CHAPTER - I

Introduction

The modern city is not just a large and meaningless agglomeration of people and services, When one speaks of urban settlements, one recognises at least implicitly and informally that there is an ordered spatial pattern in city's layout and that people and services follow certain recurrent pattern of movement and location within it.

Robert Park and others described the social ecology of the city and emphasized the existence of Neighbourhoods in which, as a result of a particular symbiotic and commensalistic forces of integration, human beings acquire certain traits by association, institutions and forms of organisation arise giving the residents a sense of cohesive feeling. Cooley defined Neighbourhood as a primary group characterised by simultaneous presence of the following elements : non-instrumental relations, permanent relations, face to face relations and positive affect.

In planning theory Neighbourhood is defined on the basis of service function or population size. The realisation these days is that Neighbourhoods are amalgamation of physical and social variables displaying elements of primary group behaviours.

The recent introduction of city planning gave rise
to willy nilly planned Neighbourhoods which are often
found to lack even a single primary group element. This
is sadly observed particularly in Indian experiment with
city planning of residential neighbourhood, say in
Chandigarh. This has emphasized the need for research to
identify the significant components of Neighbourhoods
which facilitate primary group behaviours so that planners
can improve their formulations. The theoretical description
of some of these components is described by a number of
researchers such as Festinger, Caplow and Forman, Gans,
Michelson, Lee and others. The present research attempts
to provide empirical evidence for a number of propositions
put forward by the earlier researchers.

Identification of the Problem

The modern researcher who attempt to seek the means
to manupulate man's physical and social environment have
concentrated research on two broad classes of questions (Schachter 1968)
What are the consequences of varying degrees of cohesiveness
on a group or social behaviour ? What factors determine the
degree of cohesiveness of a group ? This investigation
while touching the first question concentrates on the
later question which can be further elaborated as follows :

1. What are the significant physical and social
components of Neighbourhood which singularly or

jointly influence cohesiveness which provides social psychological security and stability in certain dimensions of primary group social behaviour ?

2. How does cohesiveness in social behaviour varies with change in physical and social characteristics of an aggregate ?

3. How to generate relationships (coefficients) of physical and social variables which may be used for deciding influence and operationalising Neighbourhood forms ?

Hypotheses

Most of the research on residential areas concentrates on preference, attachment and satisfaction, with the residential areas. The present study treats consistency in primary group behaviour and satisfaction in them as an indicator of cohesiveness in Neighbourhoods. This is done through observation : that more the consistency in contacts within a Neighbourhood, more likely the residents are to engage in diffused and affective, relationships.

The study has 22 Dependent Variables and 30 Independent Variables (Ref: Chapter III). Hence 22 equations are formulated to show multiple causal relationships between Dependent and Independent Variables. Although Dependent variables are described as independent of each other, prediction of certain Dependent variable is possible ˙

through joint influence of Independent and certain
Dependent variable. The Independent variables are there-
fore of two kinds. Some of them are exogenous while the
others are endogenous.

The 22 Dependent Variables of the Study are grouped
under :

(i)   Communication
(ii)   Recreation and Entertainment
(iii)   Interdependency
(iv)   Community Living
(v)   Collective Life
(vi)   Structured Action

The 30 Independent variables identified to influence
above Neighbourhood behaviours are grouped under :

(i)   Physical Proximity
(ii)   Layout
(iii)   Physical Facilities
(iv)   Geographical Area of Unit
(v)   Household Density
(vi)   Caste
(vii)   Minority Religion Status
(viii) Migrant Status
(ix)   Occupational Status
(x)   Number of Children
(xi)   Size of Family

(xii)   Elderly Head of Household

(xiii) Duration of Stay

(xiv)   Ownership or Tenure Status

Study area

The study adopts the elements of primary group
behaviour. For this an old and mature city is considered
as more appropriate for data collection. In an old city
through the process of evolution the fine blending of
physical and social components is most evident. Thus city
of Lucknow set up by Moghal Kings is selected for study
(Population 1.08 Million).

In this city 41 census enumeration blocks are
randomly selected out of nearly 1200 blocks. Further, in
each enumeration blocks 10 per cent respondents are
chosen on random basis. Data and other relevant informa-
tion are collected through a Questionaire survey, and
through secondary survey and from office records to
measure Dependent and Independent variables.

Methodology

Once the model is formulated, the equations are
specified. The model is solved through the statistical
technique of Two Stage Least Square (2 SLS) method to

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understand the mechanism of joint influence of physical
and social 'variables'. The appropriate test for the
hypothesis is t test. The structural equations are tested
through F Statistics of R^2 values.

Further, Reduced form equations are estimated to
show the overall influence of each Independent variable in
order to estimate the influence on the Dependent variable
due to change in Independent variable which may occur
through a planning decision.

Scope and Limitations

The central theme of the present study is to select
the combination of physical, social and other variables
that influence cohesiveness which provides security and
stability in residential Neighbourhoods. In doing so the
study investigates interrelationships among different
variables and estimates them statistically. These inter-
relationships are of immense importance for understanding
the structure of residential areas, as well as for plann-
ing and formulation of Neighbourhood plan. The study is
likely to give a lead in devising alternative strategies
for planning and development of urban residential areas.

Though the present study is concerned with forty-one
randomly selected residential areas in one city, it is
significant to the extent that similar studies in other
cities may prove its universal use.

The   structural relations estimated in this study
may be used for comparison with other cities to learn
about the repetitive and stable relationships in various
Neighbourhoods. Hence the study may serve as a building
block for planning and designing of Neighbourhoods.

The estimated reduced form relationships
(coefficients) may be used for comparison, to decide
influences, operationalising Neighbourhood forms. The
structured relationships (coefficients) may be used for
computing multipliers which can be used in a wide
variety of situations which of course is, beyond the
scope of the present study.