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**AN ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH LED
URBANISATION OF JALALABAD TOWN**

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An Analysis of Economic Growth Led Urbanization of Jalalabad Town



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Abstract – The present paper studies town Jalalabad (west), District Fazilka, Punjab. Its urbanization is related with Market Forces and Government Policies. Growth of town with tertiary and secondary economic activities since 1991 has been taken into consideration.

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Jalalabad (west) is located at 30 degree 60'60 N latitude and 75 degree 30' 60 E longitude it is located in Fazilka district of Punjab State in North West India. It is flourishing town situated on the Ferozepur- Fazilka road which gained importance after large number of refugees migrated from West Pakistan and settled here after Partition. It is located at an altitude of 218 m above the mean sea level. Soil in this area is Seirozen type and topography has gone through tremendous change connected with green revolution. Jalalabad has very hot summers, mild rainy season and cold winters.

Jalalabad, a city of outgrowth and population of 38,965 comes under the category of class III town is fast urbanizing. The town was established with tertiary activities. With upcoming of agro-based industries especially rice mills engaged in secondary activities accelerated economic growth and thus urbanization of the town. "A small town may have large market place; its size is not justified by the population of the town. This is particular in parts of the country where green revolution has made its impact".

The closer interaction between the city and its hinterland necessitates an income in commercial establishment and institutions for educational and medical services. This in turn provides further employment in the city and attracts permanent settlers who increase the population. A process of tertiary urbanization is thus initiated. (Urbanization and Urban System in India : R. Ram Chandran)

There are number of rice mills in the town which boost its growth and development and push the town on the wheels of urbanization. In 1975 there used to be 7 - 8 mills and ordinary quality of Parmal was used to be grown in the region. Most of the trade was also used to be done of that only. Exemption of levy boosted export and income to the region. More and more mills were established with the due course of time brought high production, more income and generated employment opportunities too which rose demography with migration of laborers besides natural increase in the population. "An increase in the level of urbanization that increase in proportion of population living in the urban areas is possible only through migration of people from rural to urban areas. Migration or change of location of people is basic mechanism of urbanization."

In 1991 'Kacha Parmal and sahlla Plant' were the two main varieties of paddy were grown in the region. Very less basmati was being grown but since 2007-08 Basmati become the main grown variety of the region because of the market forces and new government policies which boosted export and generated a lot of income to the traders and mill owners which further accelerated establishment of new mills which rose to 63 in 2012-13.

Rice Mill owners also started soltex and solvex industries. There were three solvex mills in the town which extract oil from rice bran and around 50 rice mills owners also established plant of soltex to meet the standards of international market where finishing,

polishing and segregation of fine rice grains from the broken is done. Exemption of RDF (Rural development fund) earlier used to be paid by mill owners is exempted recently which further increase the production as well as income to the region and also generate employment which in all ways accelerated the urbanization of the region. Jalalabad (west) has link road with 142 villages which shows the 'Area of influence' Jalalabad town.

As the town grew mainly by market forces there was need for the town to expand as well as infrastructural development was also needed. Thus new colonies beyond the old limits of the town emerged.

In 1932, the small 'mandi' of Jalalabad came under notified area committee and till 1993 its area was 4.69 Sq. km. which expanded to 7.56 Sq. km. Old town was expanded across the main roads like Railway Road, Thana Bazaar Raod, Bhamani Bazaar Raod, Hospital Road, Baggha Bazaar Road, Tehsil Road, Ram Leela Bazaar Road, Muktsar Circular road but after that to meet the housing needs of the people new colonies emerged. Vijay Nagar, Bhajan Nagar, Johal Colony emerged on Kamre Wala road, Bablu Enclave and Vikas Colony on Ferozepur -Fazilka Road, Munjal area near Muktsar Bus stand, S.K Colony on DAV Collage road.

"The urbanization processes are largely driven by market forces and government policies that lead to simultaneous process of change in livelihood, land use, health and natural resources management including water, soil and forests and often reactive changes in local governance".

In 1991 there was 70 % water supply, 60% sewerage with mini disposal. There was used to be open drainage system and poor condition of roads and the condition of public buildings were all the more miserable. At present there is 100% water supply and 100% sewerage in the town and 6 R.Os are established for pure and fresh water. Sewerages are now covered and new sewerage treatment plant is established near the town where water after being treated is drained to agricultural fields. Kaccha Roads and D.B paving roads are converted to CC flooring and inter locking streets and plantation is also done along many of these roads. Besides these thermoplastic lines, potable blinkers, informative boards, sign boards, delineators, street lights and dividers became striking features of Jalalabad. Construction of number of new government buildings changed the face of town. Government School is upgraded to government college, construction of new boys school, new bus stand, new municipal office, new veterinary hospital, new building of electricity department, construction of bridges, ITI college, new court complex, are decentralized to meet the increasing demand of people. New Public Park added beauty to the town. New stadium is place of national importance is recently established. New Multispecialty government hospital is under construction. 'Suwidha

Kendra' in court complex and in police station are opened where half of the staff is female.

In 2012 sold waste scheme is introduced in which employees of JITF company come door to door to collect daily waste and carry this waste to the dumping ground out of the city where segregation is done by them to make manure out of organic waste and electricity out of plastic. It solved the problem of open dumping on the streets. Modern equipments like Fire Bigrade tanker, Hindauli Stairs and jenting machine are assets of Muncipal Council add richness to the infrastructure of Jalalabad.

CONCLUSION

Economic growth and government policies of Jalalabad accelerated the rate of urbanization. Rice mills and related trade brought lot of income and employment opportunities which changed the demography of the town and thus there was need for the expansion of the town. New colonies emerged to meet the housing needs of the people. With high income to the government, new government plans were introduced brought lot of infrastructural development in the town. So we can say economic growth led urbanization of jalalabad changed the face of the town.

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