

## A Social and Architectural study of Historical Commercial Street of Urban City : Case study of Lucknow, U.P.



### Architecture

**KEYWORDS :** Urbanization, neighborhood, Chi-square test, social, Random Sampling Method, psychological and physical, inhabitants, respondents, encroachment

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### ABSTRACT

*The people of Historical Commercial Street in urban city, in general do not like to reside in old city area because of heavy noise, lack of parking, traffic congestion, poor physical infrastructure, lack of greenery, fear of fire & earthquake, streets are impersonal, no personal control on environment, narrow width of streets, rush of people, rush of traffic, lack of floor area, high cost of the land etc., but at the same time, people of old areas do not want to leave old area because of safety, security, feeling of prestige & status, good for social life, meeting people, emotional value of the place, Ancestral property etc.*

### INTRODUCTION

Indian cities are facing rapid economic and technological development but are still lagging behind on the social dimension, as the so-called "Urbanization of poverty" spreads quickly. Indian historic centers are without any doubt socially and culturally vibrant areas. They are also thriving economic hubs, attracting those in search of temporary or permanent employment. Core city areas usually represent the first place in which an array of different and diverse people converge and merge from all over India, as well as from neighboring countries. This unique combination of the old and the new presents these neighborhoods with a complex set of developmental challenges.

India is one of the fastest growing economies in the world, and it entered the 21st century with an urban population of about 300 million, which will further increase to over 400 million by the year 2011 and 553 million by the year 2021. The rate of growth of the country has increased from 5.4% in the 1980s, to around 7-8% in last three years. As a result of steady growth, poverty fell to 26.1% in 1999-2000, from 36% in 1993-1994. Industrial and service sectors are the major contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and grew from 45 percent in 1961 to 70 per cent of GDP in 1981 and to 80 percent by 2001 and 90 percent by 2011. The service sector companies started seeking more space to service the outsourcing boom. Salaries in industrial and service sectors increased leading to a rise in spending power, which in turn lifted other sectors as well, such as housing and real estate. There are proposals for 185,000 acres of land for SEZ development which will increase employment opportunities. Indian cities and their historic areas in particular face several developmental challenges, i.e.:

- Poverty, migration and social exclusion-
- Inadequate housing, poor infrastructure, and a deteriorating living environment-
- Land tenure, ownership and tenancy
- Legislation and policy-
- Weak urban governance and conflicting interests

The social environment, also known as the milieu, is the identical or similar social positions and social roles as a whole that influence the individuals of a group. The social environment of an individual is the culture that he or she was educated and/or lives in, and the people and institutions with whom the person interacts. A given social environment is likely to create a feeling of solidarity amongst its members, who are more likely to keep together, trust and help one another. Members of the same social environment will often think in similar styles and patterns even when their conclusions differ. Important aspects of the social environment is size of family, (joint or nuclear), religion, cultures and occupational backgrounds etc. in which inhabitants

expressed their desire to maintain and develop social contacts and interactions and to enjoy the benefits of a happy living with neighbors in a socially conducive environments.

Socialization amongst the inhabitants is very important as far as social implications are concerned. In urban streets, provision of public spaces is not adequate to promote social interaction. Children feel isolated and constrained as they cannot give vent to their childhood feelings freely for want of space and company. There is a strong tendency to force children to remain inside most of the time. Housewives and elderly persons find the environment quite hostile as they cannot interact and socialize.

### LUCKNOW : PRESENT SCENARIO

Lucknow traces its origin to the Suryavanshi dynasty of Ayodhya in ancient times, and derives its name from Lakshman, brother of Lord Rama the hero of the Indian epic, Ramayana. The city came into eminence only during the 18th century. In 1732, Muhammad Shah, one of the later kings of the once powerful Mughal dynasty, appointed Mohammad Amir Saadat Khan, a Persian adventurer of noble lineage, to the viceroyalty of the area known as Avadh, of which Lucknow was a part. Saadat Khan was the founder of the famous dynasty known as the Nawab Wazirs-a dynasty that changed the face of this hitherto little-known place. Under his successors, Lucknow flowered as never before and all but became the cultural nerve centre of northern India.

Lucknow is popularly known as the The City of Nawabs. It is also known as the Golden City of the East, Shiraz-i-Hind and The Constantinople of India. The distinctive culture of Lucknow represents an important phase of transition in the definition of modern identities that coincided with the decline of the Mughal empire and the increasing role of the East India Company in Indian affairs. Lucknow's architecture, its town planning and monuments, mirrors the refashioning of identities through the fusion of different cultures and styles.

Lucknow is bravely struggling to retain its old world charm while at the same time acquiring a modern lifestyle. Regarded as one of the finest cities of India, Lucknow represents a culture that combines emotional warmth, a high degree of sophistication, courtesy, and a love for gracious living. The Pehle-Aap (after you) culture, popularised as a tagline for the society of Lucknow, is waning. But a small part of Lucknow's society still possesses such etiquette. This sublime cultural richness famous as Lakhnawi tehzeeb blends the cultures of two communities living side by side for centuries, sharing similar interests and speaking a common language.

### SOCIAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL STATUS

**OF URBAN STREET**

In present study, Main Commercial Street of Chowk is selected as study area. On the basis of preliminary survey and test questionnaire, most of the problems of urban commercial streets users here were found to fall under three major heads, namely, social, psychological and physical. Under this study 171 respondents of street were interviewed using finalized questionnaire as tools of data collection. Stratified Random Sampling Method has been adopted to select the respondents of each category. To measure the degree of relationship and the extent, to which one variable is associated with the other, Chi-square Test is used as a statistical tool.

**Results and discussion-**

1. Maximum 33.92% respondents belong to 46-60 yrs age group, whereas 31.58% respondents belong to 36-45 yrs age group, 21.64% respondents belong to 21-35 yrs age group and 12.87% respondents belong to above 60 yrs age group.
2. 81.29% respondents are male whereas 18.71% respondents are female.
3. Maximum 61.99% respondents are Hindu whereas 29.82% respondents are Muslim, 5.95% respondents are Sikh and 2.34% respondents are Christian.
4. Out of total respondents, 56.73% respondents are graduate whereas 15.79% respondents are post graduate, 14.62% respondents are intermediate, 5.26% respondents are high school, 4.09% respondents are professional and minimum 3.51% respondents are literate.
5. 64.33% respondents are staying in rented house and 35.67% respondents are staying in their own house.
6. 64.91% respondents are using own transport facilities whereas 35.09% respondents are using their public transport system.

To analyze the various problems associated with psychological behavior of the inhabitants of the Main commercial street of Chowk, researcher had asked questions on various aspects of human behaviors like irritation, tension, anxiety and insecurity to the respondents and analyzed as follows:

1. Level of irritation caused due to various prevailing factors in 71.93% respondents is high whereas 19.30% respondents are having medium and 8.77% respondents are having low level of irritation. Observed chi-square (0.7672) is less than the critical value i.e. 9.49, therefore it is acceptable that all the three categories of respondents of Chowk are positively correlated w.r.t. level of irritation.
2. Feeling of inconvenience in 73.10% respondents is high whereas 16.37% respondents are having medium and 10.53% respondents are having low Feeling of inconvenience. Observed chi-square is 1.3483
3. Level of tension in 78.36% respondents is high whereas 13.45% respondents are having medium and 8.19% respondents are having low level of tension. Observed chi-square is 5.0506.
4. Feeling about basic needs in 65.50% respondents is high whereas 24.56% respondents are having medium and 9.94% respondents are having low feeling about basic needs. Observed chi-square is 1.7073.
5. Feeling about social needs in 71.93% respondents is high whereas 20.47% respondents are having medium and 7.60%

respondents are having low feeling about social needs. Observed chi-square is 1.8176.

6. Feeling about environment in 60.82% respondents is high whereas 23.39% respondents are having medium and 15.79% respondents are having low feeling about environment. Observed chi-square is 2.3204.
7. Liking the good things of their street in 60.82% respondents is high whereas 29.82% respondents are having medium and 9.36% respondents are having low level of liking the good things of their street. Observed chi-square is 0.2546.
8. Level of disliking the things of their street in 71.35% respondents is high whereas 21.05% respondents are having medium and 7.60% respondents are having low level of disliking the things of their street. Observed chi-square is 5.5027.

**CONCLUSION**

Main findings regarding Commercial Street of Chowk, Lucknow can therefore help in evolving appropriate guidelines for such streets. These findings can also help in taking care of certain socio-psychological problems associated and peculiar to such living. The main recommendations from the study are as follows:

- Loneliness, boredom, alienation and tension caused due to isolation can be reduced by promotion of socialization by providing right facilities within the urban streets along with enhancement of public spaces, community hall, common public meeting places, public library etc. for social and cultural events, arranging cultural activities, sports, occasional get together, joint celebrations of major social events like Deepawali, Eid, Christmas, Holi etc.
- Uneasiness, Boredom and inconvenience caused due to missed greenery can be eradicated by plantation of small trees and creating terrace garden, kitchen garden etc.
- Traffic congestion caused due to parking problem and narrowness of streets can be reduced by constructing multi level parking, by covering the side drains and clearance of encroachment on the streets.
- Irritation and inconvenience caused due to personal control on environment can be controlled by avoiding throwing garbage, removing encroachment and improving awareness about the cleanliness, sanitation etc among the users of the street.
- Financial insecurity and sense of limited business growth caused due to limited scope for business development and competition can be eliminated by constructing commercial complex/shopping mall/centre or opening up more number of outlets. It can also be reduced by opening various avenues/retails related to existing sector of business.
- Disturbance, inconvenience, anger and irritation caused due to heavy noise can be eliminated by creating awareness among the users along with implementation of adequate law to regulate timing.
- Appropriate supervision for safety of children can avoid fear, worry and tension arising due to leaving children unattended.

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