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FACTORS INFLUENCING URBANIZATION IN THE POST-INDEPENDENCE PERIOD IN PUNJAB AND HARYANA

*Rupali Bhalla Mathur**

The process of urbanization, the growth of towns both in numbers and physical configuration as well as the urban landscape or locational pattern over time is related to a series of interrelated factors. Though no single cause can explain the urban phenomenon which has engulfed our world today, 'the multiple factors bringing about urban development do change in the priority in which they affect towns and cities within a region, at different points of time.

Generally, three major factors have been recognized as shaping the development of cities or urban settlement—environment, technology and social organization. It can not be over emphasised that all three are necessary for urban development and that no single factor is sufficient.¹

Some forty years ago, a theory of urbanization put forth by an American sociologist, Louis Wirth included three necessary factors: physical structure, social organization and collective behaviour. By 'physical structure' Wirth meant population, technology and the ecological or geographical environment. By 'Social organization' he meant the institutions and the status and power groups within the community, and by 'collective behaviour' he meant the group attitudes and ideologies that confronted one another within the communal environment.²

A more recent generation of scholars principally the human ecologists, have rearranged and expanded Wirth's scheme into what they call the POET framework. They have argued for a study of the processes of urbanization based upon the variables of population, social organization, physical environment and technology.³

In addition to these theoretical explanations, historians have elaborated on the causes which bring about urban phenomena in different time frames. Causative factors behind urbanization varied from time to time, leading to not one but several urbanization processes at different points of time. In the pre-historic time the cultural process seems dominant in urbanization, from the early medieval

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2. Stanley K. Schultz, "An Approach to a Theory of Urbanization", (eds. - J.S. Grewal and Indu Banga, *Studies in Urban History*, Department of History, Guru Nanak Dev University Amritsar, p.14.
3. Stanley K. Schultz, "An Approach to a Theory of Urbanization", p.15.