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## URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA AFTER INDEPENDENCE : A CASE STUDY OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA

Rupali Bhalla Mathur\*

Urbanization has been defined in a variety of ways by scholars and researchers. It is a process in which Rural areas become transformed into urban areas, the process through which, a country comes to have towns which rise and grow.<sup>1</sup> Urbanization is a process of becoming urban, moving to cities, changing from agriculture to other pursuits common to cities and corresponding changes of behavioral patterns.<sup>2</sup> The process of Urbanization refers to the ways in which urban areas grow in size and number and also deals with new urban values which are diffused, from rural areas to cities and to the transformation of behavioral pattern to conform to those which are characteristic of an urban life.<sup>3</sup> Urbanization connotes a way of life and a state of being urbane, it also denotes distinct forms and patterns of life differentiated from village or folk life.<sup>4</sup> Urbanization refers to the process by which population becomes concentrated in cities or urban places. The process may proceed in either of the two distinct ways, through or increase in the size of population or through an increase in the number of urban places.<sup>5</sup>

Urban history is a study of Urbanization, of the expansion of urban centres in the span of time the factors which promote and retard such growth and the ecology which towns generate in several related dimensions in the natural environment, the eco-system in the political apparatus in societal network and even in the minds of men living in towns.<sup>6</sup>

The present paper studies Urbanization in the Post Independence India and the area chosen is the northwest corner of the country. In other words this work takes up the area of the present day Punjab and Haryana. Some areas of Himachal Pradesh were also earlier a part of Punjab but the present study excludes these as well as the territory of Delhi. The period of the intended study is 1947-1991, a phase marked by significant political developments having distinct bearing on the socio-economic situation of the time and consequently on Urbanization as well. However the starting point would be 1931 to serve as

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