



Growth of Urbanisation in Punjab during Colonial period (1849-1947)

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Abstract- Urbanisation is the changing attitude of people towards several aspects of their life by which they were approachable to the modern facilities of livelihood. It comprises higher education, better job, superior future prospective and higher quality of life and an easy approach to technological development. It is said that urbanization is defined as the people of different communities changed their work from agriculture to trade, manufacture or associated interests¹. Anderson states urbanisation as bipolar course, which not only involves demographical change from villages to cities and occupational changes from agriculture to non-agriculture stream but it involves change in attitude, beliefs, values and behaviour of the people. So it involves the migration of population, changes in occupation and changes in the uses of land. Economic growth is one of the important factors of urbanisation that facilitates the easy flow of goods from local to national or international markets and this linked with urbanisation in global context. Politico-administrative and religion are also important factors because the capitals and important administrative centres as well as the famous religious places were the most populous centre which facilitates urbanisation².

Keywords: Urbanisation, migration of population, Politico-administrative

I. INTRODUCTION

Punjab is one of the important parts of India with a pre-historic civilization. Stretching from the Khaiber Pass in the north-west to the river Yamuna in the south-east. Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas and the Sutlej rivers (as well as the river Saraswati/Ghaggar flowed through the Sutlej- Yamuna divide) of the Punjab region comprises the five interfluves³ (Doabs) like Sindh Sagar Doab, Chaj Doab, Rachna Doab, Bari Doab and Bist Doab respectively. The urbanisation in Punjab came in different phases over the millennia. Starting from Indus valley civilisation we noticed there were emergence, decline and revival of towns in the Punjab region. Indus valley civilisation is the earliest and foremost urban civilisation in India mostly concentrated in Punjab like Rupar, Sanghol, Siswal, Bnawali, Rakhigarhi etc. It is said to be the first urbanisation in the south-eastern region of Asia. During 600 B.C. to 600 A.D. second urbanisation was observed with the emergence of janpadas⁴. In this phase, too, a large number of urban centers can be identified in the Punjab region, like Rupar, Sanghol, Agroha, Sialkot and Bara etc. With the advent of Turkish rule in India a next phase of Urbanisation was witnessed. The impetus given by the Delhi Sultanate has been characterized as 'urban revolution'⁵. Sirhind, Tabarhind, Sialkot, Abuhar, Agroha, Panipat, Jalandhar, Firuzabad etc. were the main urban centres in Punjab. Under the Mughals, the Punjab became the third most urbanized region of the sub-continent, with a proliferation of small towns and revival of some old ones. European travellers noticed the abundance of towns in Mughal India and they were astounded with their large size. There were quarter to half a million people living in the large cities of Mughal Empire during sixteenth century⁶. The Mughal period can be seen as 'a veritable golden age of urbanization', the famous urban centres found during this period were Ludhiana, Rupar, Bhatinda, Sirsa, Sonipat, Karnal, Barnala, Phagwara, Maler Kotla, Sarhind etc. Significantly, the Sikh Gurus also promoted urbanization in Punjab by establishing towns. E.g. Goindwal, Kartarpur, Ramdasapur, Sri Hargobindpur, Tarn Taran and Anandpur etc. The rise of new rulers entailed the rise of new centers of power as capital towns. By the late 1760s, over a hundred small and large autonomous principalities came into existence. E.g. Jassa Singh Ahluwalia, set up his capital at Kapurthala, Gujjar Singh Bhangi ruled Gujrat, Charhat Singh Sukarchakia - Gujranwala,

Jassa Singh Ramgarhia - Sri Hargobindpur, Ala Singh - Patiala, Hamir Singh - Nabha, Gajpat Singh - Jind, Ranjit Dev -Jammu etc. An interesting example of urban growth was the creation of several small townships in the later part of the eighteenth century by the Sikh chiefs at Chak Ram Das, and their eventual unification into the city of Amritsar by Ranjit Singh (1780-1839) in the early nineteenth century⁷.

Later on the expansion policies of Ranjit Singh also added to the urban scape. The new state of Punjab was statched from river Satluj to Peshawar and also to the hills of Kashmir⁸. But a significant boost in the number, size and functions of the towns and cities was noticed after the annexation of Punjab in 1849. The surrounding area of Bist-Jalandhar doab was annexed by Britishers to their empire in 1846 and Jalandhar became headquarter of the districts. The board of administration was established by Governor General Lord Dalhousie, having three members John Lawrence, Henry Lawrence and Charles Mansell (later on Robert Montgomery was appointed instead of him). Subsequently with the growth and development of administrative functions, medical and educational institutions, banks, railways, etc. emerged which in course of time, transformed rural centers into towns and potential urban centers. But it is significant to note that the urban centers, which gained recognition during the British period, were different both in nature, size and composition from many of the earlier urban centres. It is in this context that the present study has been conducted¹⁰. In addition to the information on urban units in Ganesh Das, who gave the urban picture of Punjab by differentiating them on the basis of their sizes. He was having view that it was not cultivators but the merchants, artisans and professionals who constitute an urban place.¹¹

Further he said that more than a hundred and thirty centers can be identified in the five doabs: 45 in the Bari Doab; 36 in the Rachna Doab; 27 in the Bist Jalandhar Doab; and 25 in the Sindh Sagar Doab in the early nineteenth century.¹² After the annexation of the state of Ranjit Singh in 1849, the British brought about its politico-administrative unification with the territories to the south of the Sutlej which had been taken under their protection in 1809. According to an estimate, during the early nineteenth century there were probably over 200 towns and cities in Punjab of varying sizes like small towns, middle towns and large towns. Of these four-fifths were small towns, 15 per cent were of middle towns of medium size and just 2 per cent were large towns also called as cities. Lahore, Amritsar and Multan were the three cities of the region were. About 60 per cent of the urban centres were located in the areas east of the Ravi that created only about one fourth of the north-western region. There were concentration of urban centres in the upper Bari, upper Rachna and Bist Jalandhar Doabs but on the other hand the lower doabs had relatively less rain and arid and were had fewer in number and scattered in the region.¹³

Table for the Urban- Rural population of Punjab from 1881-1941

Census year	Urban Population (in millions)	Rural Population (in millions)	% age of Urban Population	% age of Rural Population
1881	2.48	18.8	10.4	89.6
1891	2.46	20.8	10.7	89.3
1901	2.58	22.1	10.6	89.4
1911	2.33	21.5	9.8	90.2
1921	2.60	22.7	10.3	89.7
1931	3.52	22.9	12.4	87.6
1941	5.04	24.0	12.8	87.2

Census of India, Punjab 1891, p-93, Census of India, Punjab 1901, p-169, Census of India, Punjab 1911, vol. XIV, part I, p-97, Census of India, Punjab 1921, part I, p-34-42, Census of India, Punjab 1931, Vol. XVII, Part I, p- 317, Census of India, Punjab 1941, Vol. VI, p-51

The pattern urbanisation is visible from the table below, according to it around 2,003,098 people were living in the urban areas and 18,790,798 people were living in rural areas in 1881 having percentage share 89.6 and 10.4 respectively¹⁴. This figure rise to 2,611,904 people in urban area and 22,689,156 in rural areas in 1921. While the year 1941 showed a progress of certain level with the population 5,045,789 in urban areas and 24,022,674 in rural area with 12.8 and 87.2 percent of respective population growth.¹⁵ The number of towns in this census had increased to 292, though this had not been a steady upward movement. The number of towns in 1881 was 240 and it was declined to 221 in 1891, rose to 238 in 1901, declined again to 208 in 1911, and 203 in 1921, but rose abruptly to 249 in 1931 of all categories.

On the whole the population of Punjab in 1941 was 34.3 million people. Which covers 292 towns and 52,047 villages living in 29 districts and 43 princely states. During 1881-1941, over 130 new towns emerged on the urban scene of the Punjab region. Some were founded afresh, some were revived as towns, while others were old settlements that had acquired urban characteristics and functions.

Table for the number of town in each census years

Years	Number of towns
1881	240
1891	221
1901	238
1911	208
1921	203
1931	249
1941	292

Census of India, Punjab 1911, vol. XIV, part I, p-97 and

Census of India, Punjab 1941, Vol. VI, p-51

The overall urban pattern was marked by continuity of towns, decline of some and emergence of the new ones. The definition of town in census report of 1891 was quite similar with the census of 1881. In 1881, Cantonment, Civil Station and Municipalities were treated as town although they had population less than 5,000 but such places were excluded from the list in 1891 which did not cross the limit of 5,000 people that was reason why the population count was more in 1881 than 1891. On the other hand in 1881, overgrown villages that had population more than 5,000 but did not possess any urban characteristics also counted in the list of towns.¹⁶ Again according to the Report on the census of the Punjab, 1911: a Town includes, every Municipality, all Civil lines (not included within the municipal limits), every Cantonment and every other continuous collection of houses inhabited by not less than 5,000 persons, which the provincial superintendent may decide to treat as a town. This definition was different from the definition given in the census report of 1901 only in one aspect that in 1911 the provincial Superintendent had special rights to treat an area as urban or rural according to the importance of the place. Like a place which was centre of trade or had any historical importance could be treated as town but on the other hand an over grown village, had population more 5,000 but did not possess any urban characteristic, than the provincial Superintendent could not treat it as a town¹⁷. So as a result, there had been a large decrease in the total number of towns because this time it was decided on the basis of density and character of the population and the importance of the place as the overgrown villages which have no urban characteristic were undesirable to treat as a town. So the relative number of towns decreased in 1911.

In 1891, 19 towns were abolished to the urban list, while 17 were added the next census years, but there was decline of 30 towns in the census of 1911 and again 5 towns were declined to their status in 1921, the

figures steady rose 46 in 1931, and the largest addition of 43 towns was made in 1941. So by 1941, in the last decade of colonial rule, the urban picture was strikingly different.

Table for the number of towns on the basis of population.

Sr.No.	Population	1941	1931	1921	1911	1901	1891	1881
1	100,000 and over	9	6	2	2	2	2	2
2	50,000 to 100,000	6	6	6	7	7	7	4
3	20,000to 50,000	43	27	23	17	15	13	14
4	10,000to 20,000	61	47	30	34	37	32	35
5	5,000 to 10,000	111	110	91	99	106	97	81
6	3,000 to 5,000	62	53	51	49	71	69	104
7	Total	292	249	203	208	238	221	240

Census of Punjab, 1911, p-17, Census of Punjab, 1921, vol-5, Punjab and Delhi, p-122

AndCensus of Punjab 1941, Vol. VI, p-53.

On the basis of population town were classified into different classes like a town having population more than or equivalent to one lac can be classified into class -I towns, class-II towns had population less than one lac i.e. from one lac to 50,000 while population count from 50,000 to 20,000 came in the category of class-III towns, a town had population 20,000 to 10,000 were considered in class-IV category and had population 10,000 to 5,000 were considered as class-V, while the population less than 5,000 were considered as Class -VI towns according to the census of 1901. On that bases the number of all classes of towns in Punjab during the census of 1881 and 1941, it seemed growth of urbanisation.

The above table shows an amazing growth in the urbanisation. As there was increase in the number of each class of towns. As class- I towns were placed under large cities, Class-II and Class-III were placed under middle towns and class-IV and Class-V were small towns, while class -VI were no more considered as town according to the census report of 1901. Every type of towns were showing their growth. Like in 1881 there were only 2 class-I towns which were 9 in 1941, so there was an increase of almost 3 percent as seven new towns were added to the list. While class -II towns' shows a little progress of 0.39 as they were only two towns added on. There was a huge progress shown by Cass-III towns as their percentage increase was 8.9 percent as there were twenty new town added from 1881 to 1941. The case of class-IV towns was similar as the percentage increase was 5.7 and 26 new towns were added to the list. Class-V town had showed maximum growth as there was an increase of 11 percent with the addition of 30 town from 1881 to 1941. There was declined in class-VI type of towns as they decrease by approximately 21 percent from 1881 to 1941.

The census of 1855 and 1868 covers only British territories of Punjab gives the tentative estimate for the other part. According to which the population of Punjab in 1855 was 17.6 million and in 1868 was 19.7 million. In 1881, it was recorded as 20.8 million. Almost there was a double increase in the size of the population was witnessed during the colonial period. The census of India, 1941, records the population of Punjab 34.3 million, scattered over an area of 138,105 sq. miles and made a density of 248 persons per sq. mile and this increase was 2.5 from the previous census report. While the percentage of increase in 1868 was 1.09, in 1881 was 0.67, this increase was 2.05 in 1891 and 0.47 and least in 1911 that was .027. The region has 52,047 villages and 283 towns in 1941.

Table for the Population of the whole province over the census from 1855-1941

Population in millions			
Census year	Total population	British territory	Punjab States
1855	17.6	13.8	3.8
1868	19.7	15.8	3.9
1881	20.8	16.9	3.9
1891	23.0	18.7	4.3
1901	24.3	19.9	4.4
1911	23.8	19.6	4.2
1921	25.1	20.7	4.4
1931	28.5	23.6	4.9
1941	34.3	28.4	5.9

Census of Punjab, 1911, p-17, Census of India, Punjab, 1931, Part I, p. 15 and

Census of Punjab 1941, p-08

The credit for the increase in population goes to the administrative resettlement of Britishers which facilitates the people of Punjab with advanced agricultural facilities, construction of canals for irrigation proposes by retrieving the wastelands; extended transportation network i.e. with the construction of railway Punjab get connected with not only their own major cities like Karachi but also with the port cities of India like Calcutta and Bombay; improved health and sanitations facilities and better law and order situation; along with the newly raised canal colonies attracted the inflow of migrants from outside the Punjab was additional factor in the increase of population of Punjab.

Table for the Population in million for the communities of Punjab.

Census Year	Muslim	Hindu	Sikhs	Christian	Others
1881	47.6	43.8	8.2	0.1	0.3
1891	47.8	43.6	8.2	0.2	0.2
1901	49.6	41.3	8.6	0.3	0.2
1911	51.1	35.8	12.1	0.8	0.2
1921	51.1	35.1	12.4	1.3	0.1
1931	52.4	30.2	14.3	1.5	1.6
1941	53.2	29.1	14.9	1.5	1.3

Census of India 1931, Punjab, Part I, Reports, p-69 & Census of India 1941

We also got the figures of percentage of population of Punjab on the basis of their community composition was also provided. According to that the percentage of the population of Muslim community was higher than Hindus, Sikhs and Christians. They covered almost half of the total population along with that their percentage increased with the upcoming census while the percentage share of Hindus decreased with the successive census years. The population percentage of Sikhs and Christians was also in increasing trend¹⁸.

In the relations of population growth, the period of 1881 to 1941 can be divided into two demographic shift of 1881-1921 and 1921-1941. During the first phase, death rate was higher than the birth rate because of the spread of various epidemic diseases such as plague, cholera, small pox and malaria along with less medical facilities and famines etc. but after 1921 there was a continuous high birth rate and steadily lower death rate because of drop-in-mortality. The rate of mortality was fallen with the government check over famines, with the help of better medical facilities epidemic diseases were controlled and there was fall in infant mortality rate and increase in the natural rate of population. This process was faster in Britishers Punjab. So the composite growth rate of population in the first phase was 0.47 per cent per annum and 1.57 per cent per annum in the second phase.

Towns grow with the increase, distribution and growth of population, so the number of towns according to their size were relatively different during past decades. Before significant changes in the number, size and distribution of urban centers in the region became noticeable, there were 240 towns concentrated, as earlier, in the eastern plains, in 1881. The two large cities of the region viz. Lahore and Amritsar and most of the medium towns were located in the upper Bari and Bist Jalandhar Doabs. Some urban centers, mostly small towns, were scattered in the upper Rachna, Chaj, and Sindh Sagar Doabs along the confluence of the rivers in the south-western part of the region, and the Satlej-Jamuna divide. The lower doabs had a few urban settlements along the river valleys, though the uplands remained relatively devoid of these. Thus, for over three decades since annexation, there was no appreciable change in the urban pattern of the region. The urban centers in the western plains continued to be relatively scarce and widely spaced out. At this time, over 91 per cent of the urban centers were small towns, about 7 per cent were middling sized towns and only one per cent happened to be large enough to be called cities.

In the 1880s, there was one town for every 1540 square kms; in 1941, the average was one center for every 518 square kms. Cities now formed 3 per cent of the total urban units, and were spread in all parts of the region. The medium sized towns constituted 17 per cent and small towns 80 per cent of the urban structure, reversing the pre-colonial pattern. The cities and medium towns were thus growing at the cost of the small towns whose number declined significantly. This somewhat inverted the urban system as it had evolved till the middle of the nineteenth century, making it 'top' heavy, and lacking in a sizeable urban base of small towns to support the urban structure in the region.

In terms of location, the regional urbanscape exhibited internal shifts in the period from 1881 to 1941. Towns were no longer confined to the river valleys and the eastern plains. New towns emerged in the western parts and in the hills. Areas with a higher degree of urbanization in 1881 declined while the less urbanized areas had a higher level of urban growth by the end of period. Consequently, towns in the less urbanized areas in 1881 showed the maximum growth rate. With a few exceptions, they were mostly situated in the western tract and southern parts of the Satlej-Jamuna divide. Several of them were newly founded mandi towns and administrative headquarters in the newly irrigated areas. The previously existing towns by contrast had an average growth rate. Rather, many old towns remained untouched by the cumulative impact of colonial rule. These surviving towns were some administrative centers, state capitals and market towns. As small units located at a distance from the main lines of communication, they barely participated in the expanding colonial economy. Many small towns even declined to the position of village settlements. In all, over 60 towns were declassified during this time, some being designated as 'urban' at a later date. On the whole, the process of declassification and reclassification affected only a small proportion of towns. The new towns were cantonments, both in the hills and plains, educational centers for European children, and sites of new projects related to colonial 'necessities'. Two-thirds of the new towns in 1941 came up in the newly irrigated western plains and the Bahawalpur area while others were located along the railway linkages in the lower doabs. The colonial period, thus,

saw a significant alteration in the urban pattern of the Punjab. Almost all categories of towns, except the smallest ones, followed an upward trend, with considerable increase in number and size of the urban centers. Cities came to be located in all parts of the region in contrast to their earlier central location. New towns rose in the hills, the Salt Range tract and the western plains, increasing the overall proportion of urban centers, though their proportion declined in the submontane and eastern plains which had been relatively well urbanized in the earlier period. The lower doabs, especially the bars, became urbanized for the first time. It was no coincidence that the fishing village of Karachi developed into the fourth largest port of British India, catering very largely to the Punjab region for both exports and imports and linking it up directly with the metropolitan economy.

After 1921 urbanisation process also saw a rise with the gradual increase in the number of town. These new towns were built on planned structure specialised in market based on agriculture and mandis along with canal colonies which attracted migrants from neighbour states like Rajputana, Jammu & Kashmir and United Provinces, for better employment opportunities, educational facilities and better infrastructure¹⁹. Though the majority of population living in villages and small towns but with the introduction of administrative, commercial and industrial facilities in developed cities, people migrated to big cities and these big cities became important urban units of Punjab. Till 1940s there were several major cities having administrative importance flourished in Punjab having population more than one lac. Some of these were Lahore, Amritsar, Rawalpindi, Multan, Sialkot, Jalandhar, Ludhiana and Ferozepur. These cities have historical importance too. Amritsar and Lahore emerged as commercial cities of Punjab. The population of Amritsar increased from 152,000 in 1881 to 391,010 in 1941 and of Lahore 149,000 in 1881 to 671,659 in 1941 according to the Census of Punjab 1891 and 1941. The population of Lahore grew at larger rate than Amritsar. Other than these two cities, Multan grew two times and Rawalpindi, Sialkot and Ludhiana grew by two and half times. With the annexation of Sikh kingdom, British also established their control over the land revenue administration. So to seek the loyalty and prosperity of cultivators they introduced the land alienation act of 1900, by which land could not be sold or mortgage to non- agriculturist people.

Under the capitalist policy of Britain, several places of India especially in central India were annexed to British power. They annexed Punjab as well on 29 March 1849, afterwards a Board of Administration, having three members John Lawrence, Henry Lawrence and Charles Mensal, was established. This Boards introduced a variety of changes and advancement to facilitate and satisfy the people of Punjab by which they turned up the people by their side. Boards introduced new means of transportation and communication, they introduced railway metalled down roads and canal distributaries. These changes helped in transportation as well as in trade. They worked so well on it that the transport network of Punjab came to be as the best transportation networks in the Indian subcontinent. Punjab got linked with the other parts of the subcontinent via railway in 1878. With the help of this advancement cities got linked with the remotest area of Punjab, now village were started linkage with cities to benefitted external and internal trade.²⁰

After first half of the nineteenth century cantonments were came into existence worked as the residence place for the British officers. These cantonment were symbolised as the posh area adjacent to the old city and gave a new look to the city. These cantonment were well planned, having gardens, clean metalled streets divided into phases; Street lights, School, Hospitals etc. were also available there. They fulfilled the needs of white English men including the troops. But they were dependent on the old cities for several services. Along with that they introduced municipal system to systematically administer cities or urban centers and also to meet the requirement of European troops.

To make cities worked as economically well-developed urban centre it was required that the town must perform administrative function very well and serves as well connected administrative headquarters. For this purpose they divided subas into several administrative units like division, districts, tehsils and pargana or taluka. These newly developed headquarters were interlinked through railway as well as by roads. British also led the foundation of several institutes like English schools with western system of education, new hospitals with advanced healthcare and sanitary system, better agricultural facilities like for irrigation canals & tube wells, interlinked transport facilities like railway and roads, new mode of communications like post and telegraph etc. They also promoted Christian missionaries societies to spread Christianity in Punjab by opening several schools, shelters homes for widows, homes for disables, leprosy home, orphanages etc.,

giving charities, printing press to publish European literature as well as Christian religious books. The genesis of Christian missionaries in India was in Ludhiana by the American Presbyterian missionaries in 1834, this missionary centres also helped in the urbanization of Punjab, in the latter half of the nineteenth century people of Punjab awakened as these missionaries baptizing the young generation of Punjab. Several regional reform societies were also established under the Act of society registration act of 1860. The main societies were the Muslim Anjumans, Arya Samaj, Singh Sabha and the Sanatan Dharma Sabha. These regional reform societies were government English medium school, higher institution for technical and medical education, so these societies opened, culturally safe school to educate their children by their own culture and values like Madrasas, Makhtabs by Muslim Anjumans, Khalsa Tract society and Khalsa schools by Singh Sabha, D.A.V. School and College and Gurukuls by Arya Samajis. No doubt Europeans contributed in new health facilities by opening new dispensaries and charitable hospitals, all have urban base. With this they also created a new class i.e. middle class, a working class of people want to live in peace and cleanliness, and western education all attracted the people of village to move towards urban centre which resultant the foundation of new and large urban units. The emergence of middle class also contributed in the urbanization of Punjab as well as change in the attitude, lifestyle, behaviour and standard of living.

British policy of pushing peasants to produce cash crops accelerated the policy of commercialization of agriculture. Now peasants grow new cash crops like wheat, sugarcane, cotton, tobacco, tea, more; in spite of wheat, Jwar, Bajra or other cereals. It was said that by 1920, Punjab producing one tenth of the cotton crop that British India producing. Britishers introduced the policy of diverting the local trade to newly founded urban units. Modern banking system introduced in cities promoted internal and external trade largely in this urban unit. The goods production unit of urban manufacture has to face competition from U.K based industries and goods producing factories. The completion was major for paper and leather manufactures, metal and wood production and textile. The factories of Punjab were doing cotton ginning, peering and baling and thread making. No doubt Second World War gave a higher stroke to the industries in the subcontinent. A few chemical, Mechanical and electrical goods factories cater the better markets of urban units.

During twentieth century municipalities had elected members (under local self-government act). These municipalities has dependency for money was on excise duty. But this was not sufficient to do public work like manufacturing and cleanliness of roads, proper water supply and sanitation, primary and secondary education and law and order. These municipalities had never given so much administrative powers but these new urban centre became the centers of growing political unconsciousness among the middle class. In the process of urbanisation young men of the age 20-40 moved to the cities for better employment opportunities but they remained underemployed because of their less education. Some of them got job in industries, factories. Cumulatively the new professional middle class was the group of people who studied in English medium westernized school and later on they got job or the business men who were doing this from the time of their forefather and the big zamindars having big lands appear to have been benefited from the urban development done by Britishers by changing their standard of living and dependency on materials. There were better living conditions in the urban centres developed by British than the cities which were old. So the old cities, middle towns and the newly founded urban units had difference on the basis of improvement done in the standard of living. There was a wide gap between these. So we can see that British brought a significant change in the urbanisation of Punjab by founding revolutionary upheaval in pattern of population and function of government in the urban forms. The states of Punjab, witnessed substantial urban development during colonial period.

On the lines of the town planning ancient towns that is of Harappa cities, which had distinctive feature of fortified and planned structure of lanes and streets that was found in various cities of Indus valley civilisation like Mohanjodaro, Dholavira, Kalibanga, etc. as well as the walled type urban forms also found in medieval times, although walls could not confined the urban livings, urban centres were extended over the walls with other features that created countryside followed by the class system and shilpa shastra in construction of towns and laying down buildings.²¹ A notable differences to the system were introduced by Britishers. They modified the town planning on the basis of western ideas and according to the colonial military, political and economic requirements. They formed four distinguished urban forms in Punjab namely – Indigenous towns, Anglicized towns, Colony towns and Hill stations. Other than this they also formed hill stations which had combines features of Anglicized and western towns. The Indigenous towns were large as well as small in size

and had witnessed very little change in their infrastructure during colonial period. These towns include Lahore, Amritsar, Jalandhar, Jind, Nabha, Batala etc. these towns had generally walls around them with four or six gates attached with main roads. The Mohalla of large cities were densely populated than small cities and even suburb attached to them. These cities also had gardens attached to them that laid on the outer areas of the cities. But in the rare cases or big cities gardens were located within the urban centres like in Amritsar and Kunja. Little improvements were introduced in these indigenous towns by the colonial government like they widened the narrow streets or roads and also made the congested areas of the Mohalla spacious. Along with that they added few structures like Clock Tower, Town halls, Circular roads around the towns for the easy flow of trade like in Amritsar, Nabha, Ferozepur, and Batala. 22 Railway was another feature introduced in these towns along with the railway workshops in the large urban centres. For trade purposes grain markets were established near railway stations like in Jalandhar, Bathinda and Pakpattan. Though these mandis and railway workshop formed a railway suburbs altering the initial setups of the towns but these addition could not altered the basic structure of the city. Later on schools, colleges, offices were sprang up in between the old centres and the railway suburbs. During the late nineteenth century another residential suburb introduced in the urban setup like Model Towns for the newly emerged professional middle class.

Another type of new towns introduced by Britishers were Anglicized towns introduced for the administrative officials, deputy commissioners, police superintendent, judges, doctors, engineers etc. Though these towns were not separate towns, they were existed before Britishers but they acquired western extension like civil lines and cantonments. So can be called as extended towns of old towns. Britishers did not want to reside in old towns because they found them dirty and unhealthy so for their own residential purposes they built separate colonies outside the old towns. These colonies also named as civil stations or civil lines because large number of European businessmen and military officers started living in these areas.²³ These civil lines built on a planned structure of road and streets. In contrast to Indigenous towns Anglicized towns formed a grid patterned street structure and in between formed a rectangular plots for housing. European as well as well to do Indians bought sites for housing. Offices, schools, churches and shops were constructed in between the residential areas. Race courses, Gyms, clubs etc. were also built there for amusements like in Lahore, Amritsar and Jalandhar. These civil lines had very less population and was consist of Europeans. According to the census reports of Punjab of 1868, the population of European in the civil line areas was 2258 persons. In the areas of Rawalpindi, Peshawar and Lahore there were 73 percent population is of European people. But according to the district gazetteer of Amritsar of 1881 their population was 600. A marked feature of Anglicized towns was cantonments, a permanent military stations. In 1860s there were approximately 23 to 24 military cantonments in Punjab region in contrast to 114 in India and two were in the Malwa region of Punjab i.e. one in Ludhiana and another one in Ferozepur founded in the early nineteenth century. These cantonments built for the military and residential purposed of military officials and troops. There were separate prade grounds, hospitals, market etc. for the European troops as well as military troops. Sadar bazar was another distinctive feature of cantonments. These cantonments were interlinked with other urban areas through matted roads and railways for easy transportation of soldiers during need. They also have the provision of telegraph lines and telephonic connections. The administration of these cantonments was under a committee which work under the directions of commanding officers.²⁴

Next form of towns were colony towns founded by Britishers on the basis of Model settlements. Her Britishers brought pastoralist areas into irrigation for the first time. Some marked colony towns were Lyallpur, Montgomery, Okara, Sargodha, Toba tek Singh, Sangla etc. These towns includes small as well as developed towns. These towns were founded in the canal irrigated tract and this was entirely a new form of urban unit. Market and Mandi sites were specially chosen for these colony towns. These towns were attached with grid road structure with other large urban units of Punjab.

Hill stations were founded by Britishers for their own recuperation and holidays. They showed their interest in hill station after Anglo-Nepalese war in 1815 and first of all occupied Simla and Missouri. Later Simla became one of the districts of Punjab. Britishers found cool and healthy environment at the hill top and they also wanted to provide this environment to their troops who got home sick and the hot environment and the spread of epidemics in Punjab were effecting their health. For this purpose they founded cantonment of Kasauli, Jutogh, and Dagshai in the Simla hills.²⁵

On the basis of the importance, the old big Indigenous towns remained important commercial centres of Punjab than others. They had big bazars, even there Mohallas served as small manufacturing centres. With the development of railway, another added to their setup sprang up near the railway station like in Bathinda, Sangrur, Amritsar etc. their old fort like structures served as administrative offices, municipality office, hospitals, schools or police station etc. they used their buildings for several purposes. But on the other hand Anglicized towns and colony towns build on planned structure as the market was extended along the Sadar bazaar and in the Mall in civil lines. School, hospitals and administrative offices were built at a particular place left for them. Every building of residence or administrative purposes was clearly demarcated and there were more open spaces in their infrastructure. Colony towns had the features of Indigenous towns and Anglicized towns²⁶.

On the whole, the degree of urbanization in the sub-regions of the Punjab varied considerably. The broad hierarchical pattern, however, continued, with a large proportion of small towns at the base and a small number of cities at the apex of the urban hierarchy. The category of cities, though, had become 'heavy'. The region as a whole does not seem to have experienced deurbanization, although internal shifts and variations are noted in the urban pattern. The pre-colonial towns showed a special adaptability and resilience in surviving through the colonial period due largely to their location, role in sub-regional trade and administrative status. New urban centers too emerged to meet the market needs of the newly developed agricultural areas in the region. As a whole, changes in the urbanscape were significant enough to be considered revolutionary, albeit brought about by the western technology sub serving the demands of the colonial situation. As the frontier province, it came to have a large number of purpose-built cantonment towns in the hills and plains. The great agricultural potential of the thirsty western plains was tapped by constructing vast irrigation networks and by colonizing this tract by shifting the hardworking agriculturists from the overpopulated eastern plains. Their surplus produce was carried to other parts of India as well as to the sea ports by an extensive rail network.

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