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Title of the Thesis - An analytical study of Socio-Psychological Problems of Historical Commercial Streets

Abstract

Historic cities throughout the world are not only centers of civilization, but also main tourist destinations. Physical and socio-economic transformations that occur in the historic cities often lead to substantial environmental concerns. Rapid growth of the economy of historical cities and consequent demand for commercial activities is making historical streets living inevitable as well as viable. The explosive increase in the population and vehicular traffic has relegated the form of historical commercial streets.

Not much attention is paid to social and psychological factors in planning and shaping such streets. In the past too much attention has been given to technical research of which direct importance is clearly obvious. Too little attention has been given to social, psychological and biological and other problems especially those directly related with human life in all its respects. Very fewer efforts have been made to make the built environment of urban streets comparatively more conducive for harmonious and happy living. The impacts of historical commercial streets on the physical and psychological behavior of the inhabitants are very crucial. To analyze the various problems associated with social and psychological behavior of the inhabitants of the historical commercial streets, research topic "Analytical study of Socio-Psychological Problems of Historical Commercial Streets" has been chosen. Historic cities and Historical commercial streets of India, urbanization, infrastructure in the metros of India, Concept of Urban Planning, various existing theories on spatial structure of cities, Urban dynamics growth models and revitalization in India and abroad and review of some past revitalization programmes are briefly discussed.

Social Environment, Psychological Environment, Built Environment and broad aspects of human behaviors like irritation, tension, anxiety and insecurity etc. based on views of 750 respondents (Shopkeepers, Residents and Visitors/Commuters) from three historical streets of old area and two streets of new area in Lucknow city are considered.

The physical and psychological factors that contribute to the phenomenon of irritation and tension, such as poor maintenance of streets, fear of fires and earthquakes, child care and supervision, obstruction of views and breeze by hanging of long clothes, noise created by traffic, haphazard dumping of

commercial waste, traffic jam, noise and air pollution, irritating human sounds of feriwalas, roadside hawkers and sounds of horns of traffic, smoke emission from vehicles, electricity wires passing through close to balconies and lack of contact with nature etc. are also discussed. Formulation of Rank order of Socio-Psychological problems and Comprehensive integrated approach to issues & challenges related to Historical commercial streets of Lucknow have also been analyzed under Synthesis. On the bases of conclusion, some important suggestions are also given for evolving appropriate and workable design and plan guidelines for historical commercial streets.

Some useful recommendations to improve the functional and design aspects of renovation programmes of historical commercial streets by considering socio-psychological aspects of its users, drawn on the basis of the conclusion of research has mentioned. Future scope of research has also described briefly.