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ABSTRACT

Urbanization is a phenomenon which has posed challenges for the planners to develop models and plans which could cater to the unprecedented growth of the cities, especially in the last few decades. The conventional planning techniques have somewhere lagged behind when it comes to gratifying the ever growing cities. This need for new approach in the planning has led to the evolution of a discipline called Quality of Life. The concept of Quality of life has been discussed since the time of Aristotle, however, the term came into usage in planning in early 1970's.

Quality of Life is a multidisciplinary field of research and is becoming increasingly important not only in planning but also in economics, geography, health and medicine etc. QOL as the name indicates attempts to assess the quality of life of the subjects in question. However, one of the biggest points of debate is quantifying QOL which as the name implies is a qualitative unit. Numerous studies have gone

into the development of techniques to measure QOL. The ever increasing importance of Quality of Life can be recognized by the amount of research and the number of studies that have been taking place in this field.

The thesis aims to use QOL as a research tool in order to assess overall QOL in selected Indian cities classified according to their population size. For the purpose of assessment of QOL a questionnaire was developed which contained questions of Subjective, objective and demographic dimensions. The cities were divided into four groups of different sample sizes based on their population. Descriptive studies of individual sample sizes and a detailed comparative study was done. The results were analysed using various statistical techniques such as Correlation Analysis, factorial analysis and regression methods.