The concentration of population engaged in secondary sector of an economy in an urban place is termed as urban locality. The definition of urban locality was introduced in India in 1961 Census for the first time. This definition was followed in 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001 Census and classified the following types of localities as urban.

As all places with a municipal area/corporation, cantonment or notified area committee and all places which satisfy the following criteria.

A minimum population of 500, At least 75% of the working population belongs to non agricultural activities, The density of population is at least 400 persons / sq. km, The place should have the pronounced urban characteristics and amenities like newly founded industrial areas, large housing settlements or places of tourist importance.

Concentration of population at a place refers to urbanization. It may be defined in the crude form as the proportions of population residing in an urban center are engaged in secondary sector of economy. Urbanization is an accelerated form of urban growth. It increases the proportion of urban population to that of total population at a faster rate. Urbanization is a process that involves the multiplication of points of population concentration as well as increase in the size of individual urban concentration. The expansion of size of an urban center depends either on the natural increase on the population or on immigration of population from rural to urban or from urban to urban centers. The rural urban migration is the moving force behind the progress of urbanization and is the main push factor for growth of an urban area.

The demand for labour by developing economic activity in the urban center acts as a pull factor for growth of urban population. The migrants can get an employment in activities with a very low productivity or swell the rank of unemployment. High rate of movement indicates rapid growth of investment either in a economy as a whole or in industrial sector.

In the initial stage urbanization is characterized by traditional economic structure and society and relatively small share of population residing in urban centers. In the second stage of urbanization is a steep increase in the urban population, concentrating on economic activities. The secondary and tertiary sectors have increased to employ large number of migrants. The third stage is a terminal stage which comes after acceleration stage. Urban population reaches near saturation point.
Urbanization as a process of population concentration which occurs by increase in the number of urban centers of concentration or agglomeration. The study of urbanization migration process in Asian countries at macro level since nineteen fifties shows that changing structure of urban population across different size categories revealed a shift of urban growth from large order cities to second order cities and stagnation of small towns. The overall view of trend and pattern suggest that the phase of urbanization would be high, but much below level projected by UNDP.

The study of urban spatial structure deals with diversified phenomena such as places of residence, commercial establishment, road network, public & semi public offices, industrial units, parks, grave yards, religious places and ethnic groups.

In the olden days majority of the towns have developed along coastal regions and major river courses. In the uplands the growth of urban areas has taken place at major junction points. The rapid increase in population and aerial expansion of urban centers has depleted the surrounding agricultural lands. There is a steep increase in the land values. Urban land use data is needed in the analysis of urban environmental problems. A systematic study is needed in updating the land use and land cover maps. The major aim of land use classification system is to provide frame work as broad as possible and would cover all the possible types of land use within the urban area that could be mapped within the certain area. The land use classification should be compatible with the existing system. The rapid increase in population, road network, drainage and industrialization has led to unplanned growth of urban centers with deteriorating environmental conditions. This unabated trend led to increase pressure on urban land and therefore, the urban areas desire to plan for future town developments and its peripheral areas. Of late aerial photographs on large scale and Remote sensing data are used to prepare urban land use maps. The introduction of Geographical Information System (GIS) has resorted to solve many urban problems and for future planning and development.

The rapid migration of people from rural to urban areas in search of employment has paved way for the development of urban slums along the major arterial roads, railway lines, filled in tanks and Government lands. The growth of urban slums is creating problems of urban planners and urban administrators for improving the living conditions. The development of commercial shops along the major roads in the urban centers could not pave way for delimitation of Central Business District (CBD).

Micro - climatic changes are noticed in the urban centers due to congested housing with reinforced concrete roofs, air pollution due to release of automobile
exhaust along major congested roads, air and water pollution due to discharge of industrial effluents and radiation effects due to laying of concrete roads and structures.

The availability of water has become a major problem in urban centers due to over extraction of available ground water resources and low recharge. The per capita availability of water could not be full filled due to limited water resources in the under ground. The over extraction has led to steep fall in ground water levels and majority of the deep bore wells have dried up. The geo-hydrological conditions are altered. There is no proper planning for the development of green belts in the urban areas. Due to changing urban land uses, growing population, air, water and noise pollution, and radiations, micro-climatic changes in urban areas are taking place. In addition to this the people living in urban places are affected by a number of health hazards. The air borne and water borne diseases are rapidly increasing among all age groups of urban dwellers. Keeping the above criteria in mind the researchers has made an attempt to study the urban morphology, land use changes, urban problems and health hazards of Hindupur Municipality.

Hindupur Municipality covers an area of about 3816 hectares. As per 2001 Census Hindupur Municipality had a population of 1,25,074. The males constitute of 51% of population and female constitutes 49% of population. The average literacy rate is 62%, which is higher than the national average of 59.5%. The male literacy rate is 69% and female literacy rate is 55%. Hindupur is constituted as Grade – III Municipality in 1920. It has been upgraded as Grade –II Municipality in 1952, and Grade – I Municipality in 1970, Hindupur has been upgraded to special grade municipality by merger of six panchayats in 1989.

The municipality is located at 13°50' N latitude and 77°30' E longitude at an altitude of 624 meters above mean sea level on the broad gauge section of South Western Railway connecting Bangalore and Hyderabad.

The municipality receives an average rainfall of about 583 millimeters. The mean maximum temperature of about 42°C is recorded in the month of May and the mean minimum temperature of about 15°C is recorded in the month of December and January. The Hindupur Municipality experiences dry sub humid type of climate. The people in the municipality are comprised 67% of Hindus, 29% of Muslims and 4% of Christians and others. Out of the total population 8.82% are Schedule Caste, 0.57% are Schedule Tribes. The sex ratio in this municipality is 1000:949. There are about 42 notified urban slums. The total notified urban slum population is 42,024 constituting 34% of the total population as per the 2001 Census. Many poor people located in the surrounding Hindupur Municipality have migrated to this municipality in the search of lively hood and contributed to
the emergence of large number of urban slums without any basic civic amenities and services like shelter, drainage, water supply, health, education and liveliness. There are about 30 revenue wards in Hindupur Municipality.