

PREFACE

Man a social creature, for his living existence requires some social facilities and scope for cultural activities especially when he is in an urban society. Several amenities, services are essential for the urban dwellers to satisfy some of their basic needs. In any urban center municipal authorities try to promote all types of urban amenities and utility services to residents, which is not sufficient.

Jalpaiguri emerge as a Divisional Head Quarters in 1869 and was declared as a Municipal town in 1885. The town grew very rapidly upto, but after independence the development of this become sluggish. The study seeks some basic reasons, those are responsible for its slow growth of development. The study hints to some proposals for the solution of several problems coming across the town.

The study has been designed into nine chapters preceded by an 'Introduction'. The introductory part of the work is devoted to identify the location of the town, it deals with the purpose, objectives of the study and methodology used for studies and lastly the design of the thesis. Chapters I deal with the historical development of the town.

In Chapter II, the relief, drainage, vegetation & climatic condition of Jalpaiguri town has been studied.

Chapter III. deals with population characteristics such as population structure, and its composition, its density pattern, growth etc. Literacy rate and occupational structure of the people are also discussed in this chapter.

Chapter IV is devoted to the study of urban morphology and major land use pattern, their characteristics and distribution in the town have been discussed in this chapter. The changes of land use during 1992-2007, and the direction of change have also been discussed in this chapter.

In Chapter V different socio-economic amenities and their characteristics in the town, have been studied in detail with special emphasis on educational and medical institutions, trade, commerce transport & communication systems, and living conditions of the people.

Chapter VI is devoted to analysis the functional and spatial gaps in the town with the help of statistical analysis of data collected from field survey.

Chapter VII try to deal with different problems associated with land, people, infrastructural problems and environmental problems. It is followed by chapter VIII that throws some lights on the formulation of strategies for development. It also helps to examine and analysis of the previous plans prepared by various authorities, and recent plans, for the future development of town.

In the ninth Chapter summarizing the problems and some suggestions has been mentioned for their development in future.