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The Objective of the Thesis :

The objective of the thesis is to study the problems of growth, urban development and related problems of Siliguri situated in the foot-hills of the Himalayas. Siliguri was a small village eighty years ago. Suddenly Siliguri became a town and then a city. Siliguri became the second most important city after Metropolitan Calcutta in terms of commerce and trade. This is considered to be the most important centre of activity in North Bengal and serves a link between north and south by the rail link and the road. Siliguri's sudden growth after partition of Bengal is rather spectaculars (Chapter-I and Chapter-II). This is because Siliguri which was a small hamlet covered with jungle eighty years ago became an important entry and exit points of commodities meant for Assam, North Bihar, Sikkim, Nepal, Darjeeling and Bhutan. We shall study the problems associated with the growth of town of Siliguri.

The sudden growth of Siliguri as a centre of commerce and trade has created a number of problems. The problems are associated with the wholesale trade (Chapter-III), Retail trade (Chapter-IV) and Informal Sector (Chapter-V). The sudden growth has led to acute problems of housing and community facilities and has led to various urban tension (Chapter-VI). Further, the development of Railways and Road have not solved the traffic problem. This traffic problem has led to serious dislocation of the trade and other activities (Chapter-VII and Chapter-VIII). Siliguri Municipality with its limited resources has failed even to solve the basic problems of the town (Chapter-IX). The housing problem has increased with the increase of land value and with the increase of land value squatters colonies are found everywhere (Chapter-X). The problem of Siliguri, which is considered as a "In migrating" town/city is compared with some other important towns of West Bengal. This comparison is important when a new urban centre like Siliguri experiences a dwarfed economic growth arresting the effectiveness of the "urban pull" factor of the population movement (Chapter-XI).

The objective of the dissertation is to show that a very successful growth poses a crisis for the city. Everything - all other development works, all other processes of city's growth, the fertile and creative efficiency of the city is tied to a single occupation. In case of Siliguri it is commerce and transport associated with commerce. There is no big manufacturing industry in and around Siliguri. Tea Gardens are very often "sick". It is in this context the "vitality" of Siliguri's town has to be understood because in over-making and unmaking of cities lies our great difference from other animal, species and humanness of our hopes. The present study looks at these problems by studying the growth, development and problems of a city like Siliguri which has emerged as a very important urban centre in West Bengal and in India.