold during winters and humid to very humid and sultry during rainy season. Most of the rain occurs from June to September and often in November to January. The winter starts from November and continues till February end. The maximum temperature recorded in 1997-98 was 45.0°C and minimum was 2.5°C. The average rainfall recorded for 1997-98 was 1056mm.

The district of Bara Banki lies in the upper Ganga valley, one of the major climatic regions of India, characterized by hot summers followed by a
distinct rainy season, mild winters and a long dry season. It is more humid and at the same time less extreme than the regions lying towards the north-west (western Uttar Pradesh and Punjab). The low-lying tracts along the Ghaghrā have a bad reputation for fever though not of a severe type.

**Seasons**—It is customary to divide the Indian year into three seasons, winter (from November to February), summer (from March to mid-June) and the monsoon (from mid-June to October); but the climate is so much dominated by the summer and winter monsoons that it may be classified as follows:

The season of the northeast or winter monsoon – which comprises the cold weather season from January to February and the hot weather season from March to mid-June. The season of the south-west or summer monsoon consists of the season of general rains, from mid-June to mid-September, and the season of the retreating monsoon, from mid-September to December.

**Cold Weather Season** – This season is at its best in the months of January and February. The mean monthly temperature varies between 15-6°C (60°F.) and 18.3°C (65°F.), February being slightly warmer than January. The mean monthly maximum is slightly less than 26.7°C (80°F.) and the mean monthly minimum is slightly less than 10°C (50°F.).

**Hot Weather Season** – With the advent of March, the temperature rises very rapidly and reaches its maximum in May. The mean monthly temperature then is over 32.2°C (90°F.) and the mean maximum is about 43.3°C (100°F.).
When the summer season is at its peak, strong and scorching hot wind blows which are very dry and are locally called as *loo*, which blow from the west. These winds are diurnal, beginning two or three hours before noon, blowing through the heat of the day and lulling towards evening, sometimes even after sunset.

Season of General Rains — Generally the hot weather season changes into the season of general rains by the sudden bursting of the summer monsoon usually in the third wee of June. The change in weather is marked by high humidity and by an appreciable fall in temperature. The mean monthly temperature falls below 32.2°C. (90° F). The humid heat is sometimes more uncomfortable than the dry heat of the previous months, except when it actually rains.

Season of Retreating Monsoon — The summer monsoon normally ceases by about the end of September or at the most by first week of October. With the retreat of the monsoon and the clearing of the sky, the temperature rises slightly after the mid of September and begins to fall steadily in October. though the relative humidity continues to be high. The days are warm and the nights are colder. The mean monthly temperature is about 23.9 °C. (75° F.). It is after October, when the cool breezes of winter begin to blow, and the mean monthly temperature goes below 18.3° C. (65° F.).

Rainfall—The western and southwestern parts of the district, comprises of Nawabganj and Ramsanehighat tahsils, which generally receive more rainfall.
The greatest fall usually occurs in tahsil Nawabganj, followed by tahsils Ramsnachighat, Haidergarh and Fatehpur.

The main rainy months are July, August and September, but rainfall of more than half an inch is received in January and February also. The district has a good rainfall; its variability is also considerable, the normal rainfall being 1.002.5 mm (39.47). Sometimes the rainfall goes below 508 mm (20) and at times it is more than 1,651 mm (65). About 90 per cent of the total rainfall occurs from June to October but even during these months the intensity of rainfall varies greatly.

1.2 Location of the City:

The city of Barabanki is located on latitude 26°51’ north and longitude 81°13’ east, at a distance of 29 kms east of Lucknow, 100 kms west of Faizabad close to the town on the south runs the National Highway No. 28, which transverse the city in the east to west direction. It is also connected to important urban centers of neighouring districts. Metalled roads extends from Barabanki to Fatehpur on the north, Bahramghat on the northeast, and Haidergarh on the south, while an unmetalled road runs southeast to Zaidpur. To the north of the town runs the loop line of Oudh and Rohilkand Railway with its broad gauge and meter gauge branches to Bahramghat. The station is known as Barabanki and lies at a distance of somewhat over a mile east from town. The town is compact and well-build being divided into four main blocks.
by the different fares; through the center runs the main bazaar, a broad street with good houses on either sides.

Barabanki city is mainly administrative in its functions. The principal administrative offices are situated in west part of the city. The main commercial areas are in the heart of the city. The city is in east–west direction. It has developed along the national highway no.28. The office of municipal board is in the center. A railway colony is located to the north of the main railway line. The shape of the city is spatular with extension toward the south east along the national highway which divides the city into two parts: northern and southern. On south eastern part is the new area of the city. The business areas are Ghanta Ghar, Mina Market, and Dhanokar. Other commercial areas are decentralized from these centers. The degree college and important institutions for education are situated in western part of the city. On the northern side the expansion of the city is completely blocked by water course which is crossed by a rail bridge. The expansion of the city is severely restricted by the railway line and the cantonment in the North Western part. All the important localities of the city on account of its linear shape lie on the road from Lucknow to Faizabad.

1.4 Historical Panorama:

The early history of the Barabanki is perhaps more obscure than that of any other district in Avadh. The district took its name from the small headquarters town of Barabanki, the meaning of the name being uncertain.
According to local tradition, the origin of the district dates back to the very creation of the universe when Vishnu assumed the shaped of varada (aboor God) to protect the universe from annihilation. The spot where the divine incarnation killed the rakshasa is known as varaha- kshtra and is said to be situated on the banks of Ghaghra on the northeastern boundary of the district. This varaha-kehetra later came to be known as varahavana, the correct form of which is probably Barabanki.¹

Another tradition says that the district was formerly called Jasnaula- a name derived from Jas, a Bhar² chieftain who founded it before the muslim conquest, about 950 years ago, with the change of proprietors. There were come a change in name, though the derivation of the name ‘Barabanki’ is a matter of uncertainty and speculation. According to some people the early Muslim owners divided the land into twelve shares over which the proprietors quarreled so incessantly that they gained the name barah- banke (twelve bullies). Other derived the name from bana, meaning wood or jungle and interpreted the term Barabanki as the twelve shares of the jungle³.

1.3.1 Ancient Period:

As the saying goes, in ancient times this district was part of the kingdom ruled by suryavashi kings, whose capital was Ayodhya, king Dashrath and his famous son, Lord Ram were of this dynasty Guru Vashisht was their Kulguru, and he preached taught the young royal princes of dynasty at Satrikh, initially known as Saptrishi.
It is believed that the Pandaves and their mother Kunti stayed in this area for some time during the period of their exile. The puranas refers to the kingdom of Madhydesha, which was ruled by I kshvaku, the capital being Ayodhya. His kingdom is said to have included the region comprising the district of Barabanki.4

Barabanki was included in the Kosala kingdom, which was bounded on the west by the Gomti, on the south by the sarpika or syandika (sai) river on the east by the sadanira and on the north by the Nepal hills.5

The district of Barabanki has become well known to students of ancient Indian history on account of the famous Haraha inscription. The object of the inscription is to record that in the year 611 A.D.6

After the fall of the Maukharis, Harshavardhana (606-647 A.D) ruled over the kingdom of Kannauj and there is every possibility that this district also passed under the sway of that monarch.7 In the ninth century the district was probably included in the kingdom of the Gujara Pratiharas of Kannauj as several findings of the coins of King Bhoja Deva have been discovered here.8 Hence the account about the ancient existence of the city is not systematic and rather obscure and also because of the subject having little relevance with the research, it has not been discussed in very much detail. But is certain with above description that some kind of habitation was existing where Barabanki city is situated.
1.3.2 Medieval Period:

During the eleventh and twelfth century’s effective political power was exercised by local Bhar rajas owing nominal allegiance to the bigger Rajput dynasties such as the Gurjara Pratiharas, the Rashtrakutas and Gahadavalas of Kannauj. The Muslims chronically of the time now extents don’t specifically mention any Turkish invasions of this area. It is possible that during the invasions of Sultan Mahmud from 1018 to 1021 A.D. and during the subsequent invasion of Varanasi by Ahamad Niyaltigin, raiding parties of Turks might have entered the district. It seems that by the end of the fifteenth century, several Rajput Clans had largely overthrown the Bhar chieftains and established themselves in the district as Zamindars.

(i) Mugal Period: Babur marched against Afghan chieftain, Bayazid Farmudi, in February 1528, and annexed the territories as far as Bihar and the Sirkars of Avadh and Bahraich, which included the whole of the present district of Barabanki and yielded revenue of crore and seventeen lakhs rupees. Humayun marched person against the Afghans and gave battle to them at dadra (nine miles south east of the town of Barabanki). By the days of Akbar, empire and the territories comprising the district of Barabanki formed part of the Subah of Avadh. During the reign of the great mugal emperor Akbar this district was divided under Sirkars of Avadh and Manikpur.

The peaceful condition of the district in the period of Shah Jahan was conducive to the development of local industries and crafts. In Shah Jahan’s
reign Daryabad became an important center of the cotton cloth industry. 

There was no significant addition to the district during the days of Aurangzeb.

(ii) Later Mughals: In 1726, Mohammad shah awarded proprietary rights to Shaikh Bhikha of Kursi. He also became Chaudhari of Pargana Kursi. In those days there was some tension between the central authority and local chiefs of the district.

(iii) Nawabi Period-Nawab Saadat Khan Burhan-ul-Mulk reached Avadh as governor in 1722 and at first stayed in Lucknow for some time. The district of Barabanki also shared the same fate and chief of the powerful clans acknowledged the overlordship of the subedar. Saadat Khan’s successor, Abdul Mansur khan Safdar Jang took keen interest in the administration of this district.

Shuja-ud-Daula, who succeeded his father Safdar Jang. He built a country house on land lying in the two villages of Faizullahganj and Rasoolpur. This land was made nazul during Asaf-ud-Daula reign, who was real founder of Nawabganj, a town which grew up around his father’s country house (and which is a headquarter of district today). when Asaf-ud-Daula came to thrown in 1775, he transferred his seat of government from Faizabad to Lucknow. Although the proximity of the capital to the Nawabganj contributed to large extent to its development and although Daryabad continued to retain its status, there was the marked decline in the trade and commerce of district during the reign of Asaf-ud-Daula.
In those days, Nawabganj and a few other places in the district formed parts of the jagirs of Nawab Begum and Bahu Begum. The jagir of Nawabganj was restored to the Begums in 1786.\textsuperscript{21}

1.3.3 \textbf{Modern Period:} After the annexation of the Kingdom Avadh by the East India Company in February, 1856, Barabanki district was formed as a separate entity. Daryabad was the most important town at that time and was made headquarters of the district. They transferred the district headquarters from Daryabad to Nawabganj in 1859. Nawabganj\textsuperscript{22} was about 29 kms from Lucknow, capital of Uttar Pradesh. The reason given for this is that: the drainage of the region where Daryabad is located was not good and climate was conducive for malaria, dreaded disease in those days. The name was Nawabganj which change to Barabanki. Since there were many towns by the name Nawabganj in Uttar Pradesh. A small village name Banki existed near Nawabganj and new railway line been laid down has passed through these two localities. Hence the name of Nawabganj was changed to Bara (big) Banki, which is being mispronounced as Bara (twelve) Banki.\textsuperscript{23}

Barabanki suffered severely from famines. According to local tradition, the worst ever experience was that of 1837; but there is scanty information available as to the nature and extent of this calamity.\textsuperscript{1877, 1878, 1879} The district appears to have suffered with famines. The first regular famine relief work was a private famine relief work was a private undertaking which commenced at the headquarters station in 1878. This work consisted in the
excavations of two tanks, one of being deepened as bathing place at Nawabganj.  

With the advent of the British, the state and its officers began to take interest in the general education of the people. The most important school in the district was a high school known as the Anglo-Vernacular high school in Nawabganj which was founded in 1860. In 1864, the Education Department for Avadh was established. In 1904 another Vernacular Middle school was opened in Nawabganj. The Hewett Weaving School was started in 1907 for technical education. In 1861, the oudh Trunk Road also known as the Oudh Tirhut National Highway (now it is NH-28), which runs from Lucknow to Faizabad.

The introduction of railways in this district was motivated by reasons of military strategy and commercial benefit. In 1872, a loop line of the old Oudh and Rohilkhand system was laid. This broad gauge line merged with the East Indian Railway, was designated the northern railway in 1952. The other Railway system, originally known as the Oudh Tirhut Railway and now as the North Eastern Railway, is on the meter gauge line which was completed on 1898. The Colvin Library, which was the principal library of the town and was founded in 1888. A Whole Meal Atta Mill was establish in Barabanki in 1930. A branch of the Hindustan Commercial Bank Ltd, was started in Nawabganj in 1943. Uttar Pradesh Co-operative Bank Ltd branch was opened in Nawabganj in 1944. The district hospital in the town of Nawabganj was
started on 1946. Dufferin Hospital for females was provincialised in 1946. The first printing press was established in 1920.\(^\text{30}\)

1.3.4 Post-Independence Period: After independence the city of Barabanki has recorded phenomenal growth. Barabanki being headquarters of the district and has a large number of offices, institutions and industries established. On the education front, Ananad Bhawan School was established in 1948 which is run by a Christian Mission. The new building of district hospital with modern amenities and separate indoor and outdoor wards was built in 1958 and it has now been named as "Rafi Ahamad Kidwai Memorial Hospital". The State Bank of India opened a branch in city on March 11, 1957. A district information center was established in Nawabganj in 1955. The Filarial Control Unit under the National Filarial Control programme was established in 1957. An oil-seed crushing unit was established in 1957. There are two general Engineering Workshops in the district, both located in Nawabganj town. The first one was established in 1956, and the second in 1958. There are two ice factories in the district, both of which were established in 1952 in Nawabganj. The Ramchand and Sons Sugar Mills became private limited company in 1952. There are six Calendaring machines in the district, which are located in Nawabganj town, the first having been established in 1950, the second in 1954, the third in 1956, the fourth in 1958 and the remaining two in December 1959. The chemical industry has recently come up in this area. The only firm engaged in this work is the New International Chemical Works (Private) Ltd,
which was founded in 1948 and is located close to the Barabanki railway station. A district employment exchange was opened on December 1, 1960, in the headquarter town.

The town whose economic activities remained more or less arrested till 1951 began growing by 1961 due to formation of Municipal Board. A rapid effort towards the expansion of educational facilities since 1960 added in more ways than one to the growth and congregating of education community in the town. Soon they sprang up in number of educational institutes and schools. The development in all spheres of the town life was wide ranging. Educationally, the town achieved its position in the district.

In short, owing to rapid expansion of the small scale industries and infrastructure facilities with a corresponding growth in other aspects of life. The town Barabanki was able to developed demographically as well as commercially and educationally as one of the leading city of district.31

As a result of a decline in the number of agricultural labour, the population of the town rose sharply from 27080 in 1961 to 75271 in 2001, adding an increase of 177.96 per cent over the four decade. It was entirely due to the migration of the people to the towns. It is important to point out that the 3.86 per cent and 26.83 per cent of the total population of the town in 1961 were engaged in household industries and other workers respectively. The percentages in 2001 are 1.31 percent and 22.60 per cent.

The growth of communication points helps in more ways than on in strengthening the commercial activities of the town. With the construction of
Electric Railway lines and roads it links with other commercialized towns was firmly established. In addition to this the migrations to the town become much easier than before.
NOTES AND REFERENCE:


2. **Bhar** clan ruled Province of Avadh in early days. These people were probably the forefathers of Thakurs of present day who migrated from Rajasthan.


11. Ibid, p. 27.


15. Ibid, p. 31.

22. *Nawabganj* was actually in the jagir of Bahu Begum; mother of Asif-ud-Dawla and Mohallah Begumganj is named after her. This town was at one time confiscated by the Nawab when he got annoyed with his mother because of her refusal to give money, which he required for building *Lucknow*.

23. Kidwai, Riaz-ur-Rahman (Retired); *Biographical Sketch of Kidwais of Avadh*; Educational Publisher, Aligarh, p. 30.

24. E.B. Joshi; opcit p. 100.